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1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5 Selawik Refuge Conference Room
6 Kotzebue, Alaska
7 February 29, 2000
8 8:30 o'clock a.m.
9

10

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

12

13 Willie Goodwin, Chairman

14 Bert Greist

15 Raymond Stoney

16 Rosaline Ward

17 Enoch Shiedt

18 Percy Ballot

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20 Barbara Armstrong, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'm going to call the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting to order. Today is February 29, 2000. We're at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Selawik Refuge Conference Room in Kotzebue, Alaska. Helen, would you take roll call. Somebody should.

10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I didn't know I was
11 supposed to do it.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, Barb asked to be
14 excused her daughter is sick.

15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, it's okay.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So you're going to be
19 pinch hitting here.

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: All right, I'll do it.
22 Willie.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Here.

25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Bert.

27
28 MR. GREIST: Here.

29
30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Raymond.

31
32 MR. STONEY: Here.

33
34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Percy.

35
36 MR. BALLOT: Here.

37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Joe.

39
40 MR. AREY: Here.

41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Enoch.

43
44 MR. SHIEDT: Here.

45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And Rosie.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'd like to welcome
49 every one of you here. Let's go around the table and
50 introduce ourselves, we'll start from over here. Raymond,

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1 introduce yourself.

2

3 MR. STONEY: I'm Raymond Stoney, I'm from
4 Kiana.

5

6 MR. SHIEDT: Enoch Shiedt, Kotzebue.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'm Willie Goodwin from
9 Kotzebue.

10

11 MR. GREIST: Bert Greist from Selawik.

12

13 MR. BALLOT: Percy Ballot from Buckland.

14

15 MR. AREY: Joe Arey from Noatak.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Let's start from,
18 Helen, introduce yourself and we'll go around the table
19 here.

20

21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong, Fish
22 and Wildlife Service, Subsistence. I'm the anthropologist
23 for this team for this region.

24

25 MS. KERR: Leslie Kerr. Refuge manager,
26 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge headquartered here in
27 Kotzebue.

28

29 MR. MAGDANZ: I'm Jim Magdanz. Division of
30 Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kotzebue.
31 Charlie Lean would like to have been here but they
32 cancelled the jet this morning out of Nome, so he's stuck
33 in Nome.

34

35 MR. JENNINGS: Good morning. Tim Jennings.
36 Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
37 Service, Anchorage. I'm the chief of Resources Division.

38

39 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette. Fish and
40 Game, Kotzebue.

41

42 MR. DeCICCO: Fred DeCicco. Fish and Game,
43 Fairbanks, Kotzebue and Nome. I'm with the Sportfish
44 Division.

45

46 MR. CANNON: Richard Cannon. Office of
47 Subsistence Management, Fish and Wildlife Service.

48

49 MR. SPIRITES: Dave Spirites. Park
50 superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands in

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1 Kotzebue.

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3 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch. Park
4 Service Staff Committee member to the Federal Subsistence
5 Board.

6

7 MR. HUNTER: Paul Hunter. National Park
8 Service subsistence specialist, Anchorage.

9

10 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson. National Park
11 Service, Western Arctic National Parklands, Nome.

12

13 MR. DUDGEN: Greg Dudgen. Chief Ranger,
14 Western Arctic National Parklands, Kotzebue.

15

16 MS. AYRES: LeeAnn Ayres. Wildlife
17 biologist, Selawik Refuge.

18

19 MR. DAU: Jim Dau. Fish and Game,
20 Kotzebue.

21

22 MS. MEYERS: Randy Meyers. Bureau of Land
23 Management, natural resource specialist here in Kotzebue.

24

25 MS. COLE: Jeanie Cole. BLM biologist in
26 Fairbanks.

27

28 MS. BUCKNELL: Susan Bucknell. Kotzebue
29 Fish and Game Board Support Section to the State Advisory
30 Committee.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And the court recorder
33 is?

34

35 REPORTER: My name is Tina and I'll be the
36 court reporter today.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We're not having court
39 here though. She's been around so much with the court,
40 that's what I remember her as, the court recorder.

41

42 Item 4 under Tab R is the agenda. Are there any
43 new items that the Council members wish to add? Any of the
44 agencies have anything that they want to bring up or that
45 we neglected to put on the agenda?

46

47 MR. DeCICCO: Mr. Chairman, I'm prepared to
48 give you a brief report.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, we'll do it under

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1 Item 8, subpart 7, under fisheries projects.

2

3 MR. DeCICCO: Or it could be 11D, Fish and
4 Game report. It might be more appropriate there.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Leslie.

7

8 MS. KERR: Mr. Chairman. The Selawik
9 Refuge has some information to report also and we could put
10 that under 12.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

13

14 MS. BUCKNELL: Mr. Chair, Board Support can
15 do a brief report, too, under 11D.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, 11 what?

18

19 MS. BUCKNELL: D, I think.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's the State Board
22 of Game, uh?

23

24 MS. BUCKNELL: Board Support. Yeah, Board
25 Support.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Board, okay. Anything
28 else. Percy.

29

30 MR. BALLOT: I was just going to move to
31 approve the agenda with the additions.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second.

34

35 MR. GREIST: Second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any discussion on the
38 motion to approve the agenda.

39

40 MR. GREIST: Question.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All in favor signify by
43 saying aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All opposed.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Item 5 is the review and
2 adoption of minutes of October 19 and 20, 1999. The
3 minutes are in your packet. Are there any corrections?
4 First of all, let me ask for an action to put it on the
5 floor for approval. I'll entertain a motion to approve the
6 minutes.

7
8 MR. GREIST: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second.

11
12 MR. BALLOT: Second.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Under discussion, is
15 there any corrections or additions to be made to the
16 minutes of the meeting of October 19 and 20? Any changes
17 or corrections?

18
19 MR. AREY: Question.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Question's been called.
22 All those in favor of approving the minutes signify by
23 saying aye.

24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Opposed.

28
29 (No opposing votes)

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Item 6. I'll open the
32 floor for public comments on the Federal Subsistence
33 Management Program if anybody has any comments. Also
34 there's the testifiers form at the front table if anybody
35 wants to testify on any of the items on the agenda. I'll
36 keep this open so if anyone wants to speak on any subject
37 then we can go ahead and reopen it back up. But at this
38 time if there is no comments from the floor, please make
39 note that Rosie Ward is present.

40
41 We'll go on to Subpart A of Item 6, which is
42 village concerns. We'll start over here with Raymond.

43
44 MR. STONEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
45 question is still coming before me from Kiana, of course,
46 you know they've been waiting for quite some time now about
47 -- and I know people are getting tired of it -- is
48 waterfowl. But I believe the treaty -- they've been asking
49 me, when it's going to become effective. I told some of
50 the people that I plan to get the answer, if I can I'll

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1 have -- maybe will have someone answer the questions. But
2 that's my question. What is up to date today about the
3 waterfowl which was introduced several years ago? Is it
4 going to take another year or two years for it to become
5 effective for the Game Unit 23? Because we all know that's
6 going to become legalized for us to hunt waterfowl in
7 springtime and that's the question they ask, is, when is it
8 going to happen?

9
10 That's my question, Mr. Chairman.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Are you up to date on
13 it?

14
15 MR. SHIEDT: No, not really. I haven't
16 heard feedback from -- we're still negotiating comments.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think the negotiations
19 are still going forward from that last report we had in
20 that October meeting in Anchorage from Mimi Hogan.

21
22 MR. STONEY: Yes.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Unless somebody has any
25 other information that will update us. Leslie.

26
27 MS. KERR: Willie, I don't have any more
28 update information than we received in October but I would
29 be willing to call down and have them fax up an update for
30 us that we could read into the record and provide to
31 members later.

32
33 MR. STONEY: Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. All right, thank
36 you.

37
38 MS. KERR: Sure.

39
40 MR. STONEY: Because generally it takes at
41 least a year for it to become legalized?

42
43 MS. KERR: I'm sorry, I missed that.

44
45 MR. STONEY: It's going to take another
46 year yet for them to legalize.

47
48 MS. KERR: I think it will be another year
49 before they get regulations in place and the management
50 bodies.

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1 MR. STONEY: Okay.

2
3 MS. KERR: But let me get the straight
4 scoop.

5
6 MR. STONEY: Okay. Thanks, Leslie.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thanks. Bert.

9
10 MR. GREIST: While, we're on that issue,
11 could you find out some information on whether we might be
12 able to place a member on that.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Flyaway Council.

15
16 MR. GREIST:what is it, the Waterfowl
17 Council? Yeah, Flyaway Council from Alaska.

18
19 MS. KERR: If this region will be able to
20 place somebody on the Flyaway Council?

21
22 MR. GREIST: That issue was raised at the
23 meeting we had in Anchorage.

24
25 MS. KERR: Okay. And that means Northwest
26 Arctic specifically?

27
28 MR. GREIST: Whether to -- well, we had
29 requested to see if there would be -- if we can place a
30 member from Alaska on the Flyaway Council.

31
32 MS. KERR: An Alaskan member, not a
33 Northwest Arctic member?

34
35 MR. GREIST: An Alaskan member.

36
37 MS. KERR: Okay.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anything else, Raymond?

40
41 MR. STONEY: That's it, Mr. Chairman.

42
43 MR. GREIST: We should, you know -- Mr.
44 Chairman, could you give us a brief, kind of an oral thing
45 this afternoon like before we close on that issue. Leslie.

46
47 MS. KERR: Yes. I will.....

48
49 MR. GREIST: Some kind of an update on
50 waterfowl.

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1 MS. KERR:what I will do is I will
2 slip out when you finish with village reports, call down to
3 Anchorage and ask them to fax me the update and then we can
4 read it into the record later this afternoon.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, you can do that
7 during your report, uh?

8
9 MS. KERR: Sure.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

12
13 MR. GREIST: They've been asking in
14 Selawik, too, I just told them go ahead and subsist. Go
15 ahead and hunt. But we'll get an update, I'm in the same
16 predicament you are.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Anything else.

19
20 MR. STONEY: That's it, Mr. Chairman.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Enoch.

23
24 MR. SHIEDT: Here in Kotzebue, the concerns
25 I got is the fish coming up dead. They started on the 6th
26 of this month to a couple days ago and I couldn't get
27 anymore fresh samples. But I tried what I could -- I was
28 told too late about it and I talked to how many elders
29 saying that some fish get trapped in the bottom and they'll
30 run out of -- run out of oxygen and completely die and they
31 were coming up dead. Of all species, bullhead, tomcod,
32 smelt and herring. We sent out samples to Fairbanks and
33 it's -- they were talking -- they finally realized to call
34 me and I went down. I did what I could do at the time but
35 I can't get any fresh samples of fish yesterday. So maybe
36 I have to go out further out, the tide probably take them
37 all out. I mean I did what I could do. So I got concerns
38 of fish coming up dead in eight inch holes, of average of
39 -- Freddy said -- Freddy Pollut said in about an hour he'd
40 get about 30 that one day, mostly tomcods and he buried
41 them. He's scared kids will take them home or something,
42 all -- all of what we have, even the bottom fish.

43
44 And I did a -- Susan Georgette and I, with the
45 State of Alaska, we did a caribou survey in Selawik. It
46 was real interesting up there. People know a lot about
47 their caribou. And of 140 homes that were surveyed out of
48 a possible 157, 1167 caribou was taken by the people of
49 Selawik. Seven black bear, one brown, wolf -- a couple
50 wolves and a wolverine. So that's pretty good. I enjoyed

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1 it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So you sent the samples
4 out?

5

6 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

9

10 MR. SHIEDT: I never get nothing back yet.
11 I'm working with Fred right now on it so.....

12

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Those samples, John
14 Cody, brought into Fairbanks. We had them in the freezer
15 and contacted people. And on the way out here I dropped
16 them off in Anchorage with the pathology people and they're
17 going to have a look at them.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anything else.

20

21 MR. SHIEDT: No, that's it.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert. Percy.

24

25 MR. BALLOT: Just that we in Buckland
26 haven't been getting muskox these last few years so we're
27 going to work towards trying to get Tier II permits, State
28 permits allotted for Buckland or however it is. So that's
29 -- we were supposed to have a teleconference a couple of
30 times during the last week or so but that never occurred
31 with Buckland and Deering. But that's going to happen. We
32 want to get that to happen.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anything else.

35

36 MR. BALLOT: No.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Rosie.

39

40 MS. WARD: Moose. There's moose between
41 the houses and our village in the willows and there's been
42 wolves coming into town. They wanted me to ask if they
43 could kill those moose. I mean the kids walk from the
44 houses to the school and sometimes they're right on the
45 road.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Jim.

48

49 MR. DAU: Yeah, you can kill moose in
50 defense of life and property and property Rosie. Just give

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1 us a call if you can first. You know, you got to try and
2 chase them out of town but if they keep coming back.

3
4 MS. WARD: We -- they tried.

5
6 MR. DAU: Yeah. And I think we talked
7 about this a month or so ago.

8
9 MS. WARD: Uh-huh.

10
11 MR. DAU: Yeah, and if little kids or old
12 ladies or anybody is being threatened by a moose you can
13 kill them. And the best thing to do is if you kill them is
14 to, you know, give people the meat.

15
16 MS. WARD: There's a mother and a calf
17 that's -- been there. The wolves come right into town.

18
19 MR. DAU: Yeah, that's legal. You can kill
20 any wildlife, DLP, defense of life and property, and
21 usually you think of DLP in terms of bears. But in the
22 winter time, especially winters when there's lots of snow
23 it's moose in the villages.

24
25 MS. WARD: Uh-huh.

26
27 MR. DAU: Yeah, if they're threatening
28 people you can kill them legally just, please, let us know
29 ahead of time if you can but certainly as soon as you can.

30
31 MS. WARD: Sometimes they're right on the
32 runway and the planes have to circle to have them chased
33 out of the runway.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anything else.

36
37 MS. WARD: No.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Raymond.

40
41 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, it seems to
42 happen in Kiana about -- at the church. They call me every
43 day and the one thing I know is if it's self defense, but
44 you have to report into State Fish and Game and they'll
45 probably say give it to the village. So he asked around
46 and no, they don't want that moose, and he asked can the
47 State people take it and I told him I'd find out. If he
48 should the moose in self defense, would you take it -- go
49 up to Kiana and go get it.

50

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1 MR. DAU: Yeah, if it's got salvageable meat
2 we'd probably have to figure out a way to get it either to
3 the senior center or some charitable organization like
4 that. But yeah, the easiest thing to do is.....

5
6 MR. STONEY: It's a cow and a calf.

7
8 MR. DAU: Yeah, the easiest thing, of
9 course, you know, moose that's a lot of meat.

10
11 MR. STONEY: And the thing about it he
12 can't go out the door because they're right in the door
13 there.

14
15 MR. DAU: Yeah.

16
17 MR. STONEY: He can't go out. That's the
18 question he asked and I told him I'd find out.

19
20 MR. DAU: I'm glad I got a big mean dog.

21
22 MR. GREIST: There must be about 30 right
23 around Kiana there.

24
25 MR. STONEY: Yeah, right over the hill
26 there there's 30 of them not even a thousand yards away.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Percy.

29
30 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, they're
31 hollering for moose in McGrath if you guys want to know.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And wolf.

34
35 MR. BALLOT: And wolf, yeah.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Joe.

40
41 MR. AREY: The fish have been coming up
42 real late for about three years now. And if they come up
43 later this fall that will be September, and all fall we
44 never get no fish.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's the trout, uh?

47
48 MR. AREY: That's everything. From salmon,
49 white fish, because when they go up they go up around July
50 and the white fish come in first and then the salmon comes

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1 in after them and then the trout comes in after salmon.
2 But they've been going up so late people never even get
3 enough fish for the winter. This year they never get no
4 trout so I don't know what's going on there.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, the trout, we're
7 going to have a study done on them this summer in between
8 the Noatak and the Wulik. That will happen. We also got,
9 in one of the proposals, to do a harvest study on the
10 salmon and I don't know when that will get funded. But
11 we'll be able to determine what's being taken for
12 subsistence in the region.

13
14 MR. AREY: Yeah, they're getting trout now
15 through the ice but they're coming up real slow and they're
16 not there like they were before, I mean years ago. And
17 then they're getting all our land -- or some people see six
18 land otter in one day and they never even go very far from
19 the village. And I think those things are multiplying and
20 they're not getting their subsistence because they're
21 chasing all over and if you find them some places you get
22 the fish.

23
24 MR. GREIST: Brown bear.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

27
28 MR. GREIST: I saw a brown bear a couple
29 days ago or so where they're beginning to go into the
30 summer caches during the summer and becoming a -- not a big
31 nuisance but kind of -- there's not a real big public
32 outcry yet but it's getting there. I don't know, sooner or
33 later, I think we're going to have to address that brown
34 bear problem.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anything else Joe.

37
38 MR. AREY: No.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The only thing I got is
41 that some people here in Kotzebue have asked me, are we
42 going to hunt muskox? I don't know if we have it on the
43 agenda but probably for our fall meeting we should prepare
44 or see if we can't get a proposed regulation from the
45 Federal side. I know the State is willing to let us hunt
46 six, you know, on the north side of us here.

47
48 So Dave, are they going to count again this year.

49
50 MR. SPIRITES: Yes.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

2

3 MR. SPIRITES: Mr. Chairman, Claudia Eel is
4 starting a doctoral dissertation on it and so in about
5 three years we really expect a fairly precise study which
6 will really allow us to make long-range determinations on
7 it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Three years?

10

11 MR. SPIRITES: That's when that final
12 report will be out.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: People want to hunt now.
15 And that's all I have. Anybody else have any other
16 concerns?

17

18 MR. GREIST: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

21

22 MR. GREIST: The only other question I have
23 is there anything on -- they've been -- I know for years
24 they've been talking about Kivalina migratory route for
25 caribou paths have changed somewhat after the Red Dog
26 operation started. Have you brought that issue up?

27

28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes. The subsistence
29 committee, I think, has been holding some meetings this
30 winter between Noatak and Kivalina and Cominco's agreed to
31 monitor the road more closely to close it when the caribou
32 start to migrate. They've already made that commitment I
33 understand, the subsistence committee in Kivalina.

34

35 MR. AREY: Well, if they make it I haven't
36 heard nothing about it because when the committee goes up
37 from Noatak and they had a meeting in Red Dog, and when he
38 comes back he talks to me all the time but he never said
39 they'd stop it or anything -- the migration.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, that's being
42 addressed right now. I think they're going to make plans
43 to close it when they start migrating in the fall.

44

45 Percy.

46

47 MR. BALLOT: Willie, I had one where I was
48 supposed to get some information, and I forgot who was
49 going to give us that, but about the transporters and the
50 guides.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, we'll cover that
2 on the user conflict issue. We've got more information on
3 it, I do anyway. In fact, one of those letters that you
4 have, the letter one there should -- that has the letters
5 that we received from the various agencies. Remember the
6 letter I asked for, I mean I wrote a letter last fall with
7 direction from the Council on what kind of tools they have
8 to help us on the user conflict issue? Those are the
9 responses I had. And I apologize for not getting them to
10 you earlier but I was waiting to get all of them. I got
11 them in bits and pieces but they kind of came in all at
12 once there last week and the week before. We didn't put
13 them in a packet but we've got them there for you.

14
15 Raymond.

16
17 MR. STONEY: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, one thing,
18 my last concern is the muskrats. And I suppose the State
19 is aware that muskrat has disappeared in '98. In the fall
20 of '97 they was everywhere. In '98 they cut down about 50
21 percent. In '99, because I go down to our camp every year
22 and spend two weeks in the spring time, last year, I only
23 saw just one from thousands of them. What happened to
24 them? Nobody seems to know, they just disappeared. You
25 know that when you see one muskrat in two weeks that's
26 nothing when they used to be all over. You've been there
27 you've seen them.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Yeah.

30
31 MR. STONEY: No more muskrat now. I don't
32 know why.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I don't either. Anybody
35 in here a muskrat expert?

36
37 MR. GREIST: I saw one two weeks ago.
38 Yeah, it was just running right along the river.

39
40 MR. STONEY: Yeah.

41
42 MR. GREIST: And so I just -- yeah.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Enoch, you had a
45 comment.

46
47 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. The one on Red Dog, on
48 caribou crossing on the road. They commented on it when I
49 was at Red Dog subsistence committee meeting. It's now on
50 the working stages where they would like to advise to close

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1 the road until the caribou close but they're going to work
2 together on it. So it's still on the working stages. I
3 don't know when's going to be the next meeting.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We had some more people
6 that just came in, maybe you can introduce yourself,
7 starting from you there, BIA -- I mean Ida.

8
9 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand. BIA Staff
10 Committee member.

11
12 MR. ARMSTRONG: Fred Armstrong. Fish and
13 Wildlife, Native Liaison.

14
15 MR. WARD: I'm just a guest.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It's Elmer Ward from
18 Kobuk. And the gentleman behind you, I didn't catch his
19 name.

20
21 MR. SCHNEIDER: I'm Bob Schneider.
22 Northern field manager for BLM management out of Fairbanks.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody else we missed?

25
26 MS. KERR: Peggy Fox came in. She's
27 already in conference on the telephone.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Any other village
30 concerns. Let's go down to Item 7, proposals to change
31 Subpart D, seasons, harvest limits, methods and means under
32 Tab T.

33
34 Helen, you got it?

35
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm doing it today.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

39
40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 First of all I'd like to apologize for Donna Dewhurst not
42 being here today. Our staff is very overworked, we're
43 missing a lot of positions and so we're kind of sharing
44 duties. So today I'm wearing the biologist hat and you'll
45 have to forgive me if I don't live up to the expectations.
46 But we only have three proposals so if you turn to Page 2,
47 under Tab T.

48
49 The first proposal has actually been withdrawn.
50 This was a proposal submitted by Ralph Lohse, who's the

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1 Chair of the Southcentral Regional Council. And it had
2 requested that for all species statewide, that we establish
3 a primitive hunt using primitive technologies. Ralph
4 withdrew the proposal but he wanted to make sure that
5 everyone understood what his intent was and there was some
6 dissent around the state about the proposal and he did
7 withdraw it. But he wrote a letter which follows the
8 proposal on Page -- it starts on Page 5 of Tab T. I'm not
9 going to read it but if everybody would, please, make sure
10 you read it in the proposal book so that you understand
11 that he really was not trying to insult people or upset
12 them at all by his proposal. And what we had suggested to
13 him is that he maybe make it region specific, unit
14 specific, species specific and maybe at some point there
15 will be some proposal like that submitted.

16
17 Proposal 2 on Page 8 under Tab T is a proposal that
18 was submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management, my
19 office. And what the intent of this regulation is is to
20 bring the furbearer trapping regulations, to expand the
21 seasons to match the State seasons. We're trying to make
22 it easier for the subsistence user to have the seasons be
23 consistent.

24
25 Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Does this take also into
28 consideration the recent changes that have been made, for
29 instance, the beaver?

30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It actually did not but
32 it can be modified.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It can be amended here?

35
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes, it can.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Because they made two --
39 two actions were taken at the Board of Game.

40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: One for the Yukon-
44 Kuskokwim Delta and for the Kotzebue region to make beaver
45 open season.....

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:all year long for
50 food.

00018

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right. That comment is
2 on Page 13 in here, the ADF&G.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:made that comment.
7 So I'm not going to go through every single one of these
8 because it's quite extensive but you'll find those on Page
9 9. There's a page in there, season changes. There isn't
10 an in-depth analysis on each one of these but it's felt
11 that with the exception of the National Parks and Monuments
12 that there wouldn't be any increase in harvest because
13 there's already a State season. People have been hunting
14 under the State regs.

15
16 For the National Parks and Monuments, where you
17 don't have anything but subsistence trapping, then there
18 could be an increase in harvest but it would, at least,
19 align those seasons with the State seasons that are
20 surrounding the parks. But it's not believed that it would
21 be significant at all.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Do you need action from
24 us on this proposal?

25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yep. I just need you to
27 say yah or nay, and if you'd like to modify it. Because on
28 Page 13, the ADF&G comments were that they supported it
29 with modification. They found a couple of minor errors in
30 the Federal seasons that were proposed and then there's
31 this paragraph about how in Unit 23, the Board of Game made
32 a change to the beaver regs to have a closed season and no
33 bag limit.

34
35 Now, I think, procedurally, that the no bag limit
36 would have to probably be done as a separate analysis and
37 you could submit that next fall but I think you could
38 change the season since this is dealing with seasons to a
39 no closed season to have it be consistent with the State
40 regs.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. So I'll entertain
43 a motion to go along with the proposal to change the
44 various seasons to coincide with State regulations at this
45 time.

46
47 MS. WARD: I so move.

48
49 MR. GREIST: Second.

50

00019

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second --
2 under discussion, maybe on that beaver one we will be ready
3 then by the fall meeting?

4
5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: This Council could
6 submit a proposal in the fall to have the beaver season to
7 be no bag limit -- I mean the beaver have a no bag limit
8 but you could say you'd like to modify the Staff
9 conclusion. Support it with modification and add that you
10 want a no close season for beaver.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

13
14 MR. GREIST: I'd like to have a directive
15 issued to the Staff to let us know about some of the Board
16 of Game actions. I know it was coming up, I just kind of
17 forgot about it. And I think it would be nice to have an
18 update on some of the Board of Game stuff.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think what we should
21 do at this time is amend our motion to change the beaver on
22 Unit 23 to -- is it on there?

23
24 MR. GREIST: To include changes for the
25 beaver.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. For no closed
28 season.

29
30 MS. WARD: To include the changes in
31 beaver.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, the beaver
34 regulations.

35
36 MS. WARD: Beaver regulations.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It's okay with the
39 amendment then?

40
41 MS. WARD: Uh-huh.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And the second?

44
45 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Just include it in the
48 motion.

49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other comments on
2 Proposal 2. Susan, you had a comment?

3
4 MS. BUCKNELL: Mr. Chair, just responding
5 to Bert.....

6
7 REPORTER: Wait a second. I need you to
8 come up just a little bit closer to the microphone, either
9 there or there.

10
11 MS. BUCKNELL: Okay.

12
13 REPORTER: Thanks.

14
15 MS. BUCKNELL: Susan Bucknell. Board
16 Support Section, Kotzebue ADF&G. Mr. Chair, Bert, I
17 usually try and let the advisory committees know kind of
18 what happened at the Board of Game or Board of Fisheries
19 meetings, and I could send that on to the RAC, too.

20
21 MR. GREIST: That would be excellent.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

24
25 MS. BUCKNELL: Okay, through your Chair,
26 Mr. Chair, would that be the way to do it?

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Barb will get it out to
29 all of us.

30
31 MS. BUCKNELL: Or to Barb?

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: yeah.

34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Give it to Barb
36 Armstrong and then she can disseminate it to them.

37
38 MS. BUCKNELL: Okay, yeah, right.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Are we
41 losing somebody?

42
43 REPORTER: Yeah, I'm losing Bert, but you
44 can go ahead, I'm still recording.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other discussion on
47 the motion.

48
49 MR. BALLOT: Question.

50

00021

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All those in favor
2 signify by saying aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All opposed.

7
8 (No opposing votes)

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What else you got,
11 Proposal 53 is it?

12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Snowmachines, yeah.
14 Proposal 53 on Page 16 in your book under Tab T. This
15 proposal was submitted by the Seward Peninsula Regional
16 Advisory Council and it would change the regulations under
17 methods and means. It currently reads, when taking
18 wildlife for subsistence purposes you may not use a
19 motorized vehicle to drive, herd or molest wildlife. The
20 requested change would read, Unit 22, a snowmachine may be
21 used to position caribou to select individual caribou for
22 harvest provided that the animals are not shot from a
23 moving snowmachine.

24
25 This proposal -- or this concept about using
26 snowmachines doesn't have any history with our Federal
27 Subsistence Board. This is something that dates back to
28 the State. In 1990 the Board of Game adopted an exemption
29 to allow caribou to be taken from a moving snowmachine in
30 Unit 23. And then in October of 1999, the State Board
31 considered a proposal to use snowmachines to take caribou
32 in Unit 22. Rather than -- the language that they chose to
33 adopt was the position to select language which is used in
34 this proposal, and they also adopted it for Units 22 and
35 23, which is why it's being brought before you. They
36 eliminated the use of moving snowmachines in 23.

37
38 The Board of Game justified it by -- it was based
39 on prior testimony concerned with the traditional use of
40 the snowmachines to position caribou for hunting. Concerns
41 were raised about wounding losses in 23 of caribou shot
42 from moving snowmachines and the expectation that adopting
43 the proposal would not increase the harvest nor change the
44 way people hunt in the region.

45
46 Right now the Federal regulations are more
47 restrictive than the State regulations and this proposal
48 would amend that to making them the same. We never want to
49 be seen as being more restrictive than the State.

50

00022

1 There's no real biological concern of the caribou
2 in this region, with the Western Arctic Caribou herd being
3 so large. There was some concern in this analysis that
4 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve should be exempt from
5 the regulation because the vegetation's still recovering
6 and the herd is still expanding its range into the area. And
7 it was felt that in the best interest of subsistence users
8 in 22(E), that it would minimize disturbance to these
9 fringe animals and encourage further range expansion in the
10 region.

11
12 So as a result the Staff conclusions are to modify
13 the proposal to read, Except in Units 22 and 23, Bering
14 Land Bridge National Preserve excluded, where snowmachines
15 may be used to position to select individual caribou for
16 harvest provided the animals are not shot from a moving
17 snowmachine.

18
19 What we're looking for today is either your support
20 of the proposal -- your opinion on the proposal and also
21 the -- Donna Dewhurst is the one who wrote this, she's
22 looking for some background -- some additional information
23 as to how you see the difference between herding using a
24 snowmachine and positioning to select. And we had some
25 interesting discussion at the North Slope Council meeting.
26 We presented this to them, too, because this affects part
27 of their region. And I thought it was interesting because
28 it seemed to me, from what they were saying, is there's
29 actually an Inupiat word that there really isn't any
30 translation in English when you're talking about gathering
31 them together. So any kind of dialogue you could have on
32 that, you know, so that we can try to help biologists
33 understand. This is sort of a sensitive issue with them
34 because the idea of harassing wildlife is using
35 snowmachines as a -- they see it as being harassment if
36 you're doing this sort of thing.

37
38 So if you can help us put some information in here
39 to help people understand the difference between
40 positioning, selecting and herding.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, let me start then.

43
44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Oh, just a
45 minute. ADF&G comments were if the Federal Board adopts
46 the proposal, the Department recommends it be done in a
47 manner consistent with action taken on a similar proposal
48 by the Alaska Board of Game in October 1999 meeting. There
49 were no public comments.

50

00023

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: When I'm hunting caribou
4 I'm not herding them I'm positioning for me to shoot at
5 them. I mean what more can I say? If I wanted to herd
6 them, you know, I'd bring them all to one place. But when
7 you're selecting and the caribou are skinny and fat, we can
8 tell, the ones that hunt them, so we position that caribou
9 to shoot it. If you want to interpret that as herding, you
10 know, that's your interpretation but my interpretation is
11 that when I want to shoot a fat caribou, I'll position it
12 whether I position it in soft snow so it makes it easier
13 for me to shoot in the head or, you know.

14

15 I don't know about the rest of you but that's.....

16

17 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

18

19 MR. STONEY: That's the only way.

20

21 MR. GREIST: I think there's a real fine
22 line there between positioning and herding. I think
23 hunters really know, the ones that really know what they're
24 doing are doing -- they're need to harass or deliberately
25 -- I mean you don't want caribou or stuff to run too long.
26 Adrenaline gets in the system and it makes the meat hard.
27 And so you don't want to chase caribou and get them -- and
28 I know the seasoned hunters, they really know that. We
29 don't try to go out and chase stuff like that.

30

31 I understand that -- I mean we understand that
32 ourselves. So it's a general cultural practice not to
33 harass and to intimidate animals. In fact, it was taught
34 for us not to do that since we were young, both by our
35 parents and grandparents, you know.

36

37 But the question is, do we need the regulation now,
38 I mean.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think so because we'd
41 be breaking the law as far as the Park Service is
42 concerned.

43

44 MR. GREIST: Oh.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The method we use today
47 with snowmachines is no different than our forefathers did
48 with the dog teams and snowmachines.

49

50 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

00024

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: They did it the same
2 way.

3
4 MR. GREIST: Dog teams.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: They positioned their
7 caribou, the fat ones to get them. Whether they were using
8 dog teams or snowshoes, they went after the fat ones the
9 same way we do with snowmachines when we position them. So
10 it's a cultural activity that takes place out there.

11
12 MR. GREIST: A lot of times we separate,
13 sometimes -- I mean try to separate reindeer when you see
14 one and when you want the reindeer with -- inside a caribou
15 herd. If you don't position your chances of doing that is
16 -- so it's kind of a cultural -- a cultural practice.

17
18 MR. STONEY: Just like in the month of
19 April, you know, the female -- you have to herd them
20 because the female.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Position.

23
24 MR. STONEY:the female.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Position them.

27
28 MR. STONEY: Yeah.

29
30 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

33
34 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody else, let's let
37 her know what we think here. Percy.

38
39 MR. BALLOT: That's fine. We do that, too.
40 We don't like to chase them too long, you know, the meat
41 gets stronger and our father says, you know, you chase them
42 too long the meat gets spoiled. So you try to get them
43 within the least amount of time you can.

44
45 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Joe, do you position
48 caribou, too?

49
50 MR. AREY: Well, when I go out hunting I go

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1 out subsistence and then I -- if they're there and I want
2 to get them where I want -- if I want to position them,
3 I'll go ahead of them with my snowmachine while they're
4 going and if they turn I'll just go -- I'm not harassing
5 them, that's different. See you're trying to position
6 them.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: See we're trying to get
9 something. If we wanted to harass them we'd just chase
10 them all over the country.

11
12 MR. GREIST: Yeah, right.

13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, I wanted to
15 add that the North Slope Council and the Seward Penn
16 Council did support this proposal except that they did not
17 exclude the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's the other point I
20 wanted to bring out, you know, after we get through with
21 our comments here. Enoch, do you have any on positioning?

22
23 MR. SHIEDT: We always position our caribou
24 to get what we want because we don't want to shoot the ones
25 that we don't want.

26
27 MR. STONEY: Yeah.

28
29 MR. SHIEDT: Especially in April we try to
30 get our -- we're not harassing, we try to do it in, no
31 matter where you come from, shortest time as possible.

32
33 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

34
35 MR. SHIEDT: Because there's a big
36 difference between the surprised and after you chase it
37 around.

38
39 MR. GREIST: A world of difference, yeah.

40
41 MR. SHIEDT: A big difference and we can
42 taste it.

43
44 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Leslie.

47
48 MS. KERR: I've been asked to read the Fish
49 and Wildlife Service into the record and if this is the
50 right time I'd be happy to do that. And I have a copy for

00026

1 you.

2

3 REPORTER: Thanks.

4

5 MS. KERR: There's a Fish and Wildlife
6 Service position that I've been asked to read into the
7 record and which was presumably also read into the record
8 at the North Slope meeting and the Seward Peninsula
9 meeting. This is a statewide Fish and Wildlife Service
10 position.

11

12 I would like to preface reading this statewide
13 statement in by relating an experience that I had two years
14 ago. As many of you know, we work with the high school
15 biology class in Selawik, and they have helped us for
16 several years put radio collars on moose. Two years ago I
17 was accompanying the group as we returned by snowmachine
18 from our camp at the Kugruk to the village of Selawik.
19 This was the first week of April and the first group of
20 caribou -- first big group that we had seen, was crossing
21 Selawik River and it was about a quarter of a mile south of
22 the trail that we were on and about eight miles east of the
23 village of Selawik. We stopped to watch and the immediate
24 reaction of the most vocal of these young people was, oh,
25 good, let's go chase them.

26

27 Now, one might expect the most vocal of the young
28 people to be the opinion leaders among their age group and
29 so I would like to suggest that perhaps the young people in
30 this region are not aware of the fine distinction that Mr.
31 Greist spoke of between positioning and chasing.

32

33 And with that preface, I would like to read the
34 Fish and Wildlife Service position into the record. The
35 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not support the
36 proposal to allow the use of snowmachines to position
37 caribou to select individual caribou for harvest. Alaska
38 National Wildlife Refuge regulations require that
39 snowmachines used on Alaska Refuges by subsistence hunters
40 be operated "in such a manner as to prevent the herding,
41 harassment, hazing or driving of wildlife for hunting or
42 other purposes." These regulations were adopted to prevent
43 deleterious effects of snowmachine use on wildlife.
44 Allowing the use of snowmachines on refuges, in this case
45 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge, to "position" caribou
46 would constitute "herding, harassment, hazing or driving"
47 of caribou and would have adverse effects on caribou,
48 contrary to the Refuge's conservation purposes.
49 Positioning caribou would stress caribou at the time of
50 year when their energy reserves are reduced. Pregnant cows

00027

1 would be particularly susceptible, given the additional
2 demands on their energy reserves created by developing
3 fetuses.

4
5 Existing Federal subsistence regulations which
6 prohibit the use of motorized vehicles, including
7 snowmachines, to drive, herd, or molest wildlife are
8 consistent with Alaska Refuge regulations. Adoption of the
9 proposal would place the subsistence regulation in conflict
10 with the Refuge regulations. The Service is opposed, for
11 conservation reasons, to changing its refuge regulations.
12 State regulations allowing this use of snowmachines by
13 caribou hunters are superseded by refuge regulations.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Can somebody give me
18 some direction from ANILCA? Fred.

19
20 MR. ARMSTRONG: Maybe Ida can speak to the
21 ANILCA thing but ANILCA does provide use of snowmachines
22 for subsistence purposes.

23
24 REPORTER: Fred.

25
26 MR. ARMSTRONG: For the record my name is
27 Fred Armstrong the Native Liaison Advisor for Fish and
28 Wildlife Service.

29
30 Just hearing the comments made by Leslie Kerr got
31 me wondering, you know, one incident that I know corrective
32 action was taken by the principals of the school to address
33 the situation occurred. That one incident should not be --
34 set the precedent for going against this proposal. We
35 don't herd animals. We've never herded animals. The only
36 animals that are herded are reindeer, the domesticated
37 animals, they're moving from one grazing site to another.
38 We position caribou based on the landscape where we can
39 best get them and butcher them. There's no herding
40 involved in this. There's no harassment.

41
42 It's a cultural activity. Culture changes. The
43 method and means change. If it didn't have that capability
44 culture would vanish and disappear. We're doing the same
45 concept as our forefathers did we're just using a more
46 efficient method. And so I would encourage the Board to do
47 the same as what North Slope did and Seward Penn and
48 support this proposal.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ida.

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1 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
2 Committee member. Fred is correct, ANILCA does provide for
3 the taking of game by snowmachines. And regardless of
4 Refuge or any other agency regulations, in my opinion,
5 ANILCA trumps those. The purpose of ANILCA is to provide
6 for subsistence opportunity and to read any regulation that
7 violates ANILCA is to render Title VIII null and void and
8 Title VIII cannot be read in that manner.

9
10 And as to harassment and herding, I have heard from
11 this Council and numerous other Councils since I've been
12 here for five years, that in the various Council opinions,
13 agencies herd and harass when they do census and fly over
14 these animals and chase these animals to count them. So to
15 turn around and say subsistence users are harassing these
16 animals is, in my opinion, a gross overstatement.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Enoch.

19
20 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, a couple of questions
21 for Leslie. This is a touchy issue. At the time you had
22 your students collaring the moose, did you have an elder to
23 talk to the students of the way the Natives hunt to teach
24 them at the same time of how the Natives hunt from an
25 elder's point of view?

26
27 MS. KERR: Is that a statement or question?

28
29 MR. SHIEDT: Question.

30
31 MS. KERR: Well, let's see, Ralph Raymond,
32 Sr., was there with us, so he's an elder.

33
34 MR. SHIEDT: Uh-huh.

35
36 MS. KERR: And the -- I was not present at
37 the pre-work in the classroom, so I couldn't say exactly
38 what was covered there and we had a vet on-site who was
39 working with the students and talking to them about, you
40 know, the concerns about this kind of study. Of course, we
41 don't pull teeth in keeping with the concerns in this
42 region about that effect. So that's the best I can do to
43 answer your question about that particular experience.

44
45 MR. SHIEDT: The reason why I asked that is
46 our Natives, most elders will tell us that's, as when we
47 were youngsters and we were growing up, never to harass
48 caribou. And when we -- I've seen in Noatak when I was a
49 youngster, when people tried to harass, the elders go talk
50 to that person, never to do it again or they'll stop them

00029

1 from hunting. That's how powerful elders used to be long
2 ago. But now we are changing so if you take your students
3 out, please, talk to them and advise them because they --
4 we're teaching our youngsters now and times are changing.
5 So even me, when I take my children out or other people's
6 children, I always talk to them, the do's and don'ts of
7 hunting because it's got to be passed on and harassment is
8 one of the very strict things I use -- because we all, even
9 agencies, when they collar, they're being harassed.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody got any other
12 comments. Jim.

13
14 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair, I'm Jim Magdanz
15 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
16 Subsistence. I worked on this issue on the State's side
17 since at least 1990 when the State first adopted its
18 regulation in this unit to allow caribou to be taken with
19 snowmachines. This issue comes back to us because Unit 22
20 wanted also the opportunity to take caribou with
21 snowmachines under regulation. And so they proposed the
22 proposal that the Board of Game took up in October. In
23 Barrow, during October, there was a long discussion about
24 this subject and how to craft a regulation that would
25 accommodate what people want to do and have done for years
26 and at the same time, prevent the kind of harassing
27 behavior that does occur occasionally, especially from a
28 few young people in the region. Both, you know, here and
29 everywhere. And the young people aren't fully mature and
30 as a society, I think that we feel that we need to come up
31 with appropriate rules for behavior that everyone can abide
32 by.

33
34 A total prohibition on snowmachine use is simply
35 inconsistent with the history of subsistence in Northwest
36 Alaska. It doesn't make sense.

37
38 The Board looked at a lot of different languages --
39 a lot of different words for this. They looked at herding,
40 for example, and rejected that as not accurate. And the
41 words that they settled on, position and select, they
42 described as basically culling. Where you identify animals
43 that are the ones you'd like to take and you work the group
44 of caribou to take those animals. They chose not to use
45 the word, culling because in the reindeer industry it has a
46 negative connotation. But they felt that position and
47 select had the same meaning and was not synonymous with
48 herding.

49
50 And so that's how position and select came to be.

00030

1 It's different than the regulation that the State had
2 before, in that, that it limits the kind of chasing and
3 harassing behavior that we've occasionally seen. And I
4 think they chose this language in Barrow, partly to give
5 all of us tools to deal with a few people that are truly
6 harassing animals. But to accommodate the use of
7 snowmachines to actively position caribou to make taking
8 easier.

9
10 So that's kind of a brief history of how that
11 language came to the table, Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Jim.

14
15 MR. GREIST: Mr. Chairman.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

18
19 MR. GREIST: I appreciate the discussion
20 that's taken place. Leslie, I take your information to
21 heart. I know if you ask a real ardent Eskimo hunter about
22 what you guys did when you collar the caribou, the hunters
23 would call it harassing the caribou as well. I'm not
24 trying to be defensive about it, I'm just saying that we
25 shouldn't also interpret one person's behavior to be like
26 the way things are now with us.

27
28 I got some relatives that are in late -- well,
29 sixth grade, fifth grade, they know how to hunt caribou
30 already. They don't harass. They skin, cut, cut up
31 completely and they're very knowledgeable and we do have
32 some kids that never did hunt hardly -- hardly had the
33 opportunity to hunt with some other people, but with those
34 that do hunt with us, and hunt with very knowledgeable
35 people, they are educated. I don't take it as face value
36 as the way things are with -- with the way we hunt and take
37 caribou.

38
39 I know it's a very touchy issue but if you've been
40 out there long enough and you really know the hunters, the
41 elders, the general population, you've been around and
42 watching a lot of the hunters and you ask them, you just
43 talk your every day talk, I mean these people they'll tell
44 you which kid is not behaving like they ought to be and
45 maybe somebody should advise them. If there are incidents
46 of any kind that's out of the ordinary, I think it's part
47 of every day village life that needs to go on and should go
48 on and I think we should be out there to advise our kids.
49 I mean we do that so don't get too excited about seeing one
50 incident and then coming up with that, you know, hard line

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1 response to something like that.

2

3 So that's something we -- I know, on my level and
4 the way I work with, partly this issue for years and years,
5 one of the best ways we've -- if we can't touch all the
6 kids individually at home we try to bring it to the school
7 and we do teach it at school. And we have Inupiat day, a
8 week, a whole week long and these kind of issues are -- we
9 teach these issues. I know in Selawik, I don't know if
10 they do it in the villages, we do that every year. So
11 it's, you know, it's something that we deal with as an
12 every day life thing.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I must be under 7C,
15 we're hearing from everybody. Agency comments. Sandy, you
16 had a comment. Can you come forward?

17

18 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm Sandy Rabinowitch
19 with the National Park Service. I'll try to summarize a
20 lot of things that the Park Service has considered. We've
21 actually talked about this proposal probably as much or
22 more than any proposal, you know, in the proposal book this
23 year. This one sort of rose up and got our attention and
24 we've had several lengthy conversations with various people
25 in different parts of the state that this affects. So what
26 I'll try to do is sort of summarize a little bit of where
27 we've been and where we think we're at.

28

29 The first point, though, is that our goal, and I
30 said this in Barrow and I said this in Unalakleet last
31 week, our goal is to try to listen and learn. Because one
32 of the things we discovered when we were talking is we
33 didn't think we fully understood what was being proposed.
34 So the comments that really all of you have made, we very
35 much appreciate, and they add information into this that
36 we're learning from.

37

38 As has been said and is on Page 19 of your book
39 there, there's a paragraph in the middle of Page 19 about
40 the regulatory issue and I'll kind of just start with this.
41 That middle paragraph lays out the Fish and Wildlife
42 Service, the Park Service and the BLM regulations. I won't
43 reread them but the Fish and Wildlife Service reg and the
44 Park Service regulation are exactly the same words, okay.
45 The BLM regulation is a little bit different, the actual
46 wording is a little bit different. But I think, and I
47 don't want to speak for BLM, but I think conceptually it's
48 pretty similar. But like I say, I don't want to interpret
49 their reg.

50

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1 We come into this in a slightly different position
2 than Fish and Wildlife Service. I am not here to tell you
3 we oppose the proposal but I am here to tell you that we
4 think that it's in conflict with the Park Service
5 regulation, okay. And the key words in the Park Service
6 regulation, like Fish and Wildlife, is herding, harassing,
7 hazing or driving, those are the four key words. And in
8 our discussion, I don't think that anybody in the Park
9 Service thought that what was under discussion was
10 harassing. You know, that's sort of way out there at the
11 edge of unacceptable behavior and this isn't that and that
12 was pretty easy to recognize.

13
14 I think the words that we really focused on, trying
15 to grapple with, are driving and herding. And so when we
16 talked about it on various telephone calls, we kicked
17 around driving and herding and positioning. We were trying
18 to understand what we thought they meant. And, in fact,
19 one of the things we did was we drew an arrow, you know,
20 just an arrow and up at the top where all the activities
21 that are okay, they're legal, driving a snowmachine is
22 okay, looking for animals is okay, there's lots of things
23 you can do on a snowmachine that are legal and that's just
24 fine. Way down at the other end of the arrow, if you think
25 of this as a continuum, is harassing; and that's not okay.
26 And I think everybody in this room would agree to that.
27 It's not appropriate and nobody should do that.

28
29 So we saw positioning, trying to figure out which
30 side of the continuum is it on, is it on the okay side or
31 the not okay side, and that's what you all have been
32 talking about. So that's the debate that we've had and
33 there were good comments, as Helen said, in Barrow and
34 Unalakleet and we've also talked, just on the phone with
35 some people in Seward Peninsula trying to ask people about
36 this ourselves, too, to gather more information.

37
38 A couple other points, you know, are snowmachines
39 allowed? Yes, absolutely they're allowed by ANILCA, I
40 don't think that's an issue in this proposal. They're
41 allowed and I don't think there's any debate. I think the
42 debate's about how they're used, again, that's what you've
43 been talking about.

44
45 On the point about regulations, I guess I differ a
46 little bit with Ida on a technical point. I think the
47 regulations -- the Federal Subsistence Board regulations
48 are clear, that -- and I have them with me, I won't trot
49 them out unless you want to, but that agency regulations
50 supersede regulations, and then there's another Board

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1 regulation that kind of places a duty on the Federal Board
2 to grapple with conflicts. And it's a regulation that I
3 don't think anybody's much paid attention to, but it sort
4 of tells the Board, you know, pay attention so when there's
5 a conflict between an agency reg and a Board reg and State
6 regs for that matter. So we're doing the right thing and
7 that is we're talking about it and trying to understand it,
8 in my opinion.

9
10 Let me see if there's anything else. A quick law
11 enforcement note. One of the things that we did in the
12 Park Service is we just checked to see if we had ever
13 issued any citations for herding, harassing, driving, et
14 cetera, and the information I have from Greg -- you know, I
15 think some of you know Greg, a lot of you know Greg here in
16 the room, was, no, we haven't. And I also checked with our
17 law enforcement people in Anchorage, if they had any
18 records and the answer there was no. So from a strict
19 citation, you know, standpoint, there's no record of there
20 being a problem. Now, I don't know, you know, what really
21 goes on but in terms of the paperwork, at least, on Park
22 Service lands, there hadn't been a problem that has risen
23 to that level that I know about.

24
25 I'm trying to summarize a lot of things. Maybe
26 I'll stop there and there's a couple of other people from
27 the Park Service behind me, if there's anything I left out
28 they can maybe handle the questions.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, let me ask you
31 this then, if we were to ask you to change your regulation
32 to read, for instance, snowmobile, traditionally employed
33 by local residents, rural residents engaging in subsistence
34 uses shall be operated to position caribou to be harvested;
35 and then in such a manner to prevent the herding,
36 harassment, would you consider that?

37
38 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, I've got to look
39 behind me to Dave Spirites because he's more in the chain
40 of command to that....

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And how long.....

43
44 MR. RABINOWITCH:than I am but.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:would this take.

47
48 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, let me do the
49 process part of that and Dave can think about your
50 question. The process part is, yeah, the Park Service can

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1 change regulations just like any other agency. But you all
2 are accustomed to the Federal Subsistence Board being
3 pretty efficient at changing regulations. You put a
4 proposal in in the fall and you get an answer in May, and
5 the regulation either changes or it doesn't, not too bad
6 for government. The Park Service isn't that good, okay.
7 The Park Service doesn't have the machinery like the
8 Federal Board to change regulations. It also has
9 additional requirements that the Federal Board, in a way
10 doesn't have to face on a regular basis, NEPA compliance,
11 and if I say some terms that, you know, you're not familiar
12 with, you know, stop me and I'll further explain. But the
13 process takes longer, I'd say it's 18 months to two years
14 and that's just a guess on my part for the Park Service to
15 change regulation. It has to go all the way to Washington.
16 The Secretary of Interior has to sign off on it and people
17 from all over the United States can send in comments and so
18 on and so forth, so you can get a big nationwide audience.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a way we can
21 just limit it to the lands specified under ANILCA?

22
23 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, if you're talking
24 about the application of the regs.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, I'm not trying to
27 have it applied in Yellowstone or whatever.

28
29 MR. RABINOWITCH: Right. Right, no, no,
30 no, I understand that.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You know, I don't care
33 about them guys, I just want it in Alaska here.

34
35 MR. RABINOWITCH: There's two ways and
36 we've discussed this, you know, as I said, in our
37 discussions, there's two approaches that we would have in
38 the Park Service. One is statewide, just Alaska, and the
39 other is just Northwest Alaska, not even the rest of the
40 state, okay. And I think our preference, and we'll see if
41 Dave agrees, but I think our preference has been to limit
42 to Northwest in terms of our discussions if we ever went
43 down that road.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Limit it to Northwest
46 Alaska?

47
48 MR. RABINOWITCH:that we -- our
49 initial read was that would be the better way to do it, to
50 keep it just to this area of the state.

00035

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Would we have to do it
2 under a management plan or can you do just -- would you
3 have to do a nationwide regulation change, specific to
4 Alaska, or can you change your management plan that you
5 have in place to specific parks or monuments?
6

7 MR. RABINOWITCH: There's a provision in
8 our regulations for each park area, they're called special
9 regulations, and they can apply just to Bering Land Bridge
10 or just.....
11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Would that be the
13 easiest way?
14

15 MR. RABINOWITCH: I think so. Let's see if
16 Dave agrees but that's my sense of it so far.
17

18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Would we have to go
19 nationwide with this proposal?
20

21 MR. RABINOWITCH: The notification would be
22 out there nationwide.
23

24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But it would lessen the
25 time?
26

27 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm not sure it matters.
28 A lot of it is, frankly, moving it through the Washington
29 offices of the Park Service in the Department of Interior,
30 things churn very slowly.
31

32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Dave.
33

34 MR. SPIRITES: Mr. Chairman, if I could
35 just add to that. Our long-term goal is to make our laws
36 consistent with traditional practices, especially where
37 there's not a -- where that's compatible with conservation,
38 and so that's what we want to do. We have this regulation
39 which you're asking us to change. And the process for
40 changing it, we can do a special regulation that would
41 apply to just certain parts of Western Alaska, that's
42 probably an easier process because it won't get the
43 attention and have the nationwide impacts that a systemwide
44 -- so that would be much easier.
45

46 The difficulty in our regulation process right now
47 is that government is trying to simplify and reduce the
48 number of regulations. And so there's actually -- there is
49 everything from a little bit of an economic analysis to
50 plain English and some studies that have to go with it.

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1 So, yes, if we were directed to work on the regulation,
2 we'd try to have a regulation which would be more
3 consistent with the continuum that Sandy was taking -- we
4 could start it fairly much as -- as soon as directed to do
5 so by the Board. The likelihood is it would take several
6 years for us to get that regulation in place.

7
8 And the one other thing I would say in the interim,
9 in talking with our law enforcement officer, again, that we
10 -- certainly our interpretation of the present law is not
11 to take action against anyone who is basically positioning
12 themselves on a snowmachine in a responsible way to get
13 single animals. If anything, our concern is simply, as one
14 subsistence user said to me, that a snowmachine goes faster
15 than the fastest caribou has ever run. And there now is a
16 potential for some people in this egregious behavior, you
17 know, to do side-hilling and really go up hills. So our
18 whole goal in this is basically to get a regulation that
19 separates the wheat from the chafe and that allows the
20 traditional practice and yet gives our law enforcement
21 people a regulation which can really take actions to
22 egregious behavior. We're certainly willing to go through
23 that process and start immediately on trying to get a
24 revision of that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You would need direction
27 from the Federal Board or can we do it here?

28
29 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm not sure we've ever
30 been down this road so I think that's why we're hesitating
31 because we're not sure of the answer. But if this Board
32 chooses to make that recommendation you can certainly do
33 that and that will certainly give us a bit of a kick.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All right. Anything
36 else.

37
38 MR. SPIRITES: In expediting the regulation
39 process it just helps that if we're being directed to do
40 so, especially by the Board and this group, it just helps
41 us to expedite that process.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

44
45 MR. HUNTER: Paul Hunter, National Park
46 Service. I think we should just point out that there's one
47 other park area that is involved in your region and that's
48 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. They're
49 not here today to comment on how they would -- on what
50 their position would be on changing their special park

00037

1 regulations. But if you wanted to extend it to the eastern
2 end of Unit 23, they would have to change their regs as
3 well.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

6
7 MR. HUNTER: That's all I had.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

10
11 MR. GREIST: The comments are due by March
12 25th on their management planning, we probably need to take
13 a look at that. I appreciate the.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let's get with some more
16 agencies here first, though, Bert; is that okay, to hear
17 from some others? BLM -- or are you done Sandy?

18
19 MR. RABINOWITCH: Done.

20
21 MR. SCHNEIDER: Mr. Chairman, I'm Bob
22 Schneider, northern field manager for the Bureau of Land
23 Management in Fairbanks. We do not have an official
24 position but I would like to add a comment.

25
26 The BLM regulations talk about unnecessary and
27 undue harassment. And I guess the counter argument is is
28 there a necessary or due issue here in which a cultural
29 tradition of subsistence hunting and using snowmachines is
30 part of that whole mix of uses of off highway vehicles for
31 any purpose. And so I think that BLM regulations, because
32 we have a different mission than the Park Service and Fish
33 and Wildlife Service, have some flexibility in our existing
34 regulations to consider whether or not the use of
35 snowmachines for the purpose of positioning is, in fact,
36 necessary and due and would be permitted.

37
38 I guess the other question I would have, and we've
39 talked a little bit about enforcement is that, is to help
40 us out. You know, what do you consider to be unnecessary
41 and undue so that it gives our people some opportunity to
42 be able to deal with those that are creating a problem and
43 yet allowing the law abiding individuals that are using the
44 machines in a necessary and due way to pursue what you have
45 to do to get game but at the same time to allow us to
46 address the issue of people doing it in a wrong way.

47
48 So I guess it's not an official position but I
49 guess I do have that question as to what you would consider
50 being over the line.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You said it clearly,
2 it's necessary for us to position the caribou to do what we
3 want to do. Ida, from the BIA.

4
5 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
6 Committee member. The proposal neither recommends nor
7 requests harassment or herding. The proposal is to
8 position, therefore, it is neither in conflict with Fish
9 and Wildlife or Park Service regulations as read into the
10 record.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Anybody
13 else. State. Jim were you speaking for the State?

14
15 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, the State's position
16 here is pretty simple. The Board of Game has taken an
17 action, this is on our books and we like to be consistent
18 with you guys.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Leslie, you got
21 anything else to add?

22
23 MS. KERR: Well, those of you who are on
24 this Council know that I, in particular, have had a very
25 strong commitment to working with, for example, the
26 Regional Elders Council on ways of educating the young
27 people of the region. And the video on proper Inupiat
28 hunting techniques for caribou is scheduled for release
29 imminently. So I think that to the extent that education
30 is the issue, that's something that we have a long
31 commitment to and many of you have cooperated with us on
32 that. This will be seen by the Fish and Wildlife Service
33 as a statewide issue. Our ability to get Refuge specific
34 regulations has been pretty minimal. Our Alaska
35 Congressional Delegation has generally opposed development
36 of Refuge specific regulations. You know, you can
37 certainly take whatever action you want and if you think
38 it's the right thing to do, by all means, go ahead and
39 forward the proposal to the Board and then they'll get a
40 more full and more statewide debate there.

41
42 So the position that I read to you came from our
43 Anchorage office and reflects the statewide view of the
44 agency.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Any agency
47 folks I missed out there, if now, why don't we move on to
48 -- do we have any written comments, Helen?

49
50 MS. KERR: I provided the statement to the

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1 recorder.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Any other written
4 comments that you haven't read into the record? I don't
5 see any.

6

7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, I just want
8 to make sure you -- as the proposal is written it's only
9 applying to Unit 22, if you want to include Unit 23 you
10 have to amend or modify the proposal.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

13

14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Are there any comments
17 from the floor? If not we'll deliberate this. Bert.

18

19 MR. GREIST: I know when we used dog team
20 we used to have to position our -- we used to have to do
21 that to harvest the number of caribou, maximizing our
22 harvest and it's no different with the snowmachine. If you
23 do it responsibly it's a cultural practice. The people
24 that know how to hunt very efficiently, very effectively,
25 there's not too much difference between the way they do it
26 with dog team or snowmachine. And I know the practice is
27 there. Like you said earlier, we got to make sure we're
28 covered and it's legal.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Enoch.

31

32 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I think with a
33 snowmachine it's less harassment than with a dog team.

34

35 MR. GREIST: Yeah, it is.

36

37 MR. SHIEDT: Because I remember when we
38 used to chase them with dogs we used to chase them about an
39 hour.

40

41 MR. GREIST: In fact.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Position.

44

45 MR. GREIST:we used to.....

46

47 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, position. Now, when we
48 chase them with the snowmachines, it takes 10 or 15
49 minutes. Because I remember we used to chase them with dog
50 teams sometimes two and three times a day just to get our

00040

1 catch.

2

3 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

4

5 MR. SHIEDT: And we'd always be told you
6 get what you want to get not the ones that -- not certain
7 animals, we were trying to just pick what we want and we're
8 just doing, you know, a snowmachine is a lot faster.

9

10 MR. GREIST: And then when you can -- you
11 can get 20 or 30 in one.....

12

13 MR. SHIEDT: I remember we used to even do
14 it by walking without snowmachine.....

15

16 MR. GREIST: You could get 20 or 30
17 caribou.

18

19 MR. SHIEDT:we used to chase them all
20 day long.

21

22 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

23

24 MR. SHIEDT: I mean hours, like we used to
25 leave the tent at 5:00 o'clock in the morning and go home
26 at 8:00 in the evening and we used to try to chase caribou
27 all day long.

28

29 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

30

31 MR. SHIEDT: But certain seasons, we'd get
32 what we want not just any animal.

33

34 MR. GREIST: When I was growing up and we
35 used dog team we used to get around 50, 50 caribou in a
36 day, you know.

37

38 MR. SHIEDT: In a day, yes, easy.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: There'd be a bunch of
41 hunters though.

42

43 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah.

44

45 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: A whole bunch.

48

49 MR. SHIEDT: About 10 or 12 of us.

50

00041

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Raymond.

2

3 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, I'll give you an
4 example, especially about these regulations when they first
5 came out 55 years ago. In those days these regulations
6 didn't fit in our state, with Alaska, otherwise our people
7 would be jailed just to get caribou. They can go to jail
8 just shooting a ptarmigan. They could go to jail to shoot
9 one duck. But there were regulations. And that's how
10 these regulations, when they become effective today, in
11 trying to teach our youngsters, it's very difficult,
12 because they see these people 55 years ago with guns on
13 them and they'll say I'll shoot you if you don't come talk
14 to me. That's how they started it. And now we're trying
15 to come back and teach them how to pass these regulations
16 and how to hunt subsistence and you know, they just -- like
17 I say, they're hard to do it because they're so afraid of
18 these people who have guns on them. So that's my point.
19 And these people, even if -- including, us, we should go to
20 all the villages and explain about the regulations, like
21 currently it's the snowmachine, and we're not harassing
22 them.

23

24 Like you said, bring the animal we want. Just like
25 earlier, like in a month time, you can't shoot no female
26 caribou because, you know -- in the fall time, they're
27 rutting, you can't shoot no big bull, I mean mid-October,
28 you can't get that. Now, that's the history of
29 regulations, 55 years ago. I know you're aware of it, you
30 know, our -- wind up in jail.

31

32 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, subsistence will
33 always be here. Ways and means of hunting are changing
34 and, you know, I'm in favor of the proposal.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Rosie, do you have any
37 comments?

38

39 MS. WARD: No.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Joe.

42

43 MR. AREY: Well, if they go to villages and
44 explain they're going to get the same answer from the
45 people in the villages between positioning and harassing
46 caribou. When people that hunt before, our elders, they
47 just pass it down to their kids and then if the agency
48 says, here, go up there and tell them about harassment and
49 positioning, those people will just tell them the same
50 thing, what they know from their ancestors that's been

00042

1 passed down, that they never waste nothing when they go
2 out. And if it's just on Unit 23, Northwest and it says in
3 here motorized vehicles, that's -- if it's just Northwest,
4 that's in our area and not in Fairbanks where they use cars
5 and have roads and stuff.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Joe. Well,
8 I've heard one agency just flat out say this is a statewide
9 consideration and that's the way it is. And, you know,
10 Fish and Wildlife Service, that's the one, but here we have
11 a Subsistence Division within the Fish and Wildlife Service
12 trying to help us and yet the Refuge people have a problem
13 here trying to help us. The Park Service is willing to do
14 something to help us. BLM says, an interpretation to help
15 us. Fish and Game is asking that we submit to the Federal
16 Board to be consistent with what the Board of Game has
17 adopted. So my recommendation would be to adopt the
18 proposal with the language to include Unit 23 and ask the
19 Federal agencies that have a conflict within their
20 regulations, whether it be conservation unit specific or
21 region specific within Unit 23, you know, as long as we get
22 the job done it doesn't make any difference to me.

23
24 But I would like to see all the Federal lands be
25 consistent in allowing us to position the caribou to be
26 able to harvest them for subsistence purposes.

27
28 Now, you've heard from all of here of our
29 interpretation of positioning caribou. To us it's not
30 harassment, we've been doing it for hundreds of years,
31 whether we were on snowshoes or dog teams or snowmachines.

32
33 So I guess what I'll ask for is a motion to adopt
34 the proposal with Unit 23 added.

35
36 MR. GREIST: This is language on 53?

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

39
40 MR. GREIST: Snowmachine may be used to
41 position caribou to select individual caribou for harvest
42 provided that the animal are not shot from a moving
43 snowmachine. That's the actual language, right?

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Right, but to include
46 Unit 23. That would be for Unit 23.

47
48 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt
49 Proposal 53 for the use of snowmachine to be used to
50 position caribou to select individual caribou to harvest

00043

1 provided the animals are not shot from a moving snowmachine
2 and to include Unit 23.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second?

5
6 MR. GREIST: I'll second it. But the
7 understanding is to also include 23.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

10
11 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I just said that.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So under discussion here
14 I think what I would ask is if your agency is able to do
15 so, to, you know, start looking at this proposal to see if
16 we could fit it into your regulatory process or even before
17 the Federal Board action because it's something we're going
18 to ask for from the Federal Board.

19
20 Fred you had a comment.

21
22 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, maybe I should or
23 otherwise I'll be nervous all day.

24
25 Anyway, animals stalk their prey to survive, the
26 humans do the same thing. I mean sports hunter/subsistence
27 hunters, you know, they stalk the prey, and that's
28 basically all we're doing. It's just the method and means
29 are somewhat different than other areas of the state. The
30 perception that we're herding animals or harassing them or
31 hazing them is just not true. We're there for a
32 subsistence purpose, to hunt and to subsist and feed our
33 families. We need to stay focused on that and not read
34 into -- see it's basically a battle of semantics or a
35 battle of words here, of what words to choose to make it
36 less, you know, hurtful on the subsistence user.

37
38 But if we just educate the Board and really state
39 that, you know, this is just a hunting practice that, you
40 know, we don't abuse. If we just limit it to like the
41 State does, 22 and 23, then we're in compliance.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: To get back to the BLM
44 question, do you feel that your regulation in place is
45 sufficient to accommodate what we're asking here or are you
46 going to need to relook the regulation to change it?

47
48 MR. SCHNEIDER: I think that I will
49 probably make a request to at least get some sort of an
50 opinion but I believe that there's some flexibility in our

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1 regulations that maybe the other agencies don't have simply
2 because we have a different mission. And that we would
3 certainly look to try to accommodate that, especially when
4 you have a cultural activity that has gone on and it is
5 part of how subsistence hunting is carried out today, that
6 we would take a look at that and try to make a
7 determination. That's why I said, we don't have an
8 official opinion because we really haven't considered it at
9 this point.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The problem with
12 flexibility in a regulation is the interpretation with the
13 field guy. And that's mostly the problem we've been having
14 over the last 50 some years, is the interpretation of the
15 guy in charge out there that thinks that the guy is not
16 positioning caribou, is harassing.

17
18 MR. SCHNEIDER: That's why I asked my
19 question, is if you could help us define what that would
20 be.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So what I would ask the
23 agencies to do is take this regulation that we're proposing
24 and to accommodate that by allowing your regulation to read
25 that we position the caribou but leaving the other language
26 in there would allow us to position a caribou but still
27 keep your harassment and the chasing part in there illegal.

28
29 Any other comments.

30
31 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, they got to
32 realize this is just one way of hunting.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Right.

35
36 MR. BALLOT: You know, we know the best way
37 of waiting is -- waiting for the caribou by the trails and
38 stuff and that's when the meat is always best and the best
39 time to get them.

40
41 MR. SHIEDT: I have a question for the
42 agencies. How do we position our caribou as Native as
43 subsistence users without harassing them if that's what
44 we're doing now? Let me ask you. Anybody got any ideas
45 how we should position our caribou without harassing them?
46 Is that what we're doing now?

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Jim.

49
50 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair, this isn't an

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1 agency position, so to speak, but it does -- I mean I've
2 been sitting back here thinking about maybe I should go
3 talk to Ruthie Sampson about some Inupiat terms for hunting
4 activities. But for me, position means that the goal of
5 your activity is to put the animal in a particular place
6 and the hunter in a particular place where the hunter can
7 take the animal most successfully.

8
9 Other activities that I can imagine with a
10 snowmachine have nothing to do with putting that animal in
11 some particular place but simply in moving the animal or
12 chasing the animal or whatever. I think the goal of
13 hunting is, in fact, to take the animal and positioning
14 puts you and the caribou in the best positions to do that
15 and in the best places. So if I were watching someone
16 using a snowmachine to move caribou, that's what I would be
17 looking for, is that animal being manoeuvred, is that
18 snowmachine being manoeuvred to make this a successful
19 hunt or are we just running them up and down the hills? I
20 mean that, in my mind, is the difference.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's correct. The
23 Inupiat term is (In Native). When you (In Native) yourself
24 for the caribou to be got that's what you do. When you (In
25 Native) the caribou to where you want it that's what you
26 do.

27
28 Whether you position yourself with the caribou,
29 it's when you (In Native) the situation.

30
31 Dave.

32
33 MR. SPIRITES: Yeah, and in response to
34 Enoch's question, I think the activities that we would take
35 actions on now are the ones that everybody here would
36 recognize as egregious. Where somebody chased an
37 individual animal so much that it's lungs got frosted or
38 where somebody's repeatedly chasing animals with no attempt
39 to hunt them but is chasing them and then goes to another
40 group and basically somebody going wild on a snowmachine.
41 And I think it's kind of we know it when we see it and I
42 understand Mr. Chairman's concern about over time some
43 people's interpret -- some enforcement officer's
44 interpretation isn't as sensitive as others, and that's a
45 good reason for changing the regulation. But in the
46 interim, until we can do so, it's that very egregious
47 behavior that we would like the help from this Board in
48 making sure that everyone in the region recognizes is
49 unacceptable.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All of us agree, Dave,
2 that if there's -- if a person is, like you said, chasing a
3 caribou up and down and up and down without making any
4 effort to position one or two to get them, that's
5 harassment. I mean we recognize that, we see that.

6
7 MR. SPIRITES: Yeah.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If somebody's making no
10 effort to get into a position to shoot them, one or two.

11
12 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, are we talking
13 about the caribou only on this regulations, caribou only?

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Yeah. No, no, no
16 -- well, what we're asking them to do is change their
17 regulations for all.....

18
19 MR. STONEY: Okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:not just caribou,
22 right, is that what I'm saying or are we just caribou here?

23
24 MR. GREIST: Caribou.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Caribou. Well, we don't
27 have to chase moose they just look at you anyway.

28
29 Any other comments from the Council on the motion.

30
31 MR. BALLOT: Question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All those in favor
34 signify by saying aye.

35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All opposed.

39
40 (No opposing votes)

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We got a unanimous vote
43 here on that proposal. Let's take 10 minutes, uh.

44
45 (Off record)

46 (On record)

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let's get back to order
49 here. Sandy reminded me of one thing, you know, you guys
50 ever watch these hunting shows on TV? Now, these are in

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1 parks and refuges and everything else, you know, you see
2 this guy hunting deer and one of them tells you you go
3 around over there and then we'll bring the deer to you.
4 Now, what is that? Is that herding or what? We watch it
5 and we see it.

6
7 Okay. Tab V, Item 8, agency reports. We have the
8 Subsistence Service, Peggy, are you going to do that one?

9
10 MS. FOX: Yeah. Tab U was -- do you have
11 any fisheries proposals? I think you skipped Tab U.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Tab U?

14
15 MS. FOX: Unless that was intentional.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, it's not intentional
18 here. Excuse me, let's move back then.

19
20 What I'm going to do is open the floor to proposals
21 to change Federal regulations on fisheries. Let me start
22 off. I don't know if these changes have been put in yet
23 but in the last meeting I requested that we -- under the
24 State regulations that the removal of the one in the Kelly
25 River, on the Noatak River where there's no subsistence
26 fishing one mile on each side of Kelly River for char, we
27 take that off.

28
29 MS. FOX: There haven't been any changes
30 made as of yet.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

33
34 MS. FOX: This is the opportunity now to do
35 that.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, that's one
38 proposal, okay. The other is the mesh size on the sheefish
39 for winter harvest on Kobuk Lake. There's a minimum size
40 of seven inches for the mesh size. It's way much more than
41 what people normally use. We use salmon nets, you know,
42 five and 7/8ths or six inch, so we need to change --
43 propose that to be changed.

44
45 And lastly, the regulation that prohibits putting a
46 net all the way across a stream. A lot of our people in
47 the Lower Kobuk or in the Selawik area, when they're out
48 spring fishing now, sometimes the streams are 15 feet, 10
49 feet, six feet, they block the whole stream to catch the
50 fish and then they pull the net out. They cut fish and

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1 then put the net back on again, it don't stay there. But
2 it makes it illegal for them to do so. So we need to
3 change that to accommodate those people that do it as
4 fishing in the summer time -- spring time especially, and
5 in the fall time when they're getting white fish to put
6 away.

7
8 Now, that one there is going to have to take some
9 discussion because I can understand trying to block off a
10 stream that's 50 feet or a 100 feet, you know, nobody has
11 white fish nets that are 120 feet. So if the proposal
12 would read if there is -- after we take it to the villages,
13 if we can, if I can get feedback from the people here that
14 are from the villages; what do they think is a proper width
15 of a stream that they can block off; you know, whether it's
16 20 feet, 30 feet? I've heard 30 feet would be okay and
17 I've heard 20 feet would be okay. Anything more than that
18 you can only block off half of it.

19
20 So on that one there I think we should get some
21 feedback from the villages first, especially from Noorvik,
22 Kiana and Selawik and the Upper Kobuk, too, I guess.
23 Everywhere.

24
25 MS. WARD: Upper Kobuk, our streams are not
26 that wide.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, they're five or 10
29 feet.

30
31 MS. WARD: Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, and then you block
34 the whole thing there, yeah.

35
36 MS. WARD: Yeah.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But it's illegal to do
39 that.

40
41 MS. WARD: Oh.

42
43 MR. GREIST: We got 60 foot nets in
44 Selawik.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Okay, well, give
47 it some thought but the first two I would like to change
48 that I talked about or have changed. One, remove the
49 prohibition of subsistence fishing for char at the mouth of
50 the Kelly River. It's there -- it's in there, one mile on

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1 each side, you can't.

2
3 MR. GREIST: Really.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, it's a State
6 regulation. Did they change it?

7
8 MR. DeCICCO: Mr. Chairman, I can speak to
9 that.

10
11 REPORTER: Wait, can you come up closer,
12 please.

13
14 MR. DeCICCO: Fred DeCicco, Fish and Game.
15 That regulation prohibiting subsistence net fishing around
16 the mouth of the Kelly River was in regulation since the
17 first subsistence regulations were passed back in 1978. We
18 tried to get the Board Section to research to see how that
19 came into place and there's no record available to track
20 exactly who began that proposal and how it was in place.
21 But anyway, it's been in place for a long time and it's
22 basically been overlooked. As far as we know it hasn't
23 been enforced.

24
25 It was brought up, I believe Ricky Ashby brought it
26 up at one of these meetings about a year ago, and it
27 clicked something in my mind. I said, God, I sort of
28 remember something like that being in regulation and I
29 looked it up and sure enough. So we submitted an agenda
30 change or request to the Board of Fisheries to address that
31 issue and with a recommendation that that just be rescinded
32 because it's inconsistent with State regulation and more or
33 less as a housekeeping measure to make the regulations
34 consistent.

35
36 As far as we know we have no crying conservation
37 concerns with char. As far as we know it's never been
38 enforced. And the people in Noatak didn't even know that
39 it was on the books. So that will be heard by the Board of
40 Fisheries in the December meeting and I suspect it will
41 just be rescinded -- in March, I'm sorry, the March
42 meeting.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, in any case, I
45 would like to have the Federal Board.....

46
47 MS. FOX: Yes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:if they've adopted
50 them, take that off also.

00050

1 MR. GREIST: I thought we did, I remember
2 making a motion.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I know we did, as a
5 proposal form, but I don't know if we got it written up or
6 anything.

7
8 MS. FOX: Well, just let me address that
9 for a minute. As you know our fisheries regulations became
10 effective October 1st and the regulations that are on the
11 books right now, which basically reflect State regulations
12 are in effect through the end of 2000. And it's at this
13 time, with this meeting, winter Council meeting, that we
14 take proposals to change regulations that will be effective
15 in 2001. So what I'm thinking is Barbara probably has some
16 notes somewhere and she will make sure that these proposals
17 that the Council is wanting to see put into the record and
18 be part of a changes to regulations for 2001. She'll
19 follow up with you and make sure that others, too, that you
20 may have brought up earlier are recorded and submitted.

21
22 Barbara and the team, Helen and Donna, I guess,
23 right now.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, are we clear?
26 Anybody got any other -- Bert.

27
28 MR. GREIST: Mr. Chairman, do we still have
29 it on Federal regs, too, then?

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

32
33 MS. FOX: Excuse me.

34
35 MR. GREIST: We do?

36
37 MS. FOX: I didn't hear that.

38
39 MR. GREIST: Do we have the language on
40 Federal regs, too?

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, they adopted the
43 State ones.

44
45 MR. GREIST: No, I made a motion to strike
46 that off a year ago.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But it's never been
49 presented to the Federal Board yet.

50

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1 MR. GREIST: Oh, okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's the process we're
4 going to be doing.

5

6 MS. FOX: That's right. Because we've
7 never asked for changes to the fisheries regulations until
8 now.

9

10 MR. GREIST: No, we addressed that Kelly
11 subsistence fishing issue what, a year ago, a year and a
12 half ago.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But proposals
15 weren't.....

16
17 MR. GREIST: Remember? We did.

18
19 MS. FOX: The issue.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I know we asked if we
22 could put it in but the proposals weren't supposed to be
23 submitted until January 1st.

24
25 MR. GREIST: Oh, I see. But it was a year
26 or a year and a half ago.

27
28 MR. RABINOWITCH: I concur with Peggy. I
29 believe that the regulations on the Kelly that you're
30 speaking about is in Federal regulation. And something
31 else you might want to consider and.....

32
33 REPORTER: Sandy, could you please.....

34
35 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'll repeat this. I
36 believe that the regulation that you're speaking about on
37 the Kelly River is in the Federal regulation as Peggy has
38 said and so I think it is wise if you're not comfortable
39 with that to make sure there's a proposal in the Federal
40 system to change it.

41
42 The other thought that I would offer is that if the
43 State Board of Game is possibly going to be taking action
44 on this sooner, one thing you could consider is to keep
45 your eye on that and if they do act and remove it, you
46 could then consider whether or not you want to do a special
47 action with the Federal Board. And I know there's been
48 some discussion, Peggy probably can remember this better
49 than I about, is the Federal Board taking special actions
50 on fisheries proposals or not or how that might work, just

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1 this year.

2

3 MS. FOX: I'll be addressing that later.

4

5 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay.

6

7 MS. FOX: There isn't a decision on that as
8 of yet.

9

10 MR. RABINOWITCH: So it would be possible
11 -- conceivably possible if the Board of Game changes the
12 regulation later this year that you could come to the
13 Federal Board and ask for the same change. It would just
14 essentially be good for the season and then your proposal
15 would go around in the fall for a permanent change. I'm
16 just trying to think through the process things for you to
17 have things line up.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Bert.

20

21 MR. GREIST: I think the issue we addressed
22 at that time was the use of rod and reel, was considered
23 sport, even though we were doing subsisting. And I'm not
24 sure if it was just on Kelly River alone, I think it was a
25 State general regulation wherever it happened. So that's
26 some of -- the other issue we need to probably check on,
27 too.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And that is -- Ida, go
30 ahead.

31

32 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
33 Committee member. Many recommendations that the Councils
34 made last year as we were going into it had minor
35 modifications in the Federal regulations. One of them was
36 rod and reel. Under Federal regulations rod and reel is a
37 subsistence method, but that's in Federal waters. And some
38 of the restrictions were removed in some places,
39 unfortunately I don't have a copy of the regulations with
40 me. But the procedure would be to create them now or to
41 propose them now as proposals and they hold the space open
42 for you and for further Board action to correct anything
43 that may have been omitted.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Are there
46 any other fisheries regulations that anybody wants to
47 propose on the Federal system?

48

49 Those three were the ones that were glaring at me
50 from the regulations that are in place right now.

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1 Helen, are you going to need action on these or do
2 we -- we've already taken action on it we're just reminding
3 you to put them in. But I think we'll need some time on
4 the blocking the stream off one. We need to get feedback
5 from.....

6
7 MS. FOX: The proposal period is open until
8 March 27th.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

11
12 MS. FOX: I hope that's adequate.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

15
16 MS. FOX: It gives you another month.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I contacted the IRA in
19 Noorvik to see what they would think would be an
20 appropriate width of a stream to block off, you know.

21
22 While we're on fisheries, and it's not a Federal
23 regulation that I want to propose but a sportfish
24 regulation. One of the problems that we have with the user
25 conflict issue in the Upper Kobuk is -- or in other places
26 I understand in the region, is that, when sport fishermen
27 come up there, there's no limitations for them to get how
28 many, so they're there for five or six days or a week or
29 whatever catching fish every day. If we were to propose a
30 limitation, say two fish a day or something, I think we
31 would solve some of this conflict problem that we have in
32 the Upper Kobuk. They would be moving on once they get
33 their fish. That's the problem I see up there in the Upper
34 Kobuk is the floaters that are coming down, they're
35 stopping in the river and just staying there for four,
36 five, six days at a time and just banging away at the fish.
37 And a guide told me the same thing is happening in the
38 Wulik River with the char, they just stay there and fish
39 and fish and fish and fish until they get tired of fishing.
40 Catch and release, whatever and then, you know, so I don't
41 know what would be appropriate here, Jim, on the sportfish
42 thing here. How would we address that from the RAC? Are
43 they open now or are they closed or what?

44
45 Jim.

46
47 MR. DAU: I was going to say the State.....

48
49 REPORTER: Wait.....

50

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1 MR. DAU:Board of Fish.....

2

3 REPORTER:you have to come up, sorry.

4

5 MR. DAU: If I understand your suggestion
6 it would be to regulate sport fishing and so that would be
7 State regulation. It would apply on all.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's what I'm saying,
10 yeah.

11

12 MR. DAU: Right. The Board will be taking
13 up this area in its next cycle and the deadline -- I could
14 check on the deadline but it's ahead of us by a few months
15 at this point.

16

17 MR. DeCICCO: April 10th.

18

19 MR. DAU: April 10th, okay. So if you
20 wanted to make a proposal like that we have time it would
21 be taken up, I believe, December is the meeting?

22

23 MR. DeCICCO: Yes.

24

25 MR. DAU: December with the Board of
26 Fisheries.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I can do it as Chair
29 unless the Board wants to do it as a whole, you know,
30 propose it. I think it would be better if we did as a
31 whole, you know, that this proposal is coming from the
32 Regional Advisory Council from Northwest.

33

34 Anybody have any thoughts on how many fish, I threw
35 two out because the guide says, hey, they got two, that's
36 enough. And I'm sure he's taken fishermen out.

37

38 Anybody have any other comments on that?

39

40 MR. AREY: Two to each person, yeah, even
41 one that will keep them alive all day until tomorrow. If
42 there's 10 of them there, 10 there.

43

44 MR. GREIST: That sounds like we're going
45 to create too much of a conflict that it draws unnecessary
46 attention.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, it's going to draw
49 attention because they're not going to be able to stay very
50 long, you know. But we've got to start somewhere, we're

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1 having a problem with the Upper Kobuk and the Wulik River.
2 Not a problem but it could be a potential problem as the
3 stocks go down. Now, that's a clear case of harassing the
4 fish, catch and release.

5
6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Positioning the fish.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anyone wish to make a
9 motion to that effect that we should submit a proposal to
10 the State?

11
12 MS. WARD: I so move.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second to
15 that?

16
17 MR. BALLOT: Second the motion.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. And that's on the
20 proposal to the State from our Council here to limit sport
21 fishermen to two fish. It probably will be amended but we
22 could start at two, you know, there may be some biological
23 reason why they'll need five, I don't know.

24
25 Discussion on the motion.

26
27 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, on discussion,
28 you're talking about what fish, sheefish.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Sheefish and char.

31
32 MR. STONEY:char?

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

35
36 MR. STONEY: Okay.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Sheefish and char,
39 basically. Enoch.

40
41 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, thanks. When I went to
42 Shungnak last year I talked to the people about the catch
43 and release being done by sport fishing and they don't like
44 it because a lot of their fish are coming up with a lot of
45 big sores on their heads and stuff like that and they're
46 getting to see more and more, and they think some are
47 leading -- the old fish, the one that spawn, to die,
48 because they're getting to be harassed. That's what they
49 say, harassed by this catch and release. And they're
50 seeing more signs when they're trying to get for

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1 subsistence use of a lot of scars, unhealed sores from the
2 snagging and what not. And these are the elders I'm
3 talking with. When we had close to -- we were going to
4 have an SRC meeting up there and it cancelled while I was
5 in the air and I went up there and I talked to them anyhow.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: More discussion on the
8 motion. If not, all those in favor of the motion signify
9 by saying aye.

10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Opposed.

14
15 (No opposing votes)

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We'll write it up and
18 submit it. Bert.

19
20 MR. GREIST: Well, I was just wondering, as
21 long as the motion don't get into conflict with guys like,
22 what's his name at Kiana?

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, it's just a
25 proposal at this point. They can.....

26
27 MR. GREIST: Oh, okay.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:testify to change
30 it, you know, and we can live with whatever.

31
32 MR. GREIST: All right.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: As long as they're not
35 there for four or five days in a row anymore. Why don't
36 you ask him with what he'll be comfortable with, you know?

37
38 MR. SHIEDT: Okay.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

41
42 MR. SHIEDT: I'll talk to him.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. That takes care
45 of the proposals, Peggy.

46
47 MS. FOX: Okay.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let's get right on to
50 your report then.

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1 MS. FOX: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair. We
2 have several subjects to cover on updating you on fisheries
3 -- subsistence fisheries management. I'm going to cover
4 three, and then I see later on in your agenda you have a
5 specific place for the last two which was the MOA/MOU and
6 the fisheries projects. Ida will be covering the MOA/MOU
7 discussion and Rich Cannon will be covering the projects.

8
9 The subjects that I'm going to cover with you are
10 in-season management, further tribal involvement in the
11 Federal subsistence program and to solicit your comments on
12 the sustainable salmon fisheries policy for the state of
13 Alaska that was sent out to all the Council members. And
14 hopefully you've had an opportunity to review that and I'll
15 take your comments that you have and there's still some
16 time if you want to look at it further.

17
18 The first subject I wanted to cover with you is our
19 thinking relative to in-season management and I want to
20 indicate that the Board has not made any decisions about
21 how to approach the fishing season this year. And we're
22 going to be having a Board meeting next week on March 9th
23 and hopefully we'll be able to provide the Board some
24 recommendations on what to do. So I'm just going to share
25 with you some of the thoughts we have around how to manage
26 fisheries this year, given that we aren't fully staffed and
27 therefore not able to do the full Federal involvement in
28 fisheries management this season.

29
30 The Federal agencies don't have the Staff on board
31 to support the analysis that's needed to make good, you
32 know, provide good oversight on State fisheries decision-
33 making and be able to respond to needs that people may
34 identify where we need to intervene. So what we're trying
35 to do is focus the Councils, in particular, and others that
36 are interested in the Federal program, other subsistence
37 users to get involved very early and attend these preseason
38 meetings that are occurring. The first one that I'm aware
39 of has started today for the Kuskokwim. There's others
40 coming up next month that I'm aware of for the Yukon and
41 another one for the Kuskokwim.

42
43 Anyway, we're being made aware of when these
44 meetings occur and we're encouraging the Councils who may
45 be affected by this preseason planning to attend those.
46 Not the entire Council, of course, but a representative or
47 two to attend them and begin participating in the decision-
48 making process around fisheries. We will also be assigning
49 Federal Staff to go and participate. But, you know, the
50 main emphasis here is to try to prevent things from

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1 happening before we're in the middle of the fisheries
2 season.

3
4 Now, we've looked at things statewide and identify
5 the Yukon River region as what we call the highest risk
6 region, in other words, that's where there seem to be the
7 most abundant concerns around fish, around salmon, in
8 particular, but also where there's been the largest number
9 of emergency orders issued in the past. We also looked at
10 the number of villages that might be affected and
11 categorized the areas over the state, high, medium and low.
12 And these, again, this is preliminary information
13 gathering. In this area, the Arctic, Kotzebue, Norton
14 Sound area has been so far categorized as low risk for
15 being involved in any emergency orders or the need for any
16 emergency action this season.

17
18 However, knowing that we're probably going to be
19 getting requests to intervene in the in-State [sic]
20 management, we have anticipated that and are looking at
21 ways in which to delegate Board authority so that people
22 can be more responsive to the very, very short time frames
23 involved in in-season management.

24
25 As you well know when you submit a special action
26 request to the Board it can take a week to two weeks
27 depending on the complexity of the issue, the number of
28 people that need to be consulted with, schedules and so on.
29 And we certainly can't wait that long in order to be
30 involved in fisheries decisions. So we're going to be
31 looking at certain positions across the state, perhaps, you
32 know, with a different agency lead and different areas.
33 Perhaps, I'm saying. Up here it could be the -- the Park
34 Service might be in the lead. But the Yukon and the
35 Kuskokwim where the Fish and Wildlife Service is the
36 dominate land owner, then they would probably be the
37 logical ones to be directly involved in in-season
38 management and the Board would delegate to them for those
39 drainages.

40
41 And as we're looking at that we're trying to
42 identify what positions, which agency, or if they would all
43 be under one agency, some alternatives along those lines as
44 well as what kind of restrictions or guidelines would we
45 give these people in terms of delegation from the Board.
46 We don't anticipate that they will have the full authority
47 of the Board at this time. We're considering a limited
48 delegation, one where they could respond if there are
49 immediate conservation concerns. In other words if there's
50 a problem with escapement levels and we need to intervene

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1 and do something very quickly of if there is a subsistence
2 harvest issue that is urgent. But other such requests such
3 as for mesh size on a net or a gear, different gear type of
4 proposal, a conflict problem, we would probably defer those
5 to the Board and that's where it might take a longer
6 process and actually, even at this time we're thinking,
7 well, maybe for in-season management purposes we would just
8 limit special actions to conservation issues and
9 subsistence harvest issues. And maybe all other types of
10 actions would be deferred until the next annual cycle of
11 regulations because they're not urgent, they can wait.

12
13 So these are some of the things we're thinking
14 about and if you have some comments on this thinking,
15 certainly the Board will benefit because this is all a
16 whole new area for us and there's different ways we can go
17 because of the complexity of the fisheries management in
18 the state.

19
20 But again, I just want to reiterate that our
21 primary focus this year as well as in the future will be on
22 prevention, on early involvement and participation in
23 preseason planning, having the Councils work directly with
24 the State process where they make in-season decisions.
25 Also to continue to be a part of the process when they do
26 post-season evaluations.

27
28 So that means a larger commitment for the Councils
29 but we feel it's probably our best opportunity to make a
30 difference in the fisheries management where there is a
31 need. And I think I'll conclude my comments there on in-
32 season management and take questions or comments from the
33 Council.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any
36 questions. The in-season management is basically with
37 commercial fish, uh?

38
39 MS. FOX: Yes.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, we do have a
42 concern that we've voiced to the Board of Fisheries over
43 the years of the take at False Pass which affect the salmon
44 runs up here. While we don't have a problem with
45 subsistence fishing, Joe noticed that in Noatak they were a
46 little late last year, so there may be something happening.
47 You might want to mention it to the working group that's
48 working on the Yukon area.

49
50 MS. FOX: Okay.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

2

3 MR. GREIST: How are we doing, overall,
4 with the staffing for fisheries management?

5

6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Are you going to get
7 into that now?

8

9 MS. FOX: I think this is an appropriate
10 time since that's one of the major problems around being
11 able to be fully involved this year.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, let me ask if
14 there's any questions on the in-season management plan?
15 Okay, let's get right into the staff plan then.

16

17 MS. FOX: Okay, I'm ready.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The pink letter.

20

21 MS. FOX: We don't have full approval of
22 the staffing plan that we submitted last October. The
23 Secretary has required that they will specifically approve
24 every position that is added to Federal government to
25 manage subsistence fisheries. So we've been talking and
26 working with the Secretary's office for a number of months,
27 actually a number of years because when we first knew we
28 needed to get into this we did submit a staffing plan in, I
29 think '95 or '96. We submitted another one a couple of
30 years ago and more recently, each one of those has gotten
31 lower, because the response has been there's too many
32 people to manage this. But also our knowledge has
33 increased so the number have reduced for other reasons as
34 well.

35

36 We have partial approval. We have enough staff
37 approved and we're recruiting and trying to -- and very,
38 very slowly, hiring, just because of the time it takes to
39 do the recruitment and make the selections. We're making
40 progress on that. However, a very important component of
41 the staffing plan that has not been approved are the
42 positions that will go out in the field and that will be
43 involved directly in in-season management as well as
44 positions that will be directly involved with the projects.
45 And you'll hear more about the projects later on that we're
46 looking at right now. But those positions, and there's a
47 total of 22 statewide, all the agencies, that are most
48 directly involved in in-field decision-making, working
49 directly with subsistence users, working directly with
50 getting projects done are the ones that we are having to

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1 make a trip back to Washington this week to defend. And
2 there is a meeting Friday with Assistant Secretary John
3 Barry where we're being given an opportunity to provide a
4 briefing to defend these last additional -- last component
5 of our staffing, 22 positions.

6
7 So I don't know when we'll hear the decision, it
8 may be Friday, it may be later.

9
10 MR. GREIST: Did they come up with any
11 reasons for the cause of delay for approval?

12
13 MS. FOX: Well, I think there's been a real
14 concern with not adding to what they call the bureaucracy,
15 not adding too many Federal positions at the expense of
16 maybe doing more contracting and we use cooperative
17 agreements with that regard, with the State or -- and/or
18 Native organizations or tribes or fisheries organizations
19 and associations. They wanted to make sure that we're
20 maximizing all the opportunities to involve people in the
21 work that needs to be done. And so it's been a slow
22 process of building understanding as to what different
23 roles these positions play. And so that's one of the
24 aspects, actually two of them. Keeping the Federal
25 employment down, maximizing Native involvement and State
26 involvement in this, working closely with the State. And
27 the last one is that we do this in a very unified and
28 centralized manner to find efficiencies between the
29 agencies. In other words, every agency doesn't need one of
30 everything. There are ways to economize what the number of
31 positions is. So they've asked us to take a hard look at
32 that. So those are the primary reasons.

33
34 MR. GREIST: Is that kind of a Department
35 of Interior concern rather than the agency.....

36
37 MS. FOX: Yes, entirely.....

38
39 MR. GREIST:Fish and Wildlife
40 Service?

41
42 MS. FOX: Entirely Department of Interior
43 which is the Park Service, BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service
44 and BIA.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: This letter here in the
47 pink here, I haven't signed it yet. What I wanted was
48 concurrence from the Council for me to do so. It basically
49 says we're having problems with the staffing plan that has
50 been presented, like Peggy suggested or reported here, in a

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1 sense that without the field people here in the region, as
2 long as the research is being done, I feel that it's going
3 to be pretty difficult for us to make the sound decisions
4 we need to make on subsistence fishing without the
5 biologists out here telling us what is happening. If we
6 have to depend on biologists in Anchorage to come up and do
7 the field work, I don't know if they will get the job done
8 properly versus somebody that's staying here in the region
9 and doing the projects.

10
11 So some of the Regional Advisory Councils that have
12 had meetings already have sent similar letters. I think
13 there's some in the packet, I'm not sure, but the Western
14 Interior and Eastern Interior, I think the Y-K, Norton
15 Sound has done it and.....

16
17 MS. FOX: Southcentral as well.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Southcentral?

20
21 MS. FOX: Yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: This letter that we
24 drafted up pretty much says we're not happy with the
25 staffing plan and we need to have the field positions out
26 here in the region for us to make the decisions we need to
27 make properly as far as subsistence fishing.

28
29 You know we've had the biologists on hand for the
30 game portion and we've seen it work good because of the
31 data they give us when we make the decisions on the
32 regulations. Without the biologists for fisheries, I don't
33 know if we can be as successful as making the right
34 proposal to pass a regulation to take care of subsistence
35 fishing in the region.

36
37 MR. GREIST: AFN is meeting with.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Also Mitch called
40 me.....

41
42 MS. FOX: Next week.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:the Chair for the
45 Federal Board and asked me if I would follow AFN to meet
46 with the Secretary and tell him basically what this letter
47 says, we're unhappy with the staffing plan and we need the
48 field positions and I told him I would. So he hasn't
49 gotten back to me but he thinks it's probably next week
50 that AFN will be going to D.C., and Mitch asked if I can

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1 represent the RACs in the state to express our views on the
2 staffing plan and I told him I'd be available.

3

4 MR. BALLOT: Even with Alaska Airlines?

5

6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Oh, you heard
7 about my landing, uh. That was -- well, the way I look at
8 it Percy, this job requires me to fly so I'll have to fly.

9

10 MR. BALLOT: That's right.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So anyway, if anybody
13 doesn't have any objection I'd sign it and then she can
14 take it wherever, to Tom Boyd or whoever.

15

16 MR. STONEY: What does the letter say?

17

18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It says that, you know,
19 with the continued delay and all that kind of stuff on the
20 fisheries management plan and the plan that's been
21 presented by the Interior Department saying that cutting
22 the positions that the Federal Board suggested to the
23 Department of Interior to be funded in the field, those
24 positions being cut. Plus one other fact that under the
25 fisheries plan we're lumped with the Norton Sound, North
26 Slope, Kodiak as one part of the system.....

27

28 MS. FOX: Bristol Bay.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:to be considered --
31 yeah, Bristol Bay, to be considered in making fisheries
32 decisions and we want to be separate in the region.

33

34 MR. GREIST: Is there kind of a little war
35 going on between our Congressional Delegation and
36 Department of Interior over this; is that where it's coming
37 from?

38

39 MS. FOX: I don't know if I'd characterize
40 it as a war but we are certainly accountable to Senator
41 Murkowski on this specific issue. We were asked to go back
42 last fall and testify. We prepared comments for the
43 Secretary on how we were implementing this and his --
44 Senator Murkowski's very definite concern and that's why
45 it's the Secretary's is, is the Federal staffing. However,
46 the Board feels that it has addressed that. We've reduced
47 the number of positions we requested from over 100 down to
48 46.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Forty-six and now

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1 they're saying 37, uh?

2

3 MS. FOX: Yeah. And now we feel that we
4 can't go any further. The Board has been very, very clear
5 about that and we've been given one more opportunity for
6 these last 22.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other comments with
9 the staffing plan?

10

11 MR. STONEY: Sign it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Sign it, I will.

14

15 MR. GREIST: And probably CC a copy to AFN.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Get that? I'll
18 tell Barb that we need to get a copy to the AFN also.

19

20 MR. GREIST: I know the National Congress
21 of American Indian staff are beginning to focus on
22 subsistence issues.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

25

26 MR. GREIST: And how Stevens and Murkowski
27 have been trying to make efforts to change Title VIII and
28 things like that. Send them also some of that information
29 so they know what's going on.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other comments. I
32 was appointed by Mitch to -- me and Dan O'Hara from Bristol
33 Bay to sit on this fisheries implementation -- what do you
34 want to call it?

35

36 MS. FOX: The planning.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The planning part of it.

39

40 MS. FOX: Yes. Sit with the Board.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And a lot of this, I've
43 made sure that we're not cut out from rural areas, I'm
44 pretty vocal about that.

45

46 MR. GREIST: You need to let us know what's
47 going on every once in a while and not on your own.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I have in a sense, that
50 when we needed action from the RAC, you know. But on a

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1 statewide basis, I've given comments regarding rural
2 Alaska.

3
4 MS. FOX: Perhaps we could assist with that
5 request by getting the minutes, you know, or the summaries
6 of the Board sessions on that topic circulated.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Uh-huh.

9
10 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, could you please
11 send a copy to the RuralCap Subsistence Committee?

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

14
15 MR. BALLOT: There's probably some support
16 you could find from that community.

17
18 MR. GREIST: And also to NARF.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: NARF?

21
22 MR. GREIST: Uh-huh.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

25
26 MR. GREIST: They are keeping tabs on this
27 issue.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Anything else on
30 the staffing plan. Okay, what else do you got?

31
32 MS. FOX: Okay. Tribal involvement in
33 Federal subsistence management. At the training session in
34 January we shared letters from AVCP, AFN and AITC, RuralCap
35 with the Councils to help us to look at how the Councils
36 and tribes may better interact in the future and we've had
37 some discussions among the Councils. I think most of the
38 Councils spent fair amount of time discussing this. There
39 wasn't any unanimous conclusion, if you looked at the notes
40 from the three different caucuses, there was a spectrum of
41 things that came out.

42
43 Some people wanted the tribes to be signatories on
44 the Federal/State MOU, others were very opposed to that.
45 So we had quite a spectrum of comments and along with those
46 comments was a suggestion that we resurface this issue with
47 the Councils during the winter meetings to see if there was
48 further thinking or further comments. The Board has not
49 yet responded to those letters and is still looking for
50 input. And often when we see something or read something

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1 or hear something we have further thoughts about it at a
2 later time and so I would like to provide this opportunity
3 to get some comments and take them to the Board so that
4 Mitch and the Board can finalize those letters.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We talked briefly about
7 it in our caucus in Anchorage with the North Slope.

8

9 MS. FOX: Uh-huh.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But we didn't talk in-
12 depth, I don't think. My own personal feeling and I've
13 said this to the Federal Board and AFN and AITC and
14 RuralCap, is that, we have a system that's been working for
15 10 years on the game regulatory management systems, and I
16 don't see why we should change the system. I also felt
17 that, you know, since there was \$11 million on our table,
18 all of a sudden the statewide organizations want to tell
19 the Federal Board how to spend it. Where were they these
20 10 years?

21

22 Basically what I found out was that the push from
23 the statewide organizations started from AVCP and the other
24 organizations just got sucked in, so to speak, to write the
25 letters to Mitch. And the funny -- not the funny thing,
26 but the ironic thing is AVCP was concerned that the project
27 that were proposed for their regions were going to be cut
28 and what happened was every one of them was approved. So
29 now they've toned down their requests, I think. I know AFN
30 has pulled back and said, you know, let's let the RACs make
31 the decisions on these.

32

33 Basically that's where -- you know, how it came
34 out. And that was -- I voiced my opinion at the Federal
35 Board meeting and in front of AFN and AITC and RuralCap
36 when they were at that Federal Board meeting in Anchorage
37 and I told them it was my own. Anybody have any other
38 different comments?

39

40 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

43

44 MR. BALLOT: With RuralCap, I guess there
45 was kind of miscommunication because they weren't trying to
46 change our involvement in this process, I think they were
47 kind of trying to talk about, like you said, consultation
48 before the management plan got into effect, and I guess
49 that was their concern and they were trying to go back -- a
50 little far back when they should have been right now going

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1 forward. So hopefully that's been cleared up.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Fred, you had a comment.

4

5 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes, if I may. You know, I
6 read the letters from AFN, AITC and AVCP and clearly
7 there's a lack of communication between the Federal system
8 and our Native community. It was really evident in the
9 tone of the letters that people didn't understand the
10 process that -- the successful process that we deal with
11 now. Once they understood that, you know, they kind of
12 backed off on, you know, picking on the RACs, and that we
13 weren't tribally represented and all of that. They
14 understand that situation now.

15

16 But I think that one of the things that I have
17 expressed to my boss and also to Peggy, is the need for
18 outreach and education. I'm the Native liaison for Fish
19 and Wildlife but I cover the entire state, one person on a
20 variety of issues, from ecological services to refuge stuff
21 to subsistence, marine mammals, practically everything.
22 And I mentioned that I think there's a need for a
23 subsistence -- a full-time subsistence Native liaison that
24 can conduct some of this activity because it needs to be
25 ongoing. The public really doesn't understand the process
26 that we have to go through and I think it would minimize a
27 lot of the unrest that's out there if people were educated
28 with what's going on. So that was one recommendation that
29 I brought forward.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Fred.
32 Anybody have any other comments. You know, I made a
33 commitment to Manaliig, that whatever information that we
34 have with the fisheries program that we will get it out to
35 the tribes and see if they want to do the projects. You
36 know, the harvest monitoring for sure I know they can do
37 out there in the villages, contract with Fish and Wildlife
38 Service or BLM or Park Service to do the work out there.
39 So once it would become available then certainly we'll
40 communicate that to all the tribes in the region.

41

42 Any other comments on the consultation part.
43 Anything we can do better for the Fish and Wildlife
44 Subsistence Office?

45

46 MR. GREIST: Something about this, we've
47 been kind of moving fairly fast on the fisheries issues,
48 you know. You know, the MOU with the State, that issue and
49 how it moved so fast that the Regional Councils inputs were
50 kind of overlooked. We're kind of doing the same thing on

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1 the local level in a way with the villages, with the
2 people. Things are moving fast and ourselves, we need to,
3 I think, hold a little regional meeting to look at both,
4 some of the short-term issues that are going on and the
5 long-term issues to ensure that we have continued
6 opportunity to fish for subsistence without interference
7 from the regulatory process. And I think we need to do
8 that.

9
10 I think if you take a look at -- I appreciate you
11 pointing that out, I know AFN when this way and AITC went
12 that way and RuralCap went, you know, and somehow there
13 wasn't really anybody coordinating the information on what
14 the Regional Advisory Councils' role or there wasn't
15 anybody really telling these people what we've been doing
16 and I think Fred -- maybe kind of a summary kind of thing
17 and meeting with some of those people and start some kind
18 of a communication system with them and with us as well on
19 what goes on. Not only between the regions but also what
20 the State's doing and, you know, we need -- I sense we need
21 to communicate more in the state. There's a need for it.

22
23 Things are moving fast.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You certainly said the
26 real thing here, the Subsistence Office was caught in a
27 situation where it was waiting for, you know, October.....

28
29 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:and then we were
32 waiting to see if Legislature would act and then nothing
33 happened so the time crunch to develop something to make
34 the -- do the proposals for this season and get on with the
35 fishing part this season was such a short time frame that,
36 you know, and all the information I got was draft, draft,
37 draft, draft, you know, that kind of stuff. But they've
38 been worked on now and it's been getting down -- the MOU
39 you have in the packet is just about the final one, I
40 think, uh, is it?

41
42 MS. FOX: Very close.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: When is the Board going
45 to meet?

46
47 MS. FOX: Probably not until sometime in
48 April. We haven't set the date for April yet.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

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1 MS. FOX: And that's when I think it will
2 be ready for a final decision on further comments from the
3 Councils and then the State is also gathering further
4 comments from the Boards of Fisheries and Wildlife as well,
5 so probably any.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, the first draft
8 MOU that was drafted both from the State and the Federal
9 government, you know, the State wanted so much that they
10 wanted the Federal Board to give them the directives and
11 authorities they have under ANILCA and the Federal Board
12 wouldn't do that, yeah. So with consultation from them
13 now, the Subsistence Management Office has developed this
14 MOU in consultation with the State. And there's been some
15 heavy debate on it, you know, within the Federal Board
16 itself.

17
18 MS. FOX: And within the State, believe me.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

21
22 MS. FOX: It's been -- we've had an awkward
23 meeting or two with Federal and State members of the work
24 group.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And Ida's been doing a
27 heck of a job representing our interests, you know, at that
28 level, on the Staff Committee level. I got to thank you
29 for that Ida, thank you very much, appreciate it.

30
31 MS. HILDEBRAND: You're welcome.

32
33 MS. FOX: I would like to return to a
34 couple of things that Bert said. First of all on the
35 communication, I can't agree more and the communication
36 needs to occur among all parties that are involved. Those
37 letters hit us cold. We didn't know they were coming and
38 we didn't have an opportunity to discuss any of the content
39 with them before they were signed and one was sent off to
40 the Secretary. And some of that falls on our shoulders, as
41 well, because we didn't have those communication links
42 established to prevent that from happening and we do need
43 to do a better job of that in the future. It's certainly
44 something that we're still talking about and we need some
45 Board guidance on whether or not they want that position.
46 When we get that and if we get that we will move ahead.
47 But I think there definitely is a case to be made to have
48 one person focusing exclusively on communicating more
49 effectively with the Native organizations and individuals.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Mitch Demientieff, the
2 Chair, has committed to communicating more with these
3 statewide organizations on the fisheries implementation,
4 all the issues that come before them on the Federal Board.
5 So he did make that commitment in one meeting to do so, to
6 meet with -- I don't know if he came before AITC or not or
7 RuralCap yet but he intends to.

8
9 MS. FOX: The other item I wanted to follow
10 up in response to Bert's comments were the -- and Fred's,
11 on information and education. We had that training session
12 at the end of January for the Council members but we also
13 had -- that was Phase II of a plan that we have. Phase III
14 is to have local workshops, regional workshops to talk more
15 specifically about the technical side of fisheries
16 management and other types of -- you know, establish other
17 types of communications on a local level and whatever else
18 may be appropriate according to the Councils' guidance.
19 And we got some pretty specific expectations, for example,
20 from Eastern and Western Interior Regional Councils so
21 we're looking forward to providing some workshops in the
22 future. Perhaps next fall, at the latest, a year from now.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other questions,
25 comments.

26
27 MS. FOX: The last thing, and I thank you
28 for your time, I know I'm taking a lot of it is to gather
29 any comments you may have on the sustainable salmon
30 fisheries policy for the state of Alaska. And I sent a
31 copy out, it's a draft 00 in draft to the Councils,
32 actually to each Council member some time in February, I
33 mean early this month. And the Board of Fisheries is going
34 to take it up and make a decision on it, that's the plan,
35 in March, during their fisheries meeting in Anchorage.
36 They're going to start taking formal testimony on it the
37 17th and 18th and I believe it's on the agenda for the 23rd
38 for the Board to do their deliberations. I think it's a
39 very, very important plan for us to look at and weigh in
40 on. So I'm gathering comments from Councils as well as the
41 agencies in trying to pull together a letter for the Board
42 to submit to the Board of Fisheries.

43
44 So I can take comments today but I can also take
45 comments, I was hoping by the end of the week, but I could
46 still take them next week if you are able to send me some;
47 phone it in or fax it to add to the total number of
48 comments would be very much appreciated.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Did you guys have input

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1 into this or.....

2

3 MS. FOX: No.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:is it just
6 something they did?

7

8 MS. FOX: No, we heard about it at our
9 January training session and at that time asked Kelly
10 Hepler of the State to make copies available and he did. I
11 think one of the Councils asked him to do that when they
12 found out that this policy was out and so that's how I got
13 the copies and mailed them out to everybody.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there anything that's
16 going to affect subsistence?

17

18 MS. FOX: Yes. Yes, it's a -- maybe
19 there's somebody here that.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ida, you got any
22 comments on it?

23

24 MS. FOX:from the State that can
25 actually -- anybody here from the State fisheries that is
26 familiar with the policy? No, I guess not. Ida, do you
27 want to make a comment?

28

29 MS. HILDEBRAND: Yes.

30

31 MS. FOX: Okay.

32

33 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
34 Committee member. I apologize, I've been going to a lot of
35 meetings and I changed my bags and I took this policy out
36 of my bag two times and I didn't put it back in. There is
37 concern and I wish you would read it carefully. There
38 seems to be an undue burden on subsistence users. And I
39 was going to draft a short paper for the office and get it
40 out to people. But if you can read it carefully, any time
41 you put a burden on subsistence users, it's affecting
42 subsistence. And I can't address the specifics because I
43 don't have the document before me. When I go back to
44 Anchorage I can pull it up and fax you my notes on it.
45 But, yes, I am concerned.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. If you can fax it
48 I can get it out to the Council members.

49

50 MR. GREIST: You know, on the Legislative

00072

1 report, Mo Udal addressed that when they were talking about
2 Title VIII as it was being addressed. His concern was that
3 the management of these conservation system units might
4 have -- that they do not put management plans or
5 regulations that would have very negative and burdening
6 impacts on subsistence users or even the lifestyle. Very
7 moving language in there.

8
9 MS. FOX: That concludes my update.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any
12 questions for her? Thank you.

13
14 MS. FOX: Okay, you're welcome.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: 8A2, that sounds like a
17 lively topic here. Helen is that you?

18
19 MS. FOX: Moose sex parts.

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I guess I am doing that.
22 Can we do it after lunch so I can read it over during lunch
23 because I need to brief myself on it.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

26
27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I forgot I had to do
28 that.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Does anybody have any
31 problem with that?

32
33 MR. GREIST: Nope.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What about the Trapper's
36 Bulletin? Who's got the Trapper's Bulletin?

37
38 MS. HILDEBRAND: I think that's just
39 information in your packet.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Does anybody have
42 any questions on the Trapper's Bulletin? User conflict.
43 You know, I'd like to get that after lunch, too. Helen,
44 can you do the customary trade -- are you up to speed on
45 that one?

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I am. Nothing's
48 happened on it, I don't believe. At the last Council
49 meeting we had given a presentation to this Council, along
50 with the North Slope, and you -- both Councils chose not to

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1 make any recommendations at that time. They wanted to go
2 out and talk to people. I don't know if you have anything
3 further to add. Nothing else has happened in the office on
4 customary trade. It's not that it's a low priority it's
5 just we've been overwhelmed with other things to do and
6 short staffed so we're -- okay, Peggy, has something to
7 say. It will probably be another year, I think, before we
8 actually get moving too much on it.

9
10 So if the Council has anything more to add to what
11 -- they wanted to go out and talk to people and see what
12 people thought about customary trade otherwise there's
13 nothing more except Peggy has something to say.

14
15 MS. FOX: I just wanted to add that we
16 have, as a part of a larger cooperative agreement with the
17 State, one of the items in there that we've asked them to
18 do and provided funds to do, is to summarize everything
19 there is on customary trade in the literature or in, you
20 know, published or unpublished, but to summarize statewide,
21 everything that's known about customary trade. So with
22 that, you know, it's kind of a basic -- base level of
23 information that we will add to it based on what the
24 Councils provide. So they are doing that and they're
25 supposed to have that done by the end of the calendar year.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any
28 questions or comments on customary trade? I think we
29 stated our position in a meeting or two ago.

30
31 MS. FOX: Yes.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Any changes.
34 Okay, let's do this user conflict one. Barb distributed
35 this yellow thing with the letters on the user conflict
36 issue. You guys remember, I think it was back in August or
37 somewhere I wrote a letter to the agencies requesting what
38 kind of tools they have that would help us in the user
39 conflict issue as far as reducing the number of permits
40 that bring sport hunters out within the units or reducing
41 the number of people and these letters basically -- well, I
42 did get one from -- I got to point one out, I did get one
43 from Manaliq, it's not in the packet. Basically their
44 letter said they have responsibilities on Native
45 allotments, that's it, you know, so, I wanted to point that
46 out. I neglected to put it with this packet. And some of
47 these were dated earlier.....

48
49 MS. KERR: You also got a letter that's up
50 here from the State Division of Land, Waters, Mining.

00074

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Where?

2
3 MS. KERR: Right there. Right there.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, one more.

6
7 MS. KERR: It came in special delivery this
8 morning.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anyway, from the Federal
11 agencies and -- it's encouraging to know that we can do
12 something about this. It looks like it will take some time
13 with the Park Service, we can work with them to get a
14 better handle with the new Legislation that's been passed
15 called the Thomas Act, I think it is, for the regulation
16 that's being developed to put limits on the guides and that
17 kind of stuff. We could probably extent that to the
18 transporters. But it will take some time to work with the
19 Park Service to do this, to make it into a regulatory
20 process.

21
22 The BLM has asserted that we can work with the
23 Northwest area plan to start working with some of the
24 problems that we have in the Squirrel River area and all
25 the State lands -- or I mean BLM lands. Fish and Wildlife
26 Service, we'd have to do it Legislatively which is fine as
27 long as we get it done.

28
29 MS. KERR: Well, regulation.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, the regulation
32 process, yeah.

33
34 MS. KERR: The Federal regulation as
35 opposed to a law.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, right. So it's
38 encouraging finally -- and the State is willing to help us
39 on this. They realize that we have a problem out there in
40 the sense that there's more people now than ever that go
41 out and hunt in the area and it's causing conflicts but
42 mainly there's just no room for them to hunt anymore. I
43 mean there's too many people out there to have quality
44 hunts for the guides and outfitters. And Enoch and I have
45 been attending the conflict meetings we've had here in
46 Kotzebue that the State has sponsored. What is that three
47 meetings now, Jim? Is it three.....

48
49 MR. DAU: Four.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:now -- four, four
2 meetings, yeah. And the last one was pretty productive.
3 They realize -- they're going to try hold meetings in the
4 Upper Kobuk and Lower Kobuk with the residents in those two
5 areas to talk about the issue.

6
7 I think that we should take action to ask the
8 Federal agencies to begin implementing our request to
9 control the numbers of permits and the number of people
10 that are being permitted to come up and hunt. Once the
11 process is started we can go to public hearing and we can
12 figure out the numbers and that kind of stuff but I think
13 basically if you get the process started so that we'll have
14 these numbers in place, at least, in a couple of years, at
15 the most, I mean, it looks like what the agency has been
16 telling us here.

17
18 Jim, have you got anything else to add?

19
20 MR. DAU: Under agency reports I was just
21 going to.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

24
25 MR. DAU:give you a rundown of the
26 last meeting.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, well, we'll do
29 that later.

30
31 MR. DAU: Or we can do it now.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We can do it now, yeah,
34 on the user conflict, yeah. Just on that issue.

35
36 MR. DAU: Yeah, I'll keep it brief. Jim
37 Dau, Fish and Game. We had a meeting February 23rd of the
38 user issues group, Rosie came down and Enoch was there,
39 Willie you were there briefly and a lot of people in the
40 audience. And we spent all morning reviewing a list of
41 issues broken down by area in Unit 23. We talked about
42 sheefish conflicts in the Upper Kobuk. We talked about the
43 impact of sports hunters on sport hunters in the Squirrel.
44 Impact of sport hunters on subsistence users in the
45 Squirrel. We had a five page list of issues that we
46 revised in the morning.

47
48 In the afternoon, we went through that list and
49 everybody in the room listed their top two or three
50 priorities. You had done that and you told me what it was

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1 before you left, Willie. The people at the meeting were
2 not just local people. We had two guides, we had a
3 transporter and we had a person from a Fairbanks advisory
4 committee, an Anchorage advisory committee, so it's a broad
5 spectrum of users who use 23.

6
7 By listing our top three issues basically everybody
8 in the room voted on what they thought was most pressing
9 and we identified three areas of clear concern. One was
10 the Squirrel, the impacts of non-local hunters on
11 subsistence users, that was probably the top vote-getter.
12 In addition to that, kind of surprisingly, another issue,
13 it didn't make the top three, but it was the impact of
14 sport hunters on other sport hunters. It's no longer just
15 sport versus subsistence. So the Squirrel clearly came out
16 at the top of the list from those two areas. The next area
17 was the Upper Kobuk. It was impacts of sport hunters on
18 subsistence hunters. Surprisingly fishing wasn't mentioned
19 much. Although I know for year and years that it's been an
20 issue. And then the third area of concern was really a
21 unitwide issue it wasn't just for one little area but it
22 deals with trespass. What's legal and what isn't based on
23 the various agencies. And you know, all the agency people
24 there, we really didn't have answers for the group, they
25 asked us, well, you know, how does the State deal with
26 trespassing and we didn't have answers, neither did the
27 other agencies. I don't think we had anybody like Walter
28 Sampson or Uvi from NANA, you know, to talk about their
29 trespass policies.

30
31 So what we decided to was address these three
32 issues separately where we're going to try and have a
33 meeting in Kiana with the Lower Kobuk Advisory Committee
34 and send anywhere from four to six individuals from the
35 user issue process to that meeting and just start involving
36 people from Kiana, Noorvik more in the process. We didn't
37 have anybody at this meeting. By the day end we recognize
38 we need local people. We also probably need to invite more
39 of the guides and transporters that are dealing in that
40 area to the meeting. We're going to try to do a similar
41 meeting in Shungnak with the Upper Kobuk Advisory Committee
42 and involve the transporters and local people there.

43
44 For the trespass issue, the agencies, in the
45 meantime, before the next meeting, we'll try and pull as
46 much information together as we can regarding trespass,
47 what the current laws are, kind of like what you're getting
48 at Willie, what are the tools that we have right now.
49 Bring that back to the next time that that group meets and
50 see if we can make heads or tails and some how the agencies

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1 can all work together to enforce trespass or just deal out
2 an educational plan or something like that.

3
4 For the two AC meetings, the advisory committee
5 meetings in Kiana and Shungnak, we thought we would try and
6 meet in late May or early June, that's usually a pretty
7 good time to meet. It's sort of when break up -- and it's
8 not too far in the future. We didn't set a date for the
9 next time the user issue group would meet. We thought we
10 would wait until the two advisory committees met first.

11
12 So that's basically it in a nutshell.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Jim. That's
15 where we're at with this user conflict issue. A lot of you
16 will remember this was triggered by the incident in the
17 Upper Kobuk a few years ago when the five young men were
18 arrested and put in jail. And in order to try to stop it
19 happening from other places in the region in the unit, we
20 labeled it the user conflict issue, and we're wrestling to
21 get it resolved here. And I think we have a way to do it
22 with the Federal agencies.

23
24 So what would be appropriate, I think, at this time
25 is a motion to go ahead and request that the Federal
26 agencies go ahead and see how we can implement or start the
27 regulation process to look at the permit system and putting
28 limits on the permits issued and the number of people the
29 permittees bring in. Knowing that we don't have any
30 numbers right now but once the process starts we'll be
31 hearing from everyone on what would be a good cap.

32
33 MR. GREIST: I'm not sure I understand what
34 the request is. I know we have a regulation process in
35 place right now with us. And when the communities have
36 problems that they bring up they bring it up to us and then
37 we bring it here to the meeting to discuss the issues
38 dealing with our users and then we address them that way.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, this prompted --
41 this was from that first meeting we had over a year ago in
42 January when villages were brought in by the State shortly
43 after that incident in the Upper Kobuk, and we were asked
44 to see if there was a way we can limit the number of sport
45 hunters coming in. So that prompted the letter that I
46 wrote to the agencies asking them what tools do they have
47 or a process to do this. And that's the letters here.
48 They have a regulatory process that they can use to
49 implement a -- the regulation to limit the number of
50 permits and permittees or the people they bring in. And

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1 that's what we're getting at.

2

3 MR. GREIST: There is a management
4 structure.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ida.

7

8 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
9 Committee member. I think what Bert is asking is what's
10 the difference between these regulations and the
11 regulations this Council usually addresses. And the
12 difference is this Council usually addresses bag limits,
13 C&T, seasons, et cetera for subsistence take. And the
14 regulations that Willie is referring to are agency
15 regulations about everybody else's use, not just
16 subsistence use. And it's generally those kinds of agency
17 regulations that are decided within an agency process
18 without the Councils, although the Councils are as free as
19 anybody else to comment on them.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, I guess what I'm
22 saying, too, also is -- Ida, thank you, is that if we
23 requested the Park Service, BLM to implement or to start
24 the regulation process for this unit, that's what they're
25 waiting for.

26

27 MR. GREIST: Oh.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You know, so if it came
30 from the RAC, then, of course, they would respond to it.

31

32 MS. KERR: Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

35

36 MS. KERR: Maybe I can help clarify a
37 little bit with respect to Selawik Refuge. Right now we
38 have agency regulations in place that allow us to use a
39 competitive process to award guide permits. Of course, our
40 agency has a mandate to provide for subsistence and it also
41 has a mandate to provide for recreational hunting or sport
42 hunting. So in balancing those uses, we are able to
43 competitively issue guide permits, that means there's not a
44 guide behind every bush. With respect to air transporters
45 or transporters of any kind, we currently do not have
46 regulations in place that allow me to limit the number of
47 special use permits for that type of commercial access.

48

49 So we currently have five air taxis with permits on
50 the Refuge. But if 10 came this year and asked for

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1 permits, I currently have to give everybody a permit as
2 long as they meet the legal requirements of bonding and
3 insurance and various things like that. So the particular
4 kind of regulation that Mr. Goodwin is asking us to move
5 forward with would be one in which we would start
6 regulating, perhaps, air transporters or some other means
7 of limiting the number of air taxis or clients or whatever.
8 And there's a variety of ways that that could be done, and
9 again, it's an issue that has some statewide implications.
10 What I think I'm hearing from this group is sort of the
11 intention to let the agencies know that this region, in
12 particular, is very interested in this region and would
13 very much appreciate if the agencies would move forward
14 with this issue.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you.

19
20 MR. GREIST: So what we're talking about is
21 -- is my understanding that the agencies are putting in
22 management plans and regulations without recognizing Title
23 VIII at all when you're talking about guides and permits
24 and all that other stuff?

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Those are in place right
27 now.

28
29 MR. GREIST: Okay.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What we want to do is
32 change them.

33
34 MR. GREIST: To include provisions for
35 protecting subsistence interests then?

36
37 MS. KERR: Those are already there.

38
39 MR. GREIST: I know.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, what we're going
42 is trying to limit the number of people coming in.

43
44 MR. GREIST: Oh. I thought that all this
45 time that when the law says and Title VIII that in the
46 management of a conservation system unit, the opportunity
47 to protect subsistence is also there, Title VIII. So you
48 have to provide provisions to protect the subsistence user
49 and the subsistence resource.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Sandy, this morning.....

2
3 MR. GREIST: Okay.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:he said that the
6 agency, Park Service, also has regulations in place that
7 override ANILCA. And that is one of them, on.....

8
9 MR. GREIST: Oh, it does.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

12
13 MR. GREIST: Okay.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Dave.

16
17 MR. SPIRITES: Dave Spirites, Western
18 Arctic Parkland superintendent. Maybe I could just clarify
19 what Bert was referring to and you're correct that when the
20 Federal government takes an action, almost any action that
21 could affect the subsistence resource, we're required to go
22 through an .801 process which involves local hearings,
23 involves people in the decision-making process.

24
25 MR. GREIST: That's what I mean, yeah.

26
27 MR. SPIRITES: So any of our planning
28 documents now normally are done with a NEPA, a public
29 process that includes an analysis of affects on
30 subsistence.

31
32 What the Chairman was raising, just to clarify one
33 thing, not the specific authorities, but I think what I
34 started to hear at the user conflict meeting, a little bit
35 of concern expressed that maybe the amount of sport and
36 commercial activity, some people were expressing the
37 opinion that that's starting to affect the health of the
38 wildlife population and possibly diminish people's
39 subsistence opportunities. And so in those particular
40 cases, those are the two triggers we pretty much need
41 before we can restrict non-subsistence activities. And so
42 just as a clarification with what the Chairman's asking us
43 to do is to perhaps evaluate that and if, indeed, there are
44 these impacts, then see what regulations -- what controls
45 can be put in place to protect the subsistence opportunity.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Are you clear now?

48
49 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Percy.

2
3 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I just
4 came from McGrath, I mentioned earlier, where they were
5 having moose predator control meetings all around that
6 region there of concern for wolf and not enough moose. But
7 before then there was man and a lot of the villages talk
8 about commercial hunting and sports hunting and stuff like
9 that, that's part of the process and not having something
10 done in the past before them. So it's a good thing we're
11 trying to do something now before we have a real deep
12 impact that hits us all of a sudden -- before we start
13 blaming something else than man.

14
15 MR. SCHNEIDER: Mr. Chairman, can I make a
16 comment?

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

19
20 MR. SCHNEIDER: This is Bob Schneider from
21 the Bureau of Land Management. I think we have, sort of,
22 again, one of these different mission issues that the BLM
23 is charged with the responsibility for. The Federal Land
24 Policy Management Act, which is our organic act, basically
25 dictates our operation, you know, really says that hunting
26 and fishing on public lands that we administer is really
27 the purview of the State and the State only and won't make
28 no rule to prohibit that. The only area where we get
29 involved is with special recreation use permits in which we
30 can authorize commercial uses for outfitting and guiding on
31 public lands, and there's certainly a mechanism to be able
32 to limit the number of permits or the number of visitor use
33 days in a particular area. But that's done through a
34 planning process, not necessarily through a regulatory
35 process and we have had, for a long time, a land use plan
36 for the Northwest part of the state which is admittedly out
37 of date and we need to take a look at that land use plan.
38 But to do a land use plan specifically to limit outfitting
39 and guiding would be just taking one part of the entire
40 process and not looking at the total picture for the
41 Squirrel River drainage specifically.

42
43 And I think the other issue is that much of the
44 Squirrel River drainage is -- certainly the water courses
45 are selected by the State and once we have a decision from
46 the administration on how we shall deal with the Squirrel
47 River, Wild and Scenic River proposal, we've made the
48 recommendation that we will not recommend that and so
49 therefore if it goes to Congress and that's approved, then
50 I would make the assumption that the Squirrel River area,

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1 at least, the drainages on the Squirrel River would --
2 water courses would be transferred over to the State at
3 some point so it really falls back on the State to regulate
4 hunting and fishing in that particular area. So we're sort
5 of stuck in between. We can issue permits on BLM
6 administered areas but we have to go through a planning
7 process to do that. We just can't limit it without having
8 some rationale.

9
10 MR. GREIST: So what you're saying is you
11 don't have an .810 process or you do?

12
13 MR. SCHNEIDER: We do have an .810 process,
14 yes. And we -- but there would obviously have to be some
15 mechanism to go through to determine.....

16
17 MR. GREIST: Oh, okay.

18
19 MR. SCHNEIDER:whether or not there
20 is an impact.

21
22 MR. GREIST: All right.

23
24 MR. SCHNEIDER: And then to figure out what
25 kind of limits we would have. I'm looking at the data that
26 I've seen just the last couple of days, is that, it's far
27 more private individuals being flown into the Squirrel
28 River area than there are through outfitting and guiding.
29 And so I'm not sure that we would be capturing the entire
30 issue if we just limit outfitting and guiding. Because
31 that demand is going to go someplace else and it will
32 probably go to commercial air traffic transporters that
33 would be hauling people in there and we really don't have a
34 mechanism to restrict or impact that.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Unless the plan is
37 rewritten?

38
39 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes. And then if it's
40 transferred to the State, if the State selection takes
41 place then we're really sort of out of it at that point in
42 time. We do have the uplands but not the water courses and
43 even under our Federal Land Policy Management Act
44 regulations fish and wildlife or the taking of fish and
45 game on public lands that we administer would be really
46 under the purview of the State at that point. It's not a
47 conservation unit.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, in conservation
50 terms it wouldn't make any sense for the State not to do

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1 anything if the rest of the region is doing something. It
2 wouldn't make any sense.

3

4 MR. SCHNEIDER: You would think so.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

7

8 MR. SCHNEIDER: But as it's been pointing
9 out to me, I think Dave Spirites said -- called the
10 Squirrel River the hole of the donut because by restricting
11 access to one place it's put it on some place else.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, it's got to be a
14 unitwide effort, that's what I'm looking at.

15

16 MR. SCHNEIDER: Right.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: A unitwide effort, not
19 to restrict just certain areas but the whole unit, the
20 numbers coming in.

21

22 MR. SCHNEIDER: Right.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is that it.

25

26 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes.

27

28 MR. GREIST: I got one final question and
29 that is, I guess there are some, Park Service, anyway, we
30 have some unit specific legislation and enabling
31 legislation that addresses -- is it subsistence uses, as
32 well, as part of a park value that Park Service have to
33 protect, I think it's at Cape Krusenstern and that one
34 between Kiana and.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Kobuk Valley?

37

38 MR. GREIST: Yeah, Kobuk Valley. Something
39 akin to that, uh? I mean that's what you're talking about
40 basically.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, there's no sport
43 hunting in Kobuk Valley or.....

44

45 MR. GREIST: But you still don't have the
46 -- we're talking about something in addition to .810
47 process?

48

49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

50

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1 MR. GREIST: I'm using -- this is for the
2 process -- that talks about other uses basically, that
3 addresses other uses as it impacts subsistence uses, that's
4 -- okay.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Dave.

7
8 MR. SPIRITES: No, I was just going to
9 agree with you, Bert, that subsistence is the priority
10 consumptive use in all these areas. And so we do have an
11 obligation to continue to provide for subsistence
12 opportunity in all four units. And then as the Chairman
13 indicated, the difference between the park and the monument
14 is that in those areas, since sport hunting isn't allowed,
15 it's really not -- this particular issue isn't an issue in
16 Cape Krusenstern or Kobuk Valley, the main issue is the
17 Noatak where we now have sport hunting plus commercial
18 guiding.

19
20 MR. GREIST: Yeah, right, that's what I was
21 thinking. That's why I can't -- you know, I'm wondering
22 where is it -- so it basically is Noatak.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Gates of the Arctic.

25
26 MR. GREIST:Preserve, Gates of the
27 Arctic and.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bering Land Bridge.

30
31 MR. GREIST:Squirrel River and Bering
32 Land Bridge?

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

35
36 MR. GREIST: Okay.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Okay, thanks. So
39 should we write the letter?

40
41 MR. GREIST: I'd like to make a motion that
42 we ask agencies to -- that a process be put together to
43 address something -- I mean to address a process where it
44 would address some of the other issues as it relates to
45 subsistence, is that broad enough?

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, I think.....

48
49 MR. GREIST: I want to make it broad, right
50 and not a.....

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think we need to make
2 it specific to limit the number of other users.

3
4 MR. GREIST: Okay, to limit the number of
5 other users where there is a direct conflict and impact on
6 subsistence.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

9
10 MR. BALLOT: Second.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. You got it? Just
13 say do it. We'll start the process, that's what we're
14 asking, you know, a limited number of other users when it
15 affects -- if it starts -- if there's an affect on
16 subsistence.

17
18 Discussion on the motion.

19
20 MR. BALLOT: Question.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All those in favor
23 signify by saying aye.

24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All opposed.

28
29 (No opposing votes)

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, let's break for
32 lunch. How long you want.....

33
34 MR. STONEY: 1:30.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: 1:30, okay.

37
38 (Off record)

39 (On record)

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'm going to call this
42 meeting back to order. Moose sex parts.

43
44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I got it down now, I
45 hope. I had to read to see what was being said on this.

46
47 This was a proposal, you may remember, that was
48 presented to you -- it was deferred last May by the Board
49 because the Copper River Native Association had put in this
50 proposal and they wanted to eliminate the evidence of sex

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1 requirements for moose so you may remember that you all
2 voted on it. Well, after all the Councils voted on it and,
3 those summaries of their votes are -- there's no page
4 number but it's under Section V, the largest percentage of
5 the Councils agreed with your position that it was really a
6 regional issue and that there shouldn't be a statewide
7 regulation. So as a result it is going to only be
8 considered by the Southcentral region. It was their
9 proposal and it won't become a statewide issue and that's
10 all that really needed to be said.

11
12 It was just an update to what was happening.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. They saw the
15 light -- car light.

16
17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Pardon.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: They saw the light, our
20 light.

21
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Saw the light, your
23 light, right, yes, that's right.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Where we're at
26 now is Item 6, unless somebody has a problem, Jim Dau has
27 asked to speak at this time. He's further down on the
28 agenda but he's got some work he has to do he's been gone
29 for a while and that kind of stuff, so unless there's
30 objection, I'll ask Jim to go ahead and give his report.

31
32 MR. GREIST: You mean for special
33 treatment?

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: He's got to leave.

36
37 MR. DAU: Thank you, Willie, RAC. Jim Dau,
38 Fish and Game. I was just going to go through briefly and
39 tell you what our plans were, survey plans, for this spring
40 and one other thing that we did last summer.

41
42 Last summer we photographed the Western Arctic herd
43 and we're in the process of counting the photos now. We've
44 got about 25 percent of the photos counted. I hope to have
45 an estimate by June. So the next time you guys meet we'll
46 know the figure.

47
48 For this coming year or at least through summer,
49 we're planning on doing a muskox census on the Seward
50 Peninsula. That will be with BLM, Park Service and Fish

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1 and Wildlife Service. We'll census all muskox habitat on
2 the Seward Peninsula. And that's scheduled, right now, to
3 start about March 13th, and we assume -- or we think it
4 will be about four or five days of flying. We're going to
5 try and count muskoxen between Krusenstern and Lisburne.
6 We do that every year in June, Park Service and Fish and
7 Wildlife and Fish and Game will do that. So we're going to
8 try and do that as well.

9
10 And then sometime last this spring we're going to
11 try and do a recruitment estimate on moose in the Noatak
12 just to get a calf/adult ratio. So that's just the
13 highlights of what we're going to try and do this spring.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What about the sheep?

16
17 MR. DAU: Well, I think I'll just let Brad
18 talk about, you know, the big sheep research project
19 because the regular surveys will be incorporated into that.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

22
23 MR. DAU: So if there's any questions,
24 that's all I have.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any
27 questions. So you're not going to do a complete moose,
28 just a calf recruitment?

29
30 MR. DAU: Just the calf recruitment. But
31 we did this last year using this new technique, and
32 actually it looks like the density estimate might be
33 reasonable. We're using a new technique now compared to
34 three or four years ago and the results look plausible.
35 But the main reason for doing the spring estimates is to
36 get an estimate of calf recruitment. How many moose calves
37 are making it through the winter.

38
39 One thing I forgot to mention, we're also doing a
40 calf recruitment on caribou, too, we do that every spring.
41 We'll start that in April and we'll finish it in May. We
42 do it a little differently.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any questions. Got
45 anything to add LeeAnn?

46
47 MS. AYRES: No.

48
49 MS. KERR: She doesn't work for the State.

50

00088

1 MS. AYRES: Jim covered it all.

2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Jim.

4
5 MR. DAU: Okay.

6
7 MR. BALLOT: I did forget something, who
8 was doing that wolverine study there?

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Brad, I think, will
11 answer that.

12
13 MR. BALLOT: Oh, okay.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You can answer questions
16 on the wolverine study, uh?

17
18 MR. SHULTZ: Uh-huh.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Okay,
21 State/Federal MOU. Where's Peggy? She's not here yet --
22 oh, there she is.

23
24 MS. FOX: Ida's going to do that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Oh, Ida, okay.

27
28 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
29 Committee member.

30
31 The State/Federal MOU, the draft you reviewed in
32 January during the training session, the comments from all
33 Council members were basically incorporated into this new
34 draft that's before you. The underlying portion of the old
35 language and the language in brackets are the recommended
36 changes. I think they're in your yellow packets. In that
37 yellow handbook.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No.

40
41 MS. HILDEBRAND: No.

42
43 MR. BALLOT: February 11 and 13, which one
44 are we on?

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We are on the 14th --
47 11th one, yeah.

48
49 MS. HILDEBRAND: The one that says
50 2/14/2000.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, that's the one
2 there.

3
4 MS. HILDEBRAND: And it looks like this on
5 its face.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. It was mailed to
8 you early on, yeah.

9
10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: There are handouts here.

11
12 MS. HILDEBRAND: Oh.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You got them there?

15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. I got one.

19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Anybody else need one?

21
22 MS. HILDEBRAND: So I don't know if you've
23 had a chance to read them but the bolded language is the
24 language that's going to be changing, if you would like to
25 just focus on that or would you like me to just summarize
26 the changes?

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think most of us
29 remember what we did in that workshop.

30
31 MS. HILDEBRAND: Okay.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Why don't you summarize.

34
35 MS. HILDEBRAND: Okay. The summary,
36 basically there wasn't a lot changes recommended but very
37 specific changes. For instance, you wanted memorandum of
38 understanding changed to memorandum of agreement, and
39 that's what's going to go forward to the Federal/State work
40 group. And you wanted more specific language that
41 specifically stated the role of the Regional Council, the
42 continued role of the Regional Council; that's on Page 1.
43 It's again stated on Page 2. You also wanted specific
44 language that specifically added tribes to some of the
45 text, and that's been done.

46
47 Before we get to -- I'll do this page by page.
48 Before we get to tribes, on Page 3, there was language that
49 you wanted to emphasize cultural information, that's been
50 added.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Our Council here did ask
2 for, on Page 4, number 5, could you delete it?

3
4 MS. HILDEBRAND: Right. And I addressed
5 the fact that it wasn't but if you want to reassert, since
6 we're still here for comments, if you want to reassert that
7 you can reassert it. Not all -- as Peggy stated earlier,
8 not all Councils were in agreement but if you wish to put
9 that on the record, that you want number 5 on Page 4 to be
10 deleted, you can certainly.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, I think there is a
13 difference between the sustained yield principle the State
14 uses and the standards of conservation under ANILCA.

15
16 MR. GREIST: Population for sustained
17 yield.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

20
21 MS. HILDEBRAND: In the light of the State
22 policy that's -- the draft that's floating around, I think
23 it's appropriate for your Council to restate your concern
24 on number 5.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any
27 objection to standing by our previous position to delete
28 that?

29
30 IN UNISON: No.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. You'll make note?

33
34 MS. HILDEBRAND: I just did.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

37
38 MS. HILDEBRAND: And on the same pages
39 where you added the cultural -- I mean, again,
40 reemphasizing the role of the Regional Councils and
41 advisory councils. On Page 5, number 1 is putting more
42 emphasis on traditional knowledge, and again, more emphasis
43 on the Regional Advisory Councils. And on Page 6, number
44 6, I believe it's E, that was one of the sections that the
45 word, tribes, was specifically added to Native
46 organizations. And also again, Councils, Regional Advisory
47 Councils were added to that section as having some role in
48 developing protocols.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any questions, anybody?

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1 MR. GREIST: No.

2

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: And although there were
4 lots of discussion of whether tribes should be on the face
5 of the document, most Councils didn't agree to that and
6 most Councils didn't agree to tribes being signatories but
7 be included in the process in some manner.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Do you need any action
10 from us?

11

12 MS. HILDEBRAND: But if you want to state
13 that you still insist on Page 5, number 4, then that's
14 noted and will be brought back to the work group.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, when you give your
17 report, we've stated that here without taking any action on
18 it.

19

20 MS. HILDEBRAND: Right.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Would it be more
23 stronger if we had a motion?

24

25 MS. HILDEBRAND: I don't think so. When
26 you speak to me you speak to me.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thank you. What's
29 the matter Helen?

30

31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Nothing.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Fisheries projects.

34

35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: See when you have the
36 same last name as Barb you get to be her assistant.

37

38 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Council members,
39 my name is Richard Cannon. I work with the Fisheries
40 Information Services Group that's being formed in the
41 Office of Subsistence Management. And what I'm going to do
42 today is provide you an update or a briefing on what has
43 transpired with the FY2000 fisheries projects that will be
44 implemented this coming season. In addition, we'll talk
45 about the process, kind of a review of the process that is
46 being developed for the FY2001 project identification. And
47 then we'll begin that process today by assisting your
48 Council in identifying high priority fisheries issues and
49 information needs that will initiate actually a year to 15
50 month process of identifying the needs for your region and

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1 then developing the projects to address those needs.

2

3 Helen just handed out some materials I'm going to
4 refer to, and you're looking at those, I can see everyone
5 has a copy of it. This is a status report. It's divided
6 up into three sections and I'll be covering each of those
7 three sections.

8

9 The first is an update on the projects for FY2000
10 for your region. If you go to the next section, Section 2,
11 this is an overview of that FY2001 process that we'll be
12 starting at this meeting. And many of these materials were
13 presented at the training and orientation session held in
14 Anchorage in January but we'll just kind of review those
15 things and then you can begin that process with talking
16 about issues and needs for your region.

17

18 And then third is to help you with that process.
19 If you look past the map there of the various Regional
20 Council boundaries. This was an attempt by the agencies
21 involved to identify those information needs for this area.
22 And to put that down in this form as a place to start and
23 you can look at this, refer to it, this is just to kind of
24 help you begin the process of discussing what kinds of
25 things you'd like to see done for your areas.

26

27 So very quickly now I'll go back and give you an
28 update on what's happened with the FY2000 process. As I
29 think most you are aware, this was an attempt by the
30 Federal Subsistence Board to get high priority projects out
31 into the field this season. And it's an abbreviated
32 process. There isn't the consultation we would have
33 wanted, but to begin to address some of those concerns, the
34 Board made it very clear that they wanted those type of
35 projects that already had some work done on them, there had
36 been some planning by agencies or local groups and there
37 would have to be, already, a consultative process involved
38 with bringing these projects forward. If you want to turn
39 to that section of your handout, one page descriptions of
40 those three projects that are being looked at for FY2000
41 for this region are provided for you.

42

43 Two of these, the first two, Project 1, the
44 Northwestern Arctic char stock identification project and
45 the second project, which is related is the Eastern/North
46 Slope char abundance and distribution project; those have
47 already been approved. They were approved in February and
48 we're already moving into the steps of developing the
49 cooperative .809 agreements for those projects and were
50 detailed project descriptions. So we'll get into the nuts

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1 and bolts of how the projects are really going to be done.
2 Then the third one has been -- now being discussed for the
3 April consideration and, in fact, just yesterday the Staff
4 group, this interagency Staff group met to talk about which
5 projects will be moved on to the next step or to the
6 approval process by the Board and this one was approved for
7 that. The technical Staff that looked at this said, yes,
8 this one's ready to move ahead. So all three of these are
9 -- you know, two of these have been approved and one is on
10 its way for Board approval and that's the third one here.
11 This is the -- yes, do you have a question?

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Where could the tribes
14 come in to contract with some of this work?

15
16 MR. CANNON: Okay. This will happen in the
17 development of the detailed project itself. At this phase
18 we're only looking at the need and a general concept of
19 what needs to be done. The consultation, and that's a very
20 good question, if you look at that part of the one page
21 description, go down and it says consultations completed.
22 And if you read through that section for each project you
23 can see some of the work that's going on with regard to
24 consultation.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, they just asked us
27 if it was good.

28
29 MR. CANNON: Right.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And Manaliiq said it was
32 good.

33
34 MR. CANNON: Yeah. The thing is that many
35 of these projects it should go beyond that, okay.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

38
39 MR. CANNON: So what we don't want to see
40 is a project approved through this big structure and
41 nobody's talked to the local community.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What I'm saying is where
44 can the tribes contract to do some of this work, that's
45 what I'm asking?

46
47 MR. CANNON: They can -- through this next
48 step.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

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1 MR. CANNON: If they're -- that's where the
2 partnership building can occur, okay, that's the intent.
3 And it can vary all the way from local hire, encouraging
4 local people to get involved with an agency project all the
5 way to a local group, Manaliiq or some other local group
6 actually doing the project. All those options are
7 possible. It depends on what people are prepared to do at
8 this time.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Does that include the
11 char one?

12
13 MR. CANNON: Yes. In that one, if you read
14 through it, that will have a discussion of, in this case,
15 it's primarily trying to get local people hired on to the
16 work teams that will go out there and collect the
17 information. In some regions we're -- you know, the
18 project -- the whole project will be done by a local group,
19 okay. It just depends on what the groups in that area
20 would like to do.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: When will the request
23 for proposals be advertised?

24
25 MR. CANNON: This one is going -- of
26 course, this is an abbreviated process for this FY2000,
27 okay, so that's happening very quickly. We're trying to
28 get the money out to people and for the FY2001, I'll go
29 through that in just a minute. And there's a specific step
30 there that the tribes and local organizations will be
31 invited to submit proposals and to get directly involved
32 with the project. For FY2000, many of these projects are
33 being done by local groups and regional organizations. But
34 in most cases there had already been work done. Those were
35 already in process. Because this kind of thing is already
36 going on, okay, throughout Western Alaska and other areas
37 of the state. This process is supporting something that is
38 already taking place in many areas with fisheries.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So you think 10,000
41 would be enough to do the harvest studies in the Noatak and
42 the Wulik River?

43
44 MR. CANNON: Well, you know, if you look at
45 that budget, let me flip over there, that will help get the
46 program started and you can see that there's actually two
47 years of funding for that project. The reason they did
48 that is they don't -- they want to give the project enough
49 money so that it can reach a certain level of completion.
50 So the people that were proposing that project felt that

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1 that was adequate. Now, when they get into the details
2 they may find that they overlooked something and they may
3 increase the budget to some degree, okay. That will happen
4 in this next phase where they have to develop a very
5 detailed budget and a detailed project plan. Then when
6 that's approved then the money can be allocated to the
7 agency or the group, you know, the tribe or whatever group
8 is going to do the work.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So a lot of the
11 preplanning -- well, the post-planning -- the planning
12 still has to be done as far as where the money's going to
13 be spent yet?

14
15 MR. CANNON: Well, some of it. But again,
16 when we get to this phase.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What I'm concerned about
19 is giving the blank check to the State and say here, go do
20 it.

21
22 MR. CANNON: Well, that, you know, there
23 has to be oversight, okay.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

26
27 MR. CANNON: And that's where the Office of
28 Subsistence Management Fisheries Information Service will
29 -- you know, that's part of their responsibility. And, you
30 know, that's an important question that the Council's, I'm
31 sure are going to be asking, you know, this group, you
32 know, how is this money spent? Are regional groups, tribes
33 being included and that's our intent to make sure that that
34 does happen.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

37
38 MR. CANNON: Are there any other questions?

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, there's certainly
41 some work that the tribes and the associations can do as
42 far as the harvest monitoring. Let the people count fish
43 and get that information, that can be done by the tribes or
44 the associations, you know, and that's what I'm getting at.

45
46 MR. CANNON: Yes, I understand.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: To maximize that effort.
49 Okay.

50

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1 MR. CANNON: Okay, good, well, that's
2 what's going on for FY2000, okay. For the next part of
3 this we're going to look at what's going to be happening
4 for next fiscal year. And at this meeting we're going to
5 begin that process.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Can we get back to that
8 sheefish one there?

9
10 MR. CANNON: You want to talk about it,
11 sure.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Yeah, I mean,
14 it's just Hoffman Inlet?

15
16 MR. CANNON: I believe this -- again, I
17 have to go back and read it again.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, it's got to be
20 modified to include Selawik Lake because the fish go back
21 and forth between Hoffman and Selawik Lake.

22
23 MR. CANNON: Well, that's the kind of input
24 that we need.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If we're going to get a
27 true harvest level, we need to include both lakes, Hoffman
28 Inlet and Selawik Lake.

29
30 MR. CANNON: Okay.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The fish go back and
33 forth.

34
35 MR. CANNON: That's the kind of input we're
36 looking for. If the scope of the project is not adequate,
37 that's exactly the kind of input we're looking for. And I
38 don't mean to rush through these things.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

41
42 MR. CANNON:but.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think we need to do
45 that.

46
47 MR. CANNON: Yes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Which would include the
50 people that use the nets in the wintertime here in

00097

1 Kotzebue, would include the spring activities.

2

3 MR. CANNON: Okay. That's a good comment
4 and I definitely will make sure that I will take that back
5 to our committee.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Because the spring
8 activity is always subsistence, you know, there's some -- a
9 few thousand pounds being sold commercially by a couple of
10 people in Kobuk Lake but not here in Kotzebue, the ones
11 that live in Kobuk Lake, but not much. I know there's a
12 quota of 25,000 pounds that could be harvested for
13 commercial use but that's the limit. And we have never,
14 ever come close to it.

15

16 MR. CANNON: I want to make sure I
17 understand the desires of this Council.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Fred.

20

21 MR. CANNON: He's here, he's listening, I
22 know.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Fred Armstrong.

25

26 MR. CANNON: Fred DeCicco.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Armstrong.

29

30 MR. CANNON: Oh, excuse me.

31

32 MR. ARMSTRONG: There's, I guess, been
33 identified.....

34

35 REPORTER: Fred.

36

37 MR. ARMSTRONG:as two different
38 sheefish stock, the Selawik and the Kobuk. And if this was
39 missing from here, even though they do harvest monitoring I
40 think it would be interesting to find out where they're
41 getting the fish from, the Selawik or the Kobuk. So it
42 would be to include that in that project.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's a good point
45 you're bringing because I was going to ask, also, that to
46 piggyback this 2000 winter subsistence sheefish harvest
47 study to do a complete study on the Kobuk like they did in
48 the Selawik, where they spawn and that kind of stuff. They
49 did a study in Selawik that was pretty detailed.

50

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1 Percy.

2

3 MR. BALLOT: When you do your studying or
4 finding out where you get it from, are you just going to be
5 asking the people that are in Kobuk Lake or are you going
6 to come to Buckland, too, because Buckland people do go to
7 Kobuk Lake?

8

9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, they'd have to do
10 the whole region, the harvest from those two lakes, Kiana,
11 Noorvik, Buckland, Selawik, Kotzebue.

12

13 MR. CANNON: I want to make sure I
14 understand, excuse me.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: They come down to Kobuk
17 Lake from everywhere to.....

18

19 MR. CANNON: A large area.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:go get sheefish,
22 whether it's just one or two days and then they're back to
23 their village.

24

25 MR. STONEY: They even come from the Koyuk
26 area.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, they even come
29 from Koyuk.

30

31 MR. CANNON: Thank you. For the next part
32 of this process we need to go back and review the 2001
33 process, and you can find that in that part of this status
34 report, number 2, resource monitoring project selection
35 process for spring 2001. If you turn to that first page,
36 there's a time line and a description of the process.
37 We'll just sort of go through that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So you're taking our
40 comments right now as to prioritizing management issues and
41 information needs?

42

43 MR. CANNON: Actually what I -- it would be
44 to your pleasure, what I was planning to do was go through
45 the process quickly and then on the third part of this we
46 sit down and we go through the needs and the issues, that
47 would be the third part.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

50

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1 MR. CANNON: Okay. The first part of the
2 process begins at this meeting, the winter Regional
3 Advisory Committee meeting where your Council begins to
4 identify the information needs and issues for your region.
5 That information then will be compiled by Staff into a
6 needs report for this area. That will then go through a
7 process of requesting through the Council -- through the
8 Federal Subsistence Board, essentially like a call for
9 proposals but it's an invitation for, at this step, for the
10 local groups, the tribes, the regional organizations then
11 to get involved in developing a project. So agencies, both
12 State and Federal can -- and again, we're going to
13 encourage partnership building, okay, so that, for example,
14 the National Park Service might enter into an agreement
15 with a local group to do a specific type of project for the
16 region. And they combine their resources and, you know,
17 provide support to one another to get the project done.

18
19 That starts out by developing a preproposal, just
20 similar to that one page summary that we went through for
21 those first three projects. Once those that have the most
22 chance of, you know, going forward, those that seem to
23 address the needs that have been identified the best are
24 selected, then there's an invitation given to develop a
25 more detailed proposal. They flesh out the budget. They
26 talk about who is going to do what and in a lot more
27 detail, what methods they're going to use, how they're
28 going to use local knowledge, you know, this TK input. All
29 those details will be worked out in this part of the plan,
30 the detailed plan. Those are compiled statewide into a
31 report that will be called the annual resource monitoring
32 plan for Alaska. And that then will come back to the
33 Regional Councils during your fall meeting for your review.
34 So you'll see this come back to you in terms of now
35 specific plans for projects for your area. And you'll be
36 given an opportunity to comment about their adequacy. Are
37 they making the best use of the resources, you know, making
38 sure that the money's being spent well. Is there enough
39 consultation going on. You know, are the issues being
40 addressed. And that input then will go on to the Federal
41 Subsistence Board targeting probably a December decision
42 next year for approval of some of those projects then to
43 move forward.

44
45 And at that point then the agencies or groups will
46 have the time to go out and buy equipment or begin to, you
47 know, identify people that are going to actually do the
48 project so they can get started in time for the field
49 season.

50

00100

1 That's the process. And I'll stop there and ask
2 you if you have any questions about the process itself.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So at this meeting,
5 whatever we comment on, whether it be this years plan, next
6 year's plan, or future plans, that will be this
7 prioritizing management issues and information needs?

8
9 MR. CANNON: Uh-huh.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So let me ask the
12 Council, what comments do you have regarding the proposals
13 or do you wish to see other research on fish in the region
14 be done?

15
16 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Percy.

19
20 MR. BALLOT: Just to comment, I don't see
21 Buckland, you know, we have white fish -- I don't know if
22 we're included somewhere in these studies but we have white
23 fish, we have dolly varden, we have smelt fish, we have
24 herring; we have all kinds of salmons and all kinds of
25 stuff there. I don't know if we have a need for them but I
26 know.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: They certainly got to do
29 the harvest study.

30
31 MR. BALLOT: Uh-huh.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You got that, it's
34 Buckland.

35
36 MR. CANNON: Yes, I do.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: How about Deering, what
39 do they get, let's go through all the villages.

40
41 MR. BALLOT: Just about the same thing.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Salmon?

44
45 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: White fish.....

48
49 MR. BALLOT: Silver salmon.

50

00101

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: They got a different stock
2 of salmon.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Yeah.

5
6 MR. BALLOT: Tomcod, herring.

7
8 MR. CANNON: So basic -- just knowing
9 what's there and more about the species.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Uh-huh.

12
13 MR. CANNON:for all these areas.....

14
15 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

16
17 MR. CANNON:is that what you're
18 saying? Okay.

19
20 MR. BALLOT: Buckland and Deering.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The issue that you
23 talked about Bert on that -- in our October meeting about
24 the beavers, the Board of Game's taking action to shoot
25 them all -- I mean harvest what you want for food, there's
26 no closed season. That one slipped.

27
28 Unless there's anything else you want to discuss on
29 that one?

30
31 MR. BALLOT: No. I'm just wondering, too,
32 Mr. Chairman, you know, we've seen birds coming more up the
33 river that -- sea birds, is there any kind of -- are we
34 running out of food for them out in the ocean for the fish
35 that are out there that they usually eat? They're coming
36 up farther up to the fresh water, like puffins and stuff
37 like that. Is there something we need to consider.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Now, that's something
40 Fish and Wildlife might be interested in, the puffins going
41 up the Buckland River.

42
43 MS. KERR: That's pretty neat but Shamso's
44 right there.

45
46 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Is plankton going --
47 you know, we see sometimes seal's skinny and, you know,
48 stuff like that. They're running out of food out there,
49 it's something we need to look at.

50

00102

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What else do you need
2 from us?

3
4 MR. CANNON: Really that's the kind of
5 input I'm looking for. And I would not close the door on
6 that input, I mean this little handout that was sent
7 around, you can use that to just jot down community -- if
8 you have community interests and harvest monitoring that's
9 an important kind of study that needs to be done. Also
10 just biological studies, you know, things that have been
11 mentioned here. The relationship, for example, of beavers
12 to fish species or monitoring of the abundance of fish
13 going into various local rivers. Those are all
14 possibilities. And certainly the need for traditional
15 knowledge.

16
17 The Bristol Bay Native Association has gotten a
18 project approved that will address that kind of input and
19 their association is actually going to be doing a lot of
20 the work. So you can consider that kind of a study as
21 well.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The traditional
24 knowledge study, would that be separate from these
25 proposals here?

26
27 MR. CANNON: It's another type of study
28 that's in, you know, it would be -- certainly would be very
29 welcomed and could be done under this program, yes. I have
30 a copy of their one page.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The only down side to
33 this traditional knowledge study that I can talk about is
34 once we put what we, as the local people, the Natives know
35 where all the fish are and then everybody else knows that's
36 where everybody else will be going.

37
38 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, yes, that is an
39 important issue. In fact, in developing the detailed plan
40 for that study you could identify the need for
41 confidentiality in some of your information. And that kind
42 of issue definitely can be addressed.

43
44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We've had that problem
45 with some of the brown bear studies, that they didn't want
46 all the exact locations of the dens so they didn't put them
47 into the maps. They made them general areas.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, we need to put
50 that in that char study, too.

00103

1 MR. CANNON: Excuse me.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We need to put that
4 confidentiality information on that char study. We want to
5 know where they're at and where they're going but where
6 they're concentrating has got to be -- Fred, you got an
7 answer to that?

8

9 MR. DeCICCO: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to
10 say.....

11

12 REPORTER: Wait, could you please come
13 closer to the mic.

14

15 MR. DeCICCO: Mr. Chairman, Fred DeCicco,
16 Fish and Game. I originally proposed the char study that's
17 been accepted so far for funding. And I just wanted to let
18 you all know -- I was going to cover this later but I think
19 it's appropriate now, in general, what we anticipate doing
20 is basically a genetic baseline study on stocks of dolly
21 varden and Arctic char. And in the first year we'll be
22 collecting a number of stock specific samples of juveniles
23 from the creeks and getting the baseline work done by the
24 Fish and Wildlife Service genetics lab with the hopes that
25 we'll be able to differentiate stocks of dolly varden that
26 occur north of the Bering Strait and south of the Bering
27 Strait with the intent that in the future we'll be able to
28 go in and sample the subsistence harvest in Kivalina or at
29 Noatak and estimate the proportions of stocks in that
30 harvest that originate from north and south of the Bering
31 Strait. We know from some of the earlier tagging that I
32 did in the early '80s that some of these fish are traveling
33 all over. In the future, we may also try to get some
34 samples from the Chikotka because we know there's some
35 Russian stocks over here, too. With the idea of finding
36 out just really what's being harvested.

37

38 That's the main thrust of the study for the first
39 year. We're not even planning to go in and document the
40 subsistence harvest the first year. In the future that
41 will be part of an expanded study. So that's really what
42 we're talking about in the first year of this study. And
43 partly because this was a short-track process and it was
44 just the way it came out to do something concise that was
45 achievable and that the review committee accepted.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you.

48

49 MR. DeCICCO: You're welcome.

50

00104

1 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, one thing that
2 I've been asked a number of times now, in the Kobuk River,
3 of course, we all know that in Shungnak and Ambler all have
4 one sewer system and then as we were told by the
5 (indiscernible) that the water is so pure you could drink
6 it yourself and now that sewage is being dumped in the
7 river, it's like it needs to be sampled now because I know
8 by the looks of that stuff, you know, all of the fish go
9 through it and then we have to eat all that fish, there has
10 to be some studies on the sewer system in all the villages.
11 That's the major effort that's affecting all of us. I know
12 it's something to bring up -- I've been asked to bring it
13 up to somebody.

14
15 MR. CANNON: Just two things I wanted to
16 highlight and then I'll end my presentation. One is that
17 there will be a mailout requesting this kind of input from
18 communities and regional organizations to help your
19 process, communicate back to the local areas and to ask for
20 identification of issues and needs and we can bring those
21 summaries back to you so you can see what we've gotten
22 through that process as well. We want to make sure that
23 everybody gets a chance to voice their views on this.

24
25 And the second thing was to make sure that the
26 Council understands that there are three basic types of
27 projects that are being funded through this program. One
28 is being called the stock status and trends, and that's
29 biological, regular fisheries biology kinds of projects.
30 Like the char project is an example of that. And then
31 another real important one is harvest monitoring,
32 subsistence harvest monitoring. And an example of that one
33 would be the Kotzebue sheefish study. And then the third
34 one is the traditional knowledge study. And that, there
35 have been more and more of these types of studies being
36 done and there's some experience with it. There are people
37 in agencies that have quite a bit of experience and they
38 can help local groups to do this in a way that would not
39 impact cultural values and people's sensitivities. I mean,
40 and it would couldn't be the kind of thing that's going to
41 be forced on people. It will be done in consultation with
42 the people, locally. If they chose to do this they could
43 move ahead with it.

44
45 You know, in my experience with fisheries and I've
46 had a lot of experience in Alaska working with fisheries
47 management and I can tell you that even the State managers
48 really depend a lot on getting local knowledge about where,
49 you know, the fish are -- how fish come into rivers, where
50 they're located. And there's a lot of dependency on that

00105

1 already. This is a more formal way of doing it and it
2 gives a lot more credit to the local people for what they
3 know and there is protections built into this kind of a
4 system so that there isn't information given out that
5 should not be given out inappropriately.

6
7 I have an example if you'd like that I can hand out
8 of what the Bristol Bay Native Association has done with
9 their project, it's just a one page, that I could hand that
10 out to your group if you'd like?

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Uh-huh.

13
14 MR. CANNON: And that's something you might
15 want to consider. Mr. Chairman, that ends my presentation,
16 thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any
19 questions. Susan, you had a comment.

20
21 MS. GEORGETTE: Well, I just had a comment.
22 Susan Georgette. I work with the Subsistence Division for
23 the Fish and Game Department. And just in talking about
24 harvest monitoring, I wanted to let you know that, I guess,
25 for the past six years our division has done these
26 subsistence harvest surveys in Norton Sound and Kotzebue
27 Sound, and we've worked in Noatak and the Kobuk River
28 villages mainly, so we haven't worked in Buckland or
29 Deering, Kivalina or Selawik. But it's pretty much salmon,
30 though, we collect some information on sheefish and white
31 fish, really at the request of the villages. People would
32 ask us, well, aren't you going to ask about white fish and
33 so we'd include that. But I'm happy to find any ways to
34 work with the tribal groups on this or if the Feds are
35 going to take it over, the tribal groups want to take it
36 over, that we have a system kind of set up that we've been
37 working on but I'm happy to work with anyone on finding
38 better ways to do it or different people to do it.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you.

41
42 MS. GEORGETTE: Thanks.

43
44 MR. CANNON: Ida just reminded me about
45 something that I should pass along to the Council, is that,
46 there is a statewide effort ongoing to try to develop some
47 standards for collecting harvest monitoring information.
48 And that's being worked on by the Federal agencies as well
49 as the Division of Subsistence within the Department of
50 Fish and Game, so that there's kind of a unified process

00106

1 for this kind of information that can be done statewide.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you.

4

5 MR. CANNON: And tribal groups are
6 involved.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you.

9

10 MR. CANNON: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Chairs corner. You see
13 the draft annual report in your packet in the letter form
14 to Mitch Demientieff, is there anything we need to add to
15 that? Basically it outlines the activities of the RAC.
16 Any questions.

17

18 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

21

22 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
23 Committee member. On your annual report, in regards to
24 things stated earlier in the meeting, you may wish to add
25 your concern about user conflicts and the request for
26 agencies to assist in the permitting process or whatever
27 your wording was this morning.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. That's next year,
30 this is this past years activities, Ida.

31

32 MS. HILDEBRAND: Right. Well, I'm looking
33 forward.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It includes last winter.
36 You're looking forward to it.

37

38 MS. HILDEBRAND: Right.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You're looking forward
41 to a good report next year.

42

43 MS. HILDEBRAND: Which also includes your
44 fish projects.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes. The charter, one
47 issue that came up with to provide for alternates. Also
48 the question of should we expand our groups. Right now
49 it's regionalized, you know, different areas of the region
50 represented by the groups. But, you know, I don't have any

00107

1 problem with adding alternates in case somebody's got other
2 business to take care of and they're absent, an alternate
3 would sit in.

4
5 You want to discuss this more or do you want to go
6 ahead and request that the charter be amended to include
7 alternates, what's the wish? Or are we satisfied with the
8 way it is?

9
10 Helen.

11
12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Maybe I'll just make a
13 little addition as to what the North Slope Council did.
14 After having a couple of meetings where they couldn't meet
15 because they didn't have a quorum and people would come in
16 from villages and had to hang around for a day, they
17 decided to establish an alternate. And what they did was,
18 and I'm not saying you need to do this, but I'm just saying
19 this is what another Council has done, is their alternates
20 come from Barrow and their meetings are always in Barrow,
21 and that's not what you do here, but that way they would
22 always count on having those alternates there and they've
23 not had to miss a meeting since they've done that. So it's
24 been kind of a good solution for them.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Have we ever missed out
27 because we didn't have a quorum?

28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

30
31 MR. GREIST: Yes.

32
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes. Yes.

34
35 MR. STONEY: You had to go get me.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Oh, that's right, there
38 here in Kotzebue, yeah. Yeah, you were in a NANA Board
39 meeting, yeah.

40
41 MR. STONEY: Yeah, it was a presentation.

42
43 MR. GREIST: Basically just once is about
44 it.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's about the only
47 one we've ever had?

48
49 MR. GREIST: We've always had.....

50

00108

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, this Council's
2 been pretty good.

3
4 MR. GREIST:almost always had 100
5 percent representation.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So what's the wish, you
8 want to.....

9
10 MR. GREIST: Just leave it as it is, right
11 now.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Leave it as it is right
14 now or do you want to add an alternate or.....

15
16 MR. STONEY: You know, we've been operating
17 for quite some time now, you know, with the way it is and
18 it's been good.

19
20 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

21
22 MR. STONEY: As long as we get at least a
23 month in advance notice that, you know, the meeting's for
24 today.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: In fact you were in the
27 AFN meeting or something or were you here?

28
29 MR. BALLOT: No, I was here.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Nobody wants to
32 change it, fine, it's okay with me, too.

33
34 Northwest nominations 2000. Is the deadline over
35 already or is it still -- Helen, Barb?

36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Pardon.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The nominations or is
40 that still going on or is it over with?

41
42 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, it's still going
43 on. We're at the place now where we're having.....

44
45 MR. JENNINGS: It's over.

46
47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG:the panel
48 interviewing applicants.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

00109

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And from then on they'll
2 have a meeting and we'll have a report in by the 31st of
3 March.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Item D, the
6 Council stipend. You know, we were one of the Regional
7 Advisory Councils that wrote a letter to Secretary Babbitt
8 requesting compensation. And I think what we want to do
9 now is probably draft a letter to the Congressional
10 Delegation because it looks like it's going to need
11 legislation to get this changed. The present Federal
12 regulations on advisory committees prohibit stipends as far
13 as I've been told.

14
15 MR. GREIST: I thought we directed that at
16 that last meeting in Anchorage, it didn't happen?

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We got the letter
19 drafted but we were kind of waiting on this migratory bird
20 thing to happen. If we were going to take up that
21 responsibility, we wanted to include that in there. But
22 since it's not, maybe we can just take that portion off
23 and.....

24
25 MR. GREIST: Those are two separate issues.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

28
29 MR. GREIST: Two separate issues.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, no, what's happening
32 is that if we were going to take that responsibility that
33 would give us more justification to get stipend, on the
34 migratory birds.

35
36 MR. GREIST: Don't make those connect, keep
37 them separate and send that letter.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Fred.

40
41 MR. ARMSTRONG: I think there was also an
42 issue of the amount of per diem or travel advance that you
43 guys get.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

46
47 MR. ARMSTRONG: It's an issue that needs to
48 be addressed also because.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

00110

1 MR. ARMSTRONG:I think there was a
2 request for -- to have the policy brought forward and I
3 don't know if anybody could find that. And from what I
4 understand it just might have been a verbal thing, but
5 that's something you guys need to also address because the
6 last time you guys went down to Anchorage everybody was in
7 a bind.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, 50 bucks a day,
10 remember.

11
12 MR. GREIST: Uh-huh.

13
14 MR. ARMSTRONG: So, you know, you need to
15 make that a part of your concern.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, we can add that
18 on. Sandy.

19
20 MR. RABINOWITCH: We're just kind of
21 whispering in the back here, there might be something in
22 FACA that suggests that FACA bodies like you, Federal
23 Advisory Committee Act bodies either should not or not
24 allowed to lobby Congress. Before a letter goes off I
25 would just encourage that somebody check that. I'm not
26 sure but there's a little thought our head. So to avoid
27 getting, you know, making a mistake and getting somebody
28 really angry, perhaps that could be doublechecked just
29 procedurally.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Can you check on that
32 Barb and then we'll move forward if there's nothing
33 prohibiting it.

34
35 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah, I think the point is
36 you might be able to do it as individuals but maybe not as
37 this group.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Oh, okay.

40
41 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay, so.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If that's the case we'll
44 just draft seven letters.

45
46 MR. GREIST: He might be right.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, I think you're
49 right Sandy. Go ahead, Barb.

50

00111

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I was kind of
2 drafting the letter for all the Chairs for your May meeting
3 when all the Chairs get together and meet, and that's what
4 I was looking at, is drafting that letter for all the
5 Chairs to sign at their meeting in May.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: To Secretary Babbitt?

8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: To the Congressional
10 Delegates.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, well, check on
13 that.....

14
15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: But we'll check into
16 that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:first and then if
19 that's the case then we'll just -- everybody here will.....

20
21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

22
23 MR. RABINOWITCH: Just as a follow up.....

24
25 REPORTER: Sandy, could you come up please.

26
27 MR. RABINOWITCH:I think -- is this
28 close enough?

29
30 REPORTER: A little closer.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No.

33
34 MR. RABINOWITCH: No.

35
36 REPORTER: There, that's good.

37
38 MR. RABINOWITCH: Just as a follow up, I
39 think that Joe Darnell in the solicitor's office would know
40 the answer to the point I raised. So with one phone call
41 you could get an answer and then move on.

42
43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Item 9, National
46 Park Service, Staff.

47
48 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, I don't have
49 anything from the Subsistence Section but Brad has a report
50 and this might be a good time to deal with the wolverines

00112

1 and I think Greg has some user information.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, Brad. There was a
4 question on the wolverines this morning.

5

6 MR. SHULTZ: Okay. Brad Shultz, National
7 Park Service. Do you want to just deal with questions? I
8 could give you an overview of what's going on real quick
9 with that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Percy, you had a
12 question on wolverines.

13

14 MR. BALLOT: I was just wondering, there
15 was a study being done by the boy that moved down to Bethel
16 or -- I was just wondering is he part of it?

17

18 MR. SHULTZ: Gene, yeah.

19

20 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

21

22 MR. SHULTZ: Gene's in Bethel right now.

23

24 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

25

26 MR. SHULTZ: He's down practicing his mile
27 and a half run at Fletze in Georgia. So I've kind of taken
28 that on and what we're doing, Percy, is we're still
29 collecting carcasses.

30

31 MR. BALLOT: Uh-huh.

32

33 MR. SHULTZ: But I didn't send out a letter
34 this fall like I did last fall, remember, everybody got a
35 letter in the box?

36

37 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

38

39 MR. SHULTZ: I didn't have time to do that
40 so I just didn't do it. But I'm still collecting carcasses
41 from villagers that have them, \$25 apiece.

42

43 MR. BALLOT: Okay.

44

45 MR. SHULTZ: And I'll pick them up or you
46 can throw them on Bering Air.

47

48 MR. BALLOT: I was just wondering.....

49

50 MR. SHULTZ: Bering Air knows all about it.

00113

1 MR. BALLOT:about results or anything
2 from the last.....

3
4 MR. SHULTZ: We haven't analyzed -- I've
5 been waiting to get a hundred carcasses before I sit down
6 and chop them all up and we're getting close. After this
7 winter we'll have at least a hundred and it makes it worth
8 the time to sit down and do all that.

9
10 MR. BALLOT: Okay.

11
12 MR. SHULTZ: But I had the other ones from
13 the year before last that we did and I put them in the
14 newsletter, I think, about what the results were.

15
16 MR. BALLOT: Okay.

17
18 MR. SHULTZ: We did, last March and April,
19 like I had reported, I think, this fall -- we did put on 11
20 radio collars on wolverines in the Upper Noatak. Right now
21 we're down to locating only four of them. Two of them were
22 killed early on by bears. One was shot by a hunter in
23 Ambler just a month ago. Two had satellite radios that are
24 no longer functioning and we haven't been able to find
25 them. And the rest of them I just can't find so they went
26 somewhere and I suspect it's quite a ways. I've been a
27 hundred miles up to the North Slope north of the Range and
28 I've been way up into the Upper Nigu and in the Alatna
29 looking for them and haven't found them. The one that was
30 shot in Ambler last month, if you've heard, the radio
31 collar cut into its neck underneath quite a bit and that
32 one was shot on a caribou. It put on about four pounds
33 since we caught it last spring but it put on quite a bit of
34 muscle mass is what it appears. And I guess the learning
35 lesson from that is that I don't think we're going to put
36 any more collars on them that -- the only collars -- that's
37 sort of half true, I'm not putting on any more collars
38 without a breakaway device. I've got 12 satellite radios
39 to put out here in the next 10 days starting actually
40 Thursday or Friday, they got an elastic breakaway with
41 cotton thread so that it will fall off, I think, less than
42 six months if they don't pull them off in the first day.
43 So they won't be wearing a collar around long enough to
44 cause any problems for them.

45
46 So we're still forging ahead with that. Our real
47 objective this year is to just test if we can get those
48 satellite radios working because they move around so much
49 that I can't keep up with them.

50

00114

1 So that's where we're at with that.

2
3 MR. BALLOT: Okay.

4
5 MR. SHULTZ: So more results this summer,
6 hopefully.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Oh, the
9 sheep.

10
11 MR. SHULTZ: Sheep. We're going to have a
12 meeting tonight at the Tech Center, if you're up for it,
13 7:30, a quick overview on the Baird Mountain Sheep Project
14 and the objectives of that and how we're planning on going
15 about it. Catching sheep, doing the radio telemetry and
16 doing the survey work for the next two years. So if you
17 can drag yourself to the Tech Center after sitting here all
18 day, 7:30, that'd be great. It's on the radio so hopefully
19 some local advisory committee people from Fish and Game
20 will also be there.

21
22 And I'm going to go up to Noatak Friday night for
23 the search and rescue meeting and talk to the folks in
24 Noatak. I was up there last week and hitched up with
25 Roland Ashby and he said that would be a good meeting to
26 get a hold of people at.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Thank you. So
29 you're going to count?

30
31 MR. SHULTZ: Count sheep, yeah. Yeah, what
32 we're going to do -- the bottom line is this summer we'll
33 get -- we usually get one estimate for all 18 units.
34 We're going to triple that, we'll have actually three. So
35 it's pretty intensive for the next two years.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So will you be able to
38 make a decision on opening a season in July?

39
40 MR. SHULTZ: We're going to hopefully --
41 we're planning the 6th through the 20th, so by the 20th of
42 July we'll be done. And actually by the 10th we'll have
43 the first count done, the minimum count that's comparable
44 to the previous years. But my guess is there won't be much
45 going on for ram numbers, I'd be real surprised.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thank you.

48
49 MR. SHULTZ: Thanks.

50

00115

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

2

3 MR. DUDGEN: Greg Dudgen, National Park
4 Service. I have some information on visitor use in Western
5 Arctic National Parklands and I'll take a moment here to
6 pass that out. I can give you a minute or two to digest
7 this.

8

9 As a bit of background, the Chair asked the
10 National Park Service to provide better and more
11 information on what kind of use, specifically commercial
12 use, guided hunting, transporter and air taxi use were seen
13 in the Parklands. And the order in which I'm looking at
14 these, the first chart is the Western Arctic National
15 Parklands air taxi transporter information. You see we go
16 back to 1983. We have one year that's missing, didn't have
17 any information at all in 1987. But you can see from the
18 color-coding that we've got Bering Land Bridge in blue,
19 Cape Krusenstern in red, Kobuk Valley in purple and Noatak
20 in yellow. And that will give you a sense of the trends
21 for air taxi/transporters. And the reason we lumped those
22 together was that come fall time, in particular, what we're
23 seeing out there, there isn't a whole lot of difference. A
24 lot of the air taxi activity involves the support of big
25 game hunting by non-guided hunters, very similar to the
26 transporters which are essentially providing that service
27 in the fall, mid-August to say mid-September.

28

29 Any questions.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I thought we didn't have
32 any sport hunting in the Kobuk Valley and the Krusenstern?

33

34 MR. DUDGEN: The Kobuk Valley information
35 you see there is all related to taking visitors into....

36

37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Oh, floaters and stuff.

38

39 MR. DUDGEN: Exactly.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

42

43 MR. DUDGEN: We try to cover everything
44 here.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

47

48 MR. DUDGEN: This is -- the information you
49 see for Kobuk Valley is essentially people going to the
50 sand dunes.

00116

1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. How about
2 Krusenstern?

3
4 MR. DUDGEN: Krusenstern, we have
5 backpacking groups now that are starting to go over there
6 as well as some sightseers who want to see the monument.
7 But you're right, there is no sport hunting in either Kobuk
8 Valley or Krusenstern.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

11
12 MR. DUDGEN: Any questions at all on this
13 first -- yes.

14
15 MR. GREIST: I got one, on the Kobuk
16 Valley, does that include Squirrel River?

17
18 MR. DUDGEN: I'm sorry, again.

19
20 MR. GREIST: Does that include Squirrel
21 River?

22
23 MR. DUDGEN: It does not.

24
25 MR. GREIST: It doesn't?

26
27 MR. DUDGEN: No.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It's just the park.

30
31 MR. GREIST: Okay.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The Sand River though
34 and.....

35
36 MR. GREIST: Oh, okay, the park lands.

37
38 MR. DUDGEN: Squirrel River is.....

39
40 MR. GREIST: I know.

41
42 MR. DUDGEN:under BLM.

43
44 MR. GREIST: I know, BLM.

45
46 MR. DUDGEN: Any other questions? One
47 thing I should say that as of 1997, you see that for the
48 Noatak there was actually a drop in 1998. And from what I
49 know, we actually had about the same number of air taxis,
50 transporters operating. We had a few that were no longer

00117

1 -- had permits. And so we visited them and made sure they
2 were in compliance, got their permits in place, and so now
3 you can see we got a total of 10 that are operating there.

4
5 The second graph or chart I'm looking at, rather,
6 is Western Arctic Parklands, total air taxi trips and
7 clients. And what we tried to do here was just give you a
8 sense of, in 1997 and '98, how the total trips on top and
9 the total clients on the bottom compare. And you can see
10 there is an uphill trend there particularly you see it in
11 the Noatak Valley. And looking at what those numbers are
12 comprised of, the difference between the 48 trips in '97
13 and the 61 trips in '98, most of that had to do with sport
14 fishing around the Kelly River, a few more floaters that
15 are using the Upper Noatak. Taking out around Kavatcherak
16 Creek, and a few more transporter trips than we had in '97.
17 And that's the difference that you see in the numbers under
18 total clients. About half the difference, 112 in '97 to
19 200 that we've got listed or documented for '98, about half
20 the difference between 112 and 200 was made up of
21 recreational river runners. Folks who may be doing a
22 little sport fishing on the side. But primarily they're
23 floating the river, the Noatak River. Usually putting in
24 at Gates of the Arctic and taking out, either at
25 Kavatcherak Creek or maybe as far down as Cutler River.
26 The other half of that was divided evenly between a few
27 more sports fishers and a few more big game -- unguided big
28 game hunters.

29
30 Anything there I can try to help answer?

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Questions.

33
34 MR. GREIST: Yeah. Is this literal numbers
35 or is this hundreds?

36
37 MR. DUDGEN: Sorry.

38
39 MR. GREIST: Is this the literal number?

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Those are the numbers.

42
43 MR. GREIST: Not in hundreds, right?

44
45 MR. DUDGEN: Yeah, those are actual
46 numbers.

47
48 MR. GREIST: Actual numbers, okay.

49
50 MR. DUDGEN: Okay. And then lastly, not to

00118

1 take too much of your time, the final graph I'm looking at,
2 I apologize that most of us got black and white but I ran
3 out of time over lunch. The number of guided hunters, now,
4 these are the folks that are being guided by our commercial
5 big game hunting guides. And unlike the people that are
6 represented on these two previous graphs, these folks are
7 being guided by commercial operators under IBPs, incidental
8 business permits. And this is a permit that come on, come
9 all. If, for example, if somebody wants a permit to run
10 the river and we agree that he's a good operator, she's a
11 good operator and that's the kind of recreational activity
12 that is consistent with park values and purposes, anybody
13 can get that kind of permit to do that kind of activity if
14 they run a decent operation. Unlike the guided hunters who
15 are actually under contracts, concessions contracts. There
16 are only three of them in Noatak. We don't have any in
17 Bering Land Bridge, and of course there's no sport hunting
18 in Kobuk Valley or Cape Krusenstern.

19
20 And the information that you see here is provided
21 to us by the big game guides themselves in an annual
22 activity report that they have to send to me by January of
23 each year. So that's where these numbers come from. And
24 again, those numbers go back to '86 as you can see
25 beginning on the left side.

26
27 Well, I guess my question for you then would be is
28 this the kind of information you're looking for?

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

31
32 MR. DUDGEN: And what we will continue to
33 do is continue the second chart we looked at. We'll keep
34 getting that kind of information and putting it in the
35 tables and over the years, as we get more information,
36 better information we'll be able to get a better handle on
37 what kind of trends we're seeing.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: If that kind of trend is
40 -- leave a space for '99.

41
42 MR. DUDGEN: I wish we had that
43 information. All the IBF activity reports go to the
44 Anchorage office first and I haven't seen any of them yet.
45 But when we get them they'll go ahead -- that information
46 will be put in this table as well so we'll have at least
47 three years to start from then.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

50

00119

1 MS. MEYERS: Greg, I have a question from
2 behind.

3
4 MR. DUDGEN: Yes.

5
6 MS. MEYERS: Did you say that you could
7 break down on the total clients, a breakdown between
8 recreational and sport hunting?

9
10 MR. DUDGEN: The second -- if I understand
11 your question correctly, the second chart here is all what
12 we would call non-guided recreational activity. And, yeah,
13 we can break that down as to what kind of activity those
14 numbers are comprised of.

15
16 MS. MEYERS: Yeah, I guess I'd be real
17 interested to see the trend in recreational use versus
18 trends in sport hunting use and guided.

19
20 MR. DUDGEN: I can give you a sense that
21 what we're seeing and, again, since I've been on board in
22 '97, we've been tracking that pretty closely. Pete
23 Christen's done a good job with surveys on the river. And
24 what we're seeing is maybe just a very slight increase on
25 the Noatak of recreational floaters but probably not
26 statistically significant but there is a slight increase.

27
28 We are seeing, though, a few more transporters and
29 we are seeing a few more unguided big game hunters that are
30 coming in. Again, I've only got three seasons to go on for
31 that but that seems to be the trend.

32
33 Any other questions.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you very much. I
36 sure appreciate this because I did this request this a few
37 weeks ago. He said he put it together and I was glad he
38 did because I wanted to see the numbers.

39
40 MR. DUDGEN: Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody else from the
43 Park Service. BLM.

44
45 MS. MEYERS: Randy Meyers from BLM and I've
46 got some handouts for the group here. Mine aren't quite as
47 fancy as Greg's, no pretty colors.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: But we got numbers.
50 He's got a more expensive computer than you have. Go

00120

1 ahead, Randy.

2

3 MS. MEYERS: Okay. I just wanted to give
4 you a chance to take a look. These figures go back to '94
5 because I started working for BLM late in '93. But seeing
6 what Greg has done I realized that for the special
7 recreation permit figures for BLM, I can access the records
8 in Fairbanks and go back to about '88. But that's about
9 when we started issuing the special recreation permits in
10 the Squirrel.

11

12 And my information comes from monitor flights in
13 the Squirrel during the fall and from personal interviews
14 over the phone or in person with the various guides and
15 transporters and then talking with a series of Fish and
16 Wildlife protection officers, some of them who have been
17 living and working in Kotzebue or some that were detailed
18 here. And then also talking to Fish and Wildlife People,
19 Park Service people who -- law enforcement types who are in
20 and out of the squirrel and then our own BLM law
21 enforcement types.

22

23 You can see that the trends have generally been up
24 in those six years and there's actually been an increase in
25 the special recreation permit clients and a bit of a
26 decrease in the transporter clients. The actual numbers of
27 operations of permit holders, BLM permit holders, and then
28 active transporters, for the transporters it stayed pretty
29 steady between five or six each year and for our guides
30 there was a low in '94 and I'm not quite sure why. But
31 since then there's been a slow but steady increase in the
32 number of special recreation permit holders. And you can
33 see that there is a potential -- there's always, in any one
34 year some inactive guides and so, say, for the year 2000
35 there's always a chance that one of those inactive guides
36 can turn active.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: These guides that pay
39 the fee just to get grandfathered in?

40

41 MS. MEYERS: They can -- sure. And I think
42 that's -- maybe not to just get grandfathered in but say
43 maybe they were guiding from '98 through '93 in the
44 Squirrel and they're continuing to guide somewhere in Game
45 Management Unit 23 and they're paying their minimum fee in
46 the Squirrel just to keep that option open.

47

48 So I just wanted to provide you with some figures
49 and if you've got any questions.....

50

00121

1 MR. BALLOT: You got a lot of BLM lands by
2 Buckland and I was just wondering, are we going to see some
3 numbers sometime or do you need to see numbers?

4
5 MS. MEYERS: See some numbers on what?

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Buckland. The Buckland
8 area.

9
10 MS. MEYERS: Oh, oh, right.

11
12 MR. BALLOT: Buckland area.

13
14 MS. MEYERS: Right. We have one special
15 recreation permit guide in the Buckland/Tag/Selawik area
16 and he has been inactive for the last several years so
17 that's why. Sorry, I didn't mean to slight you.

18
19 MR. BALLOT: That's fine.

20
21 MS. MEYERS: Since the focus for a while
22 has been on the Squirrel, that's why I didn't include that,
23 but thank you for bringing it out.

24
25 MR. BALLOT: Thank you.

26
27 MR. GREIST: The comment I wanted to make
28 was that during the last three years the trend of caribou
29 had been arriving later, right at fall time -- it's just
30 mostly during fall, like.....

31
32 MS. MEYERS: Yes, this is late August
33 through, you know, late September.

34
35 MR. GREIST: August -- oh, okay. Because
36 we've been seeing, they've been arriving late, especially
37 the last three years, you know. And they're coming right
38 down to the Squirrel.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I think that might be
41 addressed.....

42
43 MR. GREIST: So it might be partly.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:when we start to
46 discuss the management plan or when we revisit the
47 management plan, right, we can talk about this activity?

48
49 MR. GREIST: Yeah, I'm not sure if it has
50 any relation between the two but there might be.

00122

1 MS. MEYERS: It's hard to know because I
2 mean caribou are coming down from along a broad front, you
3 know, from the North Slope and it seems like they can go
4 lots of different places and why they go.....

5
6 MR. GREIST: Oh.

7
8 MS. MEYERS:yeah, you know, that --
9 that whole thing.

10
11 The only other point I wanted to make what I don't
12 have in these figures are just general recreation use;
13 people who float the river and who are hiking and camping.
14 But I can make a general statement because I do collect
15 those kinds of figures and in any given year there might be
16 from 10 to 20 different people, so smaller numbers of
17 parties but absolute numbers of people that either come in
18 on their own or are flown in by transporters.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Raymond.

21
22 MR. STONEY: A number -- a couple of years
23 now, up there they did have four-wheelers, like four of
24 them; are they authorized to drive that thing anywhere they
25 want like way up on top of the mountains and everywhere,
26 you know, is that legal?

27
28 MS. MEYERS: It is legal to have four-
29 wheelers in the Squirrel River. And on BLM public lands,
30 BLM has the option. You can just follow the general rules
31 that are set forth, say in the Code of Federal regulations
32 which, you know, says that on public lands, BLM public
33 lands that it's fine to have four-wheelers as long as, you
34 know, a trail -- an impact doesn't start to develop. But
35 BLM also has the option, through management plans, to set
36 out zones for off road vehicles or ATVs and so you might
37 have a zone where no ATV traffic could be allowed, you
38 might have a zone where a limited amount could happen and
39 you might have a zone where it was wide open. So right
40 now, nationally, BLM is rethinking all of their ATV
41 regulations. And so there's a 90 day moratorium that just
42 started, you know, a couple of days ago on all national
43 planning with respect to ATVs. But let's just say that we
44 were in the process of working on a specific management
45 plan for the Squirrel, that moratorium wouldn't affect what
46 we did specifically for the Squirrel because we're not
47 trying to make a nationwide plan; it's just a very small
48 plan.

49
50 So if we were to enter into some new management

00123

1 planning for the Squirrel, definitely we would devote some
2 time and effort, you know, to how we would address ATVs and
3 we could have the options to set up some zones.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Kiana Traditional
6 Council did request that ATV use be stopped in the Squirrel
7 River if I remember correctly in one of our meetings?

8
9 MS. MEYERS: I remember I got a letter from
10 Vera Morris and wrote her back what our policy was, and
11 that probably is their general sentiment, that they would
12 prefer that it not be happening.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Fred.

15
16 MR. ARMSTRONG: Would it have made a
17 difference.....

18
19 REPORTER: Fred.

20
21 MR. ARMSTRONG:if there had been a
22 designation.....

23
24 REPORTER: Fred.

25
26 MR. ARMSTRONG:of the Squirrel River
27 as either wilderness or wild and scenic; would that
28 prohibit the use of ATVs and stuff like that?

29
30 MS. MEYERS: It would have helped us to put
31 some more specific management plans in place and it would
32 depend whether it was wild or scenic or recreational, the
33 designation, because there were three different kinds of
34 designations. But let's just say the most strict had gone
35 down, that it was going to be a wild river, we could have
36 done that, yes.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other questions.
39 Thank you, Randy.

40
41 MS. MEYERS: Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Before we go on to the
44 next -- before we go to the Department of Fish and Game,
45 let's take a break, 10 minutes.

46
47 (Off record)

48 (On record)

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We'll call the meeting

00124

1 back to order. We're right under Alaska Department of Fish
2 and Game, Subsistence, Susan Georgette.

3

4 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette, Fish and
5 Game. I just want to hand out the summaries from the work
6 Enoch and I did last year on the caribou harvest survey.
7 And we call it caribou harvest survey but really it's big
8 game or wildlife. And I think it started with caribou,
9 thinking that there wasn't really documentation of how much
10 harvest the villages were taking and it would be good in
11 future years if the herd declined to have some
12 documentation, the subsistence use of it. And since the
13 herd was so large now it seemed a good time to collect
14 some.

15

16 The Park Service, Manaliq Association and Kawerak
17 in Nome and the Fish and Game Department have all worked
18 together on these. And last year we only surveyed in
19 Shungnak around here, this year we've done Selawik so far
20 and Noatak and Kiana Tribal Councils have approved it as
21 well so we're hoping to do that. And it's -- I think that --
22 I mean this would come as no surprise but only less than
23 10 percent of the actual harvest is reported to the Fish
24 and Game Department on those harvest tickets and in some
25 cases it's even one percent, and so I guess I was -- I mean
26 I guess I was a little surprised that it was even that low.
27 So this has been really useful, I think, to have some
28 indication of what the use is for these villages.

29

30 That's all I had.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody have any
33 questions for Susan? Thank you. Fred. Fred DeCicco.

34

35 MR. DeCICCO: Mr. Chairman, Fred DeCicco,
36 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sportfish Division.
37 What I'd like to do is give you a brief summary of sport
38 fishing statistics for the region that I have summarized
39 here in a handout and I'll pass those around. And I'm also
40 passing around a sheefish catch and release brochure that
41 we, our division worked on with the National Park Service,
42 Gates of the Arctic staff and their subsistence committee
43 and we came up with that. It's printed, both in English
44 and in German. We understand there are a lot of German
45 fishermen that people have concerns about in the Upper
46 Kobuk. This is an attempt to begin to address some of
47 these issues that have been mentioned here today. And I
48 will pass these around to the audience, there isn't enough
49 for everyone, I'm sorry about that.

50

00125

1 Most of the statistics that I built the tables from
2 in this summary come from a harvest survey that the
3 Sportfish Division puts together each year. It's a postal
4 mailout survey to a random selection of license holders,
5 and they send out a survey and ask questions like where you
6 fish, how long you fished and on and on and what did you
7 catch? And it's about 15 or 20 pages long and then they
8 send a lot of follow ups to make sure they get compliance
9 and they publish the results each year. And that's where
10 the numbers in this -- most of the numbers come from.

11
12 In general, in this whole region, which would
13 include the Selawik, Kobuk, Noatak, Wulik and Kivalina
14 River drainages the overall sport fishing effort, it
15 bounces around a lot but it seems to be trending downward.
16 The 10 year average is about 6,350 angler days, that's --
17 an angler day is one person fishing for one day or one part
18 of a day. And use of about -- an average of 1,300 anglers.
19 And the trendward downward, in 1998, that was -- the
20 estimate was 900 anglers for about 4,350 angler days, and
21 again that's for the whole region. This is -- we consider
22 that sport fishing effort out here is really quite low.
23 For example, there is more sport fishing effort in the
24 Unalakleet River alone in a year than happens in the whole
25 region up here, to give you an idea. And that's nothing
26 compared to a lot of other areas of the state.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Can I point out one
29 thing, too?

30
31 MR. DeCICCO: Yes.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Plus the fact that these
34 numbers are inflated in a sense that we have one day of
35 sport fishing in Kotzebue and we probably get 200 people
36 licensed or a hundred people licensed to get one sheefish
37 derby, one day in the whole year that the people in
38 Kotzebue apply for a sportfish license. That's why I say
39 it's inflated because the rest of the time, you know.....

40
41 MR. DeCICCO: When they arrive at these
42 estimates they look at the entire record of sport fishing
43 licenses and they go in there and they randomly select
44 people to mailout surveys to, they don't just look at
45 licenses sold in the Kotzebue area and call that fishermen
46 in the Kotzebue area. So they try to get around that, and
47 then they ask them, they say, where do you fish and, you
48 know, maybe one in 50 of the people they send -- or one in
49 100 fished out here somewhere. If you're interested in the
50 methodology for the survey, I can get that information for

00126

1 you but I don't have it with me right now.

2

3 In 1998 the overall harvest, and I'm going to talk
4 about catch and I'm going to talk about harvest, and catch
5 is what people catch and put their hands on, some of those
6 released and some are harvested, and that would mean killed
7 and eaten or taken home or something. The average catch
8 over -- an annual catch over a 10 year period is about
9 18,000 fish. The annual harvest over a 10 year period is
10 about 4,200 fish. In 1998, it was about 3,600 fish of
11 which half were grayling, 25 percent were sheefish and
12 about eight percent northern pike, seven percent dolly
13 varden and the remaining 10 percent combination of chum
14 salmon, burbot and lake trout.

15

16 The two most important fisheries are the ones that
17 -- from our perspective of the Sportfish Division are the
18 ones that have been talked about here and are probably the
19 most -- potentially the most controversial, they're the
20 dolly varden fishing which would mainly -- is centered in
21 the Noatak, the Wulik and Kivalina Rivers. And the
22 sheefish fishing, which is primarily centered in the Upper
23 Kobuk.

24

25 I'll talk about the sheefish fishery briefly first.
26 In general, our regulation scenario that's in place was put
27 in place with the idea of keeping harvests low so we would
28 minimize conflicts with subsistence users. And I know that
29 there are use conflicts and hopefully we'll be able to
30 address those in the future working together on these
31 things. The current bag limit is 10 fish per day but
32 upstream in the Manaliq, in the spawning area it's two
33 fish a day. And many of the people that participate in the
34 fisheries, because they're either flying in and spending
35 several days or floating in a raft, they're not able to
36 keep more than one daily bag limit to take home with them.
37 Some are and some aren't. But I would guess that most of
38 them aren't.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What's the catch and
41 release per day though?

42

43 MR. DeCICCO: Well, we have some estimates
44 of that and I'll get into that. The average harvest since
45 1990 has been about 400 sheefish a day in the sport fishery
46 in the Upper Kobuk. And we've got some catch estimates
47 that I didn't summarize here but I've got them here, it
48 would be on the third page of this and again, these are
49 statistics out of the harvest survey and they indicate that
50 an average of about 1,300 fish are caught and of those, if

00127

1 you look at the recent '87 to '97 or even five year
2 average, it's around between four and 500 of those are
3 harvested. So people are harvesting about between a half
4 and a third of the fish that they catch and turning the
5 rest loose.

6
7 We've conducted -- for three years in a row we did
8 mark recaptured estimates of spawners in the Kobuk River,
9 in 1995, 1996 and 1997 and we found that in those three
10 years that the estimates were 32,000, 43,000 and 32,000
11 again in '97. Which based on what I thought was going on I
12 was surprised to see that large a number of spawners and
13 they don't spawn every year. It's likely that the spawning
14 interval is every other year so the actual size of the
15 spawning component of the sheefish population is at least
16 double any one of those numbers probably on the order of 60
17 to 70,000 in the area based on this information. And
18 again, the sportfish harvest, the number of fish killed as
19 far as we know, intentionally killed is about 400. So it's
20 insignificant and it's insignificant compared to
21 subsistence harvest.

22
23 We also did a hook and release mortality study and
24 we caught fish using single hook lures and treble hook
25 lures and then we put them in a holding pen for two days.
26 The mortality -- overall mortality rate was low and it was
27 lower than I thought it was going to be because I always
28 felt that sheefish were really sensitive to handle it, and
29 our staff was probably relatively careful when they were
30 catching them. But the mortality rate was about 2.4
31 percent, it was quite low. It was different between treble
32 hooks and single hooks but not statistically significant.
33 They used lures, which they replaced the hook with a big
34 single hook and with that kind of a lure the mortality rate
35 was 1.4 percent and with a regular treble hook lure it was
36 3.2 or it was about double but it was still quite low.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is that just -- who was
39 catching them?

40
41 MR. DeCICCO: Our crew was catching.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So these are expert
44 fishermen?

45
46 MR. DeCICCO: Well, they're people who had
47 been out there fishing for sheefish all summer.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, so you get the
50 every day floater, do you think that will be the estimate

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1 of.....

2

3 MR. DeCICCO: Well, we don't know. It's
4 likely that it would be somewhat higher and that's one of
5 the reasons why we put this brochure together to try to
6 educate.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So these aren't really
9 the true numbers then?

10

11 MR. DeCICCO: Well, that's what our studies
12 showed and that's all I can tell you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So your study is
15 incomplete in a sense that you didn't study or get the
16 numbers from the every day floater?

17

18 MR. DeCICCO: Well, no, we didn't. And it
19 would be nice to be able to design a study like that, I'm
20 not quite sure how to do it. But I'd certainly be able to --
21 be willing to work with some group in trying to design a
22 study that would get at the mortality -- hook and release
23 mortality by the average angler. But again, that was the
24 reason we put this brochure together, to try to educate
25 people on proper hook and release techniques to minimize
26 that mortality, incidental mortality.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, I was getting at
29 that because of Enoch Shiedt's comment this morning
30 regarding the Shungnak people, where the fish are getting
31 scarred and sores from the hooks that they catch.

32

33 MR. DeCICCO: Well, Rich Cannon just
34 addressed this body with ideas for proposals. This is a
35 perfect one to start working on among others. If there's
36 no more questions about sheefish right now.....

37

38 MR. STONEY: Just one question.

39

40 MR. DeCICCO: Yes, sir.

41

42 MR. STONEY: For 400,000, an estimate of
43 how many would survive?

44

45 MR. DeCICCO: We don't have estimates on
46 that.

47

48 MR. STONEY: Okay.

49

50 MR. DeCICCO: We really don't have the

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1 information. That's another component of sheefish life
2 history that's undocumented, is the early life history, the
3 survival from eggs to fry, from fry to yearlings. We don't
4 even know whether real young sheefish go. So that's
5 another suggestion for a study, an early life history study
6 of sheefish. Maybe there's some local traditional
7 knowledge about that. I know I've asked a lot of people
8 about it and talked to people about it and it's -- from the
9 people that I've talked to no one knew. And I'm not saying
10 the knowledge isn't out there but -- and from the
11 scientific side of it, we don't know the early life history
12 and the survival rates and things.

13
14 MR. STONEY: See right after spring break
15 up on Kiana the fish are about long and there'd be
16 thousands and thousands, what are they?

17
18 MR. DeCICCO: White fish and sheefish.
19 They're white fish and sheefish in combination, you know,
20 there are also many, probably millions of whitefish that
21 spawn up in the Kobuk River and all those fry -- all the
22 white fish kind of spawn in the same way and I'm sure
23 you've all seen it, they spawn near the surface and they
24 broadcast their eggs in the water column and they're
25 fertilized as they drift down and sink in the water column
26 and they stick in little cracks, if they're lucky eggs,
27 between the rocks and then they develop there and then in
28 the spring time they hatch and the merge and they drift
29 downstream, and we know that much.

30
31 MR. STONEY: Uh-huh.

32
33 MR. DeCICCO: And so those little fish are
34 very likely a combination of the four different kinds of
35 white fish and sheefish. And all of the white fish have a
36 lot of eggs but sheefish, of course, they're much bigger
37 and they have a whole lot more eggs potentially.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So on this catch and
40 release stuff, if a sheefish swallows the hook and it goes
41 under the gills, 75 percent of them are going to die?

42
43 MR. DeCICCO: If they're hooked in the
44 gills and bleeding heavily, those two things. You see,
45 with the -- I worked on a couple of hook and release
46 studies personally -- I wasn't personally involved in that
47 one although the crew that I was helping supervise was
48 doing it, I wasn't on the ground. But in hooking mortality
49 studies, generally you get mortality because of where the
50 hook is imbedded in the fish. If it's in the gills or

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1 sometimes up in the roof cavity of the mouth where it might
2 penetrate the brain but generally it's a gill or tongue and
3 the fish is bleeding heavily, most of those fish end up
4 dying. Generally it's not a large percentage of the fish
5 and it's almost a random event. I mean you can't predict
6 that. Fish that you catch on a hook, where that hook's
7 going to be. So it's something that we haven't figured out
8 a way to control for. But of the fish that are caught,
9 those that are hooked in the gills or the tongue and
10 they're bleeding severely, most of those die. And very few
11 of the other fish die. And that's kind of a generality of
12 all the hook and release studies that I know about.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

15

16 MR. DeCICCO: Moving on to char. The
17 common char around here, again, is the northern form dolly
18 varden, anadromeous fish that swims back between fresh
19 water and salt water, and the main centers of distribution,
20 the Noatak drainage and the Wulik drainage and Kivalina.
21 The harvest has remained fairly stable and it's averaged
22 around a thousand fish a year in total in all those places.
23 Average catch between 5,500 and 6,500 fish. So one in five
24 or one in six fish, in general, are harvested.

25

26 We do an annual assessment of spawners in
27 cooperation with the National Park Service. We fly around
28 and count fish from the air up in the Noatak tributaries.
29 That number has ranged between 6,500 and 12,000 fish in the
30 Noatak. I don't have as long a series of data for the Wulik
31 River. Generally, the Wulik River, there aren't a lot of
32 fish that spawn in it, there's around 1,100 to maybe 2,000
33 in a good year. This year I counted about 9,650 in the
34 Noatak but it was an incomplete survey on the Nimuioktuk so
35 the number is actually higher than that. So I felt like it
36 was a good run. It was up in probably the higher range of
37 what I've seen as far as spawners.

38

39 I also conduct overwintering counts on the Wulik
40 River. And we know that this is an overwintering group, a
41 mixed stock aggregation. There aren't just fish from the
42 Wulik River, they are from the tagging studies we did years
43 ago. We found that there are fish from all over the place,
44 all over these drainages, at Kobuk, Buckland, Noatak, fish
45 were caught up by Point Hope, fish were caught over in
46 Chikotka, fish were caught at St. Lawrence Island and even
47 down in Norton Sound. So there are stocks from all over
48 and that's the rationale behind trying to do this genetic
49 study next year to try to sort -- see if we're able to sort
50 some of that stuff out a little better.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So would that -- if
2 you're going to do the genetics wouldn't you have to it
3 over a number of years?

4
5 MR. DeCICCO: Well, it's the first shot.
6 We need to see what amount of diversity we can determine
7 using the genetic techniques that are available and that's
8 really what we're going to do next year. And if there is
9 enough discrimination in the analysis that we look at four
10 stocks from up here and four stocks from Norton Sound, and
11 we say, well, we can separate these four from those four
12 and group them together or we can separate all four of
13 these and all four of these all separate and distinct; once
14 we have that information we'll be able to say, well, this
15 is the sampling that we need to really get a handle on it.
16 We need to get, you know, every spawning stock or maybe
17 it's going to be enough, north and south of the Bering
18 Strait and maybe there's going to be no differentiation.
19 We won't know until we do the analysis, how that falls out.

20
21 The overwintering counts in the Wulik River have
22 ranged from as low as -- fewer than 6,000 fish in the early
23 1980s, there was one year '84, it was very, very low and I
24 got quite concerned to well over 100,000 fish, 140,000.
25 Last year my count was around 7,100 -- I mean 70,000 --
26 71,000 fish, there were probably more than that in the
27 river. It was a good run last year. And when it's a bit
28 overcast it's hard to see, especially the small ones. But
29 in general those overwintering counts, as a manager, they
30 don't -- I don't necessarily compare the absolute number
31 year to year to year. But I want to know if there's a good
32 run -- if there's a lot of fish or not very many fish. And
33 if it's a small number and I'm quite confident that there
34 are not very many fish in the river it's a red flag to me
35 and I go up to Kivalina and I start investigating trying to
36 figure out what's going on. Maybe the run's late, maybe
37 something happened but that's how I use those numbers. I
38 don't -- if I see 120,000 one year and only 80,000 the next
39 year, I don't automatically cry doom and say, well, you
40 know, something's going on. But if I see 10,000 the next
41 year then I get concerned.

42
43 MR. STONEY: How do you do your winter
44 counts?

45
46 MR. DeCICCO: From the air. Airplane and
47 it's just.....

48
49 MR. STONEY: In the winter time?

50

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1 MR. DeCICCO: No, it's just before freeze-
2 up.

3
4 MR. STONEY: Okay.

5
6 MR. DeCICCO: It's usually around between
7 the 20th of September and the end of the month and there's
8 just usually a window when it's overcast and sometimes
9 snowy and cold and you're beginning to get shelf ice and
10 slush ice running and then it clears off and it freezes and
11 there's about two days or three days sometimes of window
12 that I need to be there to fly to survey, and that's what I
13 shoot for.

14
15 MR. STONEY: Okay.

16
17 MR. DeCICCO: There's also a time when the
18 water level is dropping so you get good visibility. And in
19 some years the fish aren't all in by then. But usually
20 they are and usually there are large numbers of fish up
21 river.

22
23 As far as future research plans, this group --
24 well, I might say that the Red Dog Mine usually pays for my
25 overwintering surveys. They pay for a number of studies
26 that Habitat Division does on trout up on the -- in the
27 Wulik River drainage and part of those studies include my
28 over wintering counts there.

29
30 Future studies, they've been talked about here some
31 but there were two for this region that look like one is,
32 for sure, funded, the dolly varden study that I've already
33 gone over, the genetic baseline study. Hopefully for next
34 year I'm planning to expand that to include an in-depth
35 study of spawners in one system that would go on for
36 several years. And also broaden some of the genetic
37 samplings, include sampling of the subsistence harvest to
38 look for this differentiation, and we're also going to be
39 doing some work on Arctic char just to document the
40 distribution and diversity in the Noatak park. And the
41 Arctic char generally are restricted to lakes, they're a
42 lake resident fish and we're not even sure of all the
43 places where they occur, we know some.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any questions.

46
47 MR. DeCICCO: Thank you.

48
49 MR. STONEY: Of course that water -- the
50 water is being tested by chemical -- regularly, isn't it,

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1 in the Wulik?

2

3 MR. DeCICCO: At Red Dog?

4

5 MR. STONEY: Yes.

6

7 MR. DeCICCO: Yes, there's a water sampling
8 program that they sample the water at a number of locations
9 and it may be weekly or every other week but it's an
10 ongoing program.

11

12 MR. STONEY: Okay.

13

14 MR. DeCICCO: And the Habitat Division in
15 Fairbanks, Al Ott and Phyllis Scanal (ph) accumulate that
16 data and write reports, and those reports are available.
17 If you'd like to be put on the distribution list, I don't
18 know if you are or not, but they distribute it widely. I
19 know that NANA gets reports.

20

21 One more thing before I leave, in the last
22 subsistence committee meeting in Red Dog, I think Enoch you
23 were there, I was not, one thing that was brought up was
24 another hook and release related item, and Al Ott related
25 this to me, that people were concerned as to whether catch
26 and release affected a trout's ability to spawn. And it's
27 a very interesting question and another potential research
28 project that could be funded through here.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Fred. Item
33 D, Board Support. Helen, were you the one?

34

35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I don't know somebody
38 was.....

39

40 MS. GEORGETTE: That was Susan Bucknell.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Oh, Susan.

43

44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Oh, yes.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Oh, yeah, okay, her
47 report is here in writing. She gave it to us, I've got it
48 here. I mean the State is so interested in this process
49 they wanted to be here, you know, this is it. She can be
50 called if there is any questions anybody has. She's -- I

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1 think she had to get ready for some other advisory
2 committee meeting so she asked if she could just give it to
3 us in writing and I said, fine.

4
5 Selawik Refuge, other reports.

6
7 MS. KERR: Okay. I'm going to pass these
8 around, this is in response to the question this morning by
9 the RAC members. If you would take one of each and pass
10 them on.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Oh, yeah, we got them,
13 too, here.

14
15 MS. KERR: Mr. Chairman, Council members,
16 ladies and gentlemen. The first topic that I have is a
17 response to the questions posed by the Council this
18 morning. And Mimi Hogan provided the fax basically in
19 response to the question about when will we have spring
20 waterfowl hunting regulations? The management bodies are
21 being organized and they will recommend regulations with
22 input from people in the various regions. Earlier there
23 was some discussion that the management bodies will not
24 involve the Regional Advisory Committee, and apparently the
25 selected structure is one where there will be one statewide
26 management body with seven regional support groups. And it
27 says, details have not yet been cleared but we should see a
28 Federal Register notice with the details in about a month.

29
30 Once they convene the management body, they think
31 that -- they hope to get national waterfowl regulations,
32 including spring subsistence regulations that will come out
33 in September of 2001, which means that if everything goes
34 according to schedule, which, when you're talking about
35 Federal Register notices and everything else, public
36 processes, and sometimes it doesn't, but their goal is to
37 have spring hunting be legal within the regulations in the
38 spring of 2002. And meanwhile the closed season policy is
39 in effect. The brochure that I gave people, this one with
40 the red banner on the top, those are the 1999 spring closed
41 season brochures, the 2000 ones are not out yet but I
42 expect them to be similar. One of the big things that's
43 being pushed now with the closed season policy is
44 enforcement of steel shot or non-toxic shot regulations.
45 And in this brochure, in the middle section, you see a
46 number of red highlighted bullets that are the things that
47 the discretionary enforcement -- and pretty much in this
48 region it relates to things like hunting Pacific white-
49 fronted geese in the coastal areas of Western Alaska, well,
50 it says south of Norton Sound during the nesting and

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1 flightless periods. So there's a variety of things, many
2 of which don't actually apply in this region. But things
3 like wasting migratory birds using an aircraft or
4 possessing lead shot would probably be the things that any
5 law enforcement agents in this region would be looking for.

6
7 With respect to the second question about a member
8 on the Flyaway Council, Mimi's response was that the Fish
9 and Wildlife Service is recommending that an Alaska Native
10 member be appointed to the Flyaway Technical Committee but
11 it's not up to the Fish and Wildlife Service to make the
12 determination because the Council -- the Technical
13 Committee and the Council are run by the Flyaways not by
14 the Fish and Wildlife Service but Mimi is under the
15 impression that the Council is receptive to the idea of
16 have an Alaska Native sit on the Flyaway Council.

17
18 So does that answer your questions from this
19 morning?

20
21 MR. STONEY: Yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So you're going to have
24 game wardens out, uh?

25
26 MS. KERR: I didn't say that.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I mean this is what it
29 says here.

30
31 MS. KERR: What are you saying, oh, that
32 they'll be in the field?

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

35
36 MS. KERR: Well, this applies statewide.
37 Going now to.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Raymond you had a
40 question.

41
42 MR. STONEY: Yeah, I got one more question
43 on -- what's my question now -- oh, before this hunting
44 season becomes effective for waterfowl two years from now,
45 making the regulations and the bag limits, who you going to
46 deal with, with the Advisory Council or the villages
47 or.....

48
49 MS. KERR: Well, what Mimi says right here
50 is that there are going to be some kind of regional support

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1 groups but I haven't seen the details yet on who those
2 people are going to be or how they're going to be selected
3 but it's not going to be the Regional Advisory Councils.

4
5 MR. STONEY: But they would have to go to
6 all the villages, especially on Unit 23.

7
8 MS. KERR: Well, it does seem that they
9 would have to get some kind of regional representations to
10 make these regulations. So when I get the stuff in a month
11 I'll ask Barbara to send it out to all the Council members
12 as soon as it's published.....

13
14 MR. STONEY: Thanks.

15
16 MS. KERR:and then we'll take a look.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Fred, have you got any
19 -- I know your office is working with this issue.

20
21 MR. ARMSTRONG: It's going to be a mixture
22 of nonprofits and I think.....

23
24 REPORTER: Fred.

25
26 MR. ARMSTRONG: It's going to be a mixture
27 of the non-profits with the exception of some committees
28 that are in existence such as the WCC and the Y-K Delta,
29 the Waterfowl Conservation Committee. This area and the
30 North Slope are combined together and some of the regional
31 non-profits will takeover those responsibilities. But they
32 will have to have input from the tribes, that was one of
33 the stipulations.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any questions on the
36 ducks?

37
38 MR. STONEY: Now, we got to use steel,
39 right, steel pellets?

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, that's what it
42 says.

43
44 MS. KERR: Or other non-toxic shot.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

47
48 MS. KERR: Okay. With respect to the rest
49 of the Selawik report I wanted to bring to your attention
50 in your yellow packet, the last several pages, after the

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1 letter responding to Willie's letter, there are several
2 other items that we just had bound in there so they
3 wouldn't get lost. For those of you who do not have yellow
4 packets, we can pass these around, because some of you
5 don't have the yellow ones. One of the items is a letter
6 to -- that's sort of phrased to residents of Selawik and to
7 other residents of the NANA region. This is in regard to
8 the moose survey that we did last fall in the Upper Selawik
9 River, and I'd like to ask your brand new pilot biologist,
10 LeeAnn Ayers, to report on that, partly because she was
11 there and partly because she's the new biologist.

12
13 MS. AYERS: Well, I'd be glad to report on
14 it but I think a little earlier we had almost the full
15 survey crew in the room here with the exception of Ralph
16 Ramouth and Lloyd and Victor Carmen. A number of you on
17 the Council helped out on that and it was appreciated.

18
19 Quickly, the results of it was we -- for those who
20 weren't participating or having to sit in a plane all day,
21 we surveyed moose in the Upper Selawik area and kind of a
22 brief description of that, it was the area north of the
23 Purcell Mountains, including the Upper Selawik and Rabbit
24 River. In that area we -- is about a thousand square miles
25 and we counted 648 moose or estimated there to be 648
26 moose, which puts it at a density that's very close to the
27 Upper Kobuk population of the moose, and a little bit lower
28 than other areas in the region such as the Noatak and the
29 Squirrel. The ratios of bulls to cows were similar to an
30 un hunted population, 68 bulls per 100 cows. And the number
31 of calves per 100 cows was 23, which is -- and this is the
32 number going into the winter. And that's a -- I guess I'm
33 comfortable with that. That's a fairly healthy number
34 given the low mortality that's been shown in that area with
35 the radio collared study. So all in all, I think it gives
36 us a real good baseline for that upper area and it will be
37 on the books and we'll use that to compare future census
38 results, too.

39
40 And again, I want to thank everybody, it was a
41 great effort of having a lot of local people involved as
42 well as the Park Service and Fish and Game and the Refuge
43 staff and I think Mark Kepsel did an excellent job pulling
44 us all together.

45
46 MS. KERR: Did you want to also talk about
47 what you're going to be doing in April.

48
49 MS. AYERS: Okay. And as kind of an
50 ongoing study I was going to ask Bert when the next IRA

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1 meeting was in Selawik to talk about this at but we'll be
2 continuing the moose study that's been going on down there.
3 One of the things we'll be doing is removing a lot of the
4 collars that have been on the moose there and putting on a
5 few additional ones up in that area that we did the census
6 work to get a better idea of where those moose are moving
7 in relation to where hunting pressure is in that area. And
8 I think that will just about clean up or give us all the
9 information we need in that area to design these census
10 areas in the future. So I kind of see probably just
11 another year or two and then we'll be winding that study
12 totally down. But we will be out there doing some capture
13 work the first week of April.

14
15 MS. KERR: Questions for LeeAnn on either
16 of those projects.

17
18 Okay. The tables, everybody who's on the RAC or
19 who's been to these meetings before has seen these tables
20 before. This is just the latest year. We have the data
21 now for from 1993 to 1999 about the number of hunters that
22 were brought in by air taxi operators. We are missing one
23 of our air taxis that's under permit this year, has yet to
24 actually get his report in so the numbers are not quite
25 final. But there are three different charts, one is the
26 total use Refugewide. One is for the Selawik drainage and
27 one is for the Tag drainage. And what the numbers show is,
28 generally speaking the total number of hunters has
29 continued to grow. The distribution is a little bit
30 different, it looks like there's -- this last year there
31 were more hunters on the Selawik River and fewer on the Tag
32 River. The Tag data also include the hunters that are
33 dropped off in the Tag Flats so it's not just on the river.

34
35 One of the columns that you see on the data by
36 drainage is a percent moose/hunter success. And for this
37 year, that's -- you can read NA as either not available or
38 not applicable. One of the things that we're seeing is a
39 little bit of a different trend. In the past we made an
40 assumption that most of these hunters were after moose as
41 their primary target species. That assumption is becoming
42 less valid because we're seeing more people come in who are
43 actually targeting caribou. So right now it looks like the
44 hunters are going up and the percent of hunter success was
45 going down. But that's -- those numbers are sort of
46 suspect because there is a pretty big assumption there.

47
48 Again, we have just five air transporters who were
49 permitted on the Refuge this past year. We have one guide
50 that has a permit on the Refuge and he did not guide this

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1 last year. It was the first year of his five year permit,
2 he did not guide. He was kind of checking things out and
3 had some concerns because pretty much everywhere he went to
4 think that he might want to put clients there, he found
5 people there already.

6
7 So that's what I can tell you about who was doing
8 what with respect to sport hunters on the Selawik Refuge in
9 fall of 1999. Are there any questions?

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you for the
12 information we were wondering about. Thank you very much.

13
14 MS. KERR: Okay.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

17
18 MR. GREIST: This is mostly in the upper
19 portion of the Tag River, right?

20
21 MS. KERR: Yes.

22
23 MR. GREIST: Or is it the entire Tag River?
24 There are some hunters on the river itself.

25
26 MS. KERR: Well, what seems to happen is
27 many hunters are dropped up up near Derby Creek which is
28 actually on BLM land and then they float down, and some
29 float all the way down to the confluence of Tag and Selawik
30 River and get picked up there. More of them, I think, get
31 picked up further upstream and then some people, especially
32 in the last two years have actually been on lakes out in
33 the Tag Flats and have not floated anywhere. The people
34 that seem to be running into maybe a little bit of conflict
35 with local users are the people who actually make it all
36 the way down to the mouth of the Tag. And we don't find
37 that many local hunters are usually hunting in the Upper
38 Selawik drainage where the sport hunters are, again,
39 because if the water level's too low you just can't get
40 there and if the water level's a little higher it takes a
41 jet unit. So not a lot of our subsistence users from
42 Selawik really get up that far.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other questions.
45 Thank you.

46
47 MS. KERR: You're welcome.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Do we have any other
50 reports? If not, we'll move on to Item 9, election of

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1 officers. Barb.

2

3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Nominations are
4 now open for the Chair.

5

6 MR. STONEY: I nominate Willie Goodwin.

7

8 MR. SHIEDT: Second.

9

10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, Willie Goodwin has
11 been nominated, any other nominations?

12

13 MR. GREIST: I move that nominations be
14 closed.

15

16 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Nominations are closed.
17 Is it a unanimous consent?

18

19 MR. STONEY: Yes.

20

21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Willie, you can do it
22 for your own vice chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you for the vote
25 of confidence. Nominations are now open for vice chair.

26

27 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

30

31 MR. BALLOT: I move to retain Bert and ask
32 for unanimous consent.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any objection. Hearing
35 none, so ordered Bert the vice chair. Nominations are now
36 opened for secretary.

37

38 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Percy.

41

42 MR. BALLOT: I also move to retain Raymond.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is that with unanimous
45 consent also?

46

47 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there objection.
50 Hearing none, we have Raymond as secretary. That takes

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1 care of the election of officers for this year. And I'll
2 be communicating more often with the Council members with
3 the issues that come before us and I apologize for not
4 doing that with all of the issues that are before us but
5 I'll be working closely with Barb. Because I'm going to do
6 the same thing with the tribes in the region, as far as the
7 fisheries are concerned, you know, so that the
8 opportunities are there from the contract for some of the
9 work. So thank you very much.

10

11 Any other business.

12

13 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Percy.

16

17 MR. BALLOT: We were talking earlier about
18 the Buckland area's request for two State permits.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Uh-huh.

21

22 MR. BALLOT: I would like to make a motion
23 to support the request to have Buckland to have two Tier II
24 State permits.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second.

27

28 MS. WARD: Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, that's on the
31 muskox now, isn't it?

32

33 MR. BALLOT: On muskox, sorry.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. They have five
36 Federal right now and he's requesting that we approve -- go
37 along with their request.

38

39 MR. ARMSTRONG: Three Federal, two State.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, three Federal and
42 two State from Buckland. Any more discussion on the
43 motion. Ken, you going to need anything else?

44

45 MR. ADKISSON: No, I just, again, want to
46 stress one thing on that.

47

48 REPORTER: Ken.

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park

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1 Service. Just to make things absolutely clear, I guess, is
2 the reason Buckland has essentially five permits is that
3 Buckland and Deering basically got together and agreed to
4 split the total 10, 5 and 5. Now, we can take the
5 recommendation from Buckland to take two permits and put
6 those into the State program, but there's no guarantee
7 under the State Tier II program those two will come back to
8 Buckland. Those two could wind up in Deering. And if that
9 happens, we'll take, with Deering's concurrence, extra
10 Federal permits and shift them over into Buckland so
11 Buckland doesn't get shafted as far as the total number
12 goes. But that still doesn't improve their having to
13 travel to Federal public lands to fill them so -- but we
14 will work with Buckland to make sure that, hopefully,
15 people from Buckland -- enough people apply to get the
16 permits because that's one thing we found on the rest of
17 the Seward Peninsula, that success in getting State permits
18 is partially a factor of having enough people in the
19 village apply for them. So both ADF&G and the Park Service
20 will work with those two communities.

21
22 So I guess from you folks it would just be enough
23 that Buckland recommends shifting, at least, two permits to
24 the State program and if Deering comes in with a similar
25 thing then we can just get with ADF&G and move a total of
26 four. And we'll keep in touch with the Council and stuff
27 on progress.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What it does, Bert, is
30 to give the people in Buckland a better chance of getting
31 muskox because they have to travel so far to get to the
32 Park to hunt muskox right now. And this is at their
33 request.

34
35 MR. ADKISSON: And again, just so that it's
36 on the public record and we keep it in front of the Federal
37 Board and the RAC, is that, under this joint Federal and
38 State managed muskox hunt, shifting permits from the
39 Federal program into the State program is not giving up
40 Federal permits and not giving up the subsistence use needs
41 from the Federally eligible users. It's only a way to
42 improve their hunting opportunities and if it doesn't do
43 that, the Federal program can always take those permits
44 back.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ken, is there a
47 possibility that after the survey is done that this number
48 might increase for the two villages?

49
50 MR. ADKISSON; It might also go down, but

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1 yes. There will be a count that will begin about the
2 middle of next month. I guess some of the dates are still
3 in question but the last I heard was right around March
4 13th and that will be a joint interagency effort basically
5 counting muskoxen throughout the bulk of the Seward
6 Peninsula and when those results come in we'll be convening
7 a meeting of the Seward Peninsula Cooperators group to talk
8 about the results of that and look at where we want to go
9 as far as quotas and things go. The general formula right
10 now is, though, we go out and we count the number of
11 muskoxen found in a given subunit area such as southern 23
12 and then the quota is based on five percent of the animals
13 counted at that count. So if the total number go up in the
14 Buckland/Deering area so will the number of permits and
15 that's automatic. We can pretty well do that, although, we
16 could conceivably run across some limitations on the State
17 side but we'll do everything we can to make sure that
18 happens, that if the numbers go up so do the permits.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Sandy. Thank you, Ken.

21
22 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah.

23
24 MR. RABINOWITCH: And I'd actually like to
25 make sure that Ken hears this but I believe that I'm
26 correct in saying that the Seward Peninsula Council
27 supported this just last week in Unalakleet, to move -- to
28 shift permits. Maybe I'm misunderstanding something.

29
30 MR. ADKISSON: You did.

31
32 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay, I'm sorry.

33
34 MR. ADKISSON: Sandy mentioned an action
35 taken by the Seward Peninsula Council last week in
36 Unalakleet. In essence, what happened there was the
37 villages of Deering -- or Brevig Mission and Teller in
38 22(D) voted to shift up to half of their remaining Federal
39 permits into the State program, and also they voted on
40 removing a split that required distributing the Federal
41 permits between Park Service and BLM lands.

42
43 So that was kind of a separate issue from what, you
44 know, you're faced with for up here.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: It doesn't affect
47 Buckland or Deering?

48
49 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sorry.

50

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1 MR. ADKISSON: No.

2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

4
5 MR. ADKISSON: Not at all. But just so you
6 know that the program's working for those folks down there
7 apparently and they were encouraged to shift even more of
8 their permits into the State program. They, too, are faced
9 with the same problems that Buckland and Deering are in
10 terms of long distances to get to Federal public lands.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Any more
13 discussion on the motion.

14
15 MR. GREIST: And the motion, I was kind of
16 thinking about opening at least one permit for our
17 regionwide to include the rest of the villages, make one
18 floating to Kotzebue, Selawik or whomever.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I don't know how that
21 would work.

22
23 MR. GREIST: Maybe next year we'll be able
24 to do that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You mean in addition to
27 what they are getting because we certainly don't want to
28 take anything away from them.

29
30 MR. GREIST: Maybe you want to discuss that
31 with both Deering and Buckland, that we're interested.

32
33 MR. BALLOT: You mean a piece of the pie?

34
35 MR. GREIST: Yeah, for next year. Next
36 year. I would be interested in.....

37
38 MR. STONEY: One muskox.

39
40 MR. GREIST: Yeah, next year.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any more discussion.

43
44 MR. BALLOT: Question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All in favor signify by
47 saying aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: All opposed.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other business. One
6 more thing, time and place of the next meeting. You have a
7 calendar. The Barrow meeting is September 12 and 13, we
8 got to have ours on the 11th.

9

10 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No.....

11

12 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No.....

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, that's right in the
17 middle of hunting season, you know, we got to wait until --
18 I would think, either late September or -- are you taking
19 over Seward Penn, too, no, you don't.

20

21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Not right now.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

24

25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: But then I might.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Oh. Let me ask you
28 this, Helen, did you guys, the Staff goes to one of these
29 here, so you know if we had a conflict with another, like
30 Western Interior, then we wouldn't -- we got a.....

31

32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, Western.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN:priority over them
35 guys, you can come up here.

36

37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm not on Seward Penn
38 anymore but Donna's on Seward Penn.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ken.

41

42 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, I've got notes from
43 the Seward Penn meeting, just for your information, and
44 they've scheduled their next public meeting at Nome on
45 September 26th and.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I know we got a
48 calendar.

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: Oh, okay.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

2
3 MR. ADKISSON: You got it on there?

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

6
7 MR. ADKISSON: Oh, okay, I wasn't sure.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You guys want to go to
10 Nome? We got muskox problem, they said they want to have a
11 joint one with Seward Penn.

12
13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Native)

14
15 MR. GREIST: 21 and 22.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: 21 and 22, anybody have
18 a preference on those two days. 21?

19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: 21.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: 21.

23
24 MR. GREIST: 21.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Anybody except
27 more business than we've taken care of here or do you guys
28 have confidence we'll get it done in one day.

29
30 MS. KERR: Is that going to be here?

31
32 MR. GREIST: We generally do it in one day.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. Here in Kotzebue?

35
36 MR. GREIST: Yeah.

37
38 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any problems you got
41 September 21st here in Kotzebue?

42
43 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Sounds good to me.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Any other
46 business. Need a motion to adjourn.

47
48 MR. GREIST: So moved.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any objections. Hearing

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1 none, we're adjourned. Thank you very much everyone for
2 attending this meeting and giving us all the information
3 and we'll see you in September.

4

5 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

6 * * * * *

C E R T I F I C A T E

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4
5
6

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

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 State of Alaska and owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
9 certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 147 contain a
12 full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC
13 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS MEETING, taken
14 electronically by Salena Hile on the 29th day of February,
15 2000, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at the U.S.
16 Fish and Wildlife Service Selawick Refuge Conference Center,
17 Kotzebue, Alaska;

18
19 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
20 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
21 my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
22 and ability;

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

26
27 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 10th day of March, 2000.

28
29
30
31
32
33
34

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00