

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 Kotzebue, Alaska
7 March 7, 2008
8 9:00 o'clock a.m.
9

10
11 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
12

13 Victor Karmun, Chairman

14 Virgil Adams

15 Robbie Everett

16 Walter Sampson

17 Austin Swan

18

19 Regional Council Coordinator, Clifford Edenshaw

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46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC

47 700 W. Second Avenue

48 Anchorage, AK 99501

49 907-243-0668

50 jpk@gci.net/sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 3/7/2008)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Let's call this meeting to order. If you want to call roll call, please.

MR. EDENSHAW: Good morning, Mr. Chair and Council Members. My name for the record is Clifford Edenshaw. I'm the new coordinator for the Northwest Council. This morning I'll go ahead and call roll for you. Victor Karmun.

CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yes.

MR. EDENSHAW: Raymond Stoney.

(No response)

MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair and Council Members. I called and spoke to Raymond and Raymond said effectively -- I'll have to check my calendar at work, but he no longer wishes to serve on the Council and I'm awaiting a letter for his resignation. He had until roughly the end of this year remaining on his term.

MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. He does have a medical problem and that's why he's stepping down.

CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter. I understand that.

MR. EDENSHAW: Robbie Everett.

MR. EVERETT: Here.

MR. EDENSHAW: Walter Sampson.

MR. SAMPSON: Present.

MR. EDENSHAW: Enoch Shiedt.

(No response)

MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair and Council

1 Members. I spoke to Enoch about four weeks ago and he
2 conveyed to me he had some medical stuff here this
3 morning and he was going to leave a phone number here
4 to be available by teleconference, but from the people
5 here I haven't heard. Anyway, he called me and I spoke
6 to him about four weeks ago and he had a prior
7 commitment. Virgil Adams.

8

9 MR. ADAMS: Here.

10

11 MR. EDENSHAW: Austin Swan.

12

13 MR. SWAN: Here.

14

15 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. There is a
16 quorum. For the Council's information, we have four
17 seats open with Raymond's pending resignation. So
18 we're in the midst of doing interviews and hopefully
19 we'll have those four seats filled.

20

21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

22

23 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Do we
24 participate in the selection process? Can we make
25 recommendations who may sit or who we think may sit on
26 the Council?

27

28 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair and Council
29 Members. No. In the past, at least the other Councils
30 around the state used to submit letters or
31 recommendations or else there were other Council
32 Members who were slated as references for candidates,
33 but we frown upon that, so we wouldn't accept a
34 recommendation from the Council.

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: I would like to know that
37 the law says in regards to the Advisory Council and how
38 it is selected.

39

40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong.
41 Office of Subsistence Management. Back to your other
42 question, Walter. I just wanted to add that anybody
43 can nominate someone. We don't have the Council
44 officially nominate somebody, but, for example, if you
45 knew of someone you thought would be really good, you
46 can nominate a person to the Council, as can anyone
47 else. It's an open process and any individual can do
48 that. We have that in other regions where we have
49 Council Members nominating someone else.

50

1 MR. SAMPSON: What's the deadline date
2 for the closure for the applicants?

3
4 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair and Mr.
5 Sampson. The nominations period closed in January.
6 Currently we're in the midst of conducting interviews.
7 Mr. Willie Goodwin and Kyle Joly from BLM are panel
8 members and they'll be conducting interviews with the
9 members and the Federal Subsistence Board will meet in
10 May to make recommendations on those applicants and
11 forward those names to the Secretaries of Interior and
12 Agriculture and hopefully at our fall meeting we'll
13 have new Council Members for this Council as well as
14 all the others.

15
16 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Introduction of
19 guests. We'll start from the back, please.

20
21 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz from the
22 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kotzebue.

23
24 MR. STARKEY: Sky Starkey. I've been
25 working for the Bureau on the transporter issue for
26 caribou.

27
28 MR. STEVENSON: Dan Stevenson with the
29 National Park Service in Kotzebue.

30
31 MR. SCHAEFFER: I'm Pete Schaeffer,
32 chairman of the Kotzebue Fish and Game AC.

33
34 MR. KNOX: Hi. I'm Vic Knox with the
35 National Park Service up from Anchorage.

36
37 MR. GREGG: Hi. Good morning. My name
38 is Charlie Gregg. I'm with Northwest Arctic Borough.

39
40 MS. ERLICH: Good morning. I'm with
41 KOTZ radio, general manager, and I'm also a member of
42 the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly.

43
44 MR. JOLY: Kyle Joly. I'm with the
45 Bureau of Land Management.

46
47 MR. OLSON: Nate Olson, Fish and
48 Wildlife Service, Kotzebue.

49
50 MR. SCHULTZ: Good morning. Brad

1 Schultz, wildlife biologist for the Park Service.

2

3 MR. KLEIN: Steve Klein, Office of
4 Subsistence Management.

5

6 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
7 Park Service, Western Arctic National Parklands.

8

9 MS. JESCHKE: Linda Jeschke,
10 interpreter for the National Park Service in Kotzebue.

11

12 MR. HELFRICH: George Helfrich with the
13 National Park Service here in Kotzebue.

14

15 MS. GEORGETTE: Good morning. I'm
16 Susan Georgette with Fish and Wildlife Service here in
17 Kotzebue.

18

19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm Helen Armstrong,
20 the anthropologist that often works with this Council
21 from OSM in Anchorage.

22

23 MR. EASTLAND: Good morning. I'm
24 Warren Eastland, wildlife biologist with BIA and also a
25 member of the Interagency Staff Committee.

26

27 MS. APOK: Hazel Apok with Maniilaq
28 Association, natural resources coordinator.

29

30 MS. AYRES: Lee Anne Ayres, the refuge
31 manager for the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.

32

33 MR. RISDAHL: Greg Risdahl, wildlife
34 biologist with the Subsistence Management Office.

35

36 MR. GOODWIN: Willie Goodwin, National
37 Park Service.

38

39 MR. SNOW: Patrick Snow, Fish and
40 Wildlife Service, Kotzebue.

41

42 MR. HANK: Mike Hank, pilot, National
43 Park Service, Kotzebue.

44

45 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Review and adoption
46 of the agenda. Go ahead, Walter.

47

48 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. President, I would
49 like to move number 12A under other business somewhere
50 up front maybe before the proposals are discussed

1 because I think it's going to take a little time to
2 address the EIS issue. So I'd like to get that moved
3 up somewhere. And I also have another item I want to
4 introduce if I may. That can go towards other
5 business.

6
7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Is that a motion,
8 Walter?

9
10 MR. SAMPSON: That is a motion. I make
11 a motion to move 12A after the Chair's report.

12
13 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Do I hear a second.

14
15 MR. SWAN: Second.

16
17 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Second by Austin
18 Swan. All in favor.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Motion carries. Next
23 one on the agenda. Review and adoption of minutes.

24
25 MR. SAMPSON: I move for adoption of
26 the minutes of September 4, 2007.

27
28 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: There's a motion on
29 the table for the adoption of the minutes.

30
31 MR. EVERETT: I second.

32
33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: There's a second.
34 All in favor.

35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37
38 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Council
39 Member reports.

40
41 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. For the
42 Council Members and the public here, all these books
43 here, every piece of information except for reports
44 that other agencies may have, they're in these books
45 over here. Jim asked me -- he had a copy of the agenda
46 that I copied off and I only did those to make a change
47 or a correction to the Park Service's deal on the new
48 business. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49
50 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I

1 overlooked something. I meant under 12B, but we can
2 discuss A and B together.

3
4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I have no problem
5 with that.

6
7 MR. SAMPSON: I'd like to amend my
8 motion to move 12A and B after the Chair's report.

9
10 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Very well, no
11 problem.

12
13 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr Chair. Walter, could
14 you let me know what you are going to bring into new
15 business under 12.

16
17 MR. SAMPSON: There is a resolution I
18 would like to bring to the table.

19
20 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Council
21 Members, do you want to make your comments or concerns,
22 village reports, or do you just want to start on the
23 .810?

24
25 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman. I have one
26 report. After complaining I hadn't received any
27 contact from outside interests maybe, I received one.
28 A question I received by email that they wanted me to
29 bring up at our RAC meeting is a question about limits
30 based hunting. It states last spring we saw the out-
31 of-state hunters bag limit reduced from two to one
32 animals per year. The question is how long will this
33 reduced bag limit be in effect and how was the decision
34 reached to reduce the limits.

35
36 The next question was, the decision
37 based on research data or question mark. The next
38 question, how many caribou are harvested each year by
39 the following groups: northwest Alaska residents,
40 Alaska residents not from northwest Alaska and
41 out-of-state hunters. The next question, do we have
42 2000/2007 harvest numbers to report on the above
43 groups. It sounds like they're interested in how many
44 animals were harvested from northwest Alaska residents,
45 Alaska residents not from northwest Alaska and those
46 animals harvested by out-of-state hunters.

47
48 The last question, I'm also interested
49 to see how many hunters are hunting from each group out
50 of the Kotzebue hub. I think the concern was -- this

1 is a local guide here in Kotzebue that brought up this
2 question and they feel that the transporter issue is
3 hurting their business and their clients here in
4 Kotzebue and are wondering those same questions. Will
5 the reduced bag limit be in effect and for how long,
6 how was a decision reached, was it based on research
7 data or numbers. I guess they're feeling that they're
8 suffering from our concerns we had over transporter
9 issues. Hopefully those can be addressed by agencies
10 as we go through the day. Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Jim, do you have any
13 response.

14

15 MR. MAGDANZ: This is Jim Magdanz. The
16 non-resident regulations are set by the Board of Game.
17 They're not subsistence regulations. They were set in
18 November 2007. I can talk to Robbie and provide you
19 more information or during Agency reports we can bring
20 that up again, but those are state decisions.

21

22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. The bag
23 limit of one animal was set by the State Fish and Game.
24 It was two and it was the State Fish and Game
25 themselves that took it down to one.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe next year it will
28 be one hind quarter or the head.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MR. EVERETT: I think this particular
33 individual just wanted to find out how many people
34 these decisions were considering and were concerned
35 just that we don't know how many people are hunting in
36 these areas are actually from Alaska, from our region,
37 and are also from out of state. I guess they're
38 interested that those numbers be made available and if
39 we have harvest numbers to report. Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Greg.

42

43 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chairman, Members of
44 the Council. I do have some of that information in an
45 analysis I'll be giving later, but I can just briefly
46 direct you to Table 1 on Page 43. That does give the
47 information on the caribou harvest from 1999 through
48 2007. The only thing missing is subsistence harvest
49 for 2006-2007, but you'll see that on average about
50 10,000 caribou are harvested per year under the Federal

1 subsistence program. The non-local resident harvest
2 averages about 289 animals. The non-resident harvest
3 average about 276. Therefore, the total non-local
4 harvest is around 578 animals for this approximately
5 10-year period. So that's on Page 43 of your book.

6

7 MR. EVERETT: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Greg.
10 Cliff.

11

12 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. For the
13 members of the public who are here on the agenda, the
14 Council is going to address the air taxi operator, if
15 you'd just put your name and if you represent someone,
16 please put that down. It's mainly for our court
17 recorder so we have a record of that. If you want to
18 discuss any other issue, please just put that down as
19 well. And sign in. There's a sign-in sheet over here
20 also. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I do have
23 a village report.

24

25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 My name is Walter Sampson. I live here in Kotzebue.
29 There's been some discussion, there's been some
30 concerns raised at the community level here in regards
31 to hunting. With cost of living continuing to rise,
32 with price of fuel continuing to rise and with people
33 having to go further to do their hunting, it's created
34 a burden to the members of the community to have to try
35 to go out not only once but several times to go out
36 caribou hunting.

37

38 I know people who usually hunt right on
39 the Noatak, but have to hunt further above the
40 community of Noatak because they've hunted between here
41 and the Aggie for many years. This fall more so than
42 any time, some of these folks coming back with no
43 catch, which meant that they would need to go further
44 to look or hunt for caribou.

45

46 We all know that the price of fuel
47 throughout the state certainly has gone up. In
48 Anchorage now from the pump it's 3.19 a gallon. Price
49 of fuel here in Kotzebue is 4 almost \$5 a gallon for
50 gasoline.

1 With the economy of this region and the
2 economy being Red Dog for the majority of folks,
3 besides the work force within the community, school
4 district, NANA, KIC, we have many people that are
5 struggling, especially those who don't have large
6 income, some of those retired people that don't have
7 the big retirement packages like some of the folks with
8 good retirement packages today. It has an impact on
9 these people, but yet, as an agency, as a land manager
10 both at the State and Federal level, when issues are
11 brought to the table, what kind of response do these
12 people get. We're sorry, we don't control the caribou,
13 but certainly the agencies can control the people, yet
14 we do have a problem in place that reflects the control
15 of the people and that's where things are at.

16
17 As we go through the process of .810
18 analysis and the discussion on that very issue, we will
19 get more in-depth into the problems and issues that are
20 before us, but it should be clear to all of us that we
21 do have a problem that needs to be addressed with
22 people's concern at the community level. If we
23 continue to go in the direction we're going today, next
24 year or this coming fall is certainly going to be much
25 harder for people to go out and get their food for the
26 table, for their family. Much more so for some of
27 those people that really live off the land.

28
29 For you and I that work, it's easy for
30 us to go to the store and buy a package of meat, but
31 for the people that live off the land are the ones
32 being impacted by the very regulations and the process
33 that it has to go through for those that are trying to
34 live off the land.

35
36 These are the issues that I hear from
37 some of the community members. I talk to a lot of the
38 people in this community. They call and raise issues.
39 That's why I'm bringing this to the table as a report
40 from this community. As we go through the process of
41 the .810 analysis that's going through, we will get
42 more in-depth into the discussion of some of the
43 problems that are before us.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
48 Mr. Adams.

49
50 MR. ADAMS: My name is Virgil Adams.

1 I'm from Noatak. I have one concern for our village.
2 This is with moose during the spring. I work at the
3 Red Dog Mine and I fly in from Noatak and sometimes we
4 take different routes going in to Red Dog. In the last
5 two springs, especially last spring, we've seen -- I
6 can say I spotted last year three dead moose on the
7 side of a hill. We think that there is no reason for
8 them to be just dead. I worked up there for two weeks
9 and got home and went up there and looked at these
10 moose and they were shot with no snowmachine tracks or
11 anything like that in that area. We have in our
12 village talked about this and thought maybe this might
13 be some kind of baiting for bears, but surely we saw an
14 aerial shot and so we were just concerned about that
15 and we wanted to bring that up.

16
17 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Virgil.
18 Austin Swan.

19
20 MS. SWAN: I don't have any concerns.
21 I just wanted to say recently we had a meeting with Red
22 Dog and someone from NANA and the city council and IRA
23 council. Pretty much an update on their operation.
24 They presented a study on the dust studies that were
25 being done by one of the contractors. There are going
26 to be communities pushing for a pipeline to be built
27 because it would really take away heavy impact from our
28 fishing here on the Wulik River.

29
30 On another note, I just came back from
31 AWC meeting in Barrow and the whaling community is
32 working on a CAA with everybody in the village pretty
33 much in the North Slope concerning exploration. So
34 that's about it.

35
36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Austin.
37 Robbie Everett.

38
39 MR. EVERETT: I haven't seen as many
40 people out hunting this winter. I don't know if it's
41 cost of fuel, but just the snowmobile tracts up where I
42 have my camp there's not very many people up trapping
43 and there usually is a lot of trails all over. I don't
44 know if it's deep snow or cost of fuel. I was talking
45 to a few people yesterday and I think it's mostly fuel.
46 We had arctic survival and search and rescue teaching
47 out at Inupiaq Days yesterday and that's kind of their
48 feeling, that they just haven't seen as many people
49 out. There's a lot of kids out driving around, but not
50 very many people out up in that area. That's all I

1 have.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Robbie.
4 Mine, especially caribou, the most used of all the
5 renewable resources around the region, what I noticed
6 last fall during full moon where I was camped on the
7 Kobuk River, they do travel and cross the river at
8 night, but last fall seems like this was the norm. We
9 didn't see so many during the day, but you could sure
10 hear them crossing the river at night.

11

12 Bears, again. Probably one of the
13 biggest black bears I ever saw in the region was just a
14 few miles from Noorvik. As far I know, it never was
15 put down. It's still around if it's still alive.

16

17 I think for this winter it's closest in
18 my opinion to the normal winter we've had in about 10
19 years in terms of snowfall. I just checked with the
20 weather bureau and they said, yes, this is probably
21 closest to the normal snowfall we've had in about 10
22 years. Also, by the same token, ambient temperature
23 has been hanging around 20, 30 below, with the chill
24 factor down to around 50 or 60, I think stymied a lot
25 of younger guys from going out hunting. That's the end
26 of my report. Thank you.

27

28 MR. SAMPSON: That was the Chairman's
29 report?

30

31 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yes, sir.

32

33 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Before we
34 proceed to the change in the agenda item, can we go
35 back and do number five, please.

36

37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We did, I thought.

38

39 REPORTER: It's done.

40

41 MR. EDENSHAW: No, it's not.

42

43 REPORTER: Yes, agenda and minutes are
44 done, but go ahead.

45

46 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think
47 he's right. I think we just discussed the change on
48 the agenda, but we didn't act on the changes.

49

50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Do I hear a motion on

1 the floor to that.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I make a
4 motion that the changes that were posed will reflect my
5 motion.

6

7 MR. ADAMS: I second that, Mr.
8 Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you Virgil.
11 All in favor.

12

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Motion passes. I'll
16 go to number eight and we'll start with BLM, BIS.
17 Walter, go ahead.

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 I think since I requested the change on the discussion
21 on the .810, I certainly would like to hear from the
22 agency in regards to what and where they are with the
23 studies that would reflect, I believe, section .821 of
24 ANILCA, which would also reflect .810. So if BLM is at
25 this meeting, I certainly would like to hear where they
26 are with that and give us an update, please.

27

28 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.

29

30 MR. JOLY: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
31 Board Members. Kyle Joly with the Bureau of Land
32 Management. Currently we're in the final steps of the
33 Kobuk/Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan.
34 That's also an EIS statement. Where we are right now
35 is that we're reviewing protest of the plan. The
36 Borough, the Western Arctic Herd Working Group and a
37 couple other groups have protested the plan, so we are
38 reviewing those comments right now and working with
39 those groups to resolve the differences between the
40 plan and the way they want to see the plan. We expect
41 to have meetings with those groups and have our
42 Washington office go through and come out with a final
43 decision. We expect that record of decision to come
44 out in May or June of this year.

45

46 Imbedded in the Kobuk/Seward Plan is a
47 resource management plan just for the Squirrel River
48 and right now in the current draft we plan to have that
49 step-down plan done in three years. That's one of the
50 issues that is being protested. The Borough would like

1 to see that done a little faster. Initially we had
2 five years and we dropped it down to three years, so
3 that's something that the BLM is going to negotiate
4 with the Borough. So that's currently where we are
5 right now. And transporters will be addressed in that
6 step-down plan for the Squirrel River.

7

8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any
9 questions for BLM. Walter.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 I want to thank you for your report. I would like to
13 know through the process of your planning was it the
14 agencies, not an agency alone, that put together the
15 .810 analysis for the Squirrel?

16

17 MR. JOLY: The plan is just by the BLM,
18 so the BLM was responsible for the .810. Following up
19 with that, we have partnered with an interagency group,
20 Fish and Wildlife Service, Park Service, Fish and Game,
21 DNR and the Borough in part of this User 23 conflict
22 resolution group. In the next step we are working as
23 an interagency group, but the .810 that was done for
24 the Kobuk/Seward was just done by Bureau of Land
25 Management.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Thank you
28 very much for that response. I do have a problem with
29 the process of how the agencies are doing their
30 planning. I say that because I look at the process you
31 go through that would have an impact on the very lives
32 of the people who utilize the resources in and around
33 those areas that you indicated, which is the Squirrel.
34 I think the fast-track process that you're going
35 through now is something that agencies are trying to do
36 because of the outside interest that utilize those
37 lands for their purposes, which certainly is a problem
38 because it creates a problem.

39

40 Let me take you back a little bit in
41 regards to the process of the creation of some of these
42 parks, preserves, monuments and other conservation
43 units in this region. NANA was part of that process
44 during the days when it saw the need for continuation
45 of the utilization by the residents of this region to
46 utilize Federal lands. We saw that the State of Alaska
47 has another interest and that's why the regional
48 corporation and its villages supported the creation of
49 these Federal lands.

50

1 This was in the early '80s. Now we're
2 in 2008. I don't know where the agencies were when
3 these things were created. What I'm getting at is a
4 time frame which the issues should have been addressed
5 early on. Now the issues that are critical today are
6 at a point where the agency is doing its planning
7 without the consultation of those people that are being
8 impacted by these very plans.

9
10 On top of that, the communities within
11 the areas that are being planned for people are tired
12 of being planned for. Any time an agency wants to
13 address something it comes with a plan. Many times
14 that very plan will have an impact on their way of
15 life, but yet we say we have to do it. People need to
16 be part of a planning process so they can have part
17 ownership of that plan.

18
19 I think the agency needs to recognize
20 and understand that. We're in 2000. We're not in the
21 1900's. The system that we came from was a type of a
22 system that told us how we would live in this region.
23 Now that we're educated to a certain point to finally
24 realize that our way of life was being impacted then
25 because of that very problem, we said we will become
26 part and proactive in designing these things. But yet
27 that hasn't come to from the Federal agency for folks
28 to participate in a planning process.

29
30 Now you're telling me you're
31 accelerating that very analysis process. I do have a
32 problem with that. However, if it needs to be done,
33 those folks that will be impacted certainly has to be
34 part of that process. It's crucial and important
35 because if we don't get the involvement of those folks
36 that will be impacted, what's going to happen this
37 coming fall hunt with the price of fuel continuing to
38 rise is the Federal government, the State government,
39 will be willing to help folks out on that very need?

40
41 When you have control over these things
42 but yet don't ask those people that are being impacted
43 to participate in these things, what does the agency
44 think, how does the agency think that these people
45 would make their living. I'm talking more so for those
46 people that try to put food on the table for their
47 family. Those people have some of the lowest income.
48 In fact, those people that are on the poverty level are
49 the most impacted by this very process.

50

1 If we continue to go in the direction
2 we're going today, what do we do with those people, how
3 do they make their living. The burden is on them. Let
4 me remind us, if the people of this region didn't live
5 here, we wouldn't have any Federal lands. Remember
6 they're the Federal government too. You're the
7 employee of the Federal government to make sure that
8 the impacts to these people are at the least. That is
9 a reminder I would like to put on the table.

10

11 I think overall the process that's
12 being used is certainly something I have problems with
13 and I will continue to raise in a public setting that
14 very process that I have problems with. Again, we're
15 tired of being planned for. We're tired of reacting to
16 plans. It's 2008, it's not 1980. We need to
17 participate in these things so we can have part
18 ownership of these plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
21 Charlie Gregg, you had your hand raised.

22

23 MR. GREGG: I'll pass that information
24 on.

25

26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any more
27 questions for BLM.

28

(No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, sir.

31

32 MR. JOLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Next one on the
35 agenda would be the National Park Service.

36

37 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman, Members of
38 the Council. Good morning, my name is George Helfrich
39 and I'm an employee of the National Park Service. I
40 serve as the superintendent of Western Arctic National
41 Parklands. That is an administrative term for four
42 National Park Service units in this area. Noatak
43 National Preserve, Bering Land Bridge National
44 Preserve, Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk
45 Valley National Park.

46

47 The item before you is the National
48 Park Service's .810 evaluation on the issuing of
49 permits to transporters. That is those companies that
50

1 carry sport hunters in and out of the field.

2

3 Mr. Chairman, I am here at your
4 pleasure and I can either speak or listen, whichever
5 you and the Members of the Council prefer.

6

7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

8

9 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I would
10 like to hear from the superintendent in regards to the
11 process that he's gone through to do the analysis and
12 where he's at and bring to the rest of the Council in
13 regards to what he plans to do with that plan.

14

15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
16 Go ahead.

17

18 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
19 As I've said at these meetings before, the National
20 Park Service recognizes the conflict between
21 subsistence users and transporters and transporter
22 clients as one of the most important issues in the
23 region today. We are very interested in its
24 resolution.

25

26 When I've spoken in the past, I've said
27 that the National Park Service is now trying to address
28 these conflicts through education and enforcement.
29 Education - getting information out to the operators
30 and their clients about the user conflict. Enforcement
31 - having rangers out in the field to work with
32 transporters, work with sport hunters, make sure that
33 the transporters are complying with the terms and
34 conditions of their permits, make sure that the sport
35 hunters are complying with the laws.

36

37 I'd like to focus for just a minute on
38 one of our education efforts. At the last Regional
39 Advisory Council meeting I handed out this site
40 bulletin. This is something the staff put together.
41 We give it to transporters, ask them to distribute it
42 to their clients. I'm going to have to defer to Ranger
43 Dan Stevenson right now. Dan, when you were out in the
44 field last year, did most of the sport hunters you
45 spoke with have a copy of this?

46

47 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, approximately 75
48 percent of them had it.

49

50 MR. HELFRICH: So we've been giving

1 this to transporters, asking them to distribute it to
2 their clients. As you can see, it has three or four
3 important topic areas and one of those is respecting
4 local traditions. Ask your pilot about places where
5 local people traditionally hunt and ask to be dropped
6 off somewhere else. Allow caribou to establish a
7 migration route before you start hunting. Let the
8 first herds pass through that area to establish the
9 route for the herds that will follow, then begin your
10 hunt. Finally, ask your pilot to drop you off in an
11 area with no other camps nearby.

12

13 Now, I can't speak to how much this is
14 affecting the behavior of transporters or their
15 clients, but it is one of our efforts to education
16 people who are coming up to this region about local
17 traditions. So that is what we did last year. We're
18 going to continue doing it this year.

19

20 Another thing we're going to do this
21 year -- and Mr. Chairman, can I ask the Council's
22 indulgence to show a short video that we put together.

23

24 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What is the Council's
25 wish?

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: Interested.

28

29 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, sir.

30

31 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you. Let me
32 introduce Linda Jeschke. Linda is an interpretation
33 ranger with the National Park Service and she and a
34 member of her staff have put together a short video.
35 We are giving this to transporters and hunters and
36 guides. Again, we are asking them to distribute this
37 to their clients.

38

39 (Videotape playing)

40

41 MS. JESCHKE: The sound was okay. I
42 apologize that the video footage was a little jumpy,
43 but it actually works fine in laptop computers and DVD
44 players. My laptop was just a little cold this
45 morning.

46

47 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you, Linda.

48

49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other questions
50 of National Park Service.

1 MS. APOK: I have one.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead.

4

5 MS. APOK: Good morning. My name is
6 Hazel Apok. I'm the natural resources coordinator for
7 Maniilaq Association. Following Walter's question
8 about where the National Park Service is, I submitted a
9 bunch of comments and have a lot of questions to ask
10 and I'm wondering when the Park Service is going to
11 answer some of the questions that I posed.

12

13 One of the things is that the Park
14 Service has to determine the amount of public lands
15 necessary for this transporter and all that I've seen
16 in your evaluation is how many acres you manage and how
17 many acres there are. You didn't specify how much
18 acreage is needed just for the transporter. I've posed
19 a lot of other questions and I'm wondering when I
20 should expect an answer.

21

22 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. I'm ready
23 to speak to those items now. I'm also ready to speak
24 to Mr. Sampson's question about the .810 evaluation and
25 the process of how we went through it.

26

27 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What is the Council's
28 wish?

29

30 MR. SAMPSON: I'd like to listen to the
31 report, please.

32

33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Proceed, please.

34

35 MR. HELFRICH: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
36 Chairman. As I said the National Park Service
37 understands that user conflict is perhaps the most
38 important issue in the region right now and we are
39 determined to address it through education and
40 enforcement. I just gave you all a couple examples of
41 our education efforts to speak to enforcement.

42

43 In 2007, we had four law enforcement
44 rangers out in the field during the sport hunting
45 season. They contacted sport hunters and also
46 subsistence users by boat, fixed-wing aircraft and also
47 helicopter. They visited over 70 camps in the field
48 and spoke with over 150 hunters in the field. What did
49 they do? They talked about the issues that we bring up
50 in this site bulletin and also in the video, checked

1 their licenses, made sure that they weren't wasting any
2 animals. In short, made sure that they were aware of
3 the conditions in the field and also were complying
4 with the laws.

5
6 Now I know that you all invited me here
7 to speak to the .810 analysis, so that's what I would
8 like to do now, Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Please proceed.

11
12 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you, sir. To
13 begin with, let me say what an .810 analysis is or let
14 me start off by saying what ANILCA Section .810 is.
15 Section .810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands
16 Conservation Act requires that we do an evaluation on
17 the effect of subsistence users before we issue a
18 permit for any activity.

19
20 So, for example, let's say that
21 somebody proposed to build a lodge inside a National
22 Park Service unit. Before we could give them a permit
23 to build that lodge we would have to do an evaluation
24 of the effect of that building on subsistence uses.

25
26 In the case before us right now we are
27 about to issue permits. Let me note we have not issued
28 any permits yet, but we are about to issue permits for
29 transporters. Again, those companies that fly sport
30 hunters into the field. But before we issue those
31 permits we're doing an evaluation of the effect on
32 transporter operations and closely related sport
33 hunting on subsistence uses. That's what ANILCA
34 Section .810 requires, that we look at the effect of
35 that activity we're going to permit on subsistence
36 uses.

37
38 Why are we doing this. The answer is
39 it's our obligation. We recognize that the law
40 requires that we conduct this evaluation before we give
41 out permits.

42
43 Let me start off by clearing up a
44 couple misconceptions. First of all, this .810
45 evaluation has not been signed. We do have a draft
46 .810 evaluation in circulation and I have copies of it
47 here for all the members of the Council. So what we
48 have is a draft evaluation and we have sent it out to
49 the Northwest Arctic Borough.

50

1 Willie, I have to ask, have we sent it
2 to the SRC members yet?

3

4 MR. GOODWIN: Yes.

5

6 MR. HELFRICH: Okay. We've sent it to
7 the SRC members. I'm presenting it to you all now.
8 Also I've spoken with the Borough Assembly a couple
9 weeks ago at an Assembly meeting about the evaluation.
10 I have spoken with the Kotzebue IRA about the
11 evaluation. I attended a village meeting in Noatak
12 last week with the mayor about the evaluation. Also,
13 the evaluation is in wide circulation. Ms. Apok, I
14 believe Maniilaq got a copy.

15

16 MS. APOK: Correct.

17

18 MR. HELFRICH: So we have this out in
19 circulation. Now why did we put it out in circulation.
20 Because we want the evaluation to be as good as it can
21 possibly be. There is no requirement for a public
22 process on an .810 evaluation. The law does not say
23 that the evaluation has to be drafted and put out for
24 comment. It is an agency decision, an agency
25 evaluation. Nevertheless, in the interest of making
26 the best possible decision, in the interest of making
27 the best possible evaluation, we have sent it out to
28 numerous people and I want to go over it with you all
29 today.

30

31 So, it is still in draft. It has not
32 been signed. Similarly, we have not issued any permits
33 to transporters yet. We have started to get
34 applications for permits, but we have not issued any
35 permits yet.

36

37 Then we get to two very important
38 items. One, the evaluation does not say that
39 transporter operations and related sport hunting don't
40 impact subsistence uses. It does not say that. We
41 recognize that transporter operations and related sport
42 hunting definitely have an effect on subsistence users
43 out in the field. Finally, the NPS, the National Park
44 Service, is committed to addressing that conflict in
45 the field.

46

47 Yes, ma'am.

48

49 MS. ERLICH: I'm going to be asking as
50 an Assembly member, Suzy Erlich. At the presentation

1 you made -- I'm assuming because you read a statement
2 in there that said that for the entire parks you're
3 responsible for that there was essentially no impact
4 because of the 24-hour a day, 365 days of use over the
5 whole park that there was no impact at all, but you're
6 saying then that somehow you've made a change
7 somewhere. In the language?
8

9 MR. HELFRICH: Suzy, actually what I
10 said at the Assembly is that we did not come to a
11 finding of significant restriction on subsistence uses.
12

13 MS. ERLICH: I'll go back and take
14 another look at it.
15

16 MR. HELFRICH: Yeah. And I get to that
17 in a couple sheets. And I don't mean to be long-
18 winded. I hope this is what the Council is interested
19 in.
20

21 So how do we do this evaluation. I
22 talked about what an .810 evaluation is. This is a
23 look at the effects of an activity on subsistence uses.
24 How do we do that evaluation. The law doesn't give a
25 lot of guidance. It just says the agencies are to
26 conduct an evaluation. By policy, we look at three
27 factors: the potential to reduce populations,
28 restriction of access and increase in competition.
29 These are the three factors that we use when we do an
30 evaluation.
31

32 How do we look at this reduction in
33 population. We look at a reduction in numbers, we look
34 at a redistribution of resources and we look at habitat
35 loss. So, under number one we look at three factors,
36 then we look at number two, restriction of access, then
37 we look at number three, increase in competition.
38

39 MR. SAMPSON: You don't consider in the
40 process of the evaluation the impacts of the users?
41

42 MR. HELFRICH: These are the criteria
43 that we are meant to use to look at the impact on uses.
44 These have been in place since the 1980s. If you look
45 at the .810, you can see our discussion of each one of
46 the effects of transporters on subsistence uses
47 according to those factors.
48

49 The real heart of this evaluation
50 starts on Page 3 where you see VII on Page 3,

1 subsistence uses and needs. So this is the heart of
2 the evaluation. To synopsise, this is what the
3 evaluation says. Transporters operations and related
4 sport hunting don't reduce the number of animals or not
5 to any appreciable extent reduce the number of animals.
6 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd is somewhere between
7 490-510,000 animals. Sport hunters -- Greg, you
8 mentioned a chart.

9

10 MR. RISDAHL: Yes.

11

12 MR. HELFRICH: Sport hunters take.....

13

14 MR. RISDAHL: 250 caribou per year.

15

16 MR. HELFRICH:250 caribou per
17 year. So they're just not taking an appreciable number
18 of animals. So we say that transporter operations and
19 related sport hunting don't reduce the number of
20 animals.

21

22 We also say that they don't cause
23 habitat loss. Let me explain that a little bit and to
24 go back to my example of a lodge. Let's say the
25 National Park Service was going to give a permit to
26 somebody to build a lodge. That lodge and the
27 surrounding areas would take land out of habitat. It
28 would reduce the amount of land available for animals.
29 Transporters and sport hunters don't build anything, so
30 they're not taking any land out of habitat. All the
31 land is still available for the animals to use.

32

33 Also, transporter operations and sport
34 hunting don't restrict access. Now, there's some
35 discussion about this because I fully appreciate that
36 subsistence users don't feel comfortable or may not
37 feel comfortable going into a place where there are
38 sport hunters, but there's a legal definition for
39 restriction of access when we do this evaluation and it
40 is will the permitted activity either create a physical
41 barrier or a legal barrier to subsistence users. So
42 this permitted activity doesn't create any physical
43 barrier and it doesn't create any legal barrier. So
44 it's not as if they can put up a fence, a physical
45 barrier, to cut off subsistence uses, and it's not as
46 if they get a land assignment that would disallow
47 subsistence users to go into the area. So there's no
48 legal boundary, there's no physical restriction and
49 there is no legal restriction. But does that mean that
50 this permitted activity is benign? No, it is not and

1 we recognize that.

2

3 The .810 analysis goes into detail
4 about how this activity may redistribute caribou in the
5 fall. There's a long discussion on Pages 3 and 4 about
6 this redistribution issue. I have been to multiple
7 meetings and heard subsistence users talk about
8 transporter operations and sport hunters and the way
9 sport hunters hunt cause the animals to disperse across
10 the landscape and that creates an impact on subsistence
11 users that they are no longer able to take the animals
12 in the places that they have historically taken them.
13 So we recognize this may be happening.

14

15 On the other hand, as I think all of us
16 would recognize, caribou migration is complicated and
17 it could be affected by the number of animals, the
18 availability of food, the type of weather. Lots and
19 lots of other factors may be causing this
20 redistribution of animals across the landscape.

21

22 The last thing, we recognize that this
23 activity does increase competition, not so much for an
24 individual animal because, as we just talked about,
25 there are probably 500,000 animals in the herd, but it
26 certainly creates a competition for places to hunt and
27 times to hunt and that's discussed in this evaluation.

28

29 Mr. Chairman, how am I doing? Am I
30 talking too much?

31

32 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Continue, please.

33

34 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you. So this is
35 the draft finding. There's not a reduction in numbers,
36 there's not a habitat loss, there's not a restriction
37 on access. There may well be a redistribution of
38 animals and there is an increase in competition for
39 hunting places and hunting times.

40

41 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Robbie.

42

43 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman and
44 Superintendent Helfrich. A question here, Robbie from
45 Kotzebue. Were these draft findings anecdotal evidence
46 or research data driven?

47

48 MR. HELFRICH: Well, the reduction in
49 numbers is based upon research.

50

1 MR. EVERETT: Research.

2

3 MR. HELFRICH: The habitat loss is just
4 by the nature of the activity. Transporters are not
5 taking any land out of habitat. Restriction on access
6 is just by definition. The transporters and sport
7 hunters don't create any legal or physical barriers to
8 subsistence users. May we distribute caribou is based
9 on what I have heard from the community members and, as
10 I said, there is a whole page of testimony from people
11 like Mr. Sampson and Mr. Karmun. And then increase for
12 competition is based on reports that, for example,
13 Ms. Georgette did and Eileen Devinney of our staff did.

14

15 MR. EVERETT: So, on bullet 4 and 5
16 then, if there is so much interest and evidence
17 possibly supporting those two, would that merit doing
18 more research to actually have research data to support
19 this draft rather than kind of go with what we've heard
20 and have something then to have actual numbers to
21 support that?

22

23 MR. HELFRICH: Well, sure, there's
24 always interest in collecting more and better
25 information. We have to base this draft on the best
26 available information, so I relied on testimony from
27 subsistence users, I relied on research from people
28 like Susan Georgette and Eileen Devinney.

29

30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

31

32 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I guess to
33 continue Robbie's question here. In regards to data,
34 was there any data that you utilized from the state of
35 Alaska or has there been any studies by the agency
36 previously on some of the information or data that you
37 utilized?

38

39 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Sampson. Certainly
40 we got this information about reduction in numbers from
41 the State. This information we got primarily from
42 subsistence users, testimony that, again, people like
43 you made at Board of Game informal meeting here in
44 November of 2005. This information we got from a
45 report that Susan Georgette did when she was an
46 employee of the State and also what Eileen Devinney of
47 the National Park Service did. Eileen is a cultural
48 anthropologist. She looked at users conflicts in the
49 Kobuk River. I believe that was the title of her
50 report.

1 So, yes, we did use some State data and
2 we did use some agency information.

3
4 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I want to
5 question. If I remember sometime back in the late '70s
6 or '80s somewhere, I believe there was some data that
7 was gathered. I don't know anybody from the agency
8 that would sort of refresh my memory a little bit. I
9 think there is some data reflecting back to the '80s or
10 '90s, somewhere in there. Does anybody from the
11 Federal agency have data in regards to those studies
12 that were done, Ken or Brad? Sort of refresh my memory
13 a little bit. The reason why I'm asking, to me, this
14 is anecdotal. This is hearsay stuff. What I'm leading
15 to is information or data that might have been gathered
16 sometime back. I remember there is some information
17 pertaining to that information.

18
19 MR. SCHULTZ: Brad Schultz, wildlife
20 biologist for the Park Service. I'm unaware, Walter,
21 of any studies that ask these specific questions
22 pertaining to caribou migration especially that have
23 been done in this region in terms of changing migration
24 patterns, but that doesn't mean they don't exist. I'm
25 unaware of them.

26
27 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Ken, do you have
28 any knowledge of any?

29
30 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, Council
31 Members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. The
32 only formal studies that I'm aware of are some of the
33 things that were done on the Kobuk River and then Susan
34 Georgette's aircraft use report that was done for the
35 Noatak. I believe there was some other Park Service
36 data collected from the Noatak, but I don't recall
37 really seeing that. Maybe Brad might have some
38 recollection of that from his time up here.

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.
41 I think that's what sort of ran through my mind in
42 regards to some data on those things. Through the
43 process of your planning, you did not utilize some of
44 that information then?

45
46 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Sampson, I used the
47 only information that I was aware of, but this is a
48 draft evaluation and if there's more information
49 available, we'll use it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
2 Go ahead, Robbie.

3
4 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman and
5 Superintendent Helfrich again. A couple points. I
6 guess I heard a lot of concern from people that I know,
7 community members, about this. I, of course, didn't
8 grow up here, but I've now been here about a quarter of
9 my life, so I'm not the expert, but two points that I'd
10 like to make. Sport hunters do not hunt where
11 subsistence hunters hunt. From my experience here, I
12 don't own a boat now but I did the first few years of
13 my residency here in Kotzebue. Most of my friends from
14 Kotzebue hunt along the waterways and I very rarely saw
15 anyone hiking more than a mile from the waterway to
16 catch caribou.

17
18 However, sport hunters have access to
19 aircraft and they're being dropped off at locations
20 that pilots can land, gravel bars, inland, quite a bit
21 more from the big waterways and that's a concern
22 because the caribou migrate, from my experience, not
23 unlike the low of the Noatak River. My first year here
24 I floated from maybe 15 miles above the confluence of
25 Wrench Creek and the Kelly and I was often floating
26 through trees according to my GPS because the last
27 survey I think was done in the '60s and the river has
28 changed. The caribou end up not unlike the sandbars of
29 the mouth of the Noatak either. I mean if you were to
30 plot a sandbar so you don't hang your boat up, don't
31 count on it being the same place the next year.

32
33 So I guess just hearing what people
34 have told me, the concern is that even though they ask
35 their pilot to drop them off where there's no one else,
36 where that diverts that flow of caribou is what I think
37 people are concerned about and where that flow of
38 caribou end up is going to change from where they
39 historically have had their hunting camps along the
40 river. I think that's where I've heard the grumblings
41 from people. This is where grandpa did it and this is
42 where I've done it and this is where I'm going to teach
43 my kids to hunt. If you've ever walked back up Nap
44 Creek a little ways, you see lots of skulls from
45 ancestral hunting areas right there where the caribou
46 have come down through there. I haven't heard of a lot
47 of people catching caribou there lately, but I know
48 that there has been because you can find the evidence,
49 the skulls on the ground and the antlers.

50

1 So I guess I would just like to maybe
2 make the analogy that these are not unlike the Noatak
3 River flow. They do change for various reasons,
4 whether it's the amount of water coming down, global
5 warming. The caribou do change, but I think that
6 bullet No. 4 is maybe the really critical one here, is
7 how much do these sport hunters that are being dropped
8 off in very isolated areas, but they're not accessible
9 by boat or by hiking. So the traditional use people
10 are not going into those areas, but where those hunters
11 are may have a big impact on that redistribution.
12 Whether the community members' concerns are founded or
13 not, it would be nice to have data to say it is or
14 isn't rather than just saying it doesn't seem to be.
15 Once again, I was floating through trees and it didn't
16 seem to be. I was in water, but it was telling me I
17 was going through trees.

18
19 I guess I'm long-winded myself, but I'm
20 trying to come to some common where we have definite
21 concerns.

22
23 MR. HELFRICH: Robbie, you're correct.
24 It's bullet 4 and 5 that are the most important.

25
26 MR. EVERETT: I don't think there's any
27 argument that I've heard from anyone on the reduction
28 of animals because, obviously, the numbers, according
29 to Page 43, aren't significant compared statistically
30 with subsistence harvest of over 10,000. I don't think
31 anyone other than the trash that seems to have -- I've
32 heard of much better and I have heard a lot of positive
33 things about this on habitat loss and the restricting
34 access, I don't think they're hunting the same
35 geographic location, so I haven't heard that.

36
37 MR. HELFRICH: I would disagree with
38 that because as Ranger Dan Stevenson would say he often
39 finds sport hunters in areas that subsistence users
40 traditionally hunt. For example, along the Aggie
41 River. Would that be correct, Dan?

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

44
45 MR. HELFRICH: And along the Kelly
46 River. But what I try and do is justice to the
47 knowledge that we do have from subsistence users that
48 the way sport hunters hunt is causing the caribou to go
49 to different places. I do as much justice to that
50 argument as I can.

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Pete. Come
2 to the mike, please.

3
4 MR. SCHAEFFER: Mr. Chairman. I did
5 fill out one of these things to speak, but I'm not sure
6 when it was appropriate.

7
8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: This might be a very
9 good time, Pete.

10
11 MR. SCHAEFFER: Okay. My name is Pete
12 Schaeffer and I'm the chairman of Kotzebue Fish and
13 Game Advisory Committee and I've been on that body
14 since the late '70s or so. I'd like to point out
15 several things that I think significantly impact the
16 process that's going here. I don't think that when
17 ANILCA was written -- I was looking at the
18 Congressional Record of some of the discussion when it
19 was put together that they anticipated global warming.
20 Now I think in terms of what's happening is that the
21 caribou and I think people generally agree that the
22 migration has been significantly impacted by the fact
23 that the falls are no longer as cold as they used to be
24 for any length of time. We now have a rainy season
25 that seems to dominate late September to October clear
26 into freeze-up because now the other phenomena is that
27 over the last several years freeze-up has actually come
28 from the south instead of north. So weather impacts I
29 think have significantly altered the issue of caribou
30 migration.

31
32 I don't know what planet the Park
33 Service lives in, but basically what I'm saying is that
34 I have significant concern about some of their findings
35 because I think one of the observations we had, and
36 Walter may share that with us and several others, is
37 that over the period of time since the Park Service has
38 been here that we've had probably six superintendents
39 here and we've taken significant efforts to try to
40 educate them in terms of understanding the nuances of
41 the importance of subsistence use, the importance of
42 having access and reasonable access, which is actually
43 guaranteed in Federal law to subsistence resources.

44
45 I believe where we're headed in this
46 whole discussion is that -- you know, I appreciate the
47 effort that had gone into the little clip that we saw
48 earlier, but the practical matter is that when you get
49 on the ground where the action is, is that it's much
50 different. I think it's reasonable to assume that

1 hunters will go where the caribou are whether you're a
2 subsistence hunter or a transporter. I think that's
3 what's happened is that the distribution has been such
4 that it's redistributed people in terms of having our
5 favorite hunting places that were generations old now
6 being circumvented by the periphia of hunters that
7 don't really give a damn.

8
9 I think another significant thing has
10 already happened and I think those transporters from
11 Texas and from wherever are not here and I really
12 regret that because they're not here to hear what is
13 really happening in terms of their impacts, inadvertent
14 or on purpose, about what's really happening with
15 caribou and caribou migration. Coupled with the fact,
16 as I mentioned earlier, we now have weather phenomena
17 that we now have to deal with.

18
19 Over the years I think there has been
20 some mention of significant social impacts of what's
21 happening in relation to particular caribou migration.
22 I think moose is great, sheep is nice, but I think the
23 main animal of concern here are caribou. I bring up
24 the issue of calendar because the caribou bull is the
25 sought after animal by the subsistence hunter. And I
26 hate that damn word because I think it's a traditional
27 practice to go after the fatter bulls because we use
28 the fat. I know that sport hunters and people that
29 don't give a damn I think they wonder why we're so
30 attached to it. Well, it has significant culture
31 occurrences attached to it. The fat is used for some
32 relief from very fatless animals and fish and it's used
33 for some of the traditional fixings of our way of doing
34 things of which is a cultured taste and we admit
35 that.

36
37 For a person coming out here, they
38 don't use beef fat because I think the healthy trend is
39 you avoid that stuff with a 10-foot pole because they
40 found out that's not really healthy for you. Well,
41 what I'm saying up here is things are different. I
42 think Walter and Vic and those that are active hunters,
43 and Austin and everybody else here that are active
44 hunters out in the field, purposely target that animal,
45 but come mid-October when the caribou finally start to
46 move, it's almost already too late.

47
48 I know that the reindeer -- let me
49 rephrase that. I know that the caribou with a lot of
50 reindeer in them tend to rut a little earlier than the

1 real caribou and I differentiate
2 the two because it brings up another important point.
3 I think those hunters that come up here don't
4 understand that in the turn of the century we had
5 reindeer herds up here to supplement some of the scarce
6 caribou and then we've even identified that there are
7 different caribou that used to live here that are very
8 big that just don't exist anymore. We see traces of
9 their ancestry with some of the big bull caribou.

10

11 I have heard that over the years from
12 some of the traditional hunters such as my old man and
13 some of the elders that have now passed on, I think
14 we've only got maybe two left of those people, that had
15 to go a long way to make their needs met.

16

17 Now, with global warming and the effort
18 of trying to educate Park Service people, is a direct
19 result of what I think we're having now, this
20 significant disagreement. If you look at the law
21 itself, it doesn't require public input into the
22 process. You can duck your head into a Federal agency
23 and hope they do a good job of it, but I think lately
24 we've been seeing some alienation by not only the Park
25 Service but Federal agencies.

26

27 I'm not sure what the hell is happening
28 in Anchorage or maybe beyond Anchorage, but I will say
29 that with issues peripheral to that, like local hire,
30 like the intent, I think, of what was in some of the
31 sections, I think .1305 or something, because we had a
32 meeting with Deborah Williams years ago about the issue
33 of local hire. We pressed the issue that with all due
34 respect to some of the lower classes of job, I think
35 with Willie and some of the others finally beginning to
36 enter some of the management, I think the intent of
37 that was to provide opportunities for local residents,
38 a/k/a Natives, to be in management, but I think the
39 Park Service has failed miserably not only in fostering
40 that career pathway or possible one, but I think in
41 terms of what's happening in our educational system,
42 such as the Tech Center no longer carrying any kind of
43 natural resource program, nobody's really interested in
44 long-term employment with the Feds. Not to mention
45 that generally starting with Feds you start off with a
46 real low pay scale and then it's 30 years after being
47 in there that you get promotion and then a reasonable
48 salary at the end of that.

49

50 But getting back to my point about the

1 original writings of ANILCA does not take into
2 consideration significant impacts that are now weather
3 oriented today. I think the other problem is that --
4 we were hoping that within the partnership between the
5 local community and National Park Service that we would
6 have accelerated the learning curve a little bit
7 despite the fact -- and I'm not pointing you out,
8 George, personally, but I'm saying that in our
9 observation over the years of different superintendents
10 and their different styles of management, such as
11 Eliason, Tingey, Dave Spertis, and he was a fine
12 person, that I think now I'm beginning to understand
13 maybe why it was they were so anxious to leave when
14 they started to have to deal with this kind of stuff
15 that was technically required.

16
17 I impress upon the notion, and Walter
18 brought it up a little bit, that we're not burdened
19 with trying to convert anecdotal knowledge into
20 scientific knowledge. To us, that's one tough task
21 because it shows -- when we went before the Board of
22 Game before, we had to deal with that because the other
23 question they'd ask if we'd provide information to the
24 Board was where is the scientific data to accompany
25 what you're saying. Well, that points out to us that
26 there's no respect for Native observation. That's been
27 around for a hell of a lot longer than all of the
28 scientific data, although much appreciated, is slow to
29 come and very thorough in its processes so that we have
30 -- and I've been to Juneau and I've gone to the Fish
31 and Game office and I've seen all of the technical
32 papers that were written and essentially my impression
33 was why is such knowledge just sitting there gathering
34 dust. To my knowledge, and I even asked Bob Wolfe
35 that, who was the director of that department, how many
36 of those technical papers are used by the public and
37 his answer was basically virtually none.

38
39 So I'm saying that while we have that
40 scientific data, our term of anecdotal knowledge goes
41 back generations. I can tell you that as an example
42 when we've had negative contact with enforcement
43 people, primarily clear back into the '40s, into the
44 '30s, and clear back to 1915 when Sams wrote a letter
45 trying to defend four Natives that were caught selling
46 caribou to miners. What do you do in those kinds of
47 cases where those kinds of conflicts were basically
48 driven by the personality of the enforcement people.
49 We've seen not only enforcement by personality in the
50 State Troopers, in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out

1 of Fairbanks and the brown-suiters, until lately where
2 blue-suiters were included, but I understand it's now
3 being separated back. Every one of those episodes is
4 passed on to generations in great detail and it was for
5 a purpose. The purpose was for people like us that
6 didn't know the law that what, in fact, reinforced was
7 that you have driven it underground. You've made it an
8 underground activity.

9
10 Another example is when, in all the
11 wisdom of the State, and we disagreed vehemently with
12 the number of 75,000 back in '76 and then Mr. Grovogal
13 (ph), the head biologist that put that thing together,
14 basically went from village to village until he ran
15 into Ray Jackson up in Noorvik who fixed him, and he
16 jumped in his plane, took off for Nome and was never
17 seen in this region since.

18
19 What I'm saying is that within the
20 confines of agency think tank or something, what are
21 you doing up here in terms of trying to provide some
22 avenue of input that's reasonable. I mean it's
23 centuries old. Some of it has gone from father to son
24 and usually it's from grandparent to grandson because
25 some parents are too busy now having to make a living.

26
27 So my question is, when you put up
28 there doesn't restrict access, I don't agree with that.
29 Doesn't cause habitat loss. Well, to the hunter on the
30 ground, waiting in the boat where gas costs 8 bucks a
31 gallon or whatever it is, and then airplanes buzz the
32 herd trying to get the herd to go over to where their
33 hunters are, I think that's an issue of habitat loss or
34 at least habitat modification.

35
36 As we go through this .810 analysis, I
37 always wonder where we fit into the process because I
38 come to suspect that based on what I said earlier that
39 groups such as the advisory committee I'm on, the
40 Regional Advisory Council, sometimes we're not even
41 advisory, we're just a decoration to fit into the
42 process. Let me tell you, the reason we cancelled the
43 Subsistence Resource Commission meetings for Cape
44 Krusenstern and Kobuk Valley was simply because we had
45 a real beef with how the agenda came out. That is that
46 if it's presented to us as a fixed item and we have no
47 input into it, then we're going to automatically
48 reschedule the meeting because that's not the way it's
49 supposed to be.

50

1 Anyway, what I'm trying to say is that
2 I think within the confines of agency and within what
3 needs to happen is subsistence hunters have to now
4 adjust to major changes, I'm telling you that since the
5 Osichuck case -- prior to that all we had to deal with
6 were the guides in their areas and then the loophole of
7 the transporters come up, basically what they do is
8 totally anti-management, period. I mean they hygrade
9 entire drainages. For those of you that don't know
10 what hygrade is, that means you go out and kill the
11 moose with the biggest horns, the caribou with the
12 biggest horns, until you deplete it and then you move
13 to another drainage.

14
15 Finally, as a last item, I want to
16 speak to the conflict of users and conflict of user
17 working group that now exists. Jim Dau is not here,
18 but he had a lot to do with pointing out, and some of
19 you will remember we actually had the Board of Game up
20 here some Novembers ago and it was an issue of
21 prominence because they, for the first time, came to
22 hear firsthand what those user issues were as per
23 Natives, a/k/a rural residents, that hunt and have to
24 deal now with those kinds of issues, where in the past
25 we only had to deal with maybe one or two or three
26 transporters that knew the habits of the area. I'm
27 talking about the Buck Madsen (ph), the Jim Ruse (ph)
28 that understood how things worked up here and then took
29 pains to stay away from certain areas.

30
31 With the advent of Maverick Air and
32 some of those other outfits, I think they actually
33 retaliate where they go into certain areas and hog the
34 area until such time that they have provided an animal
35 for their client. Because they're under pressure to
36 find an animal because they don't have the leisure of
37 much time either. I would imagine that a typical
38 hunter from Outside probably has a two-week vacation,
39 has spent four days getting up here, getting all his
40 gear, and actually has maybe four or five days to have
41 a successful hunt out there, so they're driven to go
42 and do their thing. What they wind up doing, whether
43 they know it or not, and I think a lot of them do, is
44 that they wind up going to a place where the migration
45 actually starts and then now it's the burden of proof
46 to whomever to say where is the scientific data to
47 prove that you're right.

48
49 The fortunate thing for us is that the
50 State has had a lot of radio collars over the years and

1 we saw some radio collaring on maps that showed the
2 general migration and, lo and behold, as we say, a lot
3 of the movement is concentrated in certain areas. So
4 we're saying that if the transporters put X amount of
5 hunters in there, then that surely must have some
6 logical means of disrupting migration. Even now, you
7 try to define normal migration with what's happened
8 with the caribou being infused with the reindeer and
9 reindeer/caribou have different habits and we know
10 that.

11
12 But I think the intent of the working
13 group was to try to provide some means of coming to a
14 reasonable resolution within the confines of several
15 jurisdictions and their laws. We've got 60 percent
16 Federal land in this region, so that involves BLM,
17 National Park and whomever. This time around we've
18 also got members from the Board of Game and we actually
19 have members from the Commercial Services Board, which
20 never happened before, so I think that's an indication
21 of the seriousness of the situation.

22
23 Now, when BLM antes up to contribute to
24 whatever funding that's there already, U.S. Fish and
25 Wildlife does, Park Service says they will but we
26 haven't seen much yet, I don't think we've seen any
27 funds from the Park Service. It makes you wonder how
28 serious they are about participating in this process.
29 In this process, what we're doing is taking the whole
30 of management, regulatory authorities, and trying to
31 piece together some means of alleviating the problem
32 for local village hunters. Subsistence hunters now
33 have to go further inland and forcing some people to
34 actually use snowmachines and sleds and four-wheelers
35 to go to areas where they normally haven't gone in
36 previous years.

37
38 Well, to sum it up, I'd like to say
39 we've placed a lot of faith in the development of this
40 working group. We have it facilitated now by a
41 professional facilitator where we'll now have the
42 intent of producing a document to go to the
43 authorities, the Board of Game, the Commercial Services
44 Board, to seek some means of resolution.

45
46 Let me tell you that the transporters
47 have changed the ball game significantly. They're
48 invited to these meetings, but we get transporters that
49 already know what's going on. We don't get the
50 Maverick Air and the other folks up here, which I'm

1 really sorry about. The problem is that as we come out
2 with our recommendations, then what those folks do is
3 they start to lobby the Legislature to try to get their
4 fix into the process, which is taking away from all the
5 effort locally and plopping all the effort in Juneau.

6
7 Although I understand that Juneau is
8 getting to be a friendlier rural place of sorts, I
9 still think though that we face significant risk
10 dealing with the Con Bunde's, the other people that
11 have very little respect for how we live up here.

12
13 With that, Mr. Chairman, I'll quit
14 talking.

15
16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Pete.
17 Let's take a short break. I see people starting to get
18 a little fidgety. We'll take a short break.

19
20 (Off record)

21
22 (On record)

23
24 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Let's bring the
25 meeting back to order, please. Go ahead, Walter.

26
27 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 The draft findings that he's presenting to us, there's
29 always some fallacies, certainly in areas, sometimes
30 with no intention to do this, but your bullet No. 1
31 certainly I think would be impacted by transporter
32 operations and related sports hunting. If the caribou
33 herd should be deflected, it reduces the number of that
34 herd to go through one area and that will have an
35 impact or a restriction on access. Now, because of the
36 fact the herd has been deflected, then the subsistence
37 user will go further to try to find access to get what
38 they need, so that certainly has an impact. At the end
39 I've got some other things I will present.

40
41 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Sampson, I
42 understand what you're saying about how these two
43 things, redistribution and cause of reduction in the
44 number of animals available to subsistence users in the
45 places they've historically found them. I really do
46 understand that.

47
48 So, in this draft finding, what does
49 this all add up to. Here's what we said. That
50 transporter operations and related sport hunting don't

1 significantly restrict subsistence uses because that's
2 what the law requires us to ask, is there a significant
3 restriction on subsistence uses, not is there an impact
4 on subsistence users, not is there a lot of conflict in
5 the field, not are subsistence users unaffected, but is
6 there a significant restriction on subsistence uses.
7 Right now the draft findings says there is not.

8

9 How did we arrive at that conclusion.
10 Well, we looked at the outcome of that analysis that we
11 did and we had don't reduce the number of animals,
12 still hearing the point you made Walter and the points
13 that other people have made, don't cause habitat loss,
14 don't restrict access, may redistribute caribou in the
15 fall and do increase competition for hunting places and
16 times.

17

18 What we did in this evaluation was say
19 that those things added up to no significant
20 restriction on subsistence uses, and here's the
21 important part, but moderate to major impacts to
22 subsistence caribou hunters in certain places during
23 certain times, certain places along the river
24 corridors, certain times during the fall. So we
25 recognize that transporter operations and sport hunters
26 are a very controversial issue here and there are
27 impacts to subsistence users. Even if there isn't this
28 significant restriction to subsistence uses, there are
29 these moderate to major impacts to subsistence caribou
30 hunters. We recognize that these impacts are
31 occurring.

32

33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Walter
36 Sampson. George, can you clarify for me, please, on
37 the summary of the evaluation and findings on Page 1,
38 under 4, the last sentence, no such withdrawal,
39 reservation, lease, permit or other use, occupancy or
40 disposition of such lands which would significantly
41 restrict subsistence uses. And then you go back to
42 Page 6, under findings, third paragraph, last sentence,
43 it says evaluation and findings, the proposed action
44 does not significantly restrict subsistence uses.

45

46 MR. HELFRICH: Right. And that is what
47 we are saying in this evaluation, Mr. Sampson, that
48 this action of giving permits to transporters and the
49 related sport hunting does not significantly restrict
50 subsistence uses.

1 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, but I guess your
2 conflicting statements is what I'm getting at here.
3 Significantly restrict subsistence uses and then on the
4 back you said does not significantly restrict
5 subsistence uses.

6
7 MR. HELFRICH: On Page 1, Mr. Sampson,
8 that's a quotation from the law and it says we can't
9 permit an activity that will significantly restrict
10 subsistence uses until we go through three or four
11 steps. Maybe Mr. Starkey can better explain this just
12 because I believe I'm using up more than my time. This
13 finding right now is that transporter operations and
14 related sport hunting don't significantly reduce
15 subsistence uses but they do cause moderate to major
16 impacts to caribou hunters certain places and at
17 certain times.

18
19 So the question is what are we going to
20 do about that. We are going to continue our hunter
21 education, the examples of which I used earlier. We're
22 going to continue requiring transporters to meet with
23 us before they begin operations. A couple years ago,
24 because of this conflict in the field, we started
25 requiring the Commercial Use Authorizations holders to
26 come in and talk to -- well, typically to Dan
27 Stevenson, a protection ranger, about the terms and
28 conditions of their permits and what they can and
29 cannot do, and also about this user conflict.

30
31 We're going to continue our law
32 enforcement patrols. As I said earlier, we had four
33 rangers out in the field all fall last year doing
34 patrols by fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter and boat and
35 they talked to probably half of the sport hunters who
36 were in the field. We're going to participate in the
37 ADF&G Unit 23 wide work group and this is the one that
38 Mr. Schaeffer was talking about. This is a Unit 23
39 wide work group and it's going to look at addressing
40 this user conflict, not just in Noatak National
41 Preserve but across the whole of Unit 23. We will be
42 there and we are going to contribute \$40,000 to the
43 process.

44
45 And then the last thing and this is
46 what I think is the critical piece because I believe
47 that it is only through a plan to improve our
48 management of transporters that we can really address
49 all these user conflict issues. I don't believe an
50 .810 evaluation is going to fix this user conflict. I

1 have a lot of confidence in this ADF&G work group, but
2 most of all I believe the National Park Service has to
3 do a plan from Noatak National Preserve that would
4 improve our management of transporters.

5
6 What does improve our management of
7 transporters mean. It means that we would look at the
8 number of operators in the field, it would mean that we
9 would look at the number of clients, it would mean that
10 we would look at the times of operation, it would mean
11 that we would look at the areas of operation, it would
12 mean that we would look at the terms and conditions of
13 permits. This is how the National Park Service manages
14 guided hunting now through a concession contract. That
15 places very strict limitations on where and when and
16 how many. I still believe that it's through a similar
17 type of contract that we can best address the conflict
18 between transporters, sport hunters and subsistence
19 users.

20
21 Mr. Chairman, finally, that's the end
22 of my report.

23
24 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Mr.
25 Helfrich. At this time I'm going to ask Sky Starkey to
26 come to the microphone, please.

27
28 MR. STARKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 For the record, Sky Starkey. I would just like to
30 clarify one thing while George is up here if you don't
31 mind, Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Please proceed.

34
35 MR. STARKEY: The very last sentence on
36 the preliminary .810 analysis is a little unclear to
37 me, but the language says the National Park Service
38 will consider closing certain areas of the Preserve at
39 certain times to commercial use to reduce user
40 conflict. Is that something that the National Park
41 Service is going to consider doing in their commercial
42 use authorizations this year?

43
44 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. I spoke
45 with National Park Service solicitor about that
46 yesterday. He told me that we have enough data at this
47 time to look at limiting the number of transporters
48 operating inside the Preserve, looking at the number of
49 clients they bring in. He does not believe that we
50 have enough information to exclude any areas of the

1 Preserve from their authorizations.

2

3 MR. STARKEY: With your permission, Mr.
4 Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Proceed, please.

7

8 MR. STARKEY: So that I understand and
9 the Council understands, that could mean that you would
10 limit the number of transporters and clients in a
11 certain area, but you would not exclude them completely
12 from an area.

13

14 MR. HELFRICH: No, I wasn't clear, so
15 thank you, Sky. We're going to look at limiting the
16 number of companies that have commercial use
17 authorizations. We're going to look at limiting the
18 number of clients they bring into the field. The
19 solicitor does not believe we have enough data to stop
20 them from operating in certain areas. Is that clear,
21 Sky?

22

23 MR. STARKEY: Thank you. That helps
24 me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Stay where you are,
27 please. If it's okay with the Council Members, I'd
28 like to introduce a resolution at this time.

29

30 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
31 go through the process of -- I do have some issues I
32 would like to continue to ask George and then we will
33 deal with the resolution after some discussion with
34 George.

35

36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Very well.

37

38 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President
39 or Mr. Chief or whatever we want to call you, I guess.
40 First of all, I want to thank George for your
41 presentation in regards to the summary of the
42 evaluation and findings. I alluded early on during my
43 opening statements on the report that in 1980 when
44 these units came about, that was 28 to 30 years ago.
45 Now the Park Service is reacting to some of the
46 problems that are occurring 28 years later.

47

48 Some of the issues that were discussed
49 on science versus local knowledge, I do have a problem
50 with the way the agencies look at the very issue. When

1 you do your study or as a scientist you certainly will
2 get somebody in that field to go out and do the very
3 things that the local folks would do. I'm sure the man
4 would go out or the lady would go out, go take a look
5 and see where the herd might be, herd gets close
6 enough, take a crack at a caribou and see what the
7 reaction might be or get your analysis from the take
8 that you got.

9
10 Pete alluded to that early on. Heck,
11 we've been doing this for centuries and telling us that
12 now it has to be science and not local knowledge, I do
13 have a problem with that. The video that was presented
14 is a good, clean video that was presented. You ought
15 to take a look at the Northwest Arctic Borough's video
16 that was done in regards to the areas that we're
17 talking about.

18
19 I think what I have is a problem.
20 First of all, when the Park Service and other
21 conservation units were created, we started off on the
22 right foot in regards to have a good relationship with
23 the agencies. Somewhere through that process that very
24 relationship deteriorated because of management and how
25 we took its approach in managing these lands. Over
26 time we worked hard as organizations to re-establish
27 that relationship. That relationship which is now that
28 -- you know, we're talking with the agency. But the
29 process that's taken us through today certainly can
30 tear that relationship apart.

31
32 I say that because we've heard from the
33 superintendent that what he's going through he doesn't
34 have to have our input into that process. They can do
35 it on their own. I have a problem with that. If that
36 very plan is going to have an effect on the uses and
37 how those lands are managed and an impact on the
38 subsistence user, I have a problem. If plans are
39 brought to these people without any consultation,
40 without any input in that process, it becomes a Park
41 Service plan, a government plan. That's why I alluded
42 early on that we want to participate in these things.
43 We're tired of being planned for. We're tired of
44 reacting to things.

45
46 The impact that the .810 analysis will
47 have today, certainly we looked at some of the bullet
48 point findings that the superintendent made, you know,
49 to address the very issue which he's taking us on a
50 fast-track method. I've got a problem with that also.

1 He's the superintendent of these parks and monuments.
2 Based on the law that I know, he's got the authority to
3 address those very issues that are before us. Those
4 issues have been discussed at the RAC meeting several
5 times. Those issues have been discussed at the SRC
6 level in previous meetings. Now he's taking us through
7 a fast-track process to get the .810 analysis done.

8

9 I want to ask George if you have shared
10 your findings in your draft with the transporters and
11 the guides and those that utilize those lands.

12

13 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
14 Sampson, I have. I sent a copy of the draft .810
15 analysis to all the companies that have commercial use
16 licenses for commercial use authorizations, excuse me,
17 for transportation services. I have not heard back
18 from any of them yet.

19

20 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. My second
21 question is to address the very crux of the issues and
22 problems. Isn't there some Federal laws pertaining to
23 concession laws?

24

25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Mr.
26 Helfrich.

27

28 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Sampson, there are.
29 These companies that offer big game transportation
30 services have what are called commercial use
31 authorizations and those aren't part of the concessions
32 program. Commercial use authorizations are not
33 concession permits or contracts.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: So concession is not
36 written into the law?

37

38 MR. HELFRICH: Not for this type of
39 permit, no, sir. Now, I mentioned the plan that we
40 want to do and one of the alternatives will be to
41 change the type of authorization from commercial use
42 authorization, which is not a type of concession
43 authorization to a concession contract. Then these
44 operators would be under the concessions program and we
45 would be able to regulate them better.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Mr.
50 Helfrich. Any more questions.....

1 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I have many
2 more. I'm just starting, Mr. Chairman. This is a
3 critical issue that we have to discuss as a RAC.

4
5 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Proceed then, Walter.

6
7 MR. SAMPSON: Through the process of
8 your presentation, in the planning that you went
9 through, was there any input at all from any of your
10 staff, any other agency sections BLM or Fish and
11 Wildlife in regards to putting together that very draft
12 that you have before us?

13
14 MR. HELFRICH: I gave a copy of the
15 draft to Jim Magdanz and Jim Dau to look at. I gave a
16 copy of the draft to Ms. Ayres to look at, but because
17 of her schedule she only saw it recently. I did not
18 give a copy of it to the Bureau of Land Management
19 until last week. I did give it to members of my staff,
20 for example Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Adkisson.

21
22 MR. SAMPSON: Was there any discussions
23 with any of these folks previous to putting together
24 that plan for their input?

25
26 MR. HELFRICH: Before putting the
27 evaluation together?

28
29 MR. SAMPSON: Uh-huh.

30
31 MR. HELFRICH: Some. I would say there
32 was a lot of internal disagreement about the .810
33 evaluation, about whether we needed to do one, whether
34 we had enough data to include in one, whether we had
35 gotten ourselves into unnecessary conflict with the
36 Bureau about the .810. So, in the end, Mr. Sampson, I
37 sat at my desk and I wrote it myself and then I sent it
38 out for comment.

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, George. The
41 very crux of the issue in regards to utilization of
42 that resource, the science side of the picture, the
43 local knowledge side of the picture certainly is a very
44 crucial part that should have been considered. What
45 you're telling me is that you ignored your very
46 biologist by not including him and by that very process
47 or planning I have problems with, but yet you're going
48 through a fast-track process to get this done and I do
49 have problems with that. If you did put together this
50 very document only consulting your legal counsel at the

1 regional level, which you indicated that you consulted
2 with him, but yet never consulted with folks within
3 this region that would be impact, then that is not a
4 public process. That is not a process that should be
5 used by an agency because of the impacts it would have
6 on those users for the resource.

7
8 In regards to some of the data stuff we
9 talked about, it sounded like there was some
10 information in place in regards to data that wasn't
11 utilized. I think the process that you certainly
12 quickly went through is something that maybe you need
13 to reconsider. Sure you've got the time frame to deal
14 with the permits, leases or whatever to give out. I
15 think we've heard not only from some of the RAC members
16 but also the public that there is a problem.

17
18 Has there been a challenge from the
19 outside interest or have they taken the agency for
20 Section .8021? I think I didn't quite ask it right,
21 but I want to know if there was any challenge from any
22 group in regards to Section .8021, which basically
23 refers to adverse impacts on public lands. Has there
24 been any challenges made?

25
26 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. First I'm
27 going to amend my answer of a moment ago. I did
28 consult with Brad Schultz of my Staff when I was
29 putting together both the information on bullet point 1
30 about reduction in number and bullet point 2 or 3 about
31 redistribution of resources. So I did get some
32 information from Brad about that. As far as getting
33 information from the public or from subsistence users,
34 Mr. Sampson, you are correct, I did not talk to anybody
35 in the community, but instead I relied on the testimony
36 of people like you and Mr. Schaeffer and Mr. Karmun and
37 former borough planner Walter Porter at public meetings
38 that I attended, the most important of which was that
39 Board of Game meeting in November of 2005. You'll see
40 that I extensively quote members of the public about
41 this issue, thus I was trying to do justice to the
42 local community point of view.

43
44 As far as challenges, yes, I have
45 gotten some. I'm compiling an administrative record,
46 Mr. Sampson, that gets bigger every day and it will get
47 even larger after I get the transcripts of this
48 meeting. But, yeah, I got an extensive letter from the
49 Maniilaq Association, for example, thanks to Ms. Apok.
50 Some very thoughtful comments. Then I also got a long

1 letter from the mayor, Siikauraq Whiting, about the
2 .810 analysis. As I've said in the past, it's a draft
3 right now and these will be carefully considered before
4 we finalize the evaluation.

5

6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Mr.
7 Helfrich. Go ahead, Mr. Okleasik.

8

9 MR. SAMPSON: I'm not done yet.

10

11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I know.

12

13 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. I'll shut up from
14 here on.

15

16 MR. OKLEASIK: (In Inupiaq) to the
17 Council for this opportunity to make some comments at
18 your meeting. Inaroch(ph) is passing out a letter that
19 Superintendent Helfrich just referenced, a letter from
20 the mayor that I think would be very helpful to the
21 Council in looking at the legal aspects of .810.
22 Siikauraq does really appreciate the openness of
23 Superintendent Helfrich to have a really open and
24 transparent process in this opportunity to review the
25 draft of the .810 and to give input.

26

27 The Borough has taken the position that
28 the findings should find that there are significant
29 restrictions. In the second paragraph there's a brief
30 sentence there that Federal courts have interpreted
31 Section .810 to require findings of significant
32 restriction where there may be a significant
33 restriction. In other words, the mere threat of a
34 significant restriction is sufficient to trigger a
35 significant finding. So there are some court cases
36 referenced that were done in the '80s that might help
37 the Council look at case law that has already been
38 determined on making these determinations to help guide
39 this process.

40

41 So, therefore, the Borough believes
42 that there is a significant restriction and the agency
43 or the Park Service needs to recognize that and then
44 proceed to Tier II under Section .810.83 and we
45 recommend three potential actions that could be taken.

46

47 I won't go through the time to go
48 through this whole letter. I did want to provide it
49 for the record though and for each Council Member's
50 review. Also, at the same time, we drafted a

1 resolution that we would like to introduce to the
2 Council to debate and if that could be introduced as
3 well. I'll leave that up to the chair to decide how to
4 handle that as part of your business.

5
6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Mr.
7 Okleasik. Go ahead, Walter.

8
9 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Tom. I think
10 that the issue in regards to what Tom raised is where I
11 was leading to. In the event that the Park Service
12 should proceed in regards to what it's doing and gets
13 challenged for doing that, I would sure the heck hate
14 to have the courts decide for me or decide for the
15 people of this region as to how lands would be managed
16 for uses in those areas.

17
18 What I'm getting at is I don't want to
19 get to that point of having to be challenged and have
20 the courts decide for us because the courts may find --
21 and the users, I'm talking about the subsistence users,
22 would be more impacted than the other interest groups.
23 That's why I was leading towards that question. That's
24 why I was asking questions in regards to the very
25 issues.

26
27 There's got to be a point in time where
28 you, as the manager for those lands and putting
29 together these very documents, you will need to
30 reconsider what you've done to this point and how you
31 plan to address some of the issues that were raised at
32 this very meeting and how you plan to address those
33 things. If it's such that you're going to respond, I
34 certainly want to have something in writing that
35 addresses those very issues for our next meeting and I
36 would appreciate that.

37
38 Would that, Mr. President, Mr. Chief, I
39 know I did a lot of talking, but after reviewing some
40 of the documents, after looking at some of the issues,
41 after considering some of the issues that were
42 discussed at previous meetings and looking at the
43 history of the creation of these things and having to
44 react to something 28 years later is what frustrates me
45 as a land manager for NANA. Not only as a land
46 manager, but the impacts it would have for the people
47 of this region and I think it's something that we
48 certainly -- I'm glad that we had an opportunity to
49 discuss and hopefully sometime down the road to get a
50 response in regards to some of the questions. Thank

1 you, Mr. Chief.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
4 If it's okay with the rest of the Council, we'll ask
5 Sky Starkey again to come to the microphone.

6

7 MR. STARKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 First of all I want to thank the Council for giving me
9 a chance to speak at this meeting of the RAC. As I'm
10 speaking, Tom from the Borough or Charlie is going to
11 hand out, just for your information and so you have it
12 in your record, a copy of the protest the Borough filed
13 with the BLM that also points out the Borough has some
14 problems with what the BLM is doing on the very same
15 issue you're discussing, which is what to do about the
16 transporter issues on BLM lands, which is primarily the
17 Squirrel.

18

19 I hope that you have before you the
20 latest draft of a resolution. While that's being
21 handed out, Mr. Chairman, I just had a couple general
22 comments that I wanted to make in terms of what we
23 heard this morning. I'll try to be real brief about
24 it.

25

26 The things that I've heard that stand
27 out regarding the National Park Service presentation to
28 me are -- the National Park Service I think really
29 would -- and I really appreciate the effort that George
30 has put into this and I think they would really like to
31 do the right thing here. My sense is that it's not
32 George, it's the solicitor and it may be that George is
33 not being supported to take the actions that he needs
34 to take from whoever he has to answer to higher up.
35 And I think there's a lot of fear in the National Park
36 Service in taking some actions. I think they're more
37 afraid of what the transporters might do than they are
38 of what the Borough or subsistence users might do.
39 They think they'll be sued by the transporters.

40

41 Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I would
42 like to say that if it's an information gap that
43 they're worried about, maybe they're concerned they
44 don't have enough information to keep people out of
45 certain areas, what information do they need. That's
46 something the RAC is entitled to know. Specifically,
47 exactly what information are they looking for and how
48 can the RAC help them fill that information. What
49 information do they need to exclude people from the
50 most important hunting areas that there are in the

1 Borough and this area for people, exactly what
2 information do they need about those areas in order for
3 them to take the action that I hear the RAC asking them
4 to take and I know the Borough's asking them to take.
5 Exactly what information do they need.

6
7 The reason I say that, Mr. Chairman,
8 when ANILCA was passed there was a critical part to
9 ANILCA and it said it is essential to provide for the
10 -- in order to provide for the subsistence way of life
11 that they be involved meaningfully in the management
12 decisions. Sadly, Mr. Chairman, and I'm going to, I
13 guess, get on my box and speak a little bit, but,
14 sadly, the way the RAC system has evolved you are
15 primarily focused in on what the regulations should be,
16 what seasons should be, what the time should be.

17
18 You are largely as a RAC left out of
19 these critical decisions about management plans which
20 are every bit as important for your subsistence way of
21 life as what the bag limit is. These are critical
22 things and the RACs have been sadly left out of that
23 process. Not by the National Park Service or by the
24 BLM intentionally. I think it's the Office of
25 Subsistence Management, frankly. Look at your agenda
26 as it first came out. It didn't even have this on it.
27 That's not Cliff's fault. It's just the way the system
28 works.

29
30 So, getting off that high soap box, my
31 point is that if ANILCA's purpose was that you're
32 supposed to be meaningfully involved in management
33 decisions, it means management decisions like this
34 .810, like what the BLM is going to do in their
35 Resource Management Plan. It means these plans as
36 well. You're supposed to be a meaningful part of this
37 process. And if that's true and if the National Park
38 Service needs more information about something in order
39 to take some actions, they need to be coming to you
40 telling you exactly what they need to know in trying to
41 get you to give what information you know about that
42 issue.

43
44 My second point about the information
45 for the RAC is I'm not a scientist, I don't know how
46 things go, but on something about caribou migration and
47 whether or not they're diverting by hunting and
48 interference, I cannot imagine how they would design a
49 study that could be any more accurate or nearly as
50 accurate as the knowledge that you and your ancestors

1 going back time immemorial know about caribou. Who
2 could possibly be a greater expert about this area,
3 this caribou herd and what happens. It's not the same
4 as sticking a tag on a salmon and seeing where that
5 salmon ends up. This is something where traditional
6 knowledge is the very best information. If the
7 National Park Service can figure out how to design a
8 study to better get that information, I, for one, would
9 like to hear exactly how they could do that in a way.

10

11 To me, it just expresses again how
12 ANILCA's intent for this RAC has been hijacked
13 somewhere along the way because this RAC and your
14 traditional knowledge is supposed to be meaningfully
15 incorporated in the management system. When there's a
16 finding like there's not enough information after
17 there's overwhelming, unanimous information by the RAC,
18 by your Resource Commissions, as pointed out by Mr.
19 Schaeffer, elders going back forever, it's hard for me
20 to see how there's any better information than that.

21

22 Again, I'll try to be brief. I have a
23 real concern about this .810 analysis and where it's
24 going from the standpoint of even the National Park
25 Service's future plans. The National Park Service, as
26 far as I can tell really would like to do the right
27 thing, but they're saying we're going to engage in this
28 planning process and in this planning process if things
29 turn out right, we'll take the actions to limit areas,
30 we'll do commercial use authorizations that will be
31 more restrictive, we'll try to limit guides for these
32 commercial permits, et cetera. But if the National
33 Park Service has an .810 analysis out there that
34 insultingly, I might say, says that there's no
35 significant impact.....

36

37 MR. HELFRICH: Restriction.

38

39 MR. STARKEY: Restriction. Which I
40 think there's not a lot of difference. But, in any
41 event, I think there's an internal problem there. The
42 National Park Service, as far as I can tell, here's the
43 process. They're going to do an environmental impact
44 statement, which, by law, must include another .810
45 analysis, you know, to authorize whatever action it
46 will take in the future. But if they're stuck with one
47 that says no significant impact, I'm not sure what the
48 consequence of that is.

49

50 So I think the consequence of what

1 we're talking about today may be much greater than we
2 know. It could have impacts rolling all the way
3 through this process and it could significantly
4 undermine the joint planning process that Mr. Schaeffer
5 has talked about, that the State is in favor of, that
6 the BLM is engaged in, that everybody seems to think is
7 the unified solution here. And then the National Park
8 Service comes in with a document that basically
9 undermines the whole process, and I think that's a huge
10 concern. A huge concern.

11
12 Then, last, as I watched the
13 educational flyer and as I watched the video, I was
14 sitting here thinking why doesn't the National Park
15 Service make that a condition in their commercial use
16 authorization permits. Why isn't it a condition that a
17 transporter can't drop a person off within five miles
18 of another camp. Why isn't it that they have to stay
19 five miles away from an allotment. Why aren't these
20 incorporated into their permits. If it's part of their
21 educational system, put them in the permit. Thank you,
22 Mr. Chairman.

23
24 To the resolution then. The resolution
25 is a product of listening to Borough discussions, it's
26 a product of talking to users out here. I won't go
27 through and read it, everybody can read it, but it
28 tries to incorporate what the Borough's position is, it
29 tries to incorporate what we've talked to with various
30 community members and it also admittedly tries to
31 accomplish what the Borough Assembly's goal is here,
32 which we hope is the same as the RAC's. The planning
33 process is important and the Borough is actively and
34 very committed to working through this long-term
35 planning process so that there is a unified effective
36 solution to this problem throughout your traditional
37 hunting areas.

38
39 But, having said that, that doesn't
40 mean that no action should be taken this fall or the
41 next fall or the next fall or the next fall or forever
42 long the planning process takes. The Borough believes
43 the National Park Service and the BLM have a duty and
44 management responsibility right now for their lands,
45 and it is true, it may be true, that if the National
46 Park Service places restrictions on their permits that
47 the transporters will find somewhere else to go, but we
48 won't know that until they take the actions that are
49 necessary and as that unfolds, everybody will have to
50 determine what else to do. In fact, it will be good

1 information for the working group to know what the
2 effect of some of the management actions that can be
3 taken now will have.

4

5 So this resolution also requests
6 actions in 2008 to lessen the impacts which everyone
7 agrees are occurring out in the region and it
8 encourages the National Park Service to set those
9 limits in consultation with this RAC and the
10 subsistence users and villages that are being affected.
11 So that's the resolution on behalf of the Borough and I
12 hope if someone here is from the Borough and I've said
13 something that is not consistent with what should have
14 been said, that they'll correct it. That would
15 conclude whatever I have to say, Mr. Chairman. I thank
16 you very much for the time.

17

18 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Mr.
19 Starkey. Council Members, any questions for Mr.
20 Starkey.

21

22 MR. SAMPSON: You referred to a section
23 of the law right at the beginning of your talk and I
24 couldn't quite write it all in regards to the very
25 process that the law says the Park Service would need
26 to go through and the participation of this very body.
27 What section is that, do you remember?

28

29 MR. STARKEY: Yes, I do. Through the
30 Chair answering Mr. Sampson's question. I'm going to
31 go off memory, Mr. Sampson, but it's Section .805 of
32 ANILCA and that would be Section 316.USC.3115 is my
33 recollection for the Regional Council authorizations,
34 mandates that you be meaningfully involved in
35 management plans, not just regulations.

36

37 Then my citation to the responsibility
38 of agencies managing public lands to protect the
39 subsistence way of life is in Section 16.USC.3111 and
40 that would be Section .805 of ANILCA.

41

42 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Questions
43 for Mr. Starkey.

44

45 MR. STARKEY: Mr. Chairman. May I
46 mention -- Mr. Sampson reminded me of one other thing
47 in ANILCA that the Council might want to be aware of
48 and I didn't want to forget to mention that. May I do
49 that?

50

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Proceed.

2

3 MR. STARKEY: One thing I think is
4 important for the Council to know and for the National
5 Park Service and for Maniilaq and others who are a part
6 of this region is that ANILCA also has a provision that
7 requires the National Park Service and BLM and other
8 agencies when they're allocating out these permits for
9 use, that there's a priority in the law for local
10 people and Alaska Native village corporations, village
11 and regional corporations, to apply for and obtain any
12 kind of permit for user services on public lands. I
13 think that's an important piece of information to have
14 out there for all of you as I know you're involved in
15 many of these things, that there's the opportunity for
16 your local people and local organizations to be engaged
17 in this if you so choose. Of course, a side benefit of
18 that, if you're the permit holder, you're in charge of
19 where you take people and you're the ones who know how
20 to minimize impacts. Thank you for letting me mention
21 that.

22

23 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Mr.
24 Starkey. Walter.

25

26 MR. SAMPSON: I want to thank you for
27 that section of law under ANILCA which I wasn't aware
28 of. I was never told at this level there is provisions
29 that the regional corporations or Native entities can
30 provide or become provide user service and it's good to
31 know and find out that there is provisions in the law
32 for that section.

33

34 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
35 Mr. Starkey, thank you. I appreciate your time.

36

37 MR. STARKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I think I'll
40 entertain a time out for lunch right now. It's up to
41 the Council Members what time you want to return.

42

43 MR. SAMPSON: 1:00 o'clock.

44

45 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Will 1:00 o'clock be
46 sufficient? Okay. We'll take a lunch break until
47 1300.

48

49 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman, Members of
50 the Council, thank you all very much.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Good afternoon. One
6 thing I forgot before we broke for lunch is accept or
7 reject this resolution, so that will be the first thing
8 on the agenda, please.

9

10 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I move for
11 adoption of the resolution.

12

13 MR. ADAMS: Second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Second by Virgil
16 Adams. All in favor.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Motion
21 carries. Mr. Helfrich, I think we're going to call you
22 to the microphone again. If it's okay with the Council
23 Members, I'd like to give Maniilaq a chance to ask
24 their questions for right now.

25

26 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Before
27 George continues, we have two resolutions. Which one
28 are we going to.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Either one is
31 correct.

32

33 MR. EDENSHAW: They're both the same?

34

35 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yeah.

36

37 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Before we
38 get out of that resolution, my intent was also to make
39 sure that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to BLM,
40 to the Federal Board. I know Fish and Wildlife as well
41 as Park Service has a copy.

42

43 MS. APOK: For the record, my name is
44 Hazel Apok. I'm the natural resources coordinator for
45 Maniilaq Association. I started this position last
46 September. Some of the comments I found from the
47 evaluation I have I want to bring to this table so that
48 you're aware of where Maniilaq is coming from. I
49 already brought the point out that the Park Service has
50 determined the number of acres within the Noatak

1 National Preserve and they've determined the number of
2 acres they manage, but they have not made a
3 determination on the amount of public lands necessary
4 to accomplish big game transportation and that's a lot
5 different than describing the whole Noatak Preserve and
6 saying the whole preserve is being used by
7 transporters. So that determination didn't come out in
8 the evaluation.

9

10 MR. HELFRICH: Uh-huh.

11

12 MS. APOK: In describing the Noatak
13 National Preserve, in my research where these units
14 were established, there were some questions that were
15 asked that I think are important that need to be
16 answered. Those are how and what has the Park Service
17 done to maintain the environmental integrity of the
18 Noatak River and the adjacent uplands unimpaired by
19 adverse human activity? How and what has the National
20 Park Service done to protect the habitat in the Noatak
21 National Preserve? How and what has the Park Service
22 done to protect archaeological resources in the
23 preserve? And has the Park Service provided
24 opportunities for scientific research in the Noatak
25 National Preserve and, if it has, what was the research
26 about?

27

28 I have a problem with the way the Park
29 Service provided notice to all affected people. It
30 seemed to me that the superintendent did not go to the
31 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council and did not
32 go to the five local Advisory Committees as provided
33 for in statute and it is in statute that he needs to
34 work with these groups. These are the authorized
35 bodies that provide the input to the agencies about
36 impacts and other issues.

37

38 I have questions about the seven
39 transporters who operated in 2006 and '07. How many
40 complied with the stipulation of not collecting more
41 than 25,000 annual gross receipts within a unit? And
42 these are in statutes for commercial use
43 authorizations. So I need these questions answered to
44 help me.

45

46 Did a single operator visit more than
47 one unit? Of the seven transporters who operated in
48 2006 and '07, were there any non-profit institutions
49 without taxable income? Are there non-profit
50 institutions operating in the Noatak National Preserve?

1 That wasn't brought up. The statute limits the
2 incidental use of resources of the unit by commercial
3 operations which provide services originating and
4 terminating outside the boundaries of the unit. What
5 is the Park Service's definition of incidental use? Is
6 incidental use determined by the number of consecutive
7 days? Is having caribou or moose antlers displayed in
8 any USA home considered incidental use of resources?

9
10 There's questions about affected
11 environment relative to subsistence use. I think where
12 you say the numbers are there, we're covering a whole
13 area that says this is how much caribou we have,
14 whereas I go to maybe one or two spots in that whole
15 area, so there's a difference of opinion on how you
16 arrive at your numbers than how we see them off the
17 street.

18
19 I don't think there's equal access when
20 a certain group of people are allowed to traverse the
21 whole preserve at will and there's those of us that
22 only go by boat. You notice that we don't have user
23 conflict in winter. That's because we have access to
24 all areas. But in the summertime when we can only
25 traverse in the water, our access is very limited,
26 whereas the people that can fly can go throughout the
27 whole Preserve. So I totally disagree about equal
28 access.

29
30 There was no determination of
31 availability of other lands. The statute says that the
32 Park Service needs to look at other lands that may or
33 may not be suitable for permitting commercial use
34 authorizations. There were no alternatives offered in
35 the commercial -- or the concession contracts. I think
36 we should take a look at and not just issuing CUE's.

37
38 To me, I felt like I did more homework
39 on this issue with your evaluation than what you put
40 into it and I want some answers to the questions that I
41 have before you finalize your evaluation. Thank you
42 for the opportunity to speak.

43
44 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Hazel.

45
46 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. On behalf
47 of Maniilaq Hazel submitted I think five pages of very
48 good comments and she certainly deserves an answer to
49 every one of her questions. What I would like to do is
50 put together a response and I believe I can do that

1 this coming week and send my response out along with a
2 copy of Maniilaq's comments, then you can compare my
3 responses to her original questions.

4
5 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. If we
6 have to go beyond 1630 this afternoon, would it be okay
7 with the Council Members. There are some
8 representatives here from out of town that would like
9 to catch the evening plane or do you want to go beyond
10 our prescribed time.

11
12 MR. SAMPSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I
13 think if the agency has some people that needs to
14 leave, I would suggest we don't take any actions on any
15 issues that we need to. I mean if it's not important
16 for us to deal with these things, we might as well just
17 up and go.

18
19 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay. We will
20 determine that when the need arises. Thank you,
21 Walter. Any other comments from the Council Members.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Hearing none. Thank
26 you, Mr. Helfrich.

27
28 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you, and I
29 appreciate all the Council Members' attention to this
30 issue.

31
32 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: This would lead to
33 agency comments. First on the list would be Alaska
34 Fish and Game.

35
36 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. If we're
37 going to proceed on No. 9, then we'll start with 39
38 through 45 and Helen Armstrong, our anthropologist, is
39 going to provide the Council with the OSM Staff
40 analysis on that.

41
42 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. My
43 apologies.

44
45 MR. EDENSHAW: Then the numbers 1
46 through 8 are after Helen's done with her analysis.
47 Numbers 1 through 8 is just a protocol.

48
49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Cliff.
50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
2 Chair. My name is Helen Armstrong. I'm with the
3 Office of Subsistence Management. Now we get to the
4 proposals. The first one is on Page 17, if the Council
5 and the Chair are willing, I can put Proposals 39
6 through 45 and 46 and 47 I can address all at once
7 because the reasons for the Staff recommendation are
8 the same. This was actually what the Seward Peninsula
9 Council had requested, so I'm prepared to do them at
10 once if that's the wish of the Council and the Chair.
11 Is that okay?

12
13 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. I have a
14 question for the Council Members though. Do you feel
15 comfortable making determinations for other regions or
16 game management units?

17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. The
19 reason why this is brought before the Council is
20 because if these proposals were passed as submitted, it
21 would exclude people from Unit 23 of harvesting all
22 these resources in Unit 22 and that's why it's brought
23 before you, so that you're aware that an action that --
24 that Kawerak has put forward -- a proposal they put
25 forward would have an impact on your region. I can
26 make it pretty brief if you'd like.

27
28 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

29
30 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think I
31 need clarity here. If there's allowances in the State
32 regulations that provides for the take of these
33 critters, then is the Federal system saying that the
34 State regulations can't apply to Federal lands?

35
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Oh, no, no, no. If
37 they were hunting under Federal regulations and if you
38 didn't have a customary and traditional use
39 determination, you couldn't do that. I'm sorry.

40
41 MR. SAMPSON: So basically this is just
42 going to be recognition of what is customary and
43 traditional?

44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

46
47 MR. SAMPSON: C&T is what's being
48 referred to.

49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I understand.

1 MR. SAMPSON: I understood her to read
2 that just as regulations.

3
4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Proceed,
5 please.

6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Thank you,
8 Mr. Chair. The analysis for Proposals WP08-39 through
9 45 and 46 and 47 are found on pages 17 and then 26 in
10 your books. Proposals 30 through 45 -- all of the
11 proposals were submitted by Kawerak, but 39 through 45
12 request a customary and traditional use determination,
13 which I will refer to as C&T, for residents of Unit 22
14 for beaver, Arctic fox, red fox, hare, lynx, marten,
15 and wolverine in Unit 22.

16
17 Proposals 46 and 47 request C&T for
18 spruce grouse and rock and willow ptarmigans. The
19 reason these were originally separated was because the
20 beaver, Arctic fox, red fox, hare, lynx, marten and
21 wolverine have a different existing C&T determination.
22 Theirs is statewide, which means that all rural
23 residents qualify for taking these resources in Unit
24 22, whereas the ones for spruce grouse and ptarmigan
25 are broad but more narrow. They're not all statewide.
26 These came from the C&T determinations that the State
27 did. Those are for Units 11, 13, 15, 16, 20D, 22, 23
28 and Chickaloon. It's a really kind of odd C&T.

29
30 All of these units and then all rural
31 residents for the other ones means that they're very
32 broad so that anybody from Unit 23, 21D, 18, all the
33 surrounding units of Unit 22, anybody can go in and
34 harvest those resources under Federal subsistence
35 regulations legally. They don't have to have a
36 specific C&T determination.

37
38 These proposals have now gone before
39 you. This is the third year in a row because they kept
40 getting deferred by the Board. Last year the Board was
41 ready to make a determination on it, but Kawerak asked
42 for it to come forward once again because they were not
43 very pleased about the opposition to these proposals
44 and they were being opposed because of this limiting
45 that was happening of only Unit 22 residents would have
46 C&T.

47
48 The other issue is that we don't have a
49 lot of information on these resources and we've been
50 scrutinized very heavily by the State of Alaska for

1 making C&T determinations when they feel we don't have
2 the information. In other places in the state, we've
3 never made determinations that were more specific than
4 what we got from the State for these resources. There
5 really hasn't been a need to.

6
7 So the issue really is not whether or
8 not Unit 22 harvests these resources, we know that they
9 do, but what the uses are by the surrounding units. We
10 just don't have a lot of really specific information.

11
12 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
13 oppose all the proposals and the justification is that
14 the need for unit-specific customary and traditional
15 use determinations has not been demonstrated for these
16 resources and consequently the Board has not typically
17 made unit-specific determinations in the past. They
18 could make it if they felt there was a need and if they
19 felt there was enough information, which in this case
20 there's really not. Narrowing it would then affect
21 those people living outside of Unit 22.

22
23 Rejecting the proposal has no effect on
24 subsistence users in Unit 22 or the surrounding units
25 because they already can harvest all of these resources
26 in those units.

27
28 That concludes my short presentation.
29 I'm happy to answer questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any questions from
32 Council Members, comments.

33
34 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I'd like
35 to ask the State, for Buckland and Deering, if there's
36 anyone from those communities that go into Unit 22 to
37 harvest these critters.

38
39 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz, Fish and
40 Game. I would expect that does occur occasionally,
41 especially as people pursue caribou to the south that
42 they would occasionally, or even go to a basketball
43 game in Koyuk that there would occasionally be harvest
44 in 22 by residents of 23.

45
46 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. So if we
47 should adopt this, then we would exclude those two
48 communities from the C&T.

49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's correct.

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What is your
2 recommendation then, to oppose these?

3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes. I also wanted
5 to make note that at a previous Council meeting we did
6 have some information that there were people from Unit
7 23 who liked to go to Granite Mountain hot springs in
8 Unit 22, so we do know it's possible people might have
9 harvested some of these resources along the way.

10
11 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Robbie.

14
15 MR. EVERETT: I have a friend from
16 Buckland, Ralph Elook (ph), who does travel that route
17 and spends time going between Buckland and Koyuk and
18 has commented that he has actually hunted and trapped
19 some of those, so I know that there probably is some,
20 at least in his family, overlap when they actually make
21 trips down that way to pursue any of those animals.

22
23 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

24
25 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Helen, is
26 there any information relating to numbers of critters
27 for all the resources that have been identified within
28 Unit 22? I guess data is what I'm looking for.

29
30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: There's not much.
31 What we'd be really concerned about is harvest use
32 information and we just don't have it, so it's not
33 something, like particularly spruce grouse and
34 ptarmigan, we don't know how many people are taking. So
35 it's really seen as something very difficult.

36
37 MR. SAMPSON: Has Kawerak provided you
38 with any of that harvest data information at all?

39
40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, they have not.
41 They do have some kind of data that they've collected
42 that they told me they would give me at the last
43 meeting, but then they didn't give it to me. But their
44 information would be for Unit 22 and the concern is
45 also all of the people surrounding there, so that's the
46 difficulty.

47
48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: My question would be
49 would we put anybody or village in jeopardy if we
50 oppose this?

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Absolutely not.
2 Right now all rural residents can harvest all the
3 resources in Unit 22, beaver, Arctic fox, red fox,
4 hare, lynx, marten and wolverine, so everyone
5 qualifies. For those resources, that's the way it is
6 statewide where they have all rural resident
7 determination, so it's not really specific. And then
8 for spruce grouse and ptarmigan it's very broad, so 22
9 and 23 are included in that broad C&T determination.

10
11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: So you want us to
12 oppose this mainly for the lack of data?

13
14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, two things.
15 And I want you to do what you feel is right. I mean we
16 just offer a recommendation and then you can decide
17 whether you think that's right or not. There's a lack
18 of information to fulfill all of the eight factors that
19 we -- not that we have to fulfill all of the eight
20 factors because we don't. We generally look at that
21 but for the information on the eight factors of where
22 they harvest, how much is harvested, what the methods
23 and means are, seasons, and what customary tradition
24 has been done, we have some of that information, but
25 it's also that we haven't had a need to do the C&T on
26 these and there's really no reason to do it because you
27 already can hunt there.

28
29 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. What is
30 the wish of the Council.

31
32 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. How much
33 -- is there some State lands within Unit 22?

34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Actually, yes,
36 there's quite a bit. If you look in your reg booklet,
37 it would be on Page 104, there's a map. In the north
38 part for Federal lands you have the Bering Land Bridge
39 National Preserve and then you have a lot of BLM land.
40 Some parts of Unit 22, it's a lot of State land and
41 then, of course, you have the Yukon National Wildlife
42 Refuge in the very southern corner.

43
44 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. With that
45 question I asked earlier in regards to harvesting from
46 Unit 23 going into Unit 22, some of the folks that
47 utilize that resource, if we should move ahead to
48 approve these proposals and put in place a restriction
49 on some of those folks from those communities, I would
50 have some problems with. I'd love to have some sort of

1 data in regards to what is taken from the folks from
2 Unit 23 side going into 22 and what 22 may take on
3 their side. I don't want to support something that
4 will create a restriction for the folks that utilize
5 that resource from Unit 23 going into 22 and that's
6 where my problem is.

7

8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other comments.
9 Go ahead, Helen.

10

11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I should
12 also give you what the Seward Peninsula Council
13 recommended as part of this and then I know we have to
14 go through the process of asking other agencies for
15 comments. The first year this came around the Seward
16 Peninsula Council supported it, last year they opposed
17 it, this year they supported it with modification and
18 they wanted to include the surrounding Councils in that
19 modification. So that's what their current position
20 is. Kawerak had wanted it to be a statement about what
21 their C&T uses were in Unit 22 and now I think they
22 have realized that by doing that and very defining it
23 with Unit 22 that only Unit 22 that people would be
24 excluded, so they came forward to the Council and said
25 they would be willing to have a modification to that.
26 Just so you know what their recommendation was.

27

28 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other comments,
29 questions from Council. Virgil.

30

31 MR. ADAMS: Nope.

32

33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Austin.

34

35 MR. SWAN: (Shakes head negatively)

36

37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Robbie.

38

39 MR. EVERETT: No.

40

41 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What is the wish of
42 the Council.

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: Again, Mr. Chairman,
45 because of the fact -- two things. One, we don't have
46 any information relating to biological info. Two, if
47 we should move ahead to support the proposals, it would
48 exclude, based on what the agency told us, folks from
49 Buckland and Deering for utilization or taking of these
50 resources and that's where I'm having problems. If

1 that's what it's going to do, then I wouldn't support
2 the proposals that's before us.

3

4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Is that a motion?

5

6 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.

7

8 MR. SAMPSON: I think we need to go
9 through the process of listening to the agencies on
10 that, then we can act. What Helen is doing is just
11 giving us an overall picture of what those proposals
12 mean to the agency and what the intent of those
13 proposals are.

14

15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Is there any other
16 agency people that would like to comment on this.

17

18 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yes.

21

22 MR. EDENSHAW: We're at number two here
23 at ADF&G. If the Council thumbs over to Page 25, those
24 are the State's comments. I think Terry Haines was
25 supposed to come here, but I thought I heard his name
26 being cancelled when he didn't show up at the airport.
27 Normally Terry or another representative or if Jim is
28 going to do that, would submit the State's comments in
29 regards to the proposals, but the Council can read
30 those for themselves if they so wish to do. Those are
31 on Page 25.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MR. EDENSHAW: If there isn't anyone
36 who wishes to provide any comments from the State, then
37 we can move on to number three if there's anyone from
38 the Federal, State or Tribal agency willing to provide
39 comments regarding this proposal.

40

41 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
42 Preliminary Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

43

44 Wildlife Proposals WP08-39 through -45:

45

46 Establish customary and traditional use
47 determinations in Unit 22 for beaver, red fox, Arctic
48 fox, hare, lynx, marten, and wolverine.

49

50 Introduction:

1 Because the Federal Subsistence Board
2 has not made customary and traditional use
3 determinations for these furbearer species in Unit 22,
4 all rural residents currently are eligible to harvest
5 them in Unit 22 under federal regulations. Adoption of
6 these proposals as written would limit eligibility only
7 to residents of Unit 22 and disallow harvest under
8 federal regulations by other rural residents. The
9 Federal Subsistence Board deferred action on these
10 proposals at its May 2006 and May 2007 meetings in
11 order to allow time for neighboring regional councils
12 to provide input and for staff to assemble information
13 on use of these species by rural residents in Unit 22
14 and adjoining units.

15

16 Impact on Subsistence Users:

17

18 Adoption of these proposals would not
19 affect federally-qualified subsistence users in Unit 22
20 but would disqualify residents from adjoining units
21 from harvesting furbearers in Unit 22 under federal
22 regulations. The effect of establishing customary and
23 traditional use determinations is to provide a federal
24 preference to rural residents to harvest a particular
25 species on federal public land. Non-listed rural
26 residents and other state subsistence users are subject
27 to limits on participation in times of shortage. The
28 Federal Subsistence Board should establish a priority
29 use based on substantial evidence of customary and
30 traditional use of each species for each geographic
31 area by more than just the residents of Unit 22;
32 otherwise, other residents, such as those in adjoining
33 units that have a history of harvesting these resources
34 in Unit 22, will be inappropriately eliminated.

35

36 Other Comments:

37

38 The Federal Subsistence Board has
39 previously made C&T findings for other species where
40 substantial evidence resulted in inclusion of more than
41 just Unit 22 residents, so findings for additional
42 species should also evaluate available information on
43 uses by other residents. At its May 1997 meeting, the
44 Federal Subsistence Board narrowed an existing
45 customary and traditional use finding for wolves in
46 Unit 22 to rural residents of Units 21D (north of the
47 Yukon River), 22, 23, and Kotlik. Areas and
48 communities outside of Unit 22 were included on the
49 basis of testimony from the Northwest Arctic and
50 Western Interior Regional Advisory Councils.

1 Recommendation:

2

3 Oppose. We agree that the staff
4 analysis has insufficient information to specify which
5 rural residents have a history of use of the specific
6 wildlife population for subsistence purposes in
7 specific geographic areas in Unit 22. The federal
8 regulatory standard for a customary and traditional use
9 determination requires that a community or area
10 generally exhibit the eight factors listed in 50 CFR
11 100.16(b). The regulations require that the Federal
12 Subsistence Board s determination identify the
13 specific community s or area s use of specific fish
14 stocks or wildlife populations. In order to identify
15 these uses by a community or area for federal lands in
16 Unit 22, substantial evidence must support a decision
17 after meaningful Board discussion for each of the eight
18 factors on the record.

19

20 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
21 Preliminary Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

22

23 Wildlife Proposals WP08-46 and 47:

24

25 Establish customary and traditional use
26 determinations for spruce grouse and for rock and
27 willow ptarmigan in Unit 22.

28

29 Introduction:

30

31 Because the Federal Subsistence Board
32 has not made customary and traditional use
33 determinations for these game birds in Unit 22, all
34 rural residents currently are eligible to harvest them
35 in Unit 22 under federal regulations. Adoption of
36 these proposals as written would limit eligibility only
37 to residents of Unit 22 and disallow harvest under
38 federal regulations by other rural residents. The
39 Federal Subsistence Board deferred action on these
40 proposals at its May 2006 and May 2007 meetings in
41 order to allow time for neighboring regional councils
42 to provide input and for staff to assemble information
43 on use of these species by rural residents in Unit 22
44 and adjoining units.

45

46 Impact on Subsistence Users:

47

48 Adoption of these proposals would not
49 affect federally-qualified subsistence users in Unit 22
50 but would disqualify residents from adjoining units

1 from harvesting game birds in Unit 22 under federal
2 regulations. The effect of establishing customary and
3 traditional use determinations is to provide a federal
4 preference to rural residents to harvest a particular
5 species on federal public land. Non-listed rural
6 residents and other state subsistence users are subject
7 to limits on participation in times of shortage. The
8 Federal Subsistence Board should establish a priority
9 use based on substantial evidence of customary and
10 traditional use of each species for each geographic
11 area by more than just the residents of Unit 22;
12 otherwise, other residents, such as those in adjoining
13 units that have a history of harvesting these resources
14 in Unit 22, will be inappropriately eliminated.

15

16 Opportunity Provided by State:

17

18 The state and federal season and
19 harvest limit for grouse are the same in Unit 22.
20 State regulations allow a harvest of 20 ptarmigan per
21 day and 40 in possession during a September 1 April
22 30 season in Unit 22.

23

24 Other Comments:

25

26 The Federal Subsistence Board
27 previously made C&T findings for other species where
28 substantial evidence resulted in inclusion of more than
29 just Unit 22 residents, so findings for additional
30 species should also evaluate available information on
31 uses by other residents. At its May 1997 meeting, the
32 Federal Subsistence Board narrowed an existing
33 customary and traditional use finding for wolves in
34 Unit 22 to rural residents of Units 21D (north of the
35 Yukon River), 22, 23, and Kotlik. Areas and
36 communities outside of Unit 22 were included on the
37 basis of testimony from the Northwest Arctic and
38 Western Interior Regional Advisory Councils.

39

40 Recommendation:

41

42 Oppose. We agree that the staff
43 analysis has insufficient information to specify which
44 rural residents have a history of use of the specific
45 wildlife population for subsistence purposes in
46 specific geographic areas in Unit 22. The federal
47 regulatory standard for a customary and traditional use
48 determination requires that a community or area
49 generally exhibit the eight factors listed in 50 CFR
50 100.16(b). The regulations require that the Federal

1 Subsistence Board s determination identify the
2 specific community s or area s use of specific fish
3 stocks or wildlife populations. In order to identify
4 these uses by a community or area for federal lands in
5 Unit 22, substantial evidence must support a decision
6 after meaningful Board discussion for each of the eight
7 factors on the record.

8 MR. EDENSHAW: The next one would be
9 the Interagency Staff Committee.

10

(No comments)

11

12
13 MR. EDENSHAW: The other one is written
14 public comments, Mr. Chair, and we didn't receive any
15 written public comments regarding the proposal and
16 there wasn't any forms submitted for public testimony.

17

18 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Do we wish to defer
19 this, table it?

20

21 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chair. I think it's
22 crucial that we act on these proposals. By rejecting,
23 what we're saying is that we do have some concerns in
24 regards to the area that other people go into and we do
25 have some concerns in regards to some biological
26 information on different critters within that area. So
27 based on that, Mr. Chairman, I have some problems
28 adopting the proposals.

29

30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Robbie. I
31 know you're thinking.

32

33 MR. EVERETT: I make a motion that we
34 oppose this.

35

36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I have a motion on
37 the table to oppose. Any second.

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: I'll second that.

40

41 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Seconded by Walter.
42 All in favor say aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

47

48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
49 Chair. The next one is -- do you want me to move on?

50

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Just move, please.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay, just move.
4 The next two proposals are found on Page 34, Proposals
5 WP08-48 and 49. These were also submitted by Kawerak
6 and they also request customary and traditional use
7 determinations for all residents of Unit 22 and year-
8 round seasons and unlimited harvest limits for ground
9 squirrel and porcupine. That was the original
10 proposal. They were deferred by the Board in 2006 and
11 2007. The year-round seasons and unlimited harvest
12 limits was taken care of because they already have
13 that. So this is just a C&T determination request.

14

15 The reason I didn't include this with
16 the other ones is because ground squirrel and porcupine
17 fall into a different classification. They are
18 considered unclassified wildlife. In 1995, the Federal
19 Subsistence Board determined that certain wildlife such
20 as squirrels and porcupine were considered unclassified
21 and, as unclassified wildlife, we do not do C&T
22 determinations for them. The unclassified wildlife
23 also have no seasons and no harvest limits so we don't
24 need to do a C&T determination for them.

25

26 Because of that, our recommendation is
27 to oppose the proposal with the justification that
28 they're included as unclassified wildlife and the Board
29 does not make customary and traditional use
30 determinations for unclassified wildlife and they
31 already have a year-round season and unlimited harvest
32 because they are designated as unclassified wildlife.

33

34 I'll just say right now before you get
35 into your discussions that the Seward Peninsula Council
36 also supported opposing this and I think Kawerak now
37 understand where we're coming from. I'm not sure
38 actually about Kawerak, I should say, because Austin
39 Ahmasuk, who is the one who made the proposal, doesn't
40 work for Kawerak any more, but he understands now there
41 are justifications for opposing the proposal. So quick
42 and easy.

43

44 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Comments
45 from Council.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, based on
48 the information that's been provided to us, because of
49 the non-classification or unclassified wildlife and the
50 recommendations from Seward Peninsula Advisory Council

1 objected to it, I will not support the proposals as
2 well.

3
4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Is that a motion,
5 Walter.

6
7 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I move that
8 we oppose Proposals 46 and 47.

9
10 MR. ADAMS: Second.

11
12 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Virgil.
13 All in favor.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Motion carries.
18 Thank you. Who's next?

19
20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Greg Risdahl is
21 doing Proposals 50 and 51 and then I'll be back for the
22 rest of them. Thank you.

23
24 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Before Helen
25 goes, I just wanted to ask her a question because I'm
26 certain it's going to come up at the Board meeting in
27 May. For 39 through 45 Seward Pen supported the
28 proposal with modification to include Deering and
29 Buckland, is that correct?

30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No. To include the
32 surrounding Units 23.....

33
34 MR. EDENSHAW: The communities within
35 23.

36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes. Thank you.

38
39 MR. EDENSHAW: So, Victor, when you
40 come to the Board meeting, you'll be able to convey
41 that to the Board that in spite of the Council opposing
42 Proposals 39 through 45, because it's a home proposal
43 for Seward Pen, that this Council would support the
44 Seward Pen's 39 through 45 amended language to include
45 those communities in Unit 23. I just want you to know
46 that the Council doesn't oppose that, so that when you
47 go to the Board meeting I'm certain there will be
48 questions of you that because the Seward Pen is
49 modifying the proposal to include communities in Unit
50 23 that the Council isn't opposed to that.

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I'm sure you'll
2 remind me again. Thank you. Good afternoon, Greg. Go
3 ahead.

4
5 MR. RISDAHL: Good afternoon, Chairman,
6 Members of the Council. Thank you for the opportunity
7 to be here. We actually spent most of the morning
8 discussing the issues behind this proposal.

9
10 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Would you
11 introduce yourself as what you do in the department.

12
13 MR. RISDAHL: I'm sorry. I'm Greg
14 Risdahl and I'm the wildlife biologist for the
15 Subsistence Management Office for this area.

16
17 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

18
19 MR. RISDAHL: As I was saying, we spent
20 all the morning talking about the issues that are
21 really behind this proposal, so I'm going to try to
22 stick to the main points, not get into a whole lot more
23 detail, but there are some things that should be spoken
24 verbally to go into the record.

25
26 Wildlife Proposal WP08-50 was submitted
27 by Virgil Adams and requests changing the time period
28 in the special provision that restricts aircraft use of
29 the Noatak Controlled Use Area from the current August
30 25th through September 15th to August 30th through
31 September 30th.

32
33 Similarly Wildlife Proposal WP08-51 was
34 submitted by the Maniilaq Association and requests
35 changing the time period in the special provision to
36 August 25th through October 30th.

37
38 Of course, the primary reason the
39 proponents would like to change the dates in the
40 special provision restricting aircraft use over this
41 Controlled Use Area is to protect the Western Arctic
42 Caribou Herd on its annual migration and to ensure that
43 subsistence opportunities exist into the future for
44 people living out here.

45
46 The proponent for WP08-50 states that
47 because caribou are migrating later the restriction on
48 flying aircraft over the Noatak Controlled Use Area
49 should be changed accordingly. The proponent also
50 states that this will improve caribou harvests for

1 subsistence users.

2

3 The proponent for WP08-51 states, Much
4 has changed since the village of Noatak first requested
5 the prohibition on the use of aircraft on the Noatak
6 drainage in 1984. With climate change, the Western
7 Arctic Caribou Herd are migrating later and later, and
8 freeze up of the river and streams do not occur until
9 mid-October. The proponent also states that
10 restricting the use of aircraft over the Noatak

11 Controlled Use

12 Area through the end of October will allow caribou to
13 migrate on their normal routes, which will subsequently
14 improve subsistence hunting opportunities.

15

16 Approximately 56 percent of the lands
17 in Unit 23 are Federal public lands. Most of that is
18 administered by the Park Service.

19

20 All rural residents of Unit 23 have a
21 customary and traditional use determination to hunt and
22 trap in Unit 23. In addition, rural residents of
23 several other communities in several other units have a
24 customary and traditional use determination for caribou
25 in Unit 23. Only residents of Unit 23 have a customary
26 and traditional use determination for moose in Unit 23.

27

28 I'm going to go very quickly through
29 the regulatory history. Most of you are quite familiar
30 with it at this point. I'm just going to state that
31 there was a restriction on hunting of any big game
32 originally from August 20th through September 20th when
33 the special provision was first implemented.

34

35 Today much of the Noatak Controlled Use
36 area is within the Noatak National Preserve and is
37 administered by the National Park Service. There are
38 few regulations affecting the use of aircraft in the
39 Noatak valley. Air taxis, guides and
40 transporters operating within the preserve are required
41 to obtain a business license from the Park Service and
42 report on their activities annually. The Park Service
43 does not have other restrictions on airplane use in the
44 Noatak Preserve, though the agency recommends that
45 aircraft maintain an altitude of 2,000 feet when flying
46 over park lands. Again, as you heard this morning,
47 both Park Service and BLM are working on administrative
48 options for addressing the user conflict.

49

50 Just a little bit about the biological

1 background. I guess I don't need to go too much
2 through that. Most of you guys know more about the
3 migration of the caribou herd than I do. But there is
4 a nice little write-up that came from several of the
5 different biologists that work up here in your proposal
6 analysis.

7
8 Currently the State of Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game management goals for the
10 Western Arctic Caribou Herd are to protect and maintain
11 the caribou herd and its habitat; provide for
12 subsistence and recreational hunting on a sustained
13 yield basis; provide for viewing and other uses of
14 caribou; and perpetuate associated wildlife
15 populations, including carnivores.

16
17 The first aerial census of the Western
18 Arctic Caribou Herd took place in 1970 and a population
19 estimate there was around 243,000 animals. The herd
20 reached a low in 1976 when the population was estimated
21 to contain only 75,000 caribou. Today, as you've heard
22 already, the caribou population is at or near an all-
23 time population high of around half a million animals.
24 The fall population composition of the Western Arctic
25 Caribou Herd has averaged about 44 calves per 100 cows
26 and 48 bulls per 100 cows for the last almost 50 years.
27 That's the average, although that has gone up and down,
28 of course, from time to time.

29
30 State and Federal biologists agree that
31 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd are healthy and have
32 few concerns about the amount of hunting pressure on
33 them. Thus, the caribou regulations in Unit 23, both
34 State and Federal, are some of the
35 most liberal in the state of Alaska. However,
36 scientists and Native and local hunters alike are
37 concerned that the herd may crash at some point in the
38 near future because of competition for food resources,
39 loss of forage from extensive tundra fires, and
40 inability to access food on wintering areas because of
41 icing.

42
43 As mentioned earlier, people in the
44 Noatak valley have a long history of hunting caribou in
45 the upper Noatak River valley, especially in the fall,
46 when they prefer to take large, fat bulls prior to the
47 rut. Local residents traditionally hunt for caribou
48 off snowmachines from late October through early May.
49 Few local hunters use aircraft. In contrast, non-local
50 hunters rely almost entirely on aircraft to access

1 caribou hunting areas. Once in the field, non-local
2 hunters use boats to float the river or 4-wheelers
3 supplied by hunting guides, who store them at remote
4 camps.

5
6 On Page 43, I mentioned this earlier,
7 you'll see a table that shows the approximate harvest
8 of caribou by both subsistence hunters and non-local
9 hunters including both non-local residents from Alaska
10 as well as non-residents.

11
12 Around 10,000 caribou are taken
13 annually in Unit 23 by subsistence hunters. This
14 constitutes approximately 95 percent of the total
15 harvest in Unit 23. The annual average harvest
16 reported by non-local hunters in the ADF&G harvest
17 database is around 578 animals. We were discussing
18 this at lunch, how accurate that number is. It does
19 seem awfully small. I spoke with the law enforcement
20 officer and he said, gee, sometimes we'll count 20
21 caribou in a single camp. So there is a possibility
22 that there is some under-reporting going on as far as
23 the non-local harvest as well. It just depends on how
24 many people turn in their harvest tags. As far as I
25 know, nobody has a really good handle on that, so that
26 number is probably a little bit low.

27
28 As far as current events, again, we
29 talked about some of this this morning, but we all know
30 that conflicts among non-local hunters, including
31 commercial operators, guides and transporters, and
32 local subsistence hunters have been an ongoing problem
33 for many years in many parts of Unit 23, including the
34 Noatak Controlled Use Area. The issue is complex and
35 involves all hunters, not just caribou hunters, who
36 are affected by the use of aircraft and commercial
37 operators in contrast to local hunters use of boats
38 and snow machines. Shortened seasons, reduced bag
39 limits, crowding, and few
40 trophy class animals in other parts of Alaska often
41 force people to go to areas such as this to hunt. As
42 well as fewer places to hunt multiple species of big
43 game animals at the same time. This is especially
44 important for non-residents hunters. They like to be
45 able to go out and harvest more than one species at a
46 time, so they like areas like this to go to.

47
48 The primary limiting factors driving
49 these conflicts appear to be access points and space to
50 accommodate all users. In fact, some high-volume

1 transporters control virtually entire
2 drainages in Unit 23 by contracting their services to
3 numerous clients and monopolizing access points.

4
5 During the November 2007 Board of Game
6 meeting in Bethel here recently, the Board of Game
7 rejected Proposal No. 52 to change the timing of the
8 no-fly restrictions in the Noatak Controlled Use Area.
9 Instead, the Board of Game endorsed the creation of a
10 Unit 23 user conflict working group, like some of you
11 mentioned earlier day, to do an in-depth study to
12 document and quantify the extent of perceived problems
13 between local subsistence hunters, non-local hunters
14 and commercial enterprises. So far the Board of Game
15 has approved a two-year study and the State has
16 inserted about \$50,000 into
17 the project already as seed money. We heard George say
18 today that the Park Service is following up with
19 \$40,000, so there is definitely some cooperation going
20 on here between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
21 the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land
22 Management and Fish and Wildlife Service.

23
24 The primary objectives of the working
25 group will be to determine the social carrying capacity
26 of hunters, guides, air taxis and transporters in Unit
27 23; to minimize impacts to resources; ensure that
28 quality hunting opportunities exist for individuals
29 hunting under both State and Federal regulations;
30 ensure that subsistence hunting opportunities and other
31 cultural elements are preserved; and ensure that
32 transporter
33 activities are conducted in a manner that do not
34 disrupt caribou, other wildlife, or subsistence user
35 activities.

36
37 In terms of the effects of the
38 proposals. If either WP08-50 or 51 were adopted by the
39 Federal Subsistence Board, it would not decrease the
40 amount of air traffic within the Noatak Controlled Use
41 Area because Federal regulations only apply to
42 Federally qualified subsistence users on Federal public
43 lands. Non-local hunters who use air taxi service
44 providers, transporters or big game guides and
45 outfitters to access the Noatak River drainage to hunt
46 caribou all operate under State hunting regulations.
47 That's an important point to remember, that our Federal
48 regulations do not affect the people that are hunting
49 under State regulations, in other words sport hunters.

50

1 A Board proposal could only be
2 effective in lengthening or adjusting the dates that
3 the air traffic restrictions are in place if they are
4 done in conjunction with the Alaska Board of Game,
5 which would be preferable to a Federal public lands
6 closure. This is probably unlikely in the first place
7 because there are no conservation concerns for the
8 Western Arctic Caribou Herd as a whole because the
9 population is so large.

10
11 Adopting Wildlife Proposal 50 or 51 and
12 lengthening or adjusting the restrictions on aircraft
13 use with the Noatak Controlled Use Area would penalize
14 the few Federally qualified subsistence users, mostly
15 from Kotzebue, who do use aircraft to hunt the area.

16
17 Finally, controlled use areas are State
18 of Alaska management areas and the Federal Subsistence
19 Management Program has not modified their regulations
20 from what has been provided in the State regulations.
21 If we were to do that, we would be breaking new ground.
22 Again, it would only affect the Federal subsistence
23 users on the Federal public lands.

24
25 Therefore, the OSM's preliminary
26 conclusion is to oppose Proposals 50 and 51. Changes
27 to the Noatak Controlled Use Area should be postponed
28 until the results of the Unit 23 user conflict study
29 indicates the best course of action to take. Thank
30 you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Greg. Any
33 questions, comments from Council.

34
35 MR. SAMPSON: What was the ratio again
36 in regards to caribou bull/cow ratio?

37
38 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Sampson. The
39 bull/cow ratio on average for this 40-year period has
40 been around 48 bulls per 100 cows, so it's a good,
41 healthy bull/cow ratio.

42
43 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other comments,
44 questions.

45
46 MR. SAMPSON: I got a follow-up
47 question to the effects of the subsistence user when
48 the State of Alaska regulations are applied within
49 Federal lands. If the Federal government should adopt
50 a regulation even at the objection of the State of

1 Alaska, would the State regs still apply within Federal
2 lands?

3

4 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Sampson, through the
5 Chair. Yes, the State regulations would still apply.
6 Unless the State were to change their regulations, our
7 Federal subsistence regulations would not affect the
8 sport hunters because they're hunting under State
9 regulations. The only way we could -- if you were to
10 go to the extreme to keep sport hunters out of the
11 Noatak Controlled Use Area would be to actually close
12 the Federal public lands to non-Federal subsistence
13 users, but the likelihood of that happening is very,
14 very low because the population is so large and there's
15 no conservation concerns for the population.

16

17 MR. SAMPSON: I'm struggling here
18 trying to get in my mind what the bottom line to all
19 this is and the purpose of the proposals. With the
20 issues that were discussed this morning about how the
21 system is set up and how the system operates, then we
22 know there's an issue. Based on the proposals that I'm
23 looking at, basically from a two week window to a 30-
24 day window is what the change is being asked for.

25

26 The State of Alaska Board of Game has
27 always talked about creating an opportunity for the
28 residents of the state of Alaska and it's always
29 supported that, more so to the public. I think if the
30 Noatak folks are considered part of the public, then
31 they ought to be given that opportunity to provide for
32 the hunt within that window and that's what this
33 proposal is asking for, is an opportunity to go out and
34 hunt. With all the problems we've heard and issues
35 that have been presented to us, there is a problem. If
36 we deny an opportunity for the folks of Noatak and they
37 come to the same predicament like they did last fall,
38 then we're not providing an opportunity for them.
39 That's where my thinking is.

40

41 I recognize the ratio of 48 bulls per
42 100 cows. That's healthy. I understand that. And I
43 also understand there's no biological problems in
44 regards to the herd getting up to half a million, but
45 the bottom line of what is being proposed to me is that
46 these folks are basically asking for an opportunity, a
47 window, to do their hunting. If they're impacted by
48 other user groups because they didn't have that
49 opportunity, then I have a problem with that.

50

1 On top of that, the State of Alaska, we
2 all know, just until recently finally got a
3 representative to the Board from the Native community.
4 If the State of Alaska look at us and view us as not
5 being part of the state residents but yet won't support
6 having a couple individuals on the Board so we could
7 have our say through the people, then I have a problem.
8 To me that's discrimination.

9
10 And if they continue to say we will
11 enforce our State regulations even within Federal lands
12 it leads me no choice but to support the proposals
13 before us. Sure there's some issues and problems about
14 effects on subsistence users, but what Noatak is trying
15 to do is create a window of opportunity.

16
17 We heard from Maniilaq the issue in
18 regard to access. Aircraft has a better access to
19 resource, whereas those folks at the community level
20 their only access is by the river. They're limited to
21 only the corridors along the river system to hunt, to
22 put food on the table for their family. So based on
23 that, even though there's some objections to these
24 proposals, it's got my support.

25
26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Greg.

27
28 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Sampson, through the
29 Chair. I don't think I was quite clear. I think the
30 proposals that were presented here had very good
31 intentions. They would like to change this window
32 where aircraft restrictions are in place to facilitate
33 the movement of caribou and to enhance the opportunity
34 for subsistence users. The problem is, because the
35 Federal subsistence regulations, which you're voting on
36 here, only affect Federally qualified people, it's not
37 going to change the number of aircraft, transporters or
38 the number of guides or the number of non-resident or
39 non-local hunters. The numbers are still going to be
40 up there and probably continue to rise because those
41 people are not affected by these regulations. In order
42 to be effective in getting what Maniilaq and Mr. Adams
43 would like to see happen, the State also has to be
44 involved. They have to change their regulations in
45 conjunction with the Park Service and the Bureau of
46 Land Management, the people who are managing the land.
47 That is where the changes have to take place. It can't
48 just take place with the Federal subsistence
49 regulations because they're not going to get the
50 desired effect.

1 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I
2 recognize and understand what you're getting at. The
3 existing system that's in place is flawed and if
4 somebody say you're wrong, then I would like to hear
5 that. Maybe I need correction. I say flawed because
6 the system that's in place has great support from other
7 areas, whereas a community like Noatak that says we
8 want to have an opportunity, but yet because of the way
9 the system is set up we deny that opportunity for those
10 folks, but yet allow others to have better access to
11 that resource. That's why I say it's flawed. Maybe
12 I'm wrong, but I would have some objections to that.

13
14 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any more comments,
15 questions from Council.

16
17 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. I am Steve
18 Klein from OSM. Greg is mostly correct there. There
19 is one circumstance where we could apply the Federal
20 regulations to sport hunting and that would only be for
21 conservation of healthy populations and I don't think
22 that is the issue here. But for Federal regulations it
23 could apply to non-subsistence uses like sport hunting
24 only if it's implemented to conserve healthy
25 populations.

26
27 MR. SAMPSON: I must have talked
28 something off a pier a little bit when I made that
29 statement to the fact that the system is flawed. I'm
30 glad I did and I'm glad you responded and clarified
31 something. Thank you.

32
33 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. I think,
34 Walter, what you're saying is the system is flawed and
35 what you're saying is if it's creating access issues
36 where subsistence needs are difficult to achieve, then
37 the system is broke. If that's your viewpoint, then
38 you would say the system is flawed and you're correct.

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Mr. Magdanz.

43
44 MR. MAGDANZ: Just some information
45 that might be useful here. I believe there were two
46 proposals, one to the State system and one to the
47 Federal system. The deadline for the Federal proposal
48 was before the Board of Game had their meeting in
49 November in Bethel, so I believe the idea that Maniilaq
50 and Noatak both had was that the State would take

1 action to make these changes to reflect the changes
2 that have occurred, but the State didn't take action on
3 that proposal. They did not adopt that proposal. So
4 what is left is this relatively small piece of the
5 original intent that both Noatak and Maniilaq had,
6 which was to regulate all the hunters that used
7 aircraft to access that area and now you're left with a
8 proposal that would only regulate people in Kotzebue to
9 go in there. So that's kind of how we came to this
10 point.

11
12 MR. SAMPSON: Okay, now I have a better
13 picture of what the intent is. Mr. Chairman, unless
14 somebody has anything to bring to the table, I would
15 like to take a step down and have some discussions with
16 some of the folks in the room before we get into voting
17 on the proposals.

18
19 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Are you asking for a
20 short recess?

21
22 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

23
24 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Let's recess for a
25 brief period of time.

26 (Off record)

27
28 (On record)

29
30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay, Walter, you've
31 got the table.

32
33 MR. SAMPSON: What were the words, Ken?
34 No, I didn't talk to Ken. I was just teasing him. I
35 said what were the words I was supposed to use.

36
37 MR. ADKISSON: You want me to give you
38 some? I won't guarantee they'll go very far.

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: First of all, Mr.
41 Chairman, as a member of this RAC and the residents I
42 represent of this region, yes, at some point in time
43 it's going to have a backlash on me, but there's been
44 some other proposals that's been adopted by the Federal
45 government in regards to resources over the objection
46 of the State of Alaska. I mean it's been done. What
47 I'm proposing to do is to make a statement, maybe even
48 to move ahead to say that politically this is what I'm
49 supporting. I'm supporting the concept of the
50 proposal. However, I will make another recommendation

1 in the form of a motion to the fact that we request all
2 the organizations throughout this region to put
3 together a proposal to the State of Alaska so the State
4 of Alaska can address the very crux of the issue. I
5 think that would be a meaningful way of dealing with
6 it. Otherwise I can continue to cry, I can continue to
7 pout and it's not going to get nowhere. Because of the
8 fact that the State of Alaska is going to go ahead and
9 manage its resources anyway even though we say, hey,
10 we're in the Federal system.

11
12 After some discussions, Mr. Chairman,
13 for the sake of my points or the statements I've made
14 early on, the intent of Noatak certainly I can see is
15 to try to create an opportunity for them, but at the
16 same time it also has a reflection on the folks of
17 Kotzebue, completely opposite of what Noatak is trying
18 to do.

19
20 Based on the proposal they have, I
21 would like to make a statement and make a motion to
22 adopt the two proposals to give a message to both the
23 State and Feds and I will make another motion that will
24 reflect a proposal that I would like to get worked on.

25
26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay, Walter. Thank
27 you. What's your first motion?

28
29 MR. SAMPSON: I make a motion, Mr.
30 Chairman, that this body make a strong statement to the
31 fact that we support the intent of the proposal.

32
33 MR. ADAMS: Second.

34
35 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any discussion,
36 questions.

37
38 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Can we
39 proceed down through one through eight, please, just
40 for protocol.

41
42 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Which one is that?

43
44 MR. EDENSHAW: On each proposal we have
45 to address the protocol of the agencies.

46
47 MR. SAMPSON: That's fine, Mr.
48 Chairman.

49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay. Second time.

1 We'll see if we can get it straight this time. Alaska
2 Department of Fish and Game.

3

4 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. For some
5 reason on this proposal the comments were omitted from
6 there, so if Jim had any additional comments regarding
7 50 and 51.

8

9 MR. MAGDANZ: No additional comments.

10

11 MR. EDENSHAW: Number three, were there
12 any Federal, State or Tribal agency comments.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MR. EDENSHAW: Number four, Warren.

17

18 MR. EASTLAND: I may have what the
19 State comments are.

20

21 MR. EDENSHAW: For the Council's info,
22 Warren is a Staff Committee member representing the
23 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

24

25 MR. EASTLAND: Those are the State
26 comments.

27

28 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair and Council.
29 On Page 23 of this book the State's recommendation is
30 not to adopt the proposals. Anyway, Mr. Chair, I
31 didn't have the State's comments, but we can continue
32 down. Number five, Fish and Game Advisory comments.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MR. EDENSHAW: Number six, we didn't
37 have any written public comments.

38

39 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I had no request for
40 public testimony unless Mr. Okleasik from the Borough.

41

42 MR. OKLEASIK: I would just like to say
43 the Borough supports this concept as Walter stated. I
44 really agree that this Council should recommend back to
45 the State Board that they change the Controlled Use
46 Area. And also for the Council's information, the
47 Planning Department did work with the community of
48 Noatak on their comprehensive plan and changing the
49 Controlled Use Area as part of the community's
50 comprehensive plan as well.

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Go ahead,
2 Walter.

3
4 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I don't
5 intend to make a recommendation to change the
6 Controlled Use Area. My intent is to change a window
7 of opportunity based on the proposal that was submitted
8 by Noatak. If we intend to change the Controlled Use
9 Area, the State of Alaska is going to have a heyday and
10 make those changes to even delete the existing
11 Controlled Use Area, so basically I'm going to make a
12 motion to the fact that we will ask for a change in the
13 window of opportunity and changing the dates within the
14 Controlled Use Area.

15
16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I can understand
17 that. That's the way I interpret this proposal. As
18 far as I know, when I was at the Game Board meeting,
19 they were looking for any opportunity to do away with
20 that controlled use area.

21
22 MR. SAMPSON: But we all know that the
23 courts have struck down objections to or lawsuits in
24 regards to Controlled Use Areas because the courts
25 recognize and see it's an opportunity for those folks
26 in those areas that are affected and that's why they
27 struck out some lawsuits that were to do away with
28 Controlled Use Areas.

29
30 MR. SWAN: Question.

31
32 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: The question has been
33 called.

34
35 MR. SAMPSON: Roll call.

36
37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: All in favor.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

42
43 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I would
44 like to make a motion to have the regional
45 organizations collectively working together to put
46 together a proposal to the State of Alaska to create an
47 opportunity of window for the community of Noatak to
48 reflect the dates that Noatak has proposed, not to
49 change the Controlled Use Area but to create an
50 opportunity for them to reflect the dates that they

1 have proposed from 15 days to 30 days.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Do you have any
4 suggestions as to what entity to use to put out or ask
5 for this proposal?

6

7 MR. SAMPSON: Clarify.

8

9 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What organization
10 would you like to use or suggest?

11

12 MR. SAMPSON: I would suggest that
13 NANA, KIC, Maniilaq, the Borough and all the tribal
14 entities throughout this region to submit either
15 different proposals or one proposal to the State of
16 Alaska so that the State of Alaska can work on fixing
17 that problem.

18

19 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Let me ask you this
20 way then. Would it be okay for the Borough to come up
21 with a draft to distribute to these entities?

22

23 MR. SAMPSON: That shouldn't be no
24 problem because it represents the whole region and all
25 the organizations.

26

27 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay. Do we have a
28 motion on the table to that effect, sir?

29

30 MR. SAMPSON: That was my motion.

31

32 MR. SWAN: Second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Seconded by Virgil.

35 All in favor.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Helen,
40 you're up.

41

42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong
43 again. Proposals WP08-52 and WP08-53 are found on Page
44 47 in your books. I'm going to do a brief
45 presentation, but if you have any questions, please let
46 me know.

47

48 Proposal WP08-52 was submitted by this
49 Council and it requests the addition of Unit 23 to the
50 list of areas from which the skin, hide, pelt or fur,

1 including claws, of brown bears harvested under Federal
2 subsistence regulations can be used to make handicrafts
3 for personal use or sale.

4
5 Proposal WP08-53 is the same proposal,
6 but it was requested by the North Slope Regional
7 Subsistence Advisory Council and it's for the addition
8 of Units 24B and 26. So these are really unit-specific
9 proposals for using brown bear handicrafts.

10
11 The Federal Subsistence Board and
12 Regional Advisory Councils statewide have considered
13 several proposals related to brown bear handicrafts
14 over the years and have repeatedly emphasized the
15 importance of the region-specific nature of bear
16 handicraft regulations. This Council has heard these
17 proposals in the past and it didn't support a previous
18 proposal that was a statewide proposal because this
19 Council had wanted it to be a region-specific proposal.
20 There are regions such as Western Interior that don't
21 want brown bear handicraft regulations, so there's been
22 a sensitivity to allowing these regulations to not be
23 statewide and let it be just region specific.

24
25 WP08-52 and WP08-53 are the result of
26 discussions at the fall 2007 Regional Advisory Council
27 meetings. It originated with an issue in Anaktuvuk
28 Pass because there was a mask made with brown bear fur
29 that was in the museum and they were told to take it
30 out because it had brown bear fur and it wasn't allowed
31 in that unit, so that inspired the idea of having a
32 region-specific proposal and then was suggested that
33 this Council propose it as well.

34
35 The preliminary OSM Staff conclusion is
36 to support this proposal. This was also just brought
37 up in Barrow at the North Slope and they supported it
38 as well. Last week it was at the Western Interior
39 Council and because they do not believe they should
40 have brown bear handicraft regulations in their region,
41 there's some strong cultural feelings about brown bears
42 in that area. They supported it for 24B, but not for
43 Unit 26.

44
45 The problem that the North Slope
46 Council had with that is that Anaktuvuk Pass is
47 actually in 24B and they hunt brown bear in 24B, so
48 they're in the unfortunate position of being right on
49 the border, but they're physically in Unit 24. So the
50 North Slope Council did support having this regulation

1 for 24B as well as 26 because of the position of
2 Anaktuvuk Pass.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes
5 and I'm happy to answer any questions.

6

7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

8

9 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. The
10 proposals that are before us that have been submitted
11 in regards to brown bear from this unit, to the list of
12 areas from which the skin, hide, pelt or fur, including
13 claws, of brown bears harvested under Federal
14 subsistence regulations can be used to make handicrafts
15 for personal use or sale, certainly I support that and
16 my intent is to support Proposals 52 and 53.

17

18 What happened at Anaktuvuk Pass is an
19 insult to that Native community when they were told to
20 take the mask out with black bear skin on it. This
21 would also include Unit 24B as part of these proposals.
22 So with that, Mr. Chairman, my recommendation is to
23 support Proposal 52 and 53.

24

25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other comments,
26 questions.

27

28 MR. EVERETT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. My
29 question is why did the Alaska Department of Fish and
30 Game oppose it and in looking at the conservation issue
31 it goes through the low reproductive rate, but it is
32 not changing the harvest of the bears. It would still
33 be limited to the one per year if I'm reading it
34 correctly, so why were they opposed to this?

35

36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Mr. Magdanz.

37

38 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
39 Mr. Everett. This was a statewide call, not a local
40 call and I wasn't part of the discussion that led to
41 the State's opposition on this. I don't have any other
42 information about it except to say that I think they're
43 concerned about international trade and black market in
44 animal parts in general.

45

46 MR. EVERETT: But for our local
47 interest, if it is not going to affect the harvest of
48 the bears as far as number of bears taken, will that
49 really affect in your opinion the conservation issues
50 as stated in this proposal?

1 MR. MAGDANZ: Personally, no. The
2 State's position is different.

3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yes.

7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Maybe I can add that
9 at the Seward Peninsula meeting the Chair did ask the
10 State representative who was there, Terry Haines, if
11 there was any evidence of people selling brown bear
12 handicrafts on the Black Market or selling on eBay and
13 was there any evidence of abuse and he said, no, there
14 isn't. So I think it's more the State has a fear that
15 that's going to happen and a fear we're going to see
16 too many brown bears taken, but we haven't seen any
17 evidence that it's been happening or that there is a
18 conservation concern. If there becomes a conservation
19 concern, then they can adjust the harvest limits, but
20 we don't know of any right now.

21
22 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chair. Based on
23 those, I would also support this.

24
25 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chair. I can't
26 believe the State of Alaska was in fear because we were
27 putting black bear fur on a mask -- or brown bear.

28
29 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: You have to remember
30 a brown bear brings between six and \$60,000 to the
31 State every season.

32
33 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. It's already
34 allowed in Southeast and Bristol Bay Region. They
35 regionalized a similar proposal as this and it's
36 already allowed in those two areas.

37
38 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I need a motion.

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I make a
41 motion that we support Proposals 52 and 53 to include
42 Unit 24B and regionalize this proposal.

43
44 MR. SWAN: Second.

45
46 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Austin.

47
48 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Can we go
49 down through our protocol, please.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead.

4

5 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you. Were there
6 any ADF&G comments. I believe Mr. Magdanz provided
7 those.

8

9 MR. MAGDANZ: They're in the book.

10 Page 51.

11

12 MR. EDENSHAW: They're in the book

13 also.

14

15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game

16 comments:

17

18 Wildlife Proposals WP08-52 and WP08-53
19 would allow the sale of handicrafts made from the fur,
20 including claws, of grown bear harvested in Unit 23 and
21 in Units 24B and 26 respectively.

22

23 Introduction:

24

25 Federal regulations authorizing sale of
26 handicrafts made from the skin, hide, fur, or pelt,
27 including claws, of brown bears do not apply to brown
28 bears taken in Unites 23, 24B and 26. These proposals
29 would allow such sales. Where such sales are allowed
30 under Federal law, they are limited only by an
31 unenforceable regulation that prohibits sales
32 constituting a "significant commercial enterprise,"
33 which is undefined. Under State law, sales and
34 purchases of handicrafts made with brown bear claws are
35 prohibited. (The State opposes these proposals as
36 written, but notes that sales of bear fur handicrafts
37 without claws would be allowed without adoption of
38 these proposals if Proposal WP08-05 is adopted.)

39

40 Impact on Subsistence Users:

41

42 These proposals would not further
43 subsistence use of brown bear because sales of brown
44 bear handicrafts are ont customary and traditional in
45 Units 23, 24B and 26. The Federal Subsistence Board's
46 current allowance of such sales in other units was not
47 based upon a determination that such sales are
48 customary and traditional but upon the Board's
49 unsupported argument that the Board can authorize any
50 use if the take is customary and traditional.1

1 Bartering brown bear handicrafts with anyone is already
2 allowed under Federal regulations, and, therefore,
3 these proposals are not needed to allow rural residents
4 or urban Natives to obtain such handicrafts for
5 ceremonial, religious, and cultural purposes. Adoption
6 of these proposals will increase the likelihood that
7 Federal subsistence users will face State prosecution
8 for engaging in sales that are prohibited under State
9 law when they are on State or private lands.

10

11 1 See example Chairman Demientieff
12 letter to ADF&G on January 17, 2006

13

14 Opportunity Provided by State:

15

16 State regulations allow the purpose,
17 sale, and barter of handicrafts made from the fur of a
18 bear, but the State's definition of fur does not
19 include claws. Under 5 AAC 92.900, handicrafts made
20 with bear fur may be sold to anyone, but sales of
21 handicrafts made with claws are prohibited.

22

23 Conservation Issues:

24

25 Regulations allowing the sales of high
26 value bear claws create a legal market for bear claws
27 which is likely to mask illegal sales, compounding
28 problems with the international trade of endangered
29 species and contributing to the illegal harvest,
30 over-harvest and waste of bears in other states and
31 countries as well as Alaska. Brown bears develop
32 slowly and have a low reproductive rate, making small
33 populations extremely susceptible to over-harvest.
34 Allowing widespread sale of high value bear parts
35 without any kind of tracking mechanism is an invitation
36 to illegal harvests. Existing unit-specific
37 regulations are unenforceable and inconsistent with
38 sound management principles. Adoption of these
39 proposals will incrementally increase these problems.

40

41 Enforcement Issues:

42

43 Adoption of these proposals will
44 increase enforcement issues in several ways. First, by
45 expanding the pool of eligible sellers and potential
46 numbers of legal sales of high value bear parts, they
47 will contribute to increased masking of illegal sales
48 and bolster the economic incentives for poaching in
49 other states and countries as well as Alaska. Second,
50 they will add another unenforceable unit-specific sales

1 authorization without any tracking mechanism for
2 linking handicrafts to the location where a bear is
3 harvested. Third, adoption of these proposals will
4 increase the likelihood that Federal subsistence users
5 will face prosecution for attempting to engage in sales
6 on State or private land that are prohibited under
7 State law.

8

9

Jurisdiction Issues:

10

11 The State continues to maintain that
12 the Federal Government lacks jurisdiction to allow
13 sales of any wildlife handicrafts where such sales are
14 not customary and traditional. In the past, the
15 Federal Subsistence Board has rejected this argument,
16 asserting that if any use is customary and traditional,
17 the Board can authorize any other use. The Board's
18 argument is inconsistent with its litigation stance in
19 the Chistochina Unit 12 moose case where it argued that
20 customary and traditional use is related to how a
21 resource is used after it is taken and not to or a
22 prerequisite condition for the taking itself.²

23

24 ² State v. Fleagle, (Case 3:06-cv-
25 00107-HRH) Doc.32 at 22.

26

27

Recommendation:

28

29 Do not adopt Proposals WP08-52 and
30 WP08-53 for the following reasons. No evidence is
31 presented in either the proposal or Staff analyses
32 demonstrating that the production and sale of brown
33 bear handicrafts is a customary and traditional
34 activity in Unit 23, 24B, and 26. Furthermore, such
35 sales will create enforcement problems for subsistence
36 users and are contrary to accepted principles of
37 wildlife management in light of the endangered species
38 and sustainability issues. Sales of bear fur
39 handicrafts without claws would be allowed without
40 adoption of this proposal if Proposal WP08-05 is
41 adopted.

42

43 MR. EDENSHAW: Number three, Federal,
44 State and Tribal agency comments.

45

(No comments)

46

47

48

49

50

MR. EDENSHAW: Four, Interagency Staff
Committee.

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. EDENSHAW: None. Fish and Game
4 Advisory Committee comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MR. EDENSHAW: We didn't receive any
9 public testimony. Back to you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay. There was a
12 motion. It was seconded. Call for the question?

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: Question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: All in favor.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
23 Chair. I know that we're supposed to do Proposal WP08-
24 01 next, but I think I'd like to skip to 05 and that's
25 because that's also about brown bear and maybe just to
26 keep the subject fresh in your mind. If that's okay,
27 I'm going to move on. That one begins on Page 69, the
28 analysis on Page 70.

29

30 MR. EDENSHAW: Helen, before you
31 continue, can I ask the Council to give me some
32 information on 50 and 51. The Council didn't take any
33 action on 50/51. They submitted a motion to support
34 the intent of the proposal as well as a motion which
35 was first and seconded to submit a proposal that's
36 worked on by different entities here in the Kotzebue
37 region, but for my record keeping I'd also like for the
38 Council to adopt the proposal, they can adopt it with
39 modification or they can oppose it or they can just
40 defer it. So the Council should take action on 50/51,
41 which was the proposals submitted by Virgil for the
42 Controlled Use Area. I understand Walter's motion,
43 which was seconded and passed, supported the intent of
44 the proposal, but there's no action taken on the
45 proposal or else I can just go back and say the Council
46 took no action on the proposal.

47

48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter. I
49 can understand where he's coming from. We adopted and
50 recognized the concept of it.

1 MR. EDENSHAW: The intent. But in
2 terms of action of adopting the proposal, opposing or
3 adopting with modification or even just deferring,
4 there should be some type of action the Council has on
5 record regarding 50 and 51.

6
7 MR. SAMPSON: Well, if it's such a
8 problem, Mr. Chairman, I move for adoption of Proposals
9 50 and 51.

10
11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: There's a motion on
12 the table to adopt 50 and 51.

13
14 MR. ADAMS: Second.

15
16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Virgil.
17 All in favor.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

22
23 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
24 Council.

25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
27 Chair. We'll go back to Proposal WP08-05. This also
28 deals with brown bear handicrafts and this was a
29 statewide proposal submitted by the Alaska Department
30 of Fish and Game and it requests the removal of all
31 unit-specific regulations related to the statewide sale
32 of brown bear handicrafts made of skin, hide, pelt or
33 fur, and this is an important part, that sales of brown
34 bear handicrafts made of claws, bones, teeth, sinew, or
35 skulls should occur only between Federally qualified
36 subsistence users. So you could not sell a handicraft
37 made from claws, bones, teeth, sinew or skulls to
38 anybody but a Federally qualified subsistence user.

39
40 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: So, in other words,
41 these handicrafts could just go to another Federally
42 recognized subsistence user?

43
44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes, you couldn't
45 sell it to somebody, a tourist, or somebody in
46 Anchorage. And the reason ADF&G has submitted this is
47 they want to limit Federal regulations because in their
48 view Federal regulations allow for unconstrained
49 commercial sale of handicrafts made from brown bear
50 parts and create market incentives for poaching.

1 The proponent is concerned about our
2 Federal regs because of conservation concerns, like we
3 were just talking about. However, we have no evidence
4 that's actually happening.

5
6 The current Federal regulations, right
7 now brown bear fur and claws can be used to make
8 handicrafts for sale if the bears were harvested from
9 the units in Eastern Interior, Bristol Bay and
10 Southeast Alaska. Other parts, such as bones, teeth,
11 sinew or skulls and claws can be used for handicraft
12 sales from brown bears taken in Southeast Alaska. So
13 we have slightly different regulations in different
14 areas. Southeast has included the bones, teeth, sinew
15 and skulls.

16
17 The State doesn't want these different
18 regulations and they don't want region-specific, they
19 want it statewide.

20
21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: In other words they
22 want to get rid of the unit specific regs.

23
24 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right. Right.
25 We've had seven proposals from 2002 and 2007 regarding
26 the sale of handicrafts made from non-edible parts of
27 bears. Throughout that period the Board has
28 consistently provided for the sale of handicrafts from
29 the skin, hide, pelt, fur, claws, bones, teeth, sinew
30 and skulls in units where the Councils have recommended
31 it. The Board has spent a lot of time dealing with
32 this issue of brown bear handicraft, but the Board has
33 supported those Councils who wanted to have it and let
34 it be region specific.

35
36 Retaining it as a legal practice the
37 use of brown bear claws and other non-edible parts for
38 handicrafts for sale is consistent with previous Board
39 action and with Section .803 of ANILCA. It is also not
40 expected to significantly increase harvest to cause
41 some conservation concern.

42
43 There is no evidence that we found to
44 suggest that current Federal subsistence regulations
45 adversely affect brown bear populations, nor that the
46 Federal subsistence regulations have led to an
47 increased legal or illegal harvest of brown bears.

48
49 Thus the proponent's conservation
50 concerns related to activities allowed do not at this

1 time appear to have merit. Thus the OSM preliminary
2 conclusion is to oppose on the grounds that there's an
3 absence of documentation regarding conservation
4 concerns related to bear claws and bear parts used for
5 handicrafts. The removal of unit-specific regulations
6 would negate the intent of the Board and the Regional
7 Advisory Councils in recognizing the diverse customary
8 and traditional uses of brown bears and brown bear
9 parts throughout the state and the proposed regulatory
10 language will not allow for handicraft sales to a
11 variety of consumers, which is desired by subsistence
12 users to support themselves and their families in a
13 contemporary cash-subsistence economy.

14

15 The proposal has gone now before quite
16 a few of the Councils. The North Slope Council,
17 Western Interior, Seward Peninsula, Southeast. All of
18 those Councils have opposed this proposal. Thank you,
19 Mr. Chair. If you have any questions.

20

21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Council, do you have
22 any questions to Helen Armstrong.

23

24 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman. I have a
25 question. I'm just curious. Do any of the other
26 agencies have any evidence or feelings on the
27 conservation issue? Obviously somebody does or this
28 wouldn't keep coming up. I'd like to hear what those
29 are.

30

31 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Mr. Schultz.

32

33 MR. SCHULTZ: You're getting caught up
34 in an international issue here and a lot of the
35 opposition comes from groups like the International
36 Bear Association and the IUCN group, the bear
37 specialist group, because they're fighting conservation
38 issues in other countries with species like sloth bears
39 and sun bears. I'm sure a lot of people know that and
40 I'm sure OSM knows that, but that's really what you're
41 getting caught up in and that's why you're going to
42 continue to see opposition from the State because
43 they're involved with international groups, with the
44 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service enforcement folks,
45 dealing with these conservation issues, including
46 brown bears in places like Mongolia where there's
47 and the Gobi Desert, so that's a big part of what's
48 going on. It's not that there's a conservation issue
49 here. That might help.

50

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I have more comments
2 coming up. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. JOLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
5 Board Members. This is Kyle Joly with the Bureau of
6 Land Management. I did a quick internet search and I
7 actually did find very quickly and readily bear parts
8 for sale, specifically claws, just claws, not worked
9 up, anything like that, so it is easy to find parts for
10 sale coming out of Alaska. They're actually quite
11 expensive. It's in the hundreds of dollars per pair of
12 claws, not even a full set. No handiwork is several
13 hundred dollars. There is evidence that there is a
14 market there.

15
16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. I'll try
17 it out.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other comments.
22 Any agency people. What is the wish of the Council.

23
24 MR. EVERETT: We need to go through the
25 protocol.

26
27 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Alaska Department of
28 Fish and Game comments.

29
30 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
31 comments:

32
33 Wildlife Proposal WP08-05:

34
35 Change the regulations regarding sale
36 of brown bear handicrafts to allow sales of handicrafts
37 made from brown bear fur in all units and to restrict
38 sales of handicrafts made from claws, bones, teeth or
39 skulls to transactions between Federally-qualified
40 subsistence users.

41
42 Introduction:

43
44 Current Federal regulations allow
45 essentially unconstrained commercial sale of
46 handicrafts made from bear parts taken in some units as
47 a customary and traditional activity, without
48 substantial evidence demonstrating that such sales have
49 ever occurred. The sale of such handicrafts is limited
50 only by an unenforceable provision that prohibits sales

1 constituting a "significant commercial enterprise."
2 The current regulations also allow the purchase of
3 these handicrafts by persons who are not Federally-
4 qualified subsistence users, despite such purchases
5 being prohibited under State law and, as was pointed
6 out in the spring 2006 Federal Subsistence Board
7 meeting, that sales can even occur over the internet.

8
9 Sales of handicrafts made from brown
10 bear claws, teeth, skulls, and bones present a
11 particular problem, because these are potentially high
12 value items, and allowing sales creates market
13 incentives for poaching both in Alaska and other
14 states.

15
16 Black bear handicraft sales, although
17 not customary and traditional, do not create the high
18 level of conservation concern raised by sales of brown
19 bear handicrafts. Similarly, sales of brown bear
20 handicrafts do not raise the same level of concern if
21 limited to the skin or fur as defined in state
22 regulations; and even sales of handicrafts made with
23 claws and teeth do not currently raise extremely high
24 levels of concern if limited to sales among Federally-
25 qualified users.

26
27 Changing the regulation to continue to
28 allow the sale of brown bear fur products to anyone
29 (State allows sale of untanned brown bear hides) while
30 limiting sales of handicrafts made with brown bear
31 claws, teeth, bones and skulls to sales to other
32 Federally-qualified subsistence users should help
33 eliminate commercial markets and the masking of illegal
34 sales in Alaska and elsewhere.

35
36 Unit specific restrictions on sales are
37 almost impossible to enforce without tracking and
38 documentation requirements and are not needed for the
39 lower value fur handicrafts. This proposal will
40 eliminate the unit-specific sale allowances in order to
41 make the regulations more user-friendly and more
42 enforceable.

43
44 Impact on Subsistence Users:

45
46 This proposal will not restrict any
47 customary and traditional activity because sales of
48 brown bear handicrafts are not customary and
49 traditional. The Federal Subsistence Board's current
50 allowance of such sales was not based upon a

1 determination that such sales are customary and
2 traditional but was based upon the Board's unsupported
3 argument that the Board can authorize any use if the
4 take is customary and traditional (see e.g., January 2,
5 2006 letter from Chairman Demientieff to Commissioner
6 Campbell).

7
8 This proposal will continue to allow
9 rural residents to: sell brown bear fur handicrafts to
10 anyone (as allowed under State law); barter brown bear
11 handicrafts with anyone under Federal regulations; and
12 sell brown bear handicrafts to other rural residents
13 under Federal regulations. Therefore, this proposed
14 regulation change will not impair the ability of rural
15 residents or urban Alaska Natives to obtain such
16 handicrafts for ceremonial, religious and cultural
17 purposes.

18
19 Further, adoption of this proposal will
20 significantly reduce the likelihood that Federally-
21 qualified subsistence users will face State prosecution
22 for engaging in sales that are prohibited under State
23 law when they are on State or private lands.

24
25 Opportunity Provided by State:

26
27 Under 5 AAC 92.200, handicrafts made
28 with bear fur may be sold to anyone, but sales of
29 handicrafts made with claws, skulls, teeth, and bones
30 are prohibited. Whole bear skins, with claws attached,
31 taken in certain predator control areas may be sold
32 under 5 AAC 92.031, but only after sealing and under
33 terms of a permit issued for that bear skin.

34
35 Conservation Issues:

36
37 The Federal Subsistence Board created a
38 new market for bear claws and other high value bear
39 parts which likely masks illegal sales, thereby
40 compounding problems with the international trade of
41 endangered species and contributing to the illegal
42 harvest, over-harvest, and waste of bears in other
43 states and countries, as well as Alaska. Markets for
44 high value bear handicrafts create a conservation
45 concern because brown bears are protected under the
46 Endangered Species Act in other states and Mexico, and
47 the origin of brown bear products cannot be determined
48 by visual inspection. Brown bear are also listed on
49 Appendix II of the Convention International Trade of
50 Endangered Species (CITES).

1 In Alaska, economic incentives
2 associated with harvesting brown bear to make
3 handicrafts create conservation concerns because brown
4 bears develop slowly and have a low reproductive rate,
5 making small populations extremely susceptible to
6 over-harvest. Allowing a widespread sale of high value
7 bear parts without any kind of tracking mechanism is an
8 invitation to poachers. Further, the existing
9 regulations are unenforceable and inconsistent with
10 sound wildlife management principles.

11

12 Enforcement Issues:

13

14 This proposal will reduce enforcement
15 issues created by the existing Federal regulation in
16 several ways: (1) By limiting the pool of eligible
17 purchasers for high value bear parts, it will
18 significantly reduce the economic incentives for
19 poaching in other states and countries as well as in
20 Alaska. (2) By allowing the sales of brown bear fur
21 handicrafts from any Game Management Unit, as allowed
22 under State law, his proposal will eliminate
23 unenforceable unit-specific sales authorizations in
24 existing regulation. (3) The proposed regulation will
25 reduce the likelihood that Federally-qualified
26 subsistence users will face prosecution for attempting
27 to engage in sales on State or private lands that are
28 prohibited under State law.

29

30 Jurisdiction Issues:

31

32 The Federal Subsistence Board lacks
33 jurisdiction to allow sales of any wildlife handicrafts
34 when and where such sales are not customary and
35 traditional. In the past, the Federal Board has
36 rejected this argument, asserting that if any use is
37 customary and traditional, then the Board can authorize
38 any other use. It should be noted that the Board's
39 argument is inconsistent with its litigation stance in
40 the Chistochina Unit 12 moose case where it argued that
41 "customary and traditional use" is related to "how
42 resources are used after they are taken," and "not to
43 or a prerequisite condition for the taking itself."
44 State v. Fleagle, (Case 3:06-cv-00107-HRH) Doc. 32 at
45 22.

46

47 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Federal, State,
48 Tribal comments.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Interagency Staff
2 comments.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Fish and Game
7 Advisory Committee comments.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any written comments.
12
13 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Page 82 of
14 your Council books there were two. One submitted by
15 the Copper River Native Association. They oppose the
16 proposal. And AHTNA Regional Corporation also opposed
17 the proposal. I wasn't sure if Jim looked at me, if he
18 had any comments regarding the proposal.
19
20 MR. MAGDANZ: The Department comments
21 are in the proposal book.
22
23 MR. EDENSHAW: And those were on Pages
24 80 and 81, Mr. Chair.
25
26 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Based on
27 the information that's been provided to this body, I
28 make a motion that we strongly, strongly oppose the
29 proposal and I will justify my motion if I get a
30 second.
31
32 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Do I hear a second.
33
34 MR. SWAN: I want to hear the
35 justification.
36
37 MR. SAMPSON: Why should the State of
38 Alaska go out and tell a Native community you can't put
39 together something for sale. More specifically the
40 bear claws, I've seen belts before made out of bear to
41 include bear claws in them. Why can't an individual at
42 the village level, a Native, put together something
43 like that as part of their income. That's what this
44 proposal is objecting to or why this proposal is saying
45 you shouldn't. That's why I'm objecting to the
46 proposal and I want to be able to have our people have
47 an opportunity to use parts of the bear to create a
48 little income for their families.
49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What is the wish of

1 the Council.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We don't have a
4 second.

5

6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: That's why I'm
7 asking.

8

9 MR. SWAN: Second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Austin.
12 There's a second. All in favor.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Motion carries.
17 Thank you. Okay, Helen, on that Proposal WP08-01.

18

19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
20 Chair. WP08-01 is on Page 54 for the analysis. This
21 is another statewide proposal and comes from ONC. This
22 proposal is quite lengthy, but I'm going to have a
23 short presentation. The length is because it's
24 statewide and it goes through all the wolf hunting and
25 trapping proposals.

26

27 It requests that the closing dates of
28 the wolf hunting and trapping seasons statewide be
29 extended to May 31; that the harvest limit be increased
30 to 10 wolves per day for the dates of April 1st to May
31 31st; and that any restrictions to disturbing or
32 destroying wolf dens be removed from regulations.

33

34 The proponent seeks to expand and
35 increase hunting and trapping opportunities on wolf
36 populations statewide in order to provide for more
37 productive moose and caribou populations. The goal of
38 the proposal is to provide adequate and sustainable
39 harvest levels of moose and caribou. It is very
40 simply, the way the proponent describes it, a predator
41 control proposal.

42

43 In May 2004, the Federal Subsistence
44 Board adopted a Predator Management Policy and in that
45 policy the Board describes that they administer the
46 subsistence taking and uses of fish and wildlife on
47 Federal Public lands through regulations that provide
48 for the non-wasteful harvest of fish and wildlife by
49 Federally qualified rural residents, consistent with
50 the maintenance of healthy populations of harvested

1 resources. Such subsistence taking and uses are for
2 direct personal or family consumption and the policy
3 goes on to note that wildlife management activities
4 on Federal public lands other than the subsistence take
5 and use of fish and wildlife, such as predator control
6 and habitat management, are the responsibility of and
7 remain within the authority of the individual land
8 management agencies.

9

10 So the Board does not do predator
11 control. It has to be done by the specific land
12 management agency and not through the Federal
13 subsistence program.

14

15 Because the proponent of Proposal
16 WP08-01 requests expanded wolf harvesting
17 opportunities, through
18 more liberal trapping and hunting seasons, harvest
19 limits, and the opportunity to take pups at den sites,
20 to promote and maintain more productive moose and
21 caribou populations, this proposal falls outside of the
22 purview of the Board, but within the purview of Federal
23 land management agencies in coordination with the State
24 of Alaska.

25

26 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
27 oppose Proposal WP08-01 and the justification is that
28 the Board doesn't do predator control management.

29

30 This proposal has already gone before a
31 number of Regional Councils. Southeast, Western
32 Interior, Seward Peninsula, and North Slope Councils
33 have all voted on it and they've all recommended
34 opposing the proposal.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes
37 my presentation.

38

39 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any questions,
40 comments for Helen from the Council.

41

42 MR. SAMPSON: If you look at page 59,
43 right in the middle of the date sections, there's a
44 note that says the proponent did not intend to extend
45 the season but is reflected in the proposed language,
46 which is basically to extend the season, is what
47 they're trying to do. Am I not correct?

48

49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Correct.

50

1 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.
2
3 MR. EVERETT: And remove restrictions
4 on dens.
5
6 MR. SAMPSON: Right.
7
8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I should
9 probably note for you that under current regulations,
10 under trapping regulations for Unit 23, you already
11 have a no limit and you can take as many wolves as
12 you'd like in this region from November 1st to April
13 30th.
14
15 MR. SAMPSON: Where is this
16 organization?
17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Bethel. Greg.....
19
20 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.
21
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. He also made
23 a proposal to the Board of Game and there was quite a
24 bit of press in the papers about it.
25
26 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. If there's
27 a proposal that provides for opportunities in the
28 regulations, exist in regulations already, certainly,
29 at least for this region anyway, the regulation seems
30 to work, why fix the problem. I mean why fix something
31 that's working. So my intent will be to oppose the
32 proposal. On top of that, if the proposed proponents
33 are asking to make a change, then they should make that
34 region specific.
35
36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Robbie, I'll try to
37 get one correct, at least one. Comments from the State
38 Fish and Game.
39
40 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Those are
41 noted on Pages 66 and 67.
42
43 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
44 Comments:
45
46 Wildlife Proposal WP08-01:
47
48 Liberalize wolf harvest regulations
49 statewide.
50

1 Introduction:

2

3 This statewide proposal would extend
4 the wolf hunting and trapping season by moving the
5 dates to May 31; increase the hunting bag limit to 10
6 wolves per day during the period from April 1 to May
7 31; and delete any restrictions to disturbing or
8 destroying a den.

9

10 Impact on Subsistence Users:

11

12 Adoption of this proposal would: (1)
13 provide additional time and methods for Federally-
14 qualified subsistence users to hunt and trap wolves on
15 Federal lands in spring; (2) substantially increase the
16 harvest limit in some areas for wolves taken under
17 Federal subsistence hunting regulations on Federal
18 lands; and (3) authorize dens on Federal lands to be
19 disturbed or destroyed for the purpose of harvesting
20 wolves. These liberalizations would create wolf
21 management and conservation issues in some areas that
22 would likely result in reduced subsistence
23 opportunities to harvest wolves in the long term.

24

25 Opportunity Provided by the State:

26

27 State hunting regulations allow harvest
28 of wolves in May and/or authorize a bag limit of 10
29 wolves per day in some units where the wolf populations
30 can sustain these harvests. State regulations do not
31 authorize dens to be disturbed or destroyed.

32

33 Conservation Issues:

34

35 Any element in this proposal -- season
36 extension, increased harvest limit, or
37 disturbing/destroying dens -- could result in
38 over-harvest of wolves and create conservation concerns
39 in some areas. In southeast Alaska, for example,
40 increased harvests could lead to wolves being listed as
41 threatened or endangered. The poor pelt quality of
42 wolves taken in spring in most areas reduces their
43 value for subsistence uses.

44

45 Enforcement Issues:

46

47 Differences in Federal and State
48 regulations resulting from adoption of this proposal
49 create enforcement issues in areas with mixed land
50 ownership.

1 Other Comments:

2

3 No evidence is presented indicating
4 that the proposed changes are needed to provide for the
5 continuation of subsistence uses of wolves by
6 Federally-qualified subsistence users. Similar
7 proposals to manipulate predator populations that
8 benefit prey populations were submitted to, and
9 rejected by, the Federal Subsistence Board in 2005 and
10 2006 for the following reasons: (1) the Federal
11 Subsistence Board and the Department of Fish and Game
12 were concerned that extending the season statewide when
13 wolves have pups at the den site is contrary to sound
14 wildlife management principles; (2) The Federal
15 Subsistence Board and Department of Fish and Game noted
16 that hides of wolves taken in May are not prime and are
17 of low value for making clothing and handicrafts; and
18 (3) the Federal Subsistence Board reiterated that its
19 policy adopted in 2004 is to not promulgate regulations
20 specifically for predator control.

21

22 The proponent desires that each Federal
23 land management agency take action to facilitate active
24 predator management on Federal units. The State of
25 Alaska is actively engaged in intensive management of
26 wolves in some areas of the state in order to restore
27 healthy prey populations, but Federal land management
28 policies limit the effectiveness of State efforts. The
29 State would welcome opportunities to work with the
30 proponents to encourage Federal land managers to
31 reevaluate their land management policies that limit
32 the State's active management tools on most Federal
33 lands.

34

35 Recommendation:

36

37 Oppose the proposal but support the
38 Council(s) interest in encouraging cooperation between
39 the Federal land management agencies and the State to
40 allow active management of predators.

41

42 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Federal, State,
43 Tribal agencies.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: State Fish and Game
48 Advisory Committees.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any written public
2 comments.
3
4 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair and Council
5 Members. On Page 68 there was one written public
6 comment from the Defenders of Wildlife, the Alaska
7 Wildlife Alliance and ACE, the Alaska Center for the
8 Environment, and they opposed the proposal.
9
10 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other public
11 testimony.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What is the wish of
16 the Council.
17
18 MR. EVERETT: I make a motion that we
19 oppose.
20
21 MR. ADAMS: Second.
22
23 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Virgil.
24 All in favor.
25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.
27
28 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.
29
30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman, that
31 concludes the proposal analysis. I just want to thank
32 you all. It's always nice to come up here. I don't
33 get to come every time with the limited budget we have,
34 so I was happy to come once again and see the Council
35 again. Thank you.
36
37 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Since she
38 said thank you all, I want to say thank you for your
39 help.
40
41 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: That includes you,
42 Walter. Number 11 then. Office of Subsistence
43 Management, agency reports.
44
45 MR. KLEIN: This is Steve Klein from
46 OSM for the record. Actually we did glance over agenda
47 topic 8 and that was the call for proposals to change
48 Federal subsistence fisheries regulations. So before
49 we get into agency reports we should make sure we have
50 that one covered. I don't know if there was any

1 fisheries regulatory proposals that this Council wanted
2 to propose or anybody else wanted to propose.

3
4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: It seems like
5 especially in this region everything is going good.
6 You don't get any fishery proposals.

7
8 MR. KLEIN: Was there another topic,
9 Cliff?

10
11 MR. EDENSHAW: Steve, when I spoke to
12 Lee Anne, Lee Anne had some.....

13
14 MS. AYRES: (Shakes head negatively)

15
16 MR. EDENSHAW: No? Okay. Mr. Chair,
17 at this juncture, for number 10, finalize the 2007
18 annual report, I wasn't here at the last meeting when
19 Michelle, who was the coordinator at the time, so I
20 would suggest -- I know the Board will address annual
21 reports at their June meeting when they meet to discuss
22 and make recommendations on Council members. When you
23 guys were discussing the Park Service EIS and the other
24 information under number -- I was thinking that we
25 could include that and I could draft up an annual
26 report and fax it to you guys for your review and that
27 issue would also be heard by the Board if you so choose
28 to.

29
30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I'm sure I can go
31 along with that.

32
33 MR. SAMPSON: I would object to it.
34 No, I was kidding.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MR. EDENSHAW: If there was anything
39 else the Council would so like to have included in the
40 annual report, I can do that as well.

41
42 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any explanation of
43 the.....

44
45 MR. SAMPSON: What did you say, we're
46 going space?

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Pretty quick

1 possibly.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. SAMPSON: Long day.

6

7 MR. KLEIN: Okay, Mr. Chair. That does
8 put us into agency reports. It looks like there's at
9 least five agencies that want to report. I'll handle
10 the Office of Subsistence Management report. Again,
11 this is Steve Klein with OSM. We have three topics in
12 your agenda you can see on Page 2.

13

14 The first topic is the status of
15 request for reconsideration of the rural/non-rural
16 determinations. That's on Page 83 of your books.
17 That's just an informational topic. Those rural/non-
18 rural determinations, the request for reconsideration
19 really doesn't affect this region, so I really wasn't
20 going to go over that. That is provided for your
21 information. I'll answer any questions if you had any
22 on that topic. Page 83. The two other topics I will
23 have a short briefing.

24

25 The second topic is the draft customary
26 and traditional use policy. The draft policy was
27 presented to this Council in fall 2007. OSM prepared
28 that in response to a request from the Deputy Secretary
29 of Interior. This policy describes how we addressed
30 C&T use determinations, which we've been using since
31 the beginning of this program.

32

33 We drafted a policy and it really
34 doesn't change the way C&T determinations have been
35 made in the past. It just clarifies the approach we're
36 taking as requested by the Secretary of Interior. We
37 had a three-month public comment period, which is when
38 this Council had an opportunity to provide comment, and
39 that closed in December of 2007. OSM received 13
40 comments on the draft policy. Actually, I have copies
41 of those comments if anybody is interested. The
42 Federal Subsistence Board is going to be looking at
43 those comments and moving the policy from a draft
44 policy to a final policy over the next couple of
45 months.

46

47 That's where we're at in the process
48 and hopefully in the end we'll have written guidelines
49 of how we proceed in examining customary and
50 traditional use determinations.

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.
2
3 MR. SAMPSON: The draft policies on the
4 C&T determinations that would, in fact, impact this
5 Northwest region?
6
7 MR. KLEIN: Yes. The policy would
8 apply to all regions and any place we examine a
9 customary and traditional use determination. It's not
10 really changing how we do it. We didn't have a policy
11 before, so you don't know how we did it, the State
12 didn't know how we did it and this just kind of puts in
13 writing how we do those determinations. But it would
14 affect this Council as well as every Council. Mr.
15 Chair.
16
17 MR. SAMPSON: Was there any involvement
18 into the process of putting together that
19 determination?
20
21 MR. KLEIN: Yes, we worked closely with
22 the Councils. This Council reviewed it last fall.
23
24 MR. SAMPSON: We're called Western then
25 instead of Northwest?
26
27 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. This Council,
28 we presented it last fall at your October Council
29 meeting. In addition, there's 13 organizations,
30 including two of your sister Councils, the Southcentral
31 Council and the Western Interior Council, provided
32 written comments in addition to their comments at the
33 Council meeting. All of the 13 organizations that
34 provided written comments are listed there.
35
36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any other
37 questions.
38
39 MS. APOK: I have a question. I just
40 want to know if the policy -- can I access it online
41 anywhere and look at the comments or do I have to
42 request copies from you?
43
44 MR. KLEIN: I will give you a copy of
45 both the comments and the policy.
46
47 MS. APOK: Is it available online for
48 anybody else that wants to know?
49
50 MR. KLEIN: I can send those to you

1 electronically. I'll give you a hard copy as soon as I
2 get off this hot seat.

3

4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The policy is
5 online.

6

7 MR. KLEIN: You're true. The policy is
8 already online if you look in the Council book and the
9 comments I'll give you a hard copy and I can send those
10 to you as well.

11

12 MS. APOK: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead.

15

16 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. I have one
17 final topic, a topic that's very near to my heart and
18 several of this Council as well, and that's the
19 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. There's a short
20 briefing on Page 85 of your book on what we're doing
21 with the monitoring program. With the monitoring
22 program, similar to the regulatory program, we've moved
23 to a two-year cycle. Instead of bringing a draft plan
24 for your review every year, it's going to be every
25 other year.

26

27 We just completed a cycle at your last
28 meeting and one of the projects you recommended is
29 listed on Page 85. That's the Kobuk River sheefish
30 spawning and run timing. That was a project that this
31 Council supported and the Board did support that and
32 that's going to be funded this coming year. The Fish
33 and Wildlife Service will be working with ADF&G and
34 others and do a study on Kobuk River sheefish to really
35 find out how often sheefish are spawning. We know
36 they're not spawning every year. Whether it's every
37 two years or every three years. This study will get
38 radio tags out where we can look at fish for four years
39 in a row and really understand how often they're
40 spawning and that will really help us understand when
41 we get an abundance estimate what does that number
42 really mean.

43

44 So that's a really exciting study.
45 Both of those organizations work very closely with
46 local and tribal organizations and schools. We'll
47 probably have a report on that project next fall and
48 the interesting results that come out.

49

50 MR. SWAN: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Austin, yes, go
2 ahead.

3
4 MR. SWAN: Concerning the fish harvest
5 in northwest Alaska, especially the Wulik River, we
6 have regional communities around Kivalina that request
7 a lot of fish, both in the spring time and in the fall
8 harvest. Considering the Red Dog discharge into the
9 Wulik, the Dolly Varden overwinters in the Wulik River
10 and I'm wondering if the State can start some kind of
11 program to test the fish that are outgoing in the
12 spring after they've overwintered in the Wulik River.
13 I believe that the discharge that comes out of the Red
14 Dog just lingers in that river because of less flow.

15
16 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Actually that
17 was going to be my next point. At the next Council
18 meeting we'll be going over the next request for
19 proposals and what priorities this Council has for
20 research and monitoring. That would be a very good
21 time to bring that topic up. I'll talk with the Refuge
22 and the State and see if there is anything being done
23 on there, on the Wulik, and see if we might be able to
24 look at discharge and potential effects to Dolly
25 Varden. Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

28
29 MR. SAMPSON: I think the issue in
30 regards to his concern, Alaska Department of Fish and
31 Game already has that study. That comes out of the
32 Fairbanks office.

33
34 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman. Jim
35 Magdanz. Fish and Game has sampled fish and DEC has
36 tested those fish and they've recently released results
37 on those tests. I don't have them with me today, but
38 we can certainly make them available. Specifically you
39 asked about out-migration Dolly Varden. I don't know
40 when those fish were sampled. I will say that the very
41 best way to get the State to work on that issue is to
42 get this Council to put it on your list of issues to be
43 studied, which then makes available money to the State.
44 And if the State doesn't do it, then somebody else
45 will. So Austin's suggestion is an excellent one.

46
47 MR. SAMPSON: I think the response that
48 he got was if we can put that into our next cycle
49 funding source, request that. That would be an ideal
50 thing to do.

1 MR. MAGDANZ: That is ideal.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: I think what I was
4 referring to was Fred DiCicco's work on the Wulik, on
5 the Kivalina, and a lot of that has to do with tagging
6 in regards to trying to find out where all the Dolly
7 Vardens go to. Because of the fact that these are
8 migratory, they go down to the Siberian side, to the
9 Norton Sound side, up the Kobuk and up the Noatak, so
10 they vary in going into different river bodies from
11 what Fish and Game has provided that information to.

12

13 But in regards to doing the actual
14 study, certainly it would be something that we can
15 propose at the next Advisory Council meeting.

16

17 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
18 Thank you, Jim.

19

20 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. So at the next
21 Council meeting in the fall we'll discuss what your
22 priorities are, so bring your great ideas to that
23 meeting. I mentioned the one project in Northwest
24 Arctic on sheefish. There's also an additional study
25 that Jim Magdanz is doing with Maniilaq on harvest
26 patterns over the past 11 years. I think during ADF&G
27 reports Jim is going to cover some of what they're
28 finding there. That's all I had for the monitoring
29 program, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Steve.
32 Next one on the list is.....

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: Fish and Wildlife.

35

36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN:U.S. Fish and
37 Wildlife, Selawik Refuge. Hello, Lee Anne.

38

39 MS. AYRES: Hello. My name is Lee Anne
40 Ayres. I'm the refuge manager for the Selawik National
41 Wildlife Refuge. Here with me today is one of our
42 staff, Patrick Snow, assistant refuge manager.
43 Patrick's job is to monitor and administer our permit
44 program for operators in the fall and he'll be
45 presenting a brief summary of our fall numbers from
46 2007 that we didn't have. They hadn't kind of turned
47 all of the reports in the last time we met. Also Susan
48 Georgette, our outreach specialist, is here and she'll
49 be presenting some of the final projects that have been
50 completed with the program. And also Nate Olson is

1 here to help kind of answer questions on some of the
2 projects we have coming up and ones that are near
3 completion here

4
5 What I'd like to do is just let Patrick
6 do a summary of our activities and then Susan kind of
7 present some of the products that have been finished up
8 since we last met and I'll just touch briefly on some
9 of the ongoing projects we have. So, Patrick.

10
11 MR. SNOW: Hello, my name is Patrick
12 Snow, assistant manager with the Selawik National
13 Wildlife Refuge, Fish and Wildlife Service. As Lee
14 Anne said, I do monitor and distribute the permits for
15 the refuge. I'd like to give a brief summary. Pretty
16 quiet year this year. Air taxi and transporter
17 activities, there were six air taxi and transporter
18 services permitted for the Selawik National Wildlife
19 Refuge in 2007. Three of the operators reported no
20 activity on the Refuge, which means they didn't drop
21 off any clients or at least didn't report to drop of
22 any clients. While the other three reported a
23 culmination of 17 total clients. That's all three of
24 them.

25
26 We're currently in the process of
27 citing one operator for operating in an area not
28 authorized under his special use permit. I should hear
29 about that on Monday.

30
31 Guiding activities. Joe Schuster.
32 Just to bring you up to date, the last I spoke to you I
33 presented to the Council we had no big game guide on
34 the Refuge. Jim Earhardt had turned in a letter of no
35 activity and resigned his area and so we had it up for
36 open competition for guides. Joe Schuster was awarded
37 the Selawik Refuge guide use area previously held by
38 James Earhardt. Joe has operated as a transporter on
39 the Refuge for several years based out of Galena. He
40 had limited guide activity on the Refuge in 2007
41 because he received his use area late in the year,
42 around July, so he didn't have a whole lot of time to
43 book clients, but he did manage to get some of them
44 outfitted.

45
46 Law enforcement activities. We had
47 four Fish and Wildlife Service officers from around the
48 state out of Galena and Dillingham and Kenai. They
49 aided our law enforcement efforts for the Refuge.
50 Aerial patrols were performed on the Refuge as well as

1 ramp checks in Kotzebue. What officers observed was
2 consistent with transporter and air taxi operator
3 reports. There was very, very little activity on the
4 Selawik Refuge lands compared to years past. Officers
5 also assisted BLM patrols on BLM lands adjacent to
6 Refuge lands and we also lent assistance to the State
7 for a possible illegal guide operation out of Buckland.
8
9

10 That summarizes my report. I'd like to
11 open it up to any questions.

12
13 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Patrick.
14 Any questions of Patrick. Walter.

15
16 MR. SAMPSON: Pat, first of all, thank
17 you for your presentation. Just a quick question in
18 regards to the application process for guiding. You
19 folks do all the background checks in regards to
20 possible violations in other areas when you go through
21 that process?

22
23 MR. SNOW: Yes, we do, Mr. Sampson. We
24 have a more stringent application process for the
25 guides. They are much more closely and highly
26 regulated. We had four applicants if I recall this
27 year. We do background checks. We have a panel put
28 together by people throughout the state. It also has
29 regional office overview, so we had a regional office
30 permits coordinator come up here to Kotzebue, other
31 assistant managers from Fairbanks, and I can't remember
32 where the other panel members were from. There was
33 four of us. We ranked and graded them, gave them
34 points, looked at any past violations and submitted
35 that to the Refuge manager who did further background
36 checks and had to write a justification of those to the
37 regional office. We had to wait for an appeal process
38 as to whether or not any of the applicants felt they
39 were being unfairly ranked or discriminated against.

40
41 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: No other comments.
42 Walter.

43
44 MR. SAMPSON: Just a quick comment. I
45 want to thank Lee Anne for her work in creating an
46 environment for that Federal agency in a way that the
47 community of Selawik respects a lot of the work that's
48 being done. I say respects because they're able to do
49 local hire at the village level and have several of the
50 folks participate and through managing that Refuge.

1 Not only that, the Fish and Wildlife folks have been
2 able to have the schools participating in some of the
3 studies within the Refuge and that certainly is a plus
4 for this region. More so for students who might think
5 of looking at becoming biologists down the road and
6 that type of environment that you folks make as you go
7 through your process of scheduling and planning and
8 designing of what you need to do to make sure the
9 Refuge is run in a way that would have the least impact
10 on folks in the Refuge system. I want to thank both of
11 you for that relationship and want to continue that
12 relationship and encourage you to continue your
13 relationship with the community of Selawik for future
14 planning. And I want to thank you for that effort, for
15 that open door policy that you have.

16

17 So thank you very much.

18

19 MS. AYRES: Thank you, Walter.

20

21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Patrick.

22

23 MS. SNOW: Thank you for your comments
24 and thank you for the opportunity to speak.

25

26 MS. GEORGETTE: Good afternoon. I'm
27 Susan Georgette with the Selawik Refuge. I just want
28 to share with you a recent publication the Refuge
29 completed and it's called (in Inupiaq), In Our Own
30 Words. Selawik elders speak about caribou, reindeer
31 and life as they know it. The research for this work
32 was done by Hannah Loon. She did it, I think, about
33 four years ago or even five years ago. She interviewed
34 10 elders in Selawik about the historic range of the
35 Western Arctic Herd and about reindeer herding. The
36 Refuge supported part of her work and she was doing it
37 for her college degree and we wanted to put it into
38 some format that was more accessible to the public and
39 it had been sitting in a file. So Sue Steinecker at
40 Fish and Game and I and Barbara Armstrong and Ruth
41 Sampson, different people helped put it together with
42 some different photographs. It features just the words
43 of Selawik elders, what they had to say about different
44 topics related to caribou and caribou hunting, and
45 particularly how far they had to travel in the '40s and
46 '50s to get caribou.

47

48 So that was really all I had. The
49 other thing we were working on, we have had Barbara
50 Armstrong doing some interviews in the Upper Kobuk

1 about traditional use of the hot springs in the Upper
2 Selawik and her Subsistence Management office has been
3 willing to let us use her on some of that, which we
4 really appreciated. She spent a couple weeks up that
5 way in her home country in November and might be up
6 there again this spring finishing that up, so hopefully
7 we'll have some work on that at some point.

8

9 There's a few more copies up here for
10 people who want them or there's some here for people in
11 the audience who might want one. Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Susan. Go
14 ahead, Walter.

15

16 MR. SAMPSON: Just a comment. Again,
17 thank you, Susan, for the work you folks have done. I
18 know Hannah is originally from Selawik and she's done a
19 lot of work with Susan as well as Fish and Wildlife.
20 If you can see the pages within this document, a lot of
21 good background, short information on a lot of the
22 elders and how they view the things that are happening
23 within the refuge and we certainly appreciate this
24 document being produced. Thank you very much.

25

26 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead. Willie
29 wants to make a comment.

30

31 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
32 took a look at that book too, but what I wanted to
33 point out is it's statements that are published. When
34 we see statements like that here, it's anecdotal, and
35 the difference is now you can go to a publication and
36 say this is what happened. Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN KARMUN:

39

40 MS. AYRES: Yes, thank you Willy.
41 There was a lot of hard work and realize that it's a
42 fairly long process but I do think it's really worth it
43 and I'm really happy to have something that folks in
44 Selawik can have that represent their elder's words,
45 and also something that can be referenced and cited in
46 other documents too.

47

48 And, also, Walter, thank you for your
49 kind words and I guess really a lot of the credit goes
50 to the Selawik IRA Council. I think they've made it

1 just really for us to kind of stay in touch with what
2 the community is working on and their issues and
3 concerns, and so a lot of credit goes to them for what
4 we can do out there.

5
6 And speaking of one thing that we have
7 done is another study on pike and contaminants in pike.
8 Back in 2006 we asked people from the region to help us
9 collect samples of fish from their traditional fishing
10 areas in order to be tested for methal-mercury, and
11 this was part of kind of the statewide effort to look
12 at contaminants in fish and especially in fish that
13 feed on other fish and live a long time, and pike fit
14 that bill very well.

15
16 So Angela Matts from our Fairbanks
17 Field Office who's a contaminant ecologist or
18 specialist headed the project out here and she worked
19 with the Alaska Division of Public Health. And one of
20 the nice things about cooperating or partnering with
21 the public health folks is that enabled us to come out
22 with information for the community on exactly what --
23 how to interpret the results of the studies of the
24 contaminant analysis. And she came back out just last
25 month and visited and presented those preliminary
26 results to Kotzebue and to Selawik and Buckland and
27 some of the other communities that helped participate.
28 And Maniilaq and the Public Health Service are helping,
29 kind of disseminate the information, through the health
30 clinics in the villages.

31
32 And there's another handout over on the
33 back table there that has a large poster, but for those
34 of us whose arms are getting a little bit short with
35 our eyes here's a blown up version of some of the high
36 points of the study and the rest is back there for you
37 to look at or have as well.

38
39 And the basic findings were that for
40 most classes of people there was no concern about
41 eating unlimited amount of pike, but for children under
42 12 and women of child bearing age or who plan to have a
43 child, they did produce some guidelines of how much
44 pike should be ingested over a period of time. So
45 those will be coming back out. And one of the things
46 after finding these results up here in fish, they are
47 considering or thinking about once this study is done,
48 looking at some of the other key subsistence fish
49 species in the region such as sheefish, so that's one
50 that's being finished up there.

1 Another project that's completed and
2 ongoing is our Avian Influenza, our bird flu sampling
3 work. Still, to-date, there haven't been any findings
4 of the H5N1 virus that they were concerned about, but
5 the Fish and Wildlife Service, with Migratory Birds is
6 going to continue the sampling efforts that they've
7 done statewide. And up here what that means is that
8 we'll be continuing to sample swans, and so this summer
9 there'll be some folks coming up to collect some swans
10 to -- or just do the swab sampling for that project.

11
12 On some of our other project fronts,
13 we're continuing to do the fisheries work and Nate's
14 gotten a number of projects kind of started and in the
15 works. We'll be continuing following the telemetry
16 implants that we have in sheefish on the Selawik River.
17 Ones that were located spawning up the Tag are still of
18 interest so we'll be following those for a fe years to
19 find out or confirm those spawning areas. And
20 associated with the sheefish and spawning is kind of
21 our investigating and monitoring of the large mud slide
22 or thaw slump that occurred in the upper Selawik. And
23 that ties in really closely to some of the fisheries
24 work and hopefully some of the proposals or a proposal
25 you may see next fall, which looks at the effect of the
26 sediment coming off of that slide and how it affects
27 the sheefish spawning, you know, the actual eggs in the
28 river, and whether the sediment, at times, perhaps get
29 to be too heavy to allow those to successfully hatch.
30 So anyway that's a project that we're looking at, we're
31 trying to develop a proposal. And USGS and some
32 outside agencies are also going to be helping us kind
33 of look at that more in the future. And as far as the
34 slump itself we're waiting for two proposals to come in
35 from folks that were up here last year. I'm not sure
36 if you remember Ben Crosby who was doing some sampling
37 throughout the region with Maniilaq and also Kenji
38 Oshakawa who was up looking at permafrost depths in the
39 area. He'll be coming back to follow up on work with
40 Noatak School and Selawik School of some sites.....

41
42 MR. EVERETT: Kotzebue also.

43
44 MS. AYRES: Oh, and Kotzebue, too,
45 excellent, excellent. I think he's due up here next
46 week or so for his snowmachine.....

47
48 MR. EVERETT: End of the month.

49
50 MS. AYRES: Yeah. So we're excited

1 about having them put in some proposals to do some more
2 work kind of in our region and specifically on the
3 Selawik River. So those will be coming through.

4

5 And as far as caribou goes, we're
6 hoping to tag on and help BLM and the work that Kyle's
7 been doing on caribou winter range and expand that
8 project up into the Selawik and possibly upper Kobuk
9 area. I think that's a great project, and it's one the
10 Western Arctic Working Group is excited about endorsing
11 and seeing kind of move a little bit farther north.

12

13 And the last one I wanted to mention
14 was polar bears. You may have remembered after the
15 polar bear was harvested in Noorvik, some folks were on
16 the radio from our Marine Mammals Division talking
17 about polar bear work and some of the issues that are
18 involved with retreating ice and the concerns about
19 polar bear populations and development issues that are
20 going on. Well, as a result of that they're expanding
21 their research work to look at the population of bears
22 that occurs between us and Russia. So they'll be
23 basing some capture work out of Point Hope beginning
24 here in the next couple of weeks and then they'll be
25 moving down and basing some work out of Kotzebue the
26 first two weeks of April. And while they're here we'll
27 get them on the radio to kind of share with us some of
28 the ways that they're going about their studies and the
29 things they're looking at and what they're finding when
30 they're up here. But just kind of a head's up they'll
31 have a helicopter, so that will be what's going on with
32 a helicopter during that time of year for us.

33

34 And I guess if you have any questions
35 about any of fisheries projects, we won't be doing a
36 moose survey on the Refuge this year. We were real
37 fortunate with Fish and Game and BLM helping us out
38 last year with our survey so this year it's kind of our
39 turn to help them out in the Noatak so we'll be doing
40 that with moose this year.

41

42 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Lee Anne.
43 Any comments, questions. Walter.

44

45 MR. SAMPSON: Just a quick comment.
46 It's good to hear you're doing some of these studies to
47 involve folks at the regional level. And it's also
48 good to hear that you have some entertainers coming in
49 that will actually do some of the work maybe with a
50 little bit of entertaining on the side, Bill Cosby.

1 MS. AYRES: Ben Crosby.
2
3 MR. SAMPSON: Oh, Bing Crosby [sic].
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 MR. SAMPSON: I thought you said Bill
8 Cosby.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MR. SAMPSON: I said, is he into
13 resource.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. SAMPSON: Well, anyway, it's good
18 to hear what you're doing and, you know, what I said
19 early on is the relationship that these folks have at
20 the village level is certainly something that they've
21 been able to do these things with the community of
22 Selawik, not just the agency. It's just a -- and
23 that's something that we certainly appreciate and not
24 only appreciate it but also to encourage you even
25 further to expand it to have more of the school or the
26 students participating on some of these things. And,
27 you know, the future of that is one day a couple of the
28 students are going to say, hey, if Lee Anne can manage
29 it, I can manage it, too.
30
31 MS. AYRES: If she can do it anybody
32 can do it.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MR. SAMPSON: Exactly.
37
38 MS. AYRES: I know. I know.
39
40 MR. SAMPSON: So we thank you very much
41 for your presentation.
42
43 MS. AYRES: Thank you, Walter.
44
45 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I have a question on
46 birds.
47
48 MS. AYRES: Oh, Tina's not here, I'm in
49 trouble now. I've got my panel of biologists here but
50 not.....

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Birds don't recognize
2 steel yet, that's all right, they will.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: And all the bird
7 species you check for this flu, how about the raven, is
8 it going to be considered or checked, it's an
9 international bird. I know it goes between here and
10 Siberia, I saw some over there last time I was there.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. SAMPSON: Did it waive at you?

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yeah, it knew me by
19 name.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MS. AYRES: Well, then we'll definitely
24 have to sample that one.

25
26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Well, especially if
27 they find a dead migratory bird and clean it up and eat
28 it, would it contaminate it and come back up around
29 here. I mean it's under Federal protection but it's
30 not regarded as a migratory bird but they do cover a
31 lot of territory.

32
33 MS. AYRES: Yeah, Victor, I would think
34 that they probably -- because they don't have large
35 populations that migrate large distances, I think that
36 those are the ones that they targeted for the sampling
37 effort that they have going. But any bird that is
38 suspected or is giving any indication of any symptoms
39 or things, there's the collection process for people,
40 you know, collecting and having those birds tested,
41 too.

42
43 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: If you think there's
44 not big numbers come over my neighborhood.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

49
50 MR. SAMPSON: Just a question, I guess,

1 a general question. I certainly would want to know
2 much more of what the raven has in its system. I mean
3 we've never heard what it may have. I mean it has the
4 ability to stay in hot, warm weather and it also can be
5 around when it's 55, 60 below. I mean just to feed
6 itself, I would think would freeze, you know, being a
7 bird. But if somebody can do analysis of what the
8 content it may have within its body, I certainly would
9 want to know what it has.

10

11 So just a comment.

12

13 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Lee Anne.

14

15 MS. AYRES: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Maybe they got access
18 to good R&R or something.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: The next one on the
23 list National Park Service. Mr. Adkisson.

24

25 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Ken
26 Adkisson, National Park Service. Basically I got a
27 couple handouts that we'll touch on and make it quick.

28

29 The one handout that's coming around
30 now basically outlines our wildlife program. And the
31 main thing I'd point out about it is, is that for a lot
32 of our survey and inventory work and monitoring work,
33 we're trying to integrate our local programs with our
34 Arctic Network Inventory and Monitoring Program, which
35 includes not only the four Western Arctic National
36 Parks but also the Gates of the Arctic National Park
37 and Preserve. And so basically by integrating across
38 the broad area it'll provide us with a stable base of
39 funding to continue a lot of the survey and monitoring
40 work that we're doing. And the handout outlines the
41 key areas that we'll be working in with species in the
42 upcoming year.

43

44 Moose, muskoxen, brown bear and sheep.
45 And one of the more comprehensive projects that we'll
46 be involved in, which is outside partially of the
47 monitoring program will be a three year muskoxen study
48 that compares muskoxen in Cape Krusenstern with those
49 in the Bering Land Bridge and looks at population
50 parameters for the animals, habitat variables and then

1 health indicator variables and tries to look at those
2 on a regional landscape scale. And I think if that's
3 successful it'll provide us a lot better understanding
4 of what goes on with those animals, how they respond to
5 environmental variables and what we might be able to
6 say long-term about their viability. One indication,
7 for example, in Krusenstern and the Cape Thompson
8 animals, there may be an indicator of a drop going on
9 right now with the population. Don't know how severe
10 it is but we'll continue with the population work along
11 with ADF&G on that.

12

13 The other thing that I wanted to touch
14 briefly on is what happened at the most recent Board of
15 Game meeting in January with respect to Seward
16 Peninsula muskoxen, and I won't go into a lot of
17 details, but muskoxen hunting will not be the same as
18 it has been for the last few years when the next hunt
19 season in 2008/2009 rolls around. Currently we're
20 operating essentially under a Tier II system by and
21 large. People -- for subsistence people, have to apply
22 for permits in advance, they get scored and they
23 basically get distributed going to the high scorers. A
24 number of things have gone on over the years with the
25 muskoxen that basically are driving the process away
26 from Tier II into more of a registration hunt system.
27 The original ANS for muskoxen on the Seward Peninsula
28 was 100, the allowable harvest right now is about 187
29 animals so we're almost twice the amount of allowable
30 harvest than what the amount originally identified for.
31 The needed for subsistence was.

32

33 You may recall back in 2005, November
34 at the Board meeting -- State Board of Game meeting
35 here in Kotzebue, the Board asked the Muskoxen
36 Cooperators to review the ANS figures and make some
37 recommendations on changing those and also to look at
38 maybe some options for moving beyond Tier II hunting.
39 The Muskoxen Cooperators did that at a major meeting in
40 2007 and they weren't able to come up with a range of
41 hunt options at the time. But they did come back with
42 a pretty good ANS recommendation and that was to expand
43 the ANS from 100 to 200, 250 animals. And basically
44 the Board of Game took that up in November and
45 basically did not choose to accept the Cooperators
46 recommendations in entirety. And what the Board did
47 was to establish a new ANS, though, of 100 to 150
48 animals.

49

50 MR. SAMPSON: What's ANS?

1 MR. ADKISSON: The amount needed for
2 subsistence. That's a process the Board of Game goes
3 through, Jim Magdanz could explain it in more detail if
4 you want. But essentially when the Board of Game, you
5 know, provides for a hunt they have to make a customary
6 and traditional use determination on that population,
7 whether it's a subsistence animal or not. Once they
8 make that then they have to look at what the amount
9 needed for subsistence is to determine whether the
10 allowable harvest is sufficient to meet that
11 subsistence need and in some cases then allow for a
12 harvest above and beyond that for other users.

13
14 So where we went into then was 100. 150
15 animals for subsistence on the Seward Peninsula and
16 that left us with about 37 animals surplus that could
17 go somewhere else.

18
19 And basically I've got three maps on
20 here that summarize the actions that the Board of Game
21 basically took based on recommendations of the
22 Cooperators in a second meeting in January, came back
23 to them with recommendations for transitioning out of
24 Tier II.

25
26 And the first map basically shows the
27 hunt areas and it shows the amount of the allowable
28 harvest for subsistence and the amount of allowable
29 harvest for a drawing hunt. And some of the areas
30 you'll see that there are no drawing hunts and that's
31 because the allowable -- the amount that could be
32 allocated to non-subsistence uses basically was
33 determined by looking at the population of the animals
34 in the units, with past harvest needs and so forth and
35 sort of prorating those out.

36
37 But the second map on the back side of
38 that basically would show you what the subsistence
39 hunts will look like with the harvest quotas for the
40 different areas.

41
42 And basically you'll see like for Unit
43 23 Southwest, the Buckland and Deering area, which are
44 probably more of interest to you, there is basically
45 going to be very little changes.

46
47 And then the last map, basically shows
48 the seasons and the harvest limits for the non-
49 subsistence hunt. The one thing that will change for
50 Unit 23 Southwest, Buckland and Deering is, that, we

1 will be moving out of the Tier II hunt, going to a Tier
2 I registration hunt. The advantage to that will be
3 that people will not have to apply in advance and not
4 have to fill out a complicated question card and have
5 that scored. Instead you'll be able to essentially
6 pick up a registration permit to hunt muskoxen
7 throughout any time of the hunt year, those permits
8 will generally be available in the villages and in the
9 regional centers like Kotzebue and it should make being
10 able to get a permit much, much easier for community
11 residents. Theoretically there'll be an unlimited
12 number of permits available and then we'll also have a
13 Federal permitting system to provide it but the overall
14 quotas will stay the same as recommended by the
15 Muskoxen Cooperators. Like I say permitting should
16 become easier. The one, perhaps, real concern that
17 some folks might have about that is that it may draw a
18 lot more people into the Buckland and Deering area from
19 the Kotzebue area than currently participate in that
20 hunt under Tier II. And I think we're just going to
21 have to see how that one shakes out. But the Federal
22 Program, with the recommendation of the Cooperators
23 could come back and draw permits back into the Federal
24 Program if it really became an issue of protecting that
25 priority opportunity for those communities that have
26 the Federal C&T. So it'll be a new world and we'll
27 just have to see how it goes.

28

29 I think the encouraging thing was that
30 the Board of Game did not totally reject the amount
31 needed for subsistence recommended by the Cooperators,
32 first of all, and then secondly at the following
33 meeting, the most recent meeting, they basically
34 accepted the recommendations that came from the
35 Cooperators on how to design hunts to move out of Tier
36 II. So I think that was a pretty big success for the
37 Cooperators.

38

39 I have one other quick minor thing, and
40 it's a favor to the Gates of the Arctic National Park.
41 They wanted me to let you know that they have a vacancy
42 or will have on their Gates of the Arctic SRC. And the
43 way the SRCs are set up, they're made up of nine
44 members, three of which are appointed by the Regional
45 Advisory Councils. So you folks have a nomination to
46 the Gates of the Arctic SRC. And as I understand it
47 the appointment from Shungnak is expiring and they're
48 going to be looking in the fall probably to come back
49 to you for some recommendations and some names to fill
50 that. And the basic requirements to fill an SRC from

1 you folks are that the person be either a member of
2 your Regional Advisory Council or a member of a local
3 AC from the area and a subsistence user of that area.
4 So basically what the Gates will hope to do is get a
5 name from you from someone from essentially the upper
6 Kobuk area where we share a big interest with the Gates
7 of the Arctic National Park.

8

9 So that's currently all I've got unless
10 you have questions.

11

12 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Mr.
13 Adkisson. Any comments, questions from the Council.
14 Yes, Walter.

15

16 MR. SAMPSON: The only objection that I
17 would have.....

18

19 REPORTER: Walter, please, your
20 microphone.

21

22 MR. SAMPSON: The only objection I
23 would have there, Ken, is in regards to making a
24 recommendation for someone from the Regional Advisory
25 Council or State Advisory Council, you know, by
26 allowing or making provisions in that way you would
27 miss an opportunity for a real hunter from the outside
28 within the community that might have an interest in
29 running for that Advisory Council position. I think by
30 just restricting it to two entities is something that I
31 wouldn't support.

32

33 MR. ADKISSON: Let me expand on that,
34 Walter, through the Chair. There are nine members on
35 the Subsistence Resource Commission. Three of those
36 are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, three
37 are appointed by the Governor and three are appointed
38 by the Regional Advisory Council. So if anyone knows of
39 a good candidate such as you describe, you know, please
40 work with your subsistence managers, in our case,
41 Willie and I or in the case of the Gates of the Arctic,
42 Dave Krupa, or you could bring it to us and we would
43 provide Dave with the information on candidates and
44 believe me, we're looking for candidates all the time.
45 And so, you know, for someone like that there's a way
46 to find a place for them on the SRC. But each of those
47 different categories has slightly differing selection
48 criteria.

49

50 The Governor, basically is almost

1 unlimited in who they can appoint. The Secretary of
2 the Interiors are a little more restricted. And, of
3 course, like I said for the RAC, the criteria are that
4 you have to be a member of the Regional Advisory, the
5 local AC, and a subsistence user of the area and so
6 those are the criterias you would need to look at.

7

8

CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter.

9

10 MR. SAMPSON: A follow up question on
11 the one page that you gave with the summary of the year
12 surveys between 2000 and 2006, it looks like there was
13 a decrease of about 220, can you determine or have you
14 made a determination in regards to -- or have you
15 determined what caused the numbers to go down?

16

17 MR. ADKISSON: Maybe Brad can answer
18 that.

19

20 MR. SAMPSON: I know there's some take
21 but I'm sure that it's not full, all 220 that was
22 taken. I'm talking -- looking at the 420 and looking
23 at the 204.

24

25 MR. SCHULTZ: Brad Schultz with the
26 Park Service. I can answer you that. It's just
27 because we didn't finish the whole survey.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

30

31 MR. SCHULTZ: Yeah, that's why it dips
32 there. But what you do see is that that whole coastal
33 population has either leveled off or started to decline
34 and we've had some problem finding, you know.....

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: Okay, thanks.

37

38 MR. SCHULTZ: Yeah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go, ahead Hazel.

41

42 MR. APUK: Yeah, Hazel Apuk with
43 Maniilaq. You said you were changing to Tier I, when
44 is that effective and when are you going to notify the
45 people because Northern Seward Peninsula SRC met
46 recently and discussed the same thing.

47

48 MR. ADKISSON: Hazel, through the
49 Chair. Yeah, it will take effect August 1 of 2008 and
50 so it will be this next -- yeah, and basically the

1 Department of Fish and Game and the Park Service will
2 work on getting information out to the communities
3 about the permitting systems. Sometimes, yeah, the
4 word will get out and it will probably involve some
5 village travel and, you know, meeting with some of the
6 local groups and things to make sure they understand
7 what the system and the process is. We've been running
8 a Tier I registration hunt now for a couple years
9 already in 22E where there's much more of an abundance
10 of animals. And under some previous actions that the
11 Board of Game adopted, they moved 22E out of a Tier II
12 into a Tier I and it seems to be working fairly well.
13 But this is a much greatly expanded -- and there really
14 were a lot of concerns about drawing in a lot of
15 outsiders and there's a lot of protections that are
16 built into it that I didn't go into. But one way that
17 the Department has to limit participation is through
18 where they make the permits available and like I said,
19 the case of 23 Southwest will be somewhat restricted.
20 The other thing that they can do is put conditions on
21 the hunt or permit, such as trophy destruction, which
22 will reduce the, I think, the interest in really non-
23 locals from coming in and trying to take a trophy
24 animal under the guise of subsistence and the
25 Department will use all of those techniques to try to
26 continue to, you know, make sure that the subsistence
27 needs get met. And, of course, the Federal Program,
28 since the whole thing started in 1995, I mean the
29 Federal Program has been committed to protecting that
30 opportunity and we'll still have a permitting program
31 and if things aren't working, you know, we can draw
32 back more of those permits and put them into the
33 Federal hunt. But right now if things really work this
34 way it'll be very easy for a villager to get a permit.
35 If they get a State permit, they'll be able to use that
36 on both State and Federal lands so they don't have to
37 worry about jurisdiction.

38
39 We're hoping this is going to produce
40 some really positive things for the local people.

41
42 MS. APOK: Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

45
46 MR. SAMPSON: I'd like to comment on
47 the -- I guess the work relationship that you folks do,
48 especially with Willie, and on your position with
49 dealing with resources.

50

1 The only concern that I have is that I
2 want to encourage you, and that is as far as local hire
3 is concerned, certainly it's something that we're
4 always encouraging the agency to look at. And if it's
5 such that these folks have a good background and good
6 knowledge of resources, at some point you need to start
7 these folks at a level, not pushing broom, but at a
8 level where they can work towards managing some of
9 these departments. I see pushing broom because of the
10 fact that that's where it always seems that the Federal
11 agencies put Natives into, into starting positions.

12
13 Sure you're going to disagree back
14 there but that's the fact. And it's always been that
15 way.

16
17 What I'm asking, is that, if we're
18 going to get people into the positions, look at people
19 who have the right knowledge. Willie's a good prime
20 example. He ought to be managing something at a level
21 to where he doesn't have to go to the superintendent
22 and say, can I. He should be able to have that
23 authority to do certain things if he's going to take
24 those positions. And that's one thing that I want to
25 encourage the agency to look at doing.

26
27 Look at Fish and Wildlife, heck,
28 they're -- what's his name, that Ramoth kid.

29
30 MS. AYRES: Mike Ramoth.

31
32 MR. SAMPSON: He's been able to work
33 his way up. And he's comfortable in that because the
34 trust level between them is there. And I think that
35 type of relationship certainly needs to be put into
36 place at least to a point where some of the folks at
37 the local level would be comfortable in at least being
38 respected in their work and being appreciated for their
39 work. And for that I want to encourage you to work in
40 that direction.

41
42 MR. ADKISSON: And I trust that George
43 has listened to all of that and, George, would you like
44 to respond to that at all as the superintendent.

45
46 MR. HELFRICH: I would just say.....

47
48 REPORTER: Come on up.

49
50 MR. HELFRICH: I would just say I

1 couldn't agree more.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, very much.

4

5 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.

6 Thank you, Ken.

7

8 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 Council members.

10

11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Next one on the list
12 is Bureau of Land Management.

13

14 MR. JOLY: Good afternoon, Mr.

15 Chairman. I'm Kyle Joly with the Bureau of Land
16 Management. I'm passing around a handout, just a single
17 page. Just a wide variety of things I'm going to
18 cover.

19

20 As I talked about this morning, the
21 Kobuk Seward Plan is in its final stages. Right now
22 we're reviewing protests to the plan. Hope to work
23 with some of those prostees to -- protestors to sort
24 things out before we come out with the record of
25 decision, which will be the final plan and that record
26 of decision is due out in May or June of 2008.

27

28 On the wildlife front, this summer
29 hoping to expand our Western Arctic Caribou Herd winter
30 range studies. Right now we have funding from BLM to
31 expand studies into the southern Nulato Hills and we're
32 working with Lee Anne and Fish and Wildlife Service to
33 expand that on the north end as well into the Selawik
34 Refuge and upper Kobuk.

35

36 Last fall we had an opportunity to work
37 with Fish and Wildlife Service and the State to do
38 moose surveys out in the Hog River which is just over
39 Kobuk Portage on the 24 side just east of GMU 23.
40 Moose in that area are pretty low density, about .2
41 moose per square mile. The bull/cow ratios and the
42 calf/cow ratios are pretty good. In a couple weeks
43 time we'll be assisting with all the other agencies on
44 a moose survey out on the Noatak and Squirrel River
45 areas. We were also able to purchase 12 satellite
46 collars for caribou that will go out in Onion Portage
47 next fall. And the Park Service and Fish and Game have
48 agreed to pay for the data acquisition costs for those
49 collars which is really helping us out.

50

1 On the recreation side, we had 11
2 guides permitted in GMU 23, seven of which were in the
3 Squirrel and six of those were active and that's a
4 decline from 2004 where we had 10 guides.

5
6 The other areas where we had guides
7 were in the Kauk, the Tag River, the Wulik and the Pik.

8
9 Sylvester Kelly was a permittee of ours
10 but due to land transfers he's entirely within the
11 State and so the State's taken over that permit.

12
13 We're still getting our harvest reports
14 in from the guides. One that we did get was from the
15 Kauk River we only allowed due to -- our new permitting
16 system we only allowed three moose to come out of that
17 drainage and three moose were harvested in that one
18 area.

19
20 The Randi Meyers position, we're still
21 working on trying to fill that. The application has
22 not been opened yet so we'll definitely get notice out
23 to people when that job is available and we'll
24 definitely be looking for a local hire if we can,
25 someone who's familiar with the area, someone who's
26 knowledgeable.

27
28 Some field work that's going on is the
29 archaeologists will be doing reconnaissance and
30 inventory work in the upper Kivalina and Singolek
31 Rivers in the end of July and they'll be using R-44s
32 and they'll be based out of Kivalina.

33
34 As noted a couple times, we're going to
35 be partnered in that GMU 23 user conflict group.

36
37 On the realty side of thing, NuvaGold
38 was in the upper Squirrel last year and they used the
39 air strip there to do some mine exploration work on
40 State lands, they expressed interest in using that air
41 strip again.

42
43 And the only other thing I want to
44 cover is the fisheries work. I told you last time that
45 we had a fishery biologist up in the Kivalina. They're
46 planning to return to that same area in 2009. In 2008
47 they're going to be looking at fall spawning habitat
48 for Dollys, and that's also in the Kivalina River.

49
50 In the future the fisheries biologists

1 hopes to expand into some chum salmon and sheefish
2 research as well.

3
4 That's it, Mr. Chairman, I'll take
5 questions.

6
7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any questions from
8 the Council.

9
10 MR. SAMPSON: Kiana, Squirrel River,
11 where are you at with that planning process for that
12 area?

13
14 MR. JOLY: As part of the Kobuk Seward
15 pan, we're doing a step down, what we're calling a
16 RAMP, a Resource Area Management Plan. That hasn't
17 started yet. We're waiting for the Record of decision
18 to get signed for the Kobuk Seward plan, the Master
19 Plan.

20
21 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. I think one
22 of the areas that certainly the BLM is really lacking
23 is providing information to the community of Kiana.
24 Kiana it always seems like that they're always calling
25 NANA or the Borough for information in regards to
26 what's happening within BLM lands. But yet, you know,
27 not being managers for those lands we don't know what's
28 going on either. So as land managers I think it's
29 important for your office to communicate with
30 communities when there's issues that are before them.
31 I'm talking about the Squirrel River being inundated
32 with traffic as well. And that's when the community
33 wants to know what's happening. So if you can at least
34 increase in your communication network for Kiana for
35 the Squirrel River area, certainly it's something that
36 you ought to do.

37
38 On top of that you also probably would
39 need to look at increasing your personnel here in
40 Kotzebue.

41
42 As land managers, as land owners in
43 this region, it always seems like when Randi left,
44 we're always trying to get in touch with the Fairbanks
45 Office and sometimes it's hard to find people to talk
46 to at the Fairbanks office. I mean you've got lands
47 down south, Buckland area, you've got lands on the
48 interior side up by Ambler area or Kobuk area and the
49 Squirrel River area, but yet you have only one Staff,
50 of which is no longer -- she's retired. But as land

1 owners, when you ought to be responsible for making
2 sure that you get staffed within this area as well, so
3 that way when there's concerns then you would be able
4 to respond to those concerned at the village level.

5
6 And you have two buildings here, I mean
7 you're paying the electricity, water and sewer with
8 nobody in those two buildings. To me that's wasted tax
9 dollars. You might as well utilize them for something
10 else and lease a facility somewhere if you're going to
11 be paying for something that nobody's in and around
12 those buildings. I mean with price of fuel that we pay
13 here, but yet an agency has two buildings that nobody
14 lives in or nobody has an office at -- I know Randi has
15 an office there when she was there but find a place
16 that you can look at and if it means working with Park
17 Service or somebody else somewhere, at least create an
18 environment that can say yes, we're here, we want to
19 talk to you, we want to respond to you.

20
21 I just want to make sure that we get
22 that on the table.

23
24 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.
25 Any other questions or comments, Council.

26
27 MR. SWAN: Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Austin Swan.

30
31 MR. SWAN: I see here in the Dolly
32 Varden investigations you're doing it on the Kivalina
33 River and upper regions will be investigated in 2008.
34 I'm wondering if you are including the Wulik River in
35 the investigations.

36
37 MR. JOLY: Right now the Wulik River is
38 not part of the investigation but I heard your concern
39 earlier and I'm going to pass that along to the
40 fisheries biologist and see if he can include that in
41 part of his work and include contaminants work as part
42 of his work so I'll bring that message to him when I
43 get back.

44
45 And I just wanted to let Walter know
46 that communication is an important component of our job
47 and we definitely know that we've been falling down on
48 that without a person here so that is something that
49 we're working on. We do hope to have someone at a
50 fairly high level working here out of the office to

1 facilitate communication and also just interaction with
2 the community.

3

4 And also to let you know that we are
5 utilizing those buildings. All the other agencies use
6 that facility, the polar bear group that's coming up to
7 do captures is actually going to maximize our bunk
8 space for a couple weeks. Park Service uses it and
9 also Fish and Game is currently using the bunkhouse.
10 So we are cooperating with the other agencies and our
11 facilities are -- we are trying to use them so to not
12 waste money.

13

14 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other comments,
15 questions. Walter.

16

17 MR. SAMPSON: Is there any planned
18 studies on the Squirrel?

19

20 MR. JOLY: What type of studies or
21 just.....

22

23 MR. SAMPSON: I mean you're doing
24 fishery studies all over the country you might as well
25 in your very own lands that you should be looking at as
26 well, too, is there any plans for those studies?

27

28 MR. JOLY: As far as I know there's no
29 plans to do fisheries work in the Squirrel right now,
30 it could be something in the future but we do actually
31 have lands in the upper Kivalina.

32

33 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

34

35 MR. JOLY: Yeah. I'll pass that along
36 to our fisheries biologist to see if he'll go for
37 something like that, yeah.

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: I mean a lot of fish go
40 into the Squirrel, salmon, sheefish and other species
41 that go into the Squirrel. Because when you fly late
42 fall you could see abundance of fish going into the
43 Squirrel River with the potential for future
44 development in the area. At least a baseline study of
45 some sort ought to be started so that we would have
46 some record in place that can say, yes, we did the
47 baseline study for these areas.

48

49 I mean the Squirrel River has been
50 identified as a good potential development in the

1 future. Upper Kobuk, the Ambler mining district if
2 certainly something big that will go and I know that
3 NuvaGold is looking at starting their process and
4 developing their work within their claims on north of
5 Kobuk. And it's something that the communities support
6 because it's creating an opportunity for the folks to
7 work for the future. They're looking at their
8 children's future and their grandchildren's future.
9 And Ambler mining district is a very huge area where
10 there's over a thousand claims within that area. And
11 that's, of course, the course of future development I
12 believe for this region.

13

14 MR. JOLY: Thank you. That's an
15 excellent suggestion.

16

17 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other comments,
18 questions from the Council.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: If not the next one
23 on the list is BLM EIS Squirrel River.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. JOLY: I believed we covered that
28 earlier this morning but we want to revisit it.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I'll just ask the
33 Council, do they have any questions on that.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: I think it's something
36 that they certainly have been addressing. I don't know
37 what more we're going to be asking for unless there's
38 going to be lack of information somewhere else I'm not
39 aware of. I want to ask, maybe, Willie, if he has any --
40 or heard of any comments in regards to BLM lands on
41 the Squirrel?

42

43 MR. GOODWIN: No, I haven't.

44

45 MR. SAMPSON: Okay, thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay, that basically
48 concludes our agenda.

49

50 MR. JOLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Is there any comments
2 from any of the -- oh, Mr. Jim.

3
4 MR. MAGDANZ: I won't take it
5 personally.

6
7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: ADF&G.

8
9 MR. MAGDANZ: This is Jim Magdanz with
10 Fish and Game. I have a couple of handouts which
11 actually were in my back pocket this morning and I've
12 been asked to build a little record so I'm going to
13 pass those out. And I won't speak very much to them, I
14 think they speak for themselves. Some of you have seen
15 them before.

16
17 My name is Jim Magdanz, I'm with the
18 Subsistence Division at Fish and Game. My counterpart
19 in wildlife conservation is with Jim Dau is where a lot
20 of you wish you were, he went camping this morning with
21 his son, Jason, a trip he's planned for over a month so
22 he's out there in the snow somewhere.

23
24 Since we last met with you we have a
25 new member of our staff in Kotzebue, Charolette
26 Westing, she's a wildlife biologist who is now the
27 assistant area biologist here, she'll be helping Jim.
28 She comes to us from Dillingham, where she's worked for
29 five years. Her husband is a high school science
30 teacher and they're in the process of moving up here.
31 They're in the process of moving up here, they'll be
32 fully moved in at the end of the school year but she's
33 already been here for a couple of weeks and will be in
34 and out until school's out and then she'll be here
35 permanently.

36
37 A lot of you know the face of our
38 office for over a decade has been Kathy Sherman. She
39 had a baby in October and has retired or resigned to
40 stay home with her two children. We just finished
41 recruiting for a new program technician in our office
42 for Kathy's job and we have a couple good candidates
43 and we'll be interviewing those next week.

44
45 We talked already about Board of Game
46 except to make one point that we still do have a Tier
47 II muskox hunt in the northwest part of the unit for
48 Noatak, Kivalina. That is still Tier II up there so if
49 you want a muskoxen, the Noatak, Kivalina, Point Hope
50 area, that Tier II process is still in place and you'll

1 need to apply but down in Buckland and Deering we're
2 not in that anymore.

3
4 I'll move to some of the research
5 projects Subsistence Division has been involved with.
6 I just came back from Kivalina where we completed a
7 comprehensive survey. We worked there, we hired --
8 Nelda Swan worked with us, did a great job. Eleanor
9 Swan, Hilda Knox, Richard Sage and Stanley Holly were
10 our survey crew there, we were there about a week, we
11 surveyed 42 households. Those data are now in
12 Anchorage being entered. But before we sent them down
13 we did a real quick hand tally to see what we had and
14 it looked like harvest in the Noatak overall were very
15 similar to harvest that we've seen in Noatak in '92, in
16 '83 and '84 and as far back as '64 and '65. The total
17 community harvest for subsistence in Noatak is
18 virtually a flat line over the last 40 years. So
19 that's very interesting to us.

20
21 We were in Noatak about a month ago.
22 Our crew there was Hannah Onalik, Ben Arnold, Cheryl
23 Booth, Roger Adams, Chris Shy and Amanda Porter and
24 then two high school students that worked with us Emma
25 Adams and Lola Arey, and the high school students
26 actually surveyed as a team. They surveyed more
27 households than any single adult surveyed, they
28 surveyed 20 by themselves, so they did a great job.
29 I'm going to be going back to Noatak in about three
30 weeks, right after spring break and I'm going to work
31 with the high school students there for a week. We
32 have 11 years of salmon harvest data that the
33 Department and Maniilaq have collected from 1994 to
34 2004. We are going to go back into the schools in
35 Noatak. We also are going to do this in Shungnak and
36 work with the students to look for patterns and trends
37 in subsistence fisheries harvest. We have salmon,
38 trout, whitefish and sheefish data and so we're going
39 to look to see if we can understand better what has
40 happened in those fisheries over time. That's a
41 project that's funded by the Fisheries Information
42 Service with the support of your Council, so I'm
43 looking forward to doing that.

44
45 I also have another project supported
46 by FIS that's in the end stages now, it's exploring
47 approaches. One of the final products for that was a
48 research design for continued harvest monitoring in
49 Northwest Alaska. We developed that and then applied
50 it in this Kivalina Noatak survey. So the one project

1 has led into another, which we like to see.

2

3 Finally, just to briefly talk about
4 what I handed out.

5

6 There were two parts, one part shows
7 data on commercial hunting services. We passed this
8 out before and I want to just briefly point out that
9 what it shows is that the number of clients that have
10 come into the region almost tripled from 2001 to 2004,
11 the number of hunting days, the number of moose taken,
12 the number of caribou taken all doubled or tripled in
13 that four year period between 2001 and 2004. The
14 graphs provides you more detail but it's information
15 that might want to be part of that .810 analysis if
16 they're trying to show that there have indeed have been
17 some impacts, some significant changes, clearly there
18 were and continue to be.

19

20 The second thing that I passed out was
21 moose data and I passed that out for two reasons. One
22 is that we have more complete data on moose than we do
23 on caribou. And second, although a lot of the
24 discussion, most of the discussion this morning was on
25 caribou and people seemed to be -- to make much of the
26 fact that we have half a million caribou and 10,000 are
27 taken by local residents and maybe another 500 by non-
28 local residents and what's the big deal. Well, for
29 moose it's really different. For moose it is a big
30 deal. Where non-local harvests are maybe on the order
31 of 80, the moose population is somewhere, six, 7,000,
32 and Brad may have a more accurate number than I do.
33 But with moose we are much closer to managing for
34 sustained yield than we are for caribou. In fact
35 several years we closed moose hunting completely in the
36 Buckland Deering area and that was directly the result
37 of harvest by non-local users. So while it is true
38 that caribou are a much bigger part of the subsistence
39 harvest in this region, as the caribou migrations have
40 become more unpredictable and the caribou have been
41 arriving later, we're already starting to see and
42 Noatak, the data there showed this, that people are
43 concentrating more on moose and moose may become more
44 important in the future than they have been to date. So
45 as this group works with the Park Service and with the
46 user conflicts group, I think it's important to not
47 forget about moose. I think that's where management
48 action is likely to occur before caribou unless
49 something very unexpected happens very soon with
50 caribou, we'll probably see more management

1 restrictions in moose.

2

3 One thing that you see in the moose
4 data is that there was an increase in the number of
5 hunters up until the '90s and since then things have
6 plateaued. The last several years you can see a
7 dramatic decrease in the number of non-residents and
8 that's because we went to a drawing hunt for non-
9 residents and you can see a substantial increase in the
10 number of local residents who are participating in and
11 taking moose and that's because we went to this RM880
12 registration permit hunt for moose, which you have to
13 be in the region and you have to register for in July
14 if you want to hunt in a longer season and a lot of
15 local residents have registered for that hunt because
16 it gives them, instead of a 20 day season in September,
17 they can hunt from September to December and they can
18 have an antlerless hunt in November and December and so
19 we've seen much more interest in participating in the
20 moose reporting system the last couple years than we
21 did before. That doesn't mean that local moose harvest
22 has increased, that alone, though I think that also is
23 the case. So there are some things that have changed
24 with moose harvest in the last couple years, both the
25 manager user conflicts and to try to maintain the
26 harvest within sustained yield in the area.

27

28 I won't say anything more about that,
29 and, Mr. Chairman, I'll turn it back to you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Jim. Any
32 questions, comments, Council.

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: The chart that you have
35 there, the document.....

36

37 REPORTER: Walter.

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: You have transporters,
40 guides and outfitters and the years that they've
41 operated from 2001 to 2004. For the number of moose
42 killed, I can see the take but yet for the outfitters
43 you have zero.

44

45 MR. MAGDANZ: That's what the
46 outfitters reported to us. And the outfitters are a
47 very small part of this picture.

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

50

1 MR. MAGDANZ: The outfitters are the
2 guys that provide the rafts and the tents but not
3 transportation services.
4
5 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.
6
7 MR. MAGDANZ: So the transporters are
8 the air taxis and then the guides would be people like
9 Phil Driver, but the outfitters are a fairly small
10 group.
11
12 MR. SAMPSON: If that's the case then
13 what happened to that one, that one on the Kivalina
14 where, when they parked in Kivalina, people saw racks
15 but no meat. These were floaters, is that what that
16 is, outfitters?
17
18 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, they probably show
19 up under the transporters because they were dropped off
20 by a transporter. So that group that floated into
21 Kivalina.....
22
23 MR. SAMPSON: Uh-huh.
24
25 MR. MAGDANZ:and the racks that
26 were photographed there would probably be reported
27 under the transporters because they were flown in, in
28 the upper Wulik and they floated down,
29
30 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Clarify for me
31 then, again, the difference between the transporter and
32 the outfitter.
33
34 MR. MAGDANZ: The transporter provides
35 transportation services.
36
37 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.
38
39 MR. MAGDANZ: Usually an airplane
40 but.....
41
42 MR. SAMPSON: Right. Right.
43
44 MR. MAGDANZ:we have a few boats.
45
46 MR. SAMPSON: Right.
47
48 MR. MAGDANZ: The outfitter simply
49 provides the outfit, that is the tent, he may provide a
50 raft but he doesn't provide transportation services

1 into the field.
2
3 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.
4
5 MR. MAGDANZ: And I think in most cases
6 the non-local hunters who would come up here on their
7 own would engage a transporter to take them out into
8 the field. I think the outfitters clients tend to be
9 Alaskans who maybe have their own transportation, like
10 they may have an airplane but not a raft or they may be
11 relatives that come up and a local family will
12 rent.....
13
14 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.
15
16 MR. MAGDANZ: So the outfitters are
17 really a small part of it.
18
19 MR. SAMPSON: My second question then
20 would be, would you have any idea in regards to where
21 the take of the moose, I'm looking at, you know,
22 locations of where a moose was taken.
23
24 MR. MAGDANZ: There are some of the
25 guides and transporters, the guides, in particular, are
26 pretty good about reporting locations, the transporters
27 less so. I don't have it -- I didn't include that here
28 but it is part of the record. And I would say that for
29 transporters, I'm just guessing, it may be half of the
30 records have locations more precise than Unit 23. I
31 mean some of them just say Unit 23.
32
33 MR. SAMPSON: Don't you require under
34 your licensing.....
35
36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Your mic.
37
38 MR. SAMPSON: Don't you require under
39 your licensing in regards to where the take might have
40 occurred?
41
42 MR. MAGDANZ: We have -- we do require
43 them to report the harvest location.
44
45 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.
46
47 MR. MAGDANZ: And so we could provide
48 that, I didn't include it here. We could provide that.
49 Jim Dau routinely does break it down by major drainage.
50

1 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.
2
3 MR. MAGDANZ: We don't usually get
4 precise locations. People say the Squirrel. People
5 say the Kobuk. Sometimes people say Unit 23 when they
6 report. So the quality of that information varies.
7
8 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah. What I'm leading
9 to is if there's a way to get precise location in the
10 event that the resource starting to -- numbers started
11 to come down then you would be able to address quickly
12 on what you need to do which means if there's a need to
13 -- for an emergency closure then you should be able to
14 know to do that.
15
16 MR. MAGDANZ: We should.
17
18 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.
19
20 MR. MAGDANZ: The precise location, the
21 most precise location is usually a minor drainage, it's
22 Singlet Creek or it's Kougera.....
23
24 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.
25
26 MR. MAGDANZ:River.
27
28 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.
29
30 MR. MAGDANZ: That's as precise as we
31 usually get.
32
33 MR. SAMPSON: In this case then the
34 Squirrel River, do you know what the numbers or the
35 take of moose in that area?
36
37 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah, I don't off the top
38 of my head.
39
40 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.
41
42 MR. MAGDANZ: I mean we could find out
43 for you, but I don't off the top of my head.
44
45 MR. SAMPSON: Would BLM know what the
46 number of take is.
47
48 MR. JOLY: Not off the top of my head
49 but I could get it to you.
50

1 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah. Yeah, thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I have a question,
4 Jim, do you have any numbers on sheep in the region, by
5 any chance?
6
7 MR. MAGDANZ: No. And, Brad, actually
8 you've done a lot more with sheep than I have.
9
10 MR. SCHULTZ: What was the question.
11
12 MR. MAGDANZ: Sheep numbers.
13
14 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Sheep numbers.
15
16 MR. SCHULTZ: Brad Schultz with the
17 Park Service. We've been doing the Brooks Range wide
18 surveys the last couple years all the way from the Haul
19 Road all the way to the Western Brooks Range and we did
20 most of the units that we normally do in the Bairds
21 last year. We did -- well, we did almost 60 percent of
22 our count units and our population estimate's running a
23 little higher than the last time we did it, which was
24 three years ago. So that sheep population in the
25 Western Brooks Range is pretty much stable to slowly
26 increasing. We're not seeing huge increases, they've
27 really steadied out. They grew a lot after that crash
28 over the years but now they're just kind of hanging in
29 there around 600 adults in the Western Bairds in those
30 count units. So that's the Aggie country where we've
31 been counting for 20 years.
32
33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: That would be my
34 question, the Baird Mountains, DeLong and possibly the
35 upper Aggie River.
36
37 MR. SCHULTZ: I can tell you that the
38 Brooks Range sheep population has decreased
39 significantly since 1983. There's absolutely no doubt
40 that the number that were counted there in 1983, you
41 know, we may have as much as a 40 to 60 percent decline
42 in the number of sheep that inhabit the Western Brooks
43 Range.
44
45 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What's their status
46 now, are they slowly increasing, holding or declining?
47
48 MR. SCHULTZ: It appears that, you
49 know, just there's places where there were no sheep
50 where there used to be sheep, the Kelley River is one

1 place like that where there used to be quite a few
2 sheep and we surveyed a lot of units up there and we
3 saw very few.

4
5 So the densities are low but the
6 productivity's been really good for a lot of years now,
7 almost 10 years we've seen a lot of lambs and a lot of
8 yearlings but they're just not crawling out of the
9 hole.

10
11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

12
13 MR. SAMPSON: What about the Squirrel.

14
15 MR. SCHULTZ: The Squirrel along the
16 northern end there, we did a bunch of units there the
17 last two years and it's the same sort of deal, the
18 units that used to have a lot of sheep in them, they
19 got sheep in them but not a lot and the units that had
20 a few, they have none, and as you move towards Kobuk
21 Valley and the upper Salmon and all that country,
22 there's places where there's little pockets of sheep
23 that just persist. I think a lot of people know that
24 but they just don't expand and you don't see new groups
25 of them moving around. So.....

26
27 MR. SAMPSON: What about the southern
28 side of the Squirrel. I'm talking right behind Ivig
29 (ph) and right across Noorvik and those hills there.

30
31 MR. SCHULTZ: Yeah, we haven't surveyed
32 those hills in a long time. We've been doing farther
33 north like, you know, the upper Omar, the upper
34 NorthFork, we did a bunch of units up in there last
35 year.

36
37 MR. SAMPSON: But there is sheep.

38
39 MR. SCHULTZ: There is sheep but
40 they're really scattered out and very few.

41
42 MR. SAMPSON: Would BLM have any record
43 in regards to what the numbers might be within that
44 area?

45
46 MR. JOLY: No, Brad's really been
47 leading that effort up so he's got the best
48 information.

49
50 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

1 MR. SCHULTZ: I saw more barrels in the
2 upper Squirrel than I did sheep last year.
3
4 MR. SAMPSON: More what?
5
6 MR. SCHULTZ: Barrels.
7
8 MR. SAMPSON: Burroughs?
9
10 MR. SCHULTZ: Barrels, yeah.
11
12 MR. SAMPSON: Barrels, okay.
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 MR. SAMPSON: Okay, I see what you
17 mean.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MR. SAMPSON: I thought you said
22 burroughs.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 MR. SAMPSON: I said how the heck did
27 those get there.....
28
29 MR. SCHULTZ: Not yet, but if it gets
30 warm enough.....
31
32 MR. SAMPSON:how the heck did
33 burroughs get up there.
34
35 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Brad.
36 Thank you, Jim.
37
38 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39
40 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other comments,
41 questions.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Agency people.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 MR. EVERETT: I have a comment, Mr.
50 Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay.

2

3 MR. EVERETT: I'm kind of nearing the
4 end of my first three years and I guess my comments
5 right now today may impact whether I have another term
6 or not.

7

8 But over the last three years a concern
9 has arisen several times and I want to challenge us as
10 a RAC to maybe address it more and to put some of the
11 challenge maybe back to the people that ask these and
12 see if we can come up with some solutions.

13

14 My training and background is in
15 education. I was a school counselor for four years
16 here in Kotzebue before moving back into the classroom
17 and one of the concerns that I have heard at every
18 single one of these is local and Native hire, and I
19 just wanted to take a minute and maybe address that
20 maybe from my point of view as an outsider working with
21 the students and people trying to maybe fill some of
22 those positions and to also say that since I came here
23 in 2001 I have seen a remarkable increase in these
24 agencies that we hear reports from and including
25 students and people from the communities in their
26 activities. And for that I just want to tell them I
27 appreciate that, as someone trying to encourage these
28 students to fill these jobs from students with -- we've
29 had several students with archeological digs, we've had
30 quite a few students involved in -- throughout the
31 region with the bird studies, with caribou collaring,
32 just you name it and it's been encouraging. There's a
33 lot of involvement in the schools with Park Service
34 interpreter Linda Jeschke, and just every one of the
35 agencies has been involved and I've noticed it. And
36 I've heard from students that I've chaperoned from
37 other village schools and they're excited about it.

38

39 I guess from my perspective I would
40 like to encourage us to, instead of just continue the
41 rhetoric, to see if there's things that we can do that
42 we've seen successful in our region.

43

44 I'd like to draw people's attention to
45 the ANSEP program, which is the Alaska Native Science
46 Engineering Program. For the last five years, we've
47 had two to three students out of Kotzebue entering
48 engineering programs. And the reason that was pushed
49 is because they recognized we didn't want the broom
50 pushing jobs at Red Dog and other places but we didn't

1 have people that were getting the education required to
2 fill those jobs that were open. And so I just thought --
3 I made a list of things that I've seen since being
4 here that were successful.

5
6 Number 1, the community and parents
7 demanded programs and resources of the regional school
8 board. They got the regional school board involved.
9 They provided course work that hadn't been offered in
10 Kotzebue for a lot of years, upper math level classes.
11 This ANSEP program requires students take trig, prefer
12 that they have calculus, they have to have chemistry
13 and physics. We hadn't offered that on a yearly basis
14 in Kotzebue for as many years as I had privy to the
15 records. We had to get the Northwest Arctic Borough
16 School District on board with that since they actually
17 oversee the Tech Center. We had involvement from the
18 University of Alaska who were really spearheading this,
19 and I think that's been successful. So like I said
20 we've had two to three students entering engineering
21 programs and will be getting high paying jobs from our
22 region.

23
24 Other areas that I've noticed
25 improvement is information technology, IT fields.
26 We've had between six and 12 students a year in the
27 last few years that have been filling jobs at Maniilaq,
28 the Borough, school district, have benefitted from
29 these. To get those high paying jobs and certified
30 jobs it required, again, parents and community
31 demanding course work by the Tech Center and national
32 certification programs. So they're actually getting
33 the certification required to fill jobs otherwise we
34 just see job openings, job openings, job openings in
35 the paper or if you go to the Maniilaq job website, and
36 how many of our local people and students can fill
37 those -- meet those criteria.

38
39 That brings up the health-related
40 careers. We've had several people in the last couple
41 years actually graduate with nursing degrees because
42 this was also something that was demanded and follow
43 through. So we have local people, Susan Walker, is a
44 good example. And she's now a nurse and doing great
45 and is a great liaison to -- and a spokesperson for
46 some of the kids that I work with trying to encourage
47 them to fill health related careers.

48
49 And, of course, lastly, just in my
50 short list, teachers, Chukchi has been providing

1 education for certifying aides in all the villages
2 providing teacher certification, education for new
3 teachers and that's largely has come as a demand from
4 the community and parents to say we need people who can
5 actually teach because the State requires teaching
6 certifications.

7

8 So I would like to just say that we can
9 do this, it's encouraging that we have this as an
10 interest.

11

12 I have had students of my own
13 participate in this very RAC process, listen in on the
14 phone and I'd like to encourage that but I'd like to
15 also ask the community folks with the Borough and the
16 City to start saying that is important and bring that
17 up at the regional school board meeting so that -- I
18 don't think it's the agency's job to certify and
19 qualify students from our area and I think we can all
20 take ownership, me included, to help kids fill those
21 jobs and all the things they've been doing has
22 encouraged. I've had kids come back with fire that
23 they want to do the caribou collaring and that's made
24 them want to take science classes and possibly become
25 land managers or involved in the wildlife management
26 issues.

27

28 So I think we're right on the edge
29 where we can make a difference with the kids and see if
30 there's things locally that we can do to encourage
31 certification programs and/or to tell kids, you know,
32 you really can and have the parents telling the kid
33 instead of -- I'll tell a sad story, just anecdotal,
34 but one of my students, one of my better students,
35 tried to get into nursing school, her father told her
36 why don't you just get a job working for the
37 construction crew holding a sign, and that's where we
38 need to have the parents say, no, you can, you can go
39 away and it is scary to send kids away to college and
40 you can become a nurse.

41

42 So just something I wanted to share and
43 thank you.

44

CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: I guess first of all I
48 want to thank members for coming to this meeting and
49 certainly it's been a long day and crucial issues, very
50 important issues have been discussed.

1 To the Staff I want to thank you for
2 providing information to this body. To some of you,
3 you might think that I might sound radical sometimes
4 which maybe I am, but the process that I go through
5 sometimes is hard for some of you. When I decide to
6 make a point -- I'm serious about making certain points
7 and I don't intend to personally attack any of you.
8 George, I may sound like I did today, but I tried to
9 make points to make sure that we addressed those very
10 things. As I see things from the outside looking at
11 the Park Service and how those things are being dealt
12 with is what I look at in dealing with. And if you
13 feel that I personally attack you, I don't mean to
14 personally attack you, I respect what you do and I
15 expect you to take those things in a professional
16 manner, because you are a professional in what you do.

17
18 And same thing to the rest of you. If
19 you take it in a personal way then I'm sorry that I
20 might have addressed it in that way but I expect you to
21 take things in a professional manner.

22
23 Sure, I get attacked by my own people
24 but I learn to take it in that way.

25
26 One good thing that I learned to is to
27 listen. You listen to people that make sense. You
28 listen to people that don't make sense. Because they
29 expect you to listen.

30
31 You respond to people that make sense
32 and you respond to people that don't make sense.
33 Sometimes I feel like I don't make sense -- and keep
34 laughing back there, I will get you down to that point
35 sometimes too. But it's part of the communication
36 network that we certainly have to establish between us.
37 There's times when agencies don't communicate very well
38 and then I end up with the questions, what is BLM
39 doing, what is Park Service doing, and it's your
40 responsibility as an agency to communicate to the
41 communities in regards to what you're doing within your
42 lands. And I think sometimes when we don't, even NANA,
43 is just as guilty, when we don't respond to folks to
44 discuss what we're doing within our land then we're
45 lacking. And I want to encourage all of us to
46 communicate between all of us.

47
48 With that, I want to thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Walter.

1 Austin Swan.

2

3 MR. SWAN: I just want to thank
4 everybody for coming here and giving us all the
5 information.

6

7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Austin.
8 Virgil.

9

10 MR. ADAMS: This is my first year with
11 you guys in Fish and Game [sic]. I never really
12 applied my life as I grew up with my grandparents and
13 they set their own rules and bylaws in how we hunt out
14 there and being involved with you guys and with Fish
15 and Game and seeing how they are real serious about all
16 this stuff that we should apply in our lives and our
17 communities with their laws and not make our own like,
18 you know, I mean I know some people that still do but
19 it's a learning experience and I enjoyed it. And I'd
20 just like to thank Walter for sticking up for us too.
21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Virgil.
24 Any other comments, agencies. Cliff.

25

26 MR. EDENSHAW: No, Mr. Chair. I'll
27 just wait until you're done with that to move on to our
28 calendars.

29

30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We can do that.

31

32 MR. EDENSHAW: All right. If you'll
33 open up your books on Page 86. We've tried to -- and
34 this was brought up earlier this -- in '07, but anyway
35 when Michelle was your coordinator, she went through
36 and made meeting arrangement dates for you -- as it is
37 now you're scheduled to meet October 9th here in
38 Kotzebue again, and I'm here to ask you guys, to beg
39 you guys to see if you can change that date from
40 October 9th because there's three meetings in a week.
41 And even if you -- they even asked if we could do it on
42 the 10th, that would be fine, or else the following
43 week.

44

45 MR. SAMPSON: Looks like the 16th would
46 be a good time.

47

48 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay.

49

50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: The only thing I

1 would like to do -- I'm open, it don't make any
2 difference to me, just to check and see if the other
3 organizations have anything going on that particular
4 date, NANA Corporation, Maniilaq, KIC, whoever, AFN.
5
6 MR. EDENSHAW: But it's not during that
7 week of October 13th, Columbus day, is it, I don't
8 believe it is.
9
10 MR. SAMPSON: Well, why can't.....
11
12 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman.
13
14 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Oh, I'm sorry, go
15 ahead.
16
17 MR. EVERETT: I was going to say, Mr.
18 Chairman, you said that you knew this but I'm not sure
19 everybody else does, is the dates at the top of the
20 calendar are incorrect, the 9th or the 16th should be a
21 Tuesday unless my calendar is wrong.
22
23 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Mine says Tuesday,
24 the 9th and the 16th is Tuesday.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: What calendar are you
29 looking at.
30
31 MR. SAMPSON: My calendar says the 9th
32 is a Thursday.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MR. EDENSHAW: What does the 10th say.
37
38 (Laughter)
39
40 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: The 10th is
41 Wednesday.
42
43 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay.
44
45 MR. EVERETT: We're talking about the
46 month of October 2007.
47
48 MR. EDENSHAW: No, no, no, 2008.
49
50 MR. EVERETT: 2008, right.

1 MR. SAMPSON: If people have problems
2 with the 16th, we could look at the date of the 13th,
3 Columbus never discovered us, why should we celebrate
4 him, it ought to be a work day.
5
6 MR. EDENSHAW: What day is that Walter?
7
8 MR. SAMPSON: No, I think the 16th --
9 the 16th is a Thursday.
10
11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thursday, on my
12 calendar it says Tuesday.
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 MR. SAMPSON: This one say Thursday.
17
18 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I have no problem
19 with that.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 MR. EDENSHAW: All right, well we'll
24 meet October 16th here then on Thursday then.
25
26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yep.
27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: All right. And then if
29 we look on Page 87. That will be for the winter.
30
31 MR. SAMPSON: Can we make that
32 determination at the time we meet this fall.
33
34 MR. EDENSHAW: No, we'd like to at
35 least -- you can pick a date and an alternate date but,
36 you know, we try to put these ahead of time so if I
37 could squeeze a date out of you I'd.....
38
39 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman. I would
40 encourage us to do it earlier than later since no one
41 else is on the calendar yet. It seems like we keep
42 getting pushed into March because of other region's
43 schedules and it puts a hardship on Virgil and myself
44 who want to participate in the basketball tournaments
45 here.
46
47 (Laughter)
48
49 MR. SAMPSON: February.
50

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Well, then give us a
2 date.
3
4 MR. SAMPSON: February 10th.
5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Seward Penn is
7 meeting then.
8
9 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What's that.
10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You don't have the
12 current calendar.
13
14 MR. EDENSHAW: What?
15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Seward Penn is
17 meeting that date.
18
19 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, let's do it
20 the.....
21
22 MR. EVERETT: Yeah, let's meet.....
23
24 MR. EDENSHAW: What -- is Greg the
25 biologist for -- well, Greg's going to be doing --
26 we're going to be doing fisheries so -- no, it will be
27 wildlife, yeah, we can't do it on the 10th because
28 Greg's the biologist for the region so we'd have to do
29 it like on the 13th.
30
31 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yeah, but that's
32 Friday.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MR. EDENSHAW: But, anyway, Greg works
37 on the team with us and he can't be in Nome and here on
38 the same day, because he writes up the analysis for us
39 and he'd be here presenting as well.
40
41 MR. SAMPSON: The 12th.
42
43 MR. EDENSHAW: And we can't do it the
44 16th through the 20th because we already have two
45 Councils during that week.
46
47 MR. EVERETT: We could always sneak him
48 in there.
49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Let's do it the 12th,

1 the 12th is good.
2
3 MR. SAMPSON: February 12th.
4
5 MR. EDENSHAW: The 12th.
6
7 MR. SAMPSON: Yep.
8
9 MR. EDENSHAW: No way we can't make it
10 the 13th.
11
12 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Anybody got an
13 alternate date?
14
15 MR. SAMPSON: Not the 13th, that's a
16 bad day.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 MR. SAMPSON: Why would we want another
21 date?
22
23 MR. EDENSHAW: Well, on Seward Penn,
24 the only thing -- worst case scenario or best case
25 scenario is I'd hope that Greg would be done on the
26 11th on the afternoon, and he'd fly to Anchorage and
27 come up here, it's mainly for him, I'm available, it's
28 mainly for Greg.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 MR. EDENSHAW: Because Greg's the
33 biologist and.....
34
35 MR. SAMPSON: Seward Penn's meeting.
36
37 MR. EDENSHAW: Yeah, Greg's the.....
38
39 MR. SAMPSON: He can just go from Nome
40 to here.
41
42 MR. RISDAHL: Just go from Kotzebue to
43 Nome or Nome to Kotzebue, whichever, and don't go back
44 to Anchorage.
45
46 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.
47
48 MR. EDENSHAW: All right, well, we'll
49 stay with the 12th then.
50

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Anybody making a
2 motion to adjourn.

3
4 MR. EVERETT: I make a motion to
5 adjourn.

6
7 MR. SWAN: Second.

8
9 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: All in favor.

10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12
13 (Off record)

14
15 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 18th day of March 2001.

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