

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
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7
8 Pikes Landing
9 Fairbanks, Alaska
10 March 5, 2015
11 8:30 a.m.
12
13
14

15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Sue Entsminger, Chair
18 Andy Bassich
19 Lester Erhart
20 Andrew Firmin
21 William Glanz
22 Will Koehler
23 Rhonda Pitka
24 Virgil Umphenour
25 Larry Williams
26 Donald Woodruff
27
28 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton
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38 Recorded and transcribed by:

39
40 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
41 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
42 Anchorage, AK 99501
43 907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 3/5/2015)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. We're calling the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council back to session. And we had some leftover stuff that we didn't do yesterday. Would it be okay if we take that up before election of officers.

(Cell phone ringing)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you can answer the phone. I joke.

(Laughter)

MS. PATTON: You'll get a little better access there, Lester.

(Laughter)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is that okay, guys. All right. Do you want to do the -- it looks like there's a lot of unfinished business here.

Do you want to take up the rural and C&T first or would you like to take up the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service proposed rules on -- or the comments on proposed rules.

You want to do rural C&T. Okay. We're going to do the rural C&T. We'll go into those two and then the Fish and Wildlife Service.

(Carl Johnson/Eva Patton Discussion regarding order of business)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're going to take a short break because there's a problem here.

(Off record)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Calling this back to order. I live in an area where it's called Murphy's Law. Whatever happens happens. But in this

1 world, we live under Robert's Rules. And I have not
2 called for a quorum. So Andrew, could you please do
3 the roll call so we can establish that we have a
4 quorum.

5
6 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, ma'am. And for our
7 roll call, let's see. Is Sue Enstminger present.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Here.

10
11 MR. FIRMIN: And Andrew Firmin is
12 present.

13
14 Larry Williams; is he here.

15
16 MR. WILLIAMS: Here.

17
18 MR. FIRMIN: Lester Erhart.

19
20 MR. ERHART: Here.

21
22 MR. FIRMIN: William Glanz.

23
24 MR. GLANZ: Here.

25
26 MR. FIRMIN: Andrew Bassich.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: Here.

29
30 MR. FIRMIN: Rhonda Pitka.

31
32 MS. PITKA: Here.

33
34 MR. FIRMIN: Will Koehler.

35
36 MR. KOEHLER: Here.

37
38 MR. FIRMIN: Donald Woodruff.

39
40 MR. WOODRUFF: Here.

41
42 MR. FIRMIN: And Virgil Umphenour.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.

45
46 MR. FIRMIN: All are present and
47 accounted for, Madame Chair, and we have a quorum.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
2 And next would be introductions. So starting in the
3 front here and around the room.
4
5 MS. INGLES: I'm Palma Ingles. I'm with
6 Fish and Wildlife Service OSM.
7
8 MR. LIND: Orville Lind, Fish and
9 Wildlife Service Native Liaison.
10
11 MR. CARLO: Good morning, Chair and the
12 Board. Glenn Carlo. I'm with Denakkanaaga.
13
14 MR. EVANS: Good morning. My name is
15 Tom Evans. I work as a wildlife biologist for the Fish
16 and Wildlife Service Office of Subsistence Management.
17
18 MR. WHITFORD: Good morning. My name is
19 Tom Whitford. I'm the Alaska Region Subsistence
20 Program leader for the Forest Service.
21
22 MR. RICE: Good morning. My name is Bud
23 Rice, Management biologist, National Park Service.
24
25 MS. BURKE: Good morning. Melinda
26 Burke. I'm the Council Coordinator for Western
27 Interior and Northwest Arctic with OSM.
28
29 MS. CELLARIUS: My name is Barbara
30 Cellarius and I'm the Subsistence Coordinator and
31 Cultural Anthropologist for Wrangell-St. Elias National
32 Park and Preserve.
33
34 MS. FLEEK: Adrienne Fleek, Council
35 Coordinator for the YK Delta and the Seward Peninsula
36 OSM.
37
38 MS. OKADA: Good morning. Subsistence
39 Coordinator for Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.
40 And my name is Marcy Okada.
41
42 MR. DUDGEON: Good morning. I'm Greg
43 Dudgeon, Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National
44 Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charley Rivers National
45 Preserve.
46
47 MS. SELBO: Good morning. Sarena Selbo,
48 Fish and Wildlife Service, Deputy Chief of Refuges.
49
50 MR. ELLIS: Good morning. Mitch Ellis,

1 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chief of Refuges.
2
3 MR. SPINDLER: Mike Spindler, Refuge
4 Manager, Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. Based here
5 in Fairbanks, but the Refuge by Bettles and Evansville,
6 for the benefit of the Council.
7
8 MR. BARRETTE: Al Barrette, Fairbanks.
9 Sporthunter.
10
11 MS. FIELDS: Shirley Fields, Fort Yukon.
12
13 MR. HJELMGREN: Jim Hjelmgren, U.S. Fish
14 and Wildlife Service Refuge Law Enforcement.
15
16 MR. HAWKALUK: Nathan Hawkaluk, Yukon
17 Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
18
19 MS. MCDONNELL: Tracey McDonnell, Refuge
20 Supervisor out of the Anchorage Office, with Fish and
21 Wildlife Service.
22
23 MS. MORAN: Tina Moran, Deputy Manager
24 of the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.
25
26 MR. GLASPELL: Brian Glaspell. I'm the
27 Refuge Manager at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
28
29 MS. GRONQUIST: Ruth Gronquist. I'm a
30 wildlife biologist with the Western Interior Field
31 Office with BLM. Good morning.
32
33 MS. STEVENS: Carrie Stevens, UAF Tribal
34 Management.
35
36 MS. BROWN: Caroline Brown, Fish and
37 Game Division of Subsistence Interior Specialist.
38
39 MS. NELSON: Hazel Nelson, Director of
40 Subsistence Division ADF&G.
41
42 MS. SCHMIDT: Stephanie Schmidt, Yukon
43 River Summer Season Fishery Manager, Alaska Department
44 of Fish and Game.
45
46 MR. MOOS: Kenton Moos. I'm the Refuge
47 Manager for Koyukuk, Nowitna, and Innoko Refuges, out
48 of Galena.
49
50 MS. THOMAS: Mimi Thomas, Law

1 Enforcement Officer for the Yukon Flats Refuge.

2

3 MR. BERENDZEN: Steve Berendzen, the
4 Yukon Flats Refuge Manager.

5

6 MR. MASCHMANN: Gerald Maschmann, with
7 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon River Salmon
8 Management.

9

10 MR. BUE: Fred Bue, U.S. Fish and
11 Wildlife Service, Yukon River Subsistence Fisheries
12 Management.

13

14 MS. CRAVER: Amy Craver, Cultural
15 Resources Subsistence Manager for Denali National Park
16 and Preserve.

17

18 MS. KOEHLER: I'm Jaia Koehler. My
19 husband Will and I manage Wrangell Outfitters in
20 Horsfeld.

21

22 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, BIA
23 Subsistence Anthropologist out of Anchorage.

24

25 MR. HAVENER: Jeremy Havener, Refuge
26 Subsistence Coordinator for Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko
27 National Wildlife Refuges.

28

29 MR. BURR: John Burr, Alaska Fish and
30 Game Sportfishing Division.

31

32 MR. MATTHEWS: Vince Matthews,
33 Subsistence Coordinator for Arctic, Kanuti, and Yukon
34 Flats.

35

36 MR. HILL: Jerry Hill, Deputy Manager,
37 Tetlin.

38

39 MR. JOHNSON: Carl Johnson, the Council
40 Coordination Division Chief at Office of Subsistence
41 Management.

42

43 MR. FOX: Yeah. Good morning. I'm
44 Trevor Fox. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator
45 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, out of
46 Anchorage.

47

48 MR. PETER: Walter Peter, Fort Yukon,
49 Subsistence Hunter.

50

1 MR. LIND: Orville Lind. U.S. Fish and
2 Wildlife Service, Native Liaison, OSM, out of
3 Anchorage.
4
5 MS. CHARLIE: Kristie Charlie from
6 Tetlin.
7
8 MR. WILLIAMS: Richard Williams from
9 Beaver.
10
11 MS. BILLY: Birdie Billy from Beaver.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
14 folks. And welcome.
15
16 (Pause)
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes. Is
19 there any people on phone that we need to identify.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone a
24 teleconference. You've got to push star six.
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Moving
29 on. Okay. You know what. I think we ought to just
30 take it up as we see it here.
31
32 The next thing on the agenda is the
33 election of officers. I'm going to hand the Chair over
34 to Eva.
35
36 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
37 every year we do the election of officers. Would the
38 Council prefer a ballot election or just a roll call
39 vote.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Never done
42 this.
43
44 MS. PATTON: Okay. Well, we'll open a
45 call for nominations for the position of the Chair.
46
47 Donald.
48
49 MR. WOODRUFF: I make a motion we keep
50 the officers as set. Thank you.

1 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to second that, if
2 possible.
3
4 MS. PATTON: Do we have discussion.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MS. PATTON: Do we have anyone who
9 would like to make nominations to the.....
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We've got a
12 motion on the floor.
13
14 MS. PATTON: We have a motion on the
15 floor to keep the officers as they are. We have Sue
16 Enstminger, currently the Chair; Virgil Umphenour, as
17 the Vice Chair; and Andrew Firmin, as the Secretary.
18
19 MR. BASSICH: Call question.
20
21 MS. PATTON: Question is called for.
22 All in favor say aye.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 MS. PATTON: All opposed, same sign.
27
28 (No opposing votes)
29
30 MS. PATTON: All Right. Chair
31 Enstminger will.....
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
34 guys. Okay. In the essence of time, we'll move right
35 along.
36
37 We want to review and adopt the
38 previous minutes. Has everyone seen the minutes on
39 page 56.
40
41 (Phone interruption)
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It sounds
44 like we have someone online. Could you introduce
45 yourself.
46
47 REPORTER: You have about nine.
48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Karen Deatherage.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh.
2
3 MS. PATTON: I think maybe, if I could,
4 Madame.....
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We have nine
7 online. Go ahead.
8
9 MS. PATTON: Okay, if there is.....
10
11 MR. RIVARD: Hi, this is Don Rivard
12 with OSM, online. Good morning, everyone.
13
14 MS. MCBURNEY: This is Mary McBurney
15 with the National Park Service.
16
17 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with BLM.
18
19 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Fish and
20 Game, Anchorage.
21
22 MS. TONNESON: Good morning. This is
23 Heather Tonneson with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
24 Service, in Anchorage.
25
26 MS. LAVINE: Robbin LaVine with the
27 Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.
28
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Karen Deatherage, with
30 the OSM in Anchorage.
31
32 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan.
33
34 MS. GABORIAULT: Holly Gaboriault, U.S.
35 Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
38 folks. Is there anyone else that hasn't identified
39 themselves.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
44 you.
45
46 Now you had a chance to look at the
47 minutes.
48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. I move to adopt
50 the minutes.

1 MR. BASSICH: I'll second.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Discussion.
4
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I've reviewed
6 the minutes and I can't see any omissions or
7 corrections that need to be made, Madame Chair.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Other
10 discussion.
11
12 MR. GLANZ: Didn't Andy second that
13 already.
14
15 MR. BASSICH: Yes.
16
17 MS. PATTON: Oh, okay.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: Okay, I'll call the
20 question.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Question's
23 been called for. All in favor.
24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone
28 opposed.
29
30 (No opposing votes)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. It's
33 not here, but we need to approve the agenda. And
34 looking at the agenda, what we discussed earlier, I'm
35 just asking for unanimous consent that we have the
36 rural and C&T and then the Fish and Wildlife Service.
37
38 Anyone opposed.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Moving
43 on. Thank you.
44
45 MS. INGLES: Good morning, Madame Chair
46 and Council Members. I am going to give a review of
47 the rural determination process. For those of you who
48 were not here last night, we had a public hearing that
49 went very well. Very quickly, I'm going to give you an
50 overview before I show you the power point and give you

1 a little bit of background.

2

3 In October 2009, the Secretary of
4 Interior announced there was initiation of a
5 departmental review for the Federal Subsistence
6 Management Program in Alaska. The review focused on
7 how the Program is meeting the purposes of subsistence
8 provisions of Title 8 of the Alaska National Interest
9 Lands Conservation Act and how the Program is serving
10 rural subsistence users as envisioned when it began in
11 the early 1990s.

12

13 In August 2010 the Secretaries
14 announced the findings of the review, which included
15 several proposed Administrative and Regulatory reviews
16 and revisions to strengthen the Program and make it
17 more responsive to those who rely on it for their
18 subsistence uses.

19

20 One proposal called for review with
21 Council input of the rural determination process and if
22 needed recommendations for Regulatory changes. So in
23 2013, for our RAC meetings, we held the review and we
24 solicited public comments. And so I'm going to --
25 after the comments were reviewed we compiled all the
26 comments. And the Board came up with a proposed change
27 based on these comments.

28

29 So what we're looking at is the who,
30 what, where, and when of this process. And once again
31 we're only discussing the process. And so who is you.
32 The Board reviewed 475 comments from various sources,
33 including individual citizens, members of the Regional
34 Advisory Councils, Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations,
35 and other entities or organizations such as Borough and
36 City governments.

37

38 The what is what we're asking you
39 today. Is do you agree or disagree with changing the
40 current Regulations on rural determinations as proposed
41 by the Secretaries. This rule would be effective
42 statewide. After the Board meets in June or July of
43 this year and makes its recommendations to the
44 Secretaries, a final rule will be published which may
45 or may not differ from the proposed rule.

46

47 So the reason this proposed rule was
48 initiated, it was based on the findings that the
49 Secretary review proposed and all the -- everything
50 that we compiled. And so the rule determinations are

1 important because only residents of areas identified as
2 rural are eligible to harvest under the Federal
3 Subsistence Regulations on Federal public lands in
4 Alaska.

5
6 So under current Regulations that we
7 use, the Board aggregates communities or areas that are
8 economically, socially, and communally integrated.
9 They evaluate a community's rural or non-rural status
10 using guidelines defined by the Secretaries, such as
11 population thresholds and economic development.

12
13 Under the proposed Regulations the
14 Board would evaluate a community's non-rural status
15 using a broad array of relevant information and relying
16 heavily on the recommendations of Regional Advisory
17 Councils. And one of the reasons we're doing this --
18 or they've proposed to do this -- is to recognize that
19 there's regional differences. And they want to make it
20 as flexible as possible for each Region to work within
21 their Region or work with their constituents.

22
23 And so you're not supposed to be able
24 to read this, but this is just to give you an example.
25 The old rules, we looked at all the criteria. We had
26 multiple criteria. And the new rule then would just be
27 a very short process.

28
29 Instead of using only population
30 thresholds, rural characteristics, aggregation of
31 communities, and variant information sources in
32 attempting to apply those standards statewide, the
33 Board would rely on the Councils and the public to
34 provide information to the Board and make rural
35 determinations on a Regional level. The proposed rule
36 would eliminate the mandatory ten-year rural cycle
37 review. Instead changes to the rural status would be
38 based on proposals submitted to the Board.

39
40 So once again this is designed to give
41 the Board more flexibility. So if this goes through,
42 the new Regulation proposed by the Secretaries would
43 look something like this. It would be rural
44 determination process (A) the Board determines which
45 areas or communities in Alaska are non-rural and
46 current determinations are listed. And they would list
47 it. For (B) all other communities and areas are
48 therefore rural.

49
50 And so what we're asking you today is

1 do you agree with these changes. And if so, why. Or
2 do you disagree with these changes. And if so, why
3 not.

4

5 Now, we will be taking comments until
6 April 1st. And so people can submit that online.
7 There's various ways to get the comments. We solicited
8 comments last night and we had public testimony and
9 people could also submit written comments.

10

11 And that's the end of my presentation.

12

13 Thank you, Madame Chair and Council.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
16 Council Members, questions.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I have a
21 question. What did the other Councils do already.
22 Eva, do you have that information.

23

24 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, Carl Johnson
25 has been attending all the previous Council meetings.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

28

29 MS. PATTON: And has been chairing the
30 rural hearings. He can comment on those Councils.

31

32 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, Madame
33 Chair, Members of the Council. My name is Carl
34 Johnson, with OSM. So I haven't attended all of them
35 because I haven't yet overcome that time space
36 continuum problem of being in two places at once, but
37 so far all of the Councils have endorsed the proposed
38 rule.

39

40 Kodiak Aleutians did modify by
41 inserting specific language into the proposed
42 Regulation that the Board would have to give deference
43 to the Councils on rural determination decisions.

44

45 For the most part, both the public and
46 the Councils other than that have endorsed as is, but
47 with some questions and reservations as to how the rule
48 would be applied.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I got an

1 email from a member of the Southcentral and she said
2 they voted also for the deference to the Council. So
3 the two Councils voted for the deference.

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: If that's the case, then
6 yes. Both Southcentral and then Kodiak specifically
7 wanted that language for deference inserted into the
8 proposed rule.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Could you
11 explain exactly what that means, so we all understand.

12

13 MR. JOHNSON: Certainly, Madame Chair.
14 Currently, as the Federal Subsistence Board interprets
15 Section 805 of ANILCA, under paragraph C of that
16 section it says that the Secretary shall consider the
17 recommendations of the Regional Advisory Councils on
18 fish and wildlife harvest recommendations. And then
19 there are three criteria where the Board cannot take
20 that consideration if those circumstances are met.
21 Like a lack of substantial evidence; is contrary to
22 fish and wildlife management principles, or would be
23 contrary to subsistence use.

24

25 So the idea will be to apply -- and as
26 it's been applied, you know, this year 17 out of 18
27 fish proposals, recommendations the Board accepted from
28 the RACs. Last year it was 47 out of 51 wildlife
29 proposals the Board went with the RAC recommendations.
30 So the idea will be to apply that practice to rural
31 determinations, as well as proposals on change of fish
32 and wildlife regulations.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Council
35 Members, any other questions. You've got to wake up
36 this morning. This is a big change in that we have an
37 action item here. We need to vote on, you know, what
38 there is currently and the proposal to -- and as you
39 heard, two RACs went to the deference to the RACS. And
40 I attended the SRC meeting and they too voted for that.

41

42

43 MR. KOEHLER: I make a motion that we
44 approve that we agree with these changes, with the
45 addition of that language where the Board has to defer
46 to the RACs.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Is there a
49 second.

50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
4 Discussion.
5
6 Andy.
7
8 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. I'm
9 not going to support this. This really concerns me for
10 the long term protection of people living in remote,
11 rural Alaska. I feel like basically what this may end
12 up doing in the long run is essentially creating a
13 system whereby the vast majority of the State of Alaska
14 is given rural status. And we heard all day yesterday
15 the increases of pressure and competition within these
16 -- well, our home. Where we live in rural Alaska. And
17 it's not just coming from our neighbors. It's coming
18 from all around the State.
19
20 What's happening now within the State
21 is that large population centers are inundating the
22 population of game. They're competing heavily locally.
23 They're pushing people -- well, I'm going to give you
24 an example. Anchorage displaces Wasilla. Wasilla
25 displaces Glennallen. Glennallen displaces Tok. Tok
26 then comes up and displaces in Eagle. That's what's
27 happening. But in addition to that, what's happening
28 is we're starting to see a lot of people coming up from
29 Southeast Alaska and competing for fish and game up in
30 our areas.
31
32 And I see this as -- basically the only
33 way to stop that is to try and put in a request to ask
34 the community not be considered rural anymore. And
35 that's pitting subsistence users against subsistence
36 users.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy, I need
39 to interrupt. I want you to look at this book.
40
41 MR. BASSICH: I did.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And go to
44 page seven.
45
46 MR. BASSICH: I did.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And look at
49 all of the non-rural areas.
50

1 MR. BASSICH: I did.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The Federal
4 Management Program has all these non-rural areas, which
5 is where the population is. So -- and I'd ask all you
6 guys to look at that and just get a feel for the
7 discussion.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I did. I
10 understand that. What I'm looking at is very long term
11 and the protection of people out in the bush. The
12 Federal program is the only program that's really
13 protecting people out in the remote sections of Alaska
14 from the incursion of people from large populations
15 centers.

16

17 Alaska is growing. Anything along the
18 road system. Anywhere where there's access,
19 populations are growing. So at some point in time many
20 -- under the current system some of these communities
21 might lose their rural status and become non-rural.
22 Under this new program, I don't see that taking place.

23

24

25 So I see population growing, but not
26 the status of the people in those areas changing, which
27 is going to compete very heavily with people in the
28 remote areas. So I don't see this as a way of
29 protecting subsistence in remote areas in the future.
30 That's my take on it, Madame Chair.

31

32 So.....

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I would like
35 to add though -- and maybe Palma can help. You still
36 have to have a C&T for those areas. And I think that
37 is like the check that would change what you're talking
38 about. They can't just run around the State and hunt
39 all over the place. They have to have a C&T for that
40 area.

41

42 MS. INGLES: If there's a C&T, it does
43 protect that area.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Others.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Madame Chair.
48 That's true. But usually when that happens, it's
49 because there's a problem with a population of a
50 resource. A lot of times people don't bring up the

1 issues of C&Ts unless there's a problem with a resource
2 and it can't support everybody who's using it. That's
3 often what happens. It may not be the intent, but
4 that's often what happens.

5
6 And so I guess what I'm concerned about
7 is this long term heavy increase with the -- with the
8 ability with technology. And we talked about this
9 yesterday. For people to get just about anywhere at
10 anytime now. That's really impacting people in rural
11 Alaska. And so I'm going to be opposed to anything now
12 and in the future that allows that go unabated.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Other
15 discussion.

16
17 Rhonda.

18
19 MS. PITKA: I don't think that I have
20 those same concerns. I think that this makes the
21 process a little bit simpler to make the non-rural,
22 rural determination. And it makes it a little bit more
23 local. So maybe I'm just confused about where the
24 opposition is coming from. That's all.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Other
27 discussion.

28
29 Andrew.

30
31 MR. FIRMIN: I'm also against changing
32 this because I believe those eight factors there are in
33 place for a specific reason. And taking that and
34 changing it into a one sentence system doesn't make
35 sense to me. However, I do think there is room for
36 improvement in the fact that there should be some
37 credence given to the RACS. And there should be weight
38 behind RACs' decisions concerning these things because
39 we are the tool the public uses to get their points
40 across. And we're one of the main reasons or we're one
41 of the ways the public gets its opinion to the Federal
42 Subsistence Board. The Federal Subsistence Board
43 because a lot of people can't afford to go to Federal
44 Subsistence Board meetings wherever they're being held
45 at. And so they defer to the RACs to represent their
46 Regions.

47
48 And so I think that there does need to
49 be some more weight or more deference given to the
50 RACs, but I don't think that we need to change and get

1 rid of the whole entire program for a one sentence
2 determination.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Other
5 discussion.

6

7 Andy.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I just want to
10 support what Andrew -- I was trying to get to that
11 point, too, Madame Chair. But I think with the changes
12 in place, there is no written documentation on how a
13 determination is going to be made. I don't see
14 anything that sets a guideline for the Federal
15 Subsistence Board making a recommendation using a set
16 of criteria. And that really disturbs me. I can't
17 think of any government agency at that level in
18 government that doesn't have set criteria that can back
19 up and support its decision in a court of law or
20 anywhere else.

21

22 So I think that what Andrew's bringing
23 up is the critical element of this discussion. How do
24 you support a decision if you have no written criteria
25 to base it on. How do you defend it.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's a good
28 -- that's a very good question. So if you eliminated
29 the eight point criteria, how would you do a C&T.

30

31 MS. INGLES: I believe the intent is to
32 allow the different Regions to set their own criteria.
33 And they could completely keep the same criteria that's
34 in place. Looking at community aggregation, population
35 sizes, if you're on a road system. Each Regional
36 Advisory Council would be able to set the criteria for
37 evaluating whether or not rural status -- a community
38 has rural or non-rural status.

39

40 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
41 Pippa Kenner.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Go
44 ahead, Pippa.

45

46 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
47 This is Pippa in Anchorage with OSM. I didn't -- I'm
48 sorry to interrupt your deliberations, but I do notice
49 that you guys are talking about the C&T eight criteria.
50 And actually the criteria we're talking about right now

1 are imbedded in the rural determination process
2 regulation. And it defines -- it tells the Board that
3 it must consider certain aspects of the communities in
4 doing its determinations. Their population and size;
5 use of fish and wildlife; development and diversity of
6 the economy; community infrastructure, transportation,
7 and educational institutions.

8

9 So that the eight criteria for C&T do
10 not apply to the rural process.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.

13

14 Carl.

15

16 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, Madame Chair. Just
17 an update. I also received information that the
18 Bristol Bay RAC also added the deference language to
19 the proposed rule, so that then makes three Councils.
20 And if the Council approves that, then that would be
21 four Councils that have made that suggestion.

22

23 Thank you, Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. But
26 they all went for the simple solution and not.....

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct, Madame
29 Chair. The proposed rule as is, but with having a
30 sentence after the first sentence. The Board
31 determines which areas and communities in Alaska are
32 non-rural. And then adding a sentence that the Board
33 makes those -- that the Board gives the RACs deference
34 on those determinations.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: One question
37 first. As time went on and if they went with the
38 simple solution and they saw problems, then the
39 changing the way rural determination process is done --
40 can that be changed again.

41

42 MR. JOHNSON: Well, Madame Chair, we're
43 moving it from the Secretarial Regulations. I would
44 imagine it would provide more flexibility in providing
45 future guidance. So for example, the Board could adopt
46 a policy that would govern it or the Board could adopt
47 its own regulations. But that would be a process that
48 would be less encumbered than doing a Secretarial rule
49 change.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, that's
2 a big issue.

3
4 Rhonda.

5
6 MS. PITKA: I was just going to say I
7 think that we're getting the two issues confused, rural
8 determination and customary and traditional. Because I
9 think that they were two separate processes; am I
10 right.

11
12 MS. INGLES: That is correct.

13
14 MS. PITKA: So lumping the two
15 discussions together is what was confusing me.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

18
19 Andy.

20
21 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 Yeah. You know, I think what concerns me is if you add
23 in the sentence into this ruling where you're giving
24 deference to the RACs and then the RACs are basically
25 creating the rules in their own area to determine rural
26 determinations, why in their right mind would they ever
27 do something that would hurt them and turn them into a
28 non-rural status. So you're basically giving the RACs
29 the ability to continue on even though they may change
30 through population, through development or whatever.

31
32 I understand the concerns that people
33 have that they might lose that status. And I certainly
34 wouldn't want to lose that if I was living in my
35 community. But we have to face the facts that Alaska's
36 growing. And it'll continue to grow. And as it grows,
37 those impacts are going to be felt deeper and deeper
38 into the more remote, rural areas where people have
39 very few opportunities other than what's locally around
40 them. And that's what I'm concerned about.

41
42 So I like the idea of giving the RACs
43 the ability to have a greater weight in the decision,
44 but giving them the ability to set the criteria, that's
45 really, really bad precedence. I can't think of any
46 place where people can just make up the rules as they
47 go just because times are changing. I just see that as
48 really bad precedence. Long term that's really bad.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Carl.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, just to
2 provide an example from another Region. In Kodiak
3 Aleutians Region, the community actually established a
4 Rural Round Table Working Group. The community itself.
5 And they did their own research and came up with
6 criteria that would be applicable to identify what are
7 rural characteristics. They even researched other
8 Federal Agencies and how they define rural. And they
9 came up with a variety of different factors.

10
11 So I mean that's just one example of a
12 Region that did do that work. I'm not saying it would
13 be the same or necessary for any other Region, but
14 that's just kind of an example of a local approach to
15 defining rural characteristics.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andrew.

18
19 MR. FIRMIN: Do you have the tally of
20 votes from the other RACs. I mean were they all
21 unanimous.

22
23 MR. JOHNSON: From what know, through
24 the Chair, Andrew, yes, the Councils were unanimous.
25 But there was a lot of discussion. They raised a lot
26 of the issues that this Council is discussing. But in
27 the end voted unanimously.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Palma.

30
31 MS. INGLES: Madame Chair, one concern
32 at the Kodiak meeting was how -- if we do away with the
33 ten-year review cycle, the RAC there was very concerned
34 that there would be constantly updates. And that they
35 would -- it was something they would have to spend a
36 lot of time deciding time after time. So they did have
37 concerns, you know, as to how many times people could
38 bring up a proposal. If it could come through every
39 year to say this community is no longer rural.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Pretty
42 complicated stuff here. So right now it goes to the
43 Secretary. And this would not go to the Secretary
44 anymore. It would stay in house. Which in Alaska,
45 right.

46
47 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct, Madame
48 Chair. Right now it's the Secretary that sets the
49 rules for rural determination. And under the new
50 approach it would be the Regional Advisory Councils and

1 the Federal Subsistence Board that define what are the
2 rural characteristics on a regional basis.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Me,
5 personally. I like keeping stuff in Alaska. I don't
6 like it going to D.C. It usually gets messed up big
7 time. That's one thing I do like. I don't know about
8 the rest of you guys.

9

10 But I guess it brings it back a
11 question. So if this RAC had a -- okay -- one of the
12 Villages in the Upper Tanana we decided was non-rural
13 because we have deference to the Federal Subsistence
14 Board. And they wanted to sue somebody. Who would be
15 liable, us or the Board.

16

17 MR. JOHNSON: Well, Madame Chair.....

18

19 MS. INGLES: You have it always suing
20 people here.

21

22 MR. JOHNSON: The ultimate rural
23 determination would be made by the Federal Subsistence
24 Board. So anybody would have to follow the current
25 procedures in place for disagreeing with the Federal
26 Subsistence Board decision.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: They're the
29 decision maker.

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: Starting with a request
32 for reconsideration. And then after that, if there's
33 no satisfaction, then a suit against the Federal
34 Subsistence Board.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And I'm
37 assuming all the RACS had incredible discussion and
38 maybe brought up a lot of what we're saying here.
39 Well, what's the wishes.

40

41 Right now we have a motion on the floor
42 to adopt the one that's in the book.

43

44 MR. GLANZ: The rural determination.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. The
47 rural determination, which is the -- and did you put --
48 did you add deference to the RAC.

49

50 MR. KOEHLER: Yes.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. So we
2 have it.
3
4 What's the wishes of the RAC.
5
6 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. I have one question,
7 Madame Chair.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.
10
11 MR. GLANZ: So it's one for all, all
12 for one. In other words, if the other eight Boards
13 accept this, then we're roped into it if we like it or
14 not; am I correct on that.
15
16 MR. BASSICH: This is statewide, so
17 yes.
18
19 MR. KOEHLER: Yes.
20
21 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. The
22 Board is going to take into account the comments from
23 the Regional Advisory Councils, the public, comments
24 received through Tribal and ANCSA Corporation
25 consultation, much like they did with the last process.
26 And come up with a final recommendation to the
27 Secretaries based on all of that input.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Other
30 discussion.
31
32 MR. GLANZ: I'll call the question.
33
34 MR. FIRMIN: Whoa.
35
36 MR. GLANZ: I'm sorry.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andrew.
39
40 MR. FIRMIN: I just wanted to point out
41 one thing that a lot of the people that so far have
42 approved these changes are all Southcentral, Southeast
43 RACs, that have the large populations. And theirs that
44 probably have large transient commercial fishing. And,
45 you know, Kodiak has a Coast Guard base. And every
46 other point down there in all these Southeast Villages.
47 And that might be fine for them, but I don't think
48 that's fine for the Eastern Interior Region.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So what did

1 Western do again. They went through.....

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: The Western Council
4 approved the proposed rule as is.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
9 Chair. I think our RAC has a pretty longstanding
10 history of having a separate mind from the rest of the
11 State on many issues. And I don't have a problem with
12 not going along with everyone else.

13

14 I'm looking at long term protection for
15 people in my Region and people that live in really
16 remote, rural Alaska. Because things are changing.
17 And they're changing very fast.

18

19 And I'll say it again. I think is
20 really bad precedence. I think this.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: With this changing like
25 this, that opens the door for no ability to slow the
26 stem of incursions and competition for people out in
27 rural Alaska.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

30

31 Rhonda.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: So I'm not going to
34 support it.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And Will.

37

38 MS. PITKA: Oh, Will, go ahead.

39

40 MR. KOEHLER: It does seem like we're
41 giving quite a bit of power and discretion to the
42 Board. And even if we have deference to the RACs, if
43 the Southeast RAC and the South -- and the Southcentral
44 RAC want to create a non-rural area in our area, then
45 they would -- their RACs would -- if they both had a
46 yea vote and we had a nay, we would lose out to that if
47 they wanted to make some of our area non-rural. So
48 that more of their non-rural people could go up and
49 hunt in an area and utilize an area.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Carl.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, and this is
4 just speculation. Now, I would assume that, you know,
5 given the approach as to how we currently do with
6 proposal regulations, that only the Regions that are
7 affected by that proposed regulation are the ones who
8 provide recommendations to the Board. I would imagine
9 that if there were a proposal in the Eastern Interior
10 Region to change a community status to non-rural, that
11 the Southcentral RAC itself would not be involved in
12 any recommendation to the Board as to whether or not
13 that community is non-rural.

14

15 You know, because right now if there's
16 a fisheries proposed regulation or a wildlife that's
17 exclusively within the Eastern Interior Region, it's
18 not what we call one of our multi-regional crossover
19 proposals, like one that involves Wrangell-St. Elias.
20 Southcentral is not involved in that decision.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So when it
23 comes to this proposed rule for this -- it's specific
24 to this RAC when we make our decision.

25

26 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, yeah. I
27 imagine that's how it would go. Because again if you
28 have a -- if somebody submits a proposed rule to change
29 Eagle to non-rural, Southcentral or Southeast Council
30 wouldn't I would imagine have a role in making that
31 recommendation to the Board. Just like we do now with
32 wildlife and fisheries proposals.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I want
35 to tell the Council right now. And Andrew, you will be
36 next. I have a blue card for someone who wants to
37 testify to rule determination. And I think we can
38 allow that. And I see Jennifer up there. And Andrew,
39 you go ahead.

40

41 MR. FIRMIN: I just wanted to quick
42 point out that I notice all that's true what Carl just
43 said. But there's also -- I mean there's people from
44 the Nome, Seward Pen RAC that take up Yukon proposals
45 and vice versa. And it happens Statewide all the time,
46 where other RACs take up our proposals.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, see
49 that's on the C&T process. If they have a C&T in our
50 region, then get to take it up.

1 MR. FIRMIN: That's true. So.....
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But if I'm
4 understanding him correctly, which somebody can correct
5 me if I'm wrong. In this - - this is how we determine
6 -- what that's proposed is we would be the only ones to
7 deal with our area on our rural determination.
8
9 MS. INGLES: I believe that's correct,
10 Madame Chair. Now, that's not to say somebody from
11 Kodiak couldn't propose to take Eagle off the list.
12 But it would have to go through your RAC.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We would be
15 the ones with the deference.
16
17 MS. INGLES: You would be the ones
18 making that decision to present that to the Board.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
21 you.
22
23 Jennifer.
24
25 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 And at your discretion. You have a lot of people
27 speculating in the room about legal precedent who are
28 not attorneys. And you have some examples that have
29 not been brought up such as the Southcentral RAC
30 considering determinations and bag limits and seasons
31 for Kodiak citing usage and previous usage of their
32 people traveling to that area.
33
34 And so I'm really concerned that the
35 RAC be able to make these decisions based on the
36 language in front of you rather than several people's
37 speculation in the room about things we don't know.
38 That have not been decided by a Solicitor at this time.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
41 Thanks, Jennifer.
42
43 Okay. I'm going to take this
44 testimony. Al Barrette. And anyone that wants to
45 testify, bring the cards up here and we'll try to
46 handle it as we can. As time allows.
47
48 MR. BARRETTE: Thank you, Madame Chair,
49 Member of the Council. I'm glad you called me before
50 you took your vote on this rural determination.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I saw what
2 you had talked about. So.....

3
4 MR. BARRETTE: And so.....

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: In the
7 essence of time, I'll ask you to keep it short.

8
9 MR. BARRETTE: Yes.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

12
13 MR. BARRETTE: So for the record, my
14 name's Al Barrette. I've been Federally labeled as a
15 sporthunter. My understanding of this issue and why
16 some of those other RAC Committees want to have the
17 option of choosing who's rural and who's not is be --
18 and I'll just use one example that's getting probably
19 pretty close to this population threshold currently in
20 regulation -- is Bethel.

21
22 You know it's getting quite large.
23 It's probably getting to that population, if not
24 exceeding that population threshold of not being rural
25 anymore. And what happens, as some of the Members have
26 mentioned, is hub communities grow. You know, the
27 infrastructure to support those communities grow. Like
28 Bethel. You know, they have theaters. They have
29 malls. They have their own police force. Their own
30 ambulance and fires. They have city government. They
31 have road maintenance. They have DOT. They have all
32 the State infrastructure in this community.

33
34 And so there is a chance under current
35 regulations that in the near future that Bethel would
36 not -- no longer be a rural community. And so giving
37 deference to the RAC Communities and like some members
38 mentioned, you know, why do we want to lose our rural
39 priority and not be able to participate or have the
40 opportunity on Federal lands to take fish and wildlife.
41 And I think this is where a lot of this is coming from.

42
43
44 And so I thought I'd put that. I think
45 a lot of members are getting close to that
46 understanding. As communities grow and the
47 infrastructure grows, other people from outside the
48 State, inside the State, go there to support that
49 community infrastructure. And so they're not the
50 local, traditional, customary users of fish and

1 wildlife anymore.
2
3 And since they can't be separated
4 because of where they came from, it's where they live.
5 Just like I'm a sporthunter because of where I live,
6 you know, these people are now deemed, you know,
7 Federally subsistence users. And may have come from
8 down the Lower 48 to be a school teacher in a
9 community.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thanks, Al.
12
13 Okay. Was there any other hands for
14 discussion.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And how do
19 you want to proceed.
20
21 MR. GLANZ: I'll call for a question on
22 it.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Question's
25 been called for. And you want a roll call. Okay.
26
27 Andrew.
28
29 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Roll call vote for
30 the motion which is to adopt the Rural Determination
31 Proposal, as written. It puts an include in of the
32 deference to the RACs; is that correct? Okay.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's
35 correct.
36
37 MR. FIRMIN: And start with myself.
38 Andrew, nay.
39
40 Larry Williams, Sr.
41
42 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.
43
44 MR. FIRMIN: Lester Erhart.
45
46 MR. ERHART: Nay.
47
48 MR. FIRMIN: William Glanz.
49
50 MR. GLANZ: Vote nay.

1 MR. FIRMIN: Andrew Bassich.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: Opposed.
4
5 MR. FIRMIN: Rhonda Pitka.
6
7 MS. PITKA: Yes.
8
9 MR. FIRMIN: Will Koehler.
10
11 MR. KOEHLER: Opposed.
12
13 MR. FIRMIN: Donald Woodruff.
14
15 MR. WOODRUFF: Yea.
16
17 MR. FIRMIN: Virgil Umphenour.
18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.
20
21 MR. FIRMIN: And Sue Enstminger.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: To tell you
24 the truth, I don't know what to think right now.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm
29 abstaining.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 MR. FIRMIN: Abstained. Motion fails.
34
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Carl.
37
38 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 I think even though the Council has moved to not
40 approve of this proposed Rule, it would still be
41 helpful for the Council to develop some sort of written
42 comments to the Board that reflect the concerns that
43 were raised in this discussion.
44
45 And I will definitely want to reiterate
46 Ms. Yuhas' comments that what you have before you is
47 just this proposed language. We do not know for sure
48 as to exactly how it would be applied in the future.
49 But I can say that the language and the -- on these
50 power point slides that suggested how this rule might

1 be applied in the future were reviewed by our
2 Solicitor. So that language is not just speculation,
3 but is language that was reviewed by the leadership
4 team at the Office of Subsistence Management and
5 reviewed and approved by the Solicitor.

6

7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Virgil. Then
10 Andy.

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: This whole issue and
13 discussion is a giant bag of worms that the State has
14 wrestled with for years.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: And Al brought up an
19 issue -- Bethel. Bethel has school teachers, dentists,
20 all kinds of various professional people. Commercial
21 fisherman, although they don't make as much money as
22 they used to. So we have 25 horse power rule because
23 of that. Up river from Bethel that the Board of Game
24 passed years ago. And they passed that because the
25 local people up there didn't like all these commercial
26 fishermen and doctors or dentists, school teachers
27 coming up there with their 200 horse power jet boats
28 running up and down the Holitna River shooting moose.

29

30 But anyway, this is a giant bag of
31 worms. I don't think it will ever be resolved.

32

33 Thank you, Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
38 I was just going to volunteer my time to work with Eva
39 to compose a letter with some of at least what my
40 viewpoints are. And if there would be anybody else on
41 the Council, I think it would be really important for
42 maybe even someone that was in support to also state
43 their positions on it.

44

45 But I thank Carl for mentioning that.
46 And I think we are maybe one of the few that may not
47 support this, that's the appropriate thing to do.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, you
50 know, thinking about when something fails, I guess

1 another motion can come forward. If somebody has a
2 better idea. But if you want to let it go with a
3 letter, that's fine, too.

4

5 It's hard for me sometimes to wrap my
6 head around all of this. As it was given in a
7 simplistic form, I was in favor it. But you bring out
8 a lot of discussion.

9

10 MS. PITKA: Oh, I'm sorry. I was in
11 favor of it also. Sorry. I was in favor of it also
12 because it requires local control. The way that the
13 system is now, the Secretary gets to determine who is
14 rural and non-rural. And the Secretary lives in
15 Washington, D.C. And I don't think that the Secretary,
16 as wonderful as she is, you know, should be making that
17 kind of decision.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. What
20 we did is stirred up the audience. And they want to
21 speak.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So I'm going
26 to ask -- I'm going to give you guys a few minutes
27 because we have a lot on our agenda.

28

29 Carrie Stevens and then Walter Peter,
30 which is on a different subject. And I'd like to talk
31 to Walter real quick before he testifies. So we might
32 have to do it later.

33

34 I see a hand. That means like a
35 helping hand.

36

37 MR. FOX: Oh. I just wanted to make a
38 quick clarification of Rhonda's comment.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

41

42 MR. FOX: Thank you, Madame Chair. For
43 the record, I'm Trevor Fox, with the Fish and Wildlife
44 Service out of Anchorage. So what Rhonda said was that
45 she didn't want the Secretaries making the rural
46 determinations. The Federal Subsistence Board actually
47 makes the determinations.

48

49 MS. STEVENS: That's not what.....

50

1 MR. FOX: The Secretaries determine
2 what the process is. So that's -- as it currently
3 stands, the Board still makes the determinations.

4
5 MS. STEVENS: That's not.....

6
7 MR. FOX: But the process is determined
8 by the Secretaries. Thank you.

9
10 MS. STEVENS: We were not just told
11 that by another Fish and Wildlife Staff person. OSM.
12 He just told us that the Secretary makes the decision.
13 That's why.....

14
15 MR. FOX: On the process.

16
17 MS. STEVENS: Okay. He said on the
18 rural determination.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, we need
21 to have this as a -- through the Chair. I'm sorry.

22
23 MS. STEVENS: I apologize. This is
24 Carrie Stevens. Thank you, Madame Chair and Council
25 Members. I appreciate your discussion. And this was a
26 discussion -- I'm speaking as myself. As an individual
27 only. And for those of you that don't me, I lived in
28 the Yukon Flats for 14 years and have only just
29 recently moved to Fairbanks.

30
31 And you face some very hard issues
32 because of the intent of ANILCA. And I ask that you
33 continually read ANILCA Section .801 and Section .802.
34 And the purposes set forth directly by Congress and the
35 intent of ANILCA. And I think that is what is missing
36 from this conversation. And I think that it is good to
37 understand the history of why rural determination ended
38 up in the Secretarial review and why you are discussing
39 it here today.

40
41 And I only speak on behalf of
42 information, education, and clarification on this
43 issue. If you read ANILCA Section .801 and Section
44 .802, it clearly states that it is for equity after the
45 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. That is a primary
46 intent of ANILCA. And was the intention of Congress at
47 that time.

48
49 Furthermore, it clearly states the
50 protection of Alaskan Natives to live their traditional

1 way of life. This issue came forward in the
2 Secretarial review by Alaska Native Tribes, Tribal
3 Organizations across the State. And if Victor Lord
4 doesn't mind, I will quote him. Nenana did not lane on
5 the highway. The highway landed on Nenana. And this
6 issue came forward to protect the very people that
7 ANILCA intended to protect.

8
9 And while I do not feel that it is an
10 issue in the Eastern Interior, it may be in the future,
11 as many land managers propose to put roads through your
12 Region. And you will not be rural. Out of no
13 preference of your own. And I hope you all know that
14 this is what happened to Saxman, a Tribal community
15 that is facing non-rural determination.

16
17 And I just -- as a matter of
18 information, I am speaking for myself and for no one
19 else. AFN and NCAI pushed this issue forward. And I
20 understand your concerns, but I'm not sure that it's
21 all well founded in the history of this issue. And I
22 just wanted to share that. And I know that I'm
23 speaking as myself. And I repeatedly say that, but I
24 know there's a lot of confused people in this room
25 after the conversation.

26
27 And you also have to remember the
28 provisions put out in the customary and traditional
29 designations and in rural residency. This does not
30 affect those things. You still have to be a
31 traditional user. Okay.

32
33 So I appreciate your time. I didn't
34 mean to take up too much, Madame Chair. And I
35 apologize for the side conversation. I myself am
36 slightly confused. I'm going to pull out the
37 regulations. Because I thought I just heard Carl
38 Johnson -- is that his name?

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.

41
42 MS. STEVENS: The OSM Coordinator say
43 that the Secretary makes the decision on rural
44 determination. And when he said that, I thought he
45 meant which community. Is that not what you
46 understood, Sue. But Trevor -- Trevor just clarified
47 as to what I thought was the case. Is that it was the
48 Federal Subsistence Board.

49
50 But there seems to be a little

1 confusion on that issue. And I just wanted to state
2 one of the reasons that we're discussing rural
3 determination here today -- and make sure everybody was
4 aware of that. And I thank you for your time and
5 appreciate the consideration and all the hard issues
6 you have in front of you.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Trevor.

11

12 MR. FOX: I thank you, Madame Chair.
13 So that's right. This is a confusing topic. It's been
14 confusing since we did it because we're talking about
15 the rural determination process. And then later on
16 they will be talking about findings. Who actually is
17 rural and who is considered non-rural.

18

19 So the process that we're talking about
20 is set by the Secretaries. And that's in -- so the
21 sections subparts A and subpart B, that has to be
22 changed by the Secretaries. And that's where the
23 criteria of this rural determination process currently
24 sits.

25

26 The Board uses that process to actually
27 make the rural determinations for those communities and
28 areas. So there's two steps. We're working on the
29 process part now. So this would go to the Secretary
30 level. But when we get to the point where we're
31 deciding which communities or areas are rural and which
32 ones are non-rural, that will be by the Board.

33

34 I hope that clarifies.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. This
39 is the process. And currently it's a ten-year review.
40 And people got tired of looking at a ten-year review.
41 I even remember us talking about that. So I think when
42 the -- and that's I guess -- this is why I voted for it
43 at the SRC. I voted for it because I thought I don't
44 want to see, you know, the planners like Nenana for
45 instance or Saxman.

46

47 And I feel like we as the RAC can -- we
48 know our area. We can make good decisions about rural
49 and non-rural. So you threw a bunch of stuff at me and
50 confused me. And I can't change my vote because

1 someone has to make another motion.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andrew.

6

7 MR. FIRMIN: I think the Federal
8 Subsistence Board already defers to the RACs in a large
9 way already and takes our opinion -- weighs our opinion
10 greatly on decisions such as these. So I don't think
11 it would change a whole lot. I think it would just be
12 doing away with the criteria and doing away with the
13 Federal Subsistence Board's opinion and the Solicitor's
14 Office. Deferring it to us then people.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Will.

17

18 MR. KOEHLER: They would still have
19 under the second option that they have far as not --
20 they wouldn't have to defer to us. If it qualified as
21 one of the -- if it was against the principles of the
22 Board or of the management mandates of the area. So
23 they could still not -- it wouldn't be all within our
24 power.

25

26 MR. FIRMIN: I guess I've been saying
27 that that's -- just I was just trying to reinforce why
28 I voted against the last proposal to adopt it.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do we want to
31 take action on it.

32

33 MR. KOEHLER: I think we already have.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I mean
36 another different. Yeah. Okay. Well, let's.....

37

38 MR. GLANZ: Let's move on.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I mean we're
41 discussing something we already voted on. So we should
42 probably move along.

43

44 MR. GLANZ: Yes. Let's move on.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Move it along.

47

48 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. The

1 next is the C&T.

2

3 MS. INGLES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 For your information.....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Excuse me.
7 Let me interrupt.

8

9 Walter Peter, I'm going to talk to you
10 at break and we'll see when we bring you in. Okay?

11

12 MS. INGLES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 I'm going to cover the customary and traditional use
14 determination process. For your information, this is
15 not an action item. This is just to give you
16 information. Because we're trying to keep all Councils
17 in the loop of what we were doing.

18

19 In 2010 the Secretary U.S. Department
20 of Interior asked the Federal Subsistence Board to
21 review the C&T process. And look at it from pre --
22 whether or not we wanted to make any changes.

23

24 The current C&T process, we have eight
25 criteria for that. And that was adopted from the
26 previous State regulations. The goal is to provide
27 clear, fair, effective determinations in accord with
28 Title 8 goals and provisions. And any changes would
29 require new regulations.

30

31 All ten Regional Advisory Councils have
32 been reviewing the process. As part of the Secretarial
33 review described in Appendix A, page 21, if you -- you
34 were provided a supplemental package that's labeled
35 Customary and Traditional Use. And OSM asked all the
36 RACs last year to consider whether or not to number
37 one, eliminate customary and traditional use
38 determinations and instead use ANILCA Section 804
39 criteria when necessary. Two, change the way such
40 determinations are made. For instance, making an area
41 wide customary and traditional use determinations for
42 all species. Three, make other changes. Or four, make
43 no changes to the current process.

44

45 If you look at Customary and
46 Traditional Use Appendix A, there is a review of
47 Regional Advisory Council comments from the 2013, 2014
48 that describe aspects of the customary and traditional
49 use determination. That can be found on page 30 of the
50 supplemental information that we gave you.

1 So after RAC meetings last year, some
2 Councils expressed support for the process. Let me
3 give you the total of the votes. Three Councils voted
4 to change the customary and traditional use process.
5 Three Councils voted to keep the determination process
6 as it is. Four Councils voted to postpone the action
7 until this meeting cycle because they wanted to have
8 more time to talk to people in their communities. The
9 Eastern Interior last year voted to keep the process as
10 is.

11
12 In April 2014, Bert Adams, the Chair of
13 the Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council, sent a
14 letter to Tim Towarek, the Chair of the Federal
15 Subsistence Board, requesting an analysis of the
16 affects Statewide of possible changes to the customary
17 and traditional use determination process. This letter
18 can be viewed on page 32 of the supplemental packet
19 that you received.

20
21 In the letter, the Southeast Council
22 requested that staff at OSM analyze the affects of
23 number one, eliminating the eight factors from the
24 customary and traditional use determination process.
25 Two, allowing each Regional Advisory Council to
26 determine its own process to identify subsistence
27 users. Or three, requiring the Board to defer to
28 Regional Advisory Council recommendations on customary
29 and traditional use determinations.

30
31 In response to the request, the Office
32 of Subsistence Management wrote the analysis that's
33 before you. The purpose of this briefing is to inform
34 the Southeast Alaska Council and other Councils of the
35 possible affects of specific changes to the
36 determination process.

37
38 So once again this is not an action
39 item. We were just trying to keep you in the loop for
40 what the Southeast is doing. So throughout that
41 briefing sheet that we gave you -- I think it's a 32-
42 page document -- it gives you examples. It's not set
43 in concrete, but it gives you the examples of what the
44 difference would be between using the eight factors or
45 using that 804 analysis.

46
47 Thank you very much.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: A 32-page
50 document was in our.....

1 MS. INGLES: As a supplemental.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
4
5 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
6 this briefing is in your meeting book. So some of the
7 Council books were produced prior to this.
8
9 MS. PITKA: And that starts on page
10 five?
11
12 MS. PATTON: Yeah. It starts on page
13 five.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
16 Yeah. Well, the letter she referred to is on page 36,
17 not 32, in our books.
18
19 MS. PATTON: And for the public there
20 are supplemental handouts. And those page numbers are
21 what Palma was referring to. The supplemental handouts
22 on the table.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Council
25 Members, any questions.
26
27 MR. GLANZ: I have one, Madame Chair.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Bill.
30
31 MR. GLANZ: So if you get rid of C&T, I
32 can go down to the Southeast and, you know, without a
33 C&T and put my crab pot in. Or they can come up here
34 without a C&T and get into the 40-Mile Caribou Herd.
35 Is that what that is.
36
37 MS. INGLES: My understanding is C&Ts
38 that are in place will stay in place. It's just for
39 any future C&T designations.
40
41 MR. GLANZ: I'm kind of opposed to
42 that. We already voted on it once.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So what's --
45 you're still going to be talking about this in other
46 words.
47
48 MS. INGLES: Correct. At this time
49 there's no proposal set forth. The Southeast,
50 realizing that this would have to come out as a

1 Statewide proposal, was just -- wanted to see if other
2 RACs were interested in putting forth a proposal to the
3 Board to change the process.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So nothing
6 more is going to be done, is what I'm -- I'm sorry.
7 When I'm chairing a meeting sometimes I'm not hearing
8 everything that's going on.

9
10 MS. INGLES: That's correct, Madame
11 Chairman.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

14
15 MS. INGLES: At this time there is not
16 a proposal to change it. They're just asking would you
17 like to change it. And.....

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And we all
20 voted.

21
22 MS. INGLES: And we vote -- everybody
23 vote -- well, four have not made the final decision.
24 Four RACs wanted more time. And they will vote this
25 cycle.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

28
29 MS. INGLES: So the Southeast just
30 wanted to make sure that, you know, was anybody
31 interested in putting forth a proposal and trying to
32 give some rationale behind it. And that's why they
33 asked OSM to do an analysis of what the difference
34 would be.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. And we
37 voted. So our vote's still.....

38
39 MS. INGLES: correct.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
42 Thank you.

43
44 Do you want to move into the next one
45 or have a short break.

46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: A short break.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Short break.
50 It's -- how about five after 10:00 be back.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We're
6 supposed to be starting here. We're only almost ten
7 minutes past my goal. I will have the Fish and
8 Wildlife Service come back to the table, if you will,
9 while hopefully these guys start rolling in here.

10

11 You know, as everybody's coming in the
12 room here, a ten minute turned into a twenty minute, so
13 I'm not happy about that. And we're pressing here for
14 time. We're taking up the Fish and Wildlife Service
15 proposed whatever you call it. Maybe proposed rule.
16 Hopefully, never a proposed rule.

17

18 But we'll continue where we did
19 yesterday. And you told me earlier -- I talked to
20 Mitch Ellis this morning before we started -- that he
21 could give us a five minute kind of overview. And then
22 we can go into questions and answers.

23

24 Okay. All right.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. ELLIS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.

31

32 MR. ELLIS: That's great. I did want
33 to take just a minute or two. There was a little bit
34 of confusion yesterday regarding the way we've
35 undertaken this process. And I just want to make it
36 clear that we do take the public process very
37 seriously. We have reached out initially to Tribal
38 organizations, Native Corporations, and the State
39 early, which is the way we normally do business. We
40 haven't gone out to the general public with any of this
41 yet.

42

43 So back in September we did send a
44 letter out to all the Tribes. We followed up with
45 that. We had each Refuge manager contact affected
46 Tribes directly. And many of our managers went out to
47 the Villages, talked to the Councils. They were very
48 successful in doing that. So that was going on back in
49 October and November.

50

1 We also had three government-to-
2 government calls that were open to all of the Tribes.
3 And notification went out. And we had some
4 participation in that as well. We gave presentations
5 at the BIA Providers Conference at the AFN Annual
6 Meeting. Again, we've met with the leadership and
7 ADF&G. We have presented at the RAC meetings this
8 winter. We're doing it again this spring. We met with
9 the Federal Subsistence Board back in December to talk
10 about some of these ideas. And we also met with the
11 Western Arctic Caribou Herd at their annual meeting.
12 So we've made considerable efforts to engage with
13 Native communities, as well as other affected user
14 groups. And I just wanted to make that clear.

15
16 That process will continue by the way.
17 We anticipate a draft rule coming out as early as
18 April. Probably more like May. And there will be a
19 60-day comment period at that point. We're inviting
20 Tribes and Native Corporations to continue government-
21 to-government consultation during that process. So
22 we've started the process well, but we're still engaged
23 in that public process. We're very interested in
24 hearing what.....

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: If I could
27 interrupt.

28
29 MR. ELLIS: Sure.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: This is the
32 frustration. And I think a lot of people here shares
33 that with me. We're RAC Members. We're volunteers.
34 We meet twice a year. And you're reaching out in
35 between those times to the Native community. And I
36 deeply appreciate that. But us, as RAC Members, I
37 don't think we -- the ones aren't Native communities, I
38 don't feel like we're being reached out to. And I
39 think that's a hole in this process.

40
41 So because I only find out about this
42 stuff at this meeting or unless one of the local
43 Villages say hey, you know, this is happening. What do
44 I do, Sue. What's going on here. I don't understand
45 what's going on. So that's a hole.

46
47 I think it's important that all the
48 users are -- you know, ANILCA protects both Native and
49 non-Native. So I think we have to make sure you reach
50 out somewhere in between. We have a Fish and Game

1 Advisory Committee system in the State. That's one
2 place. And even calling the Chairs. I asked Jack if
3 he knew about this and he said well, there was
4 something really quick came up at our meeting and that
5 was all Western heard. And a lot of the people at the
6 meeting said that was the first time they saw it.

7

8 So I'm just saying. Hopefully, there's
9 a better way to reach more. Another way. Through the
10 AC's or, you know, calling RAC Chairs or something.

11

12 MR. ELLIS: Yes. Great points. We
13 have talked to some of the AC's. We -- unfortunately
14 -- well, it's not unfortunate. I mean we do have an
15 obligation to reach out to the State and Tribes early
16 in the process. There is still time to engage the
17 general public. Again there's lot of opportunity for
18 folks to provide input. And these RAC meetings have
19 been very helpful to us. We have altered the rule that
20 we were considering based on input not just from the
21 Tribes, but also early in the RAC meetings this winter.

22

23

24 So we initially were considering 18 or
25 19 different methods or means that we might address.
26 That's gone down to the four or five that we are
27 considering now based on that input. We've also made
28 some exceptions, included some uses through the State
29 Regulations that we initially thought we might not be
30 able to. So we have been listening. The point I'm
31 trying to make is we are making changes as we move
32 forward and we'll continue to do that.

33

34

35 I did also want to talk real quickly
36 before we go to Q and As about the closure procedures.
37 I think that generated a little bit of confusion
38 because this rule-making process is really two parts.
39 It's talking about wildlife regs related to predator
40 control, but then it's also talking about closure
41 procedures. And they really don't have a lot to do
42 with wildlife issues per se. We're talking about
43 updating our closing procedures on Refuges for any sort
44 of issue that may come up.

44

45 So whether it's a public safety issue.
46 Maybe cultural resources are discovered that need an
47 area to be closed temporarily. There might be an
48 avalanche danger in an area. Maybe there's not enough
49 snow for snowmobile traffic. We've done that at Kenai
50 Refuge. When we don't get snowfall, we restrict

1 snowmachine use in areas. So there's all sorts of land
2 management issues that crop up occasionally that
3 require us to have effective closure procedures to
4 protect the public and protect resources.

5
6 There's three ways to do that. We can
7 have the emergency closure which again -- and I wanted
8 to have Trevor come up and explain this. I didn't do a
9 very good job yesterday with the -- the reason we're
10 going from 30 days to 60 days with the emergency
11 closure. It really is to streamline and simplify and
12 be more consistent with existing emergency closure
13 procedures that are in place for subsistence.

14
15 So Trevor, I'll let you talk about that
16 for a minute.

17
18 And then I'll get back to the temporary
19 closures.

20
21 MR. FOX: Okay. Thank you, Madame
22 Chair. I'll just be really brief. So it was mentioned
23 that it would be more subsistence with the subsistence
24 regulations. So there -- the regulations are in
25 different parts. There's Federal subsistence
26 regulations, which are, you know, 50 CFR 100. And then
27 there's also 36 CFR 242. So that's where all the
28 subsistence regulations we usually deal with are found.

29
30
31 These proposed changes would be within
32 Refuge specific regulations. That's a different part
33 of the CFR. It's 50 CFR 36. So it's a different area.
34 And there's closure policies within there with the
35 emergency closures. For subsistence related stuff, it
36 is up to 60 days in the Refuge specific. For non-
37 specific stuff, it's up to 30 days for emergency
38 closures. So it's just making that more consistent, if
39 that helps.

40
41 MR. ELLIS: Right. And we're really --
42 I don't think the emergency closure was so much the
43 issue yesterday. There were more concerns raised about
44 the time frame associated with temporary closures. And
45 the way it currently sits is 12 months. And so if a
46 manager had to close an area to protect a cultural site
47 or some other reason, it might be something that we
48 would move to a permanent regulation to protect that
49 area. And it takes frankly longer than 12 months to do
50 those sorts of things.

1 So that's really what we were trying to
2 accommodate. Was to streamline the process so that
3 every year we don't have to redo the closure in its
4 entirety. But again hearing the input yesterday, I
5 think there probably is some rule to alter the
6 direction we're going. Maybe there is a need for
7 annual review of some of these temporary closures. And
8 maybe five years is too long. Maybe it should be three
9 or four.

10
11 But again we don't really have this
12 proposal drafted out, so this kind of input is very
13 helpful.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Before Andy
16 -- when we spoke this morning, it was my understanding
17 that these temporary closures and this extended thing
18 of five years was not just for wildlife. It was for
19 all kinds of things. So I think that these guys need
20 to know that.

21
22 And I was talking a short moment there.
23 I had to visit with him. That why can't the wildlife
24 be pulled out and be separate from any of this other
25 stuff. We're talking about wildlife here, so our brain
26 is functioning on wildlife. If there's a closure
27 because a landslide or a earthquake or a whatever,
28 that's under the same thing, is what I understood you
29 to say this morning. It comes under the same five-year
30 thing.

31
32 So it's mixing apples and oranges in
33 our mind. I don't think -- I don't like to see that.
34 I like to see wildlife, wildlife. And then your other
35 stuff that you're all excited about, that should be in
36 a different publication.

37
38 MR. ELLIS: Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

41
42 MR. ELLIS: Sure. I mean I think, you
43 know, we do have separate closure procedures for
44 subsistence uses. But you're right. Everything else
45 would fall under this other set of closure procedures.
46 And again there's a whole list. It's to protect
47 resources, including wildlife, public safety, cultural
48 sites. All sorts of -- you know, scientific study
49 areas that might need additional protection. If we
50 have one clean set of regulations for all of the rest,

1 it just simplifies the process. I think it's simpler
2 for the public as well.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It simplifies
5 it for the government, but not for us.

6
7 Trevor, and then Andy.

8
9 MR. FOX: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
10 just wanted to mention that, you know, these are
11 already in the Refuge specific regulations. When we
12 work with Refuges, typically through the Federal
13 Subsistence Program, they do work through that program
14 for a lot of the closures. So, you know, we get
15 special actions to close areas from members of the
16 public or Regional Advisory Councils, but also from
17 Refuges.

18
19 So Refuges do typically work through
20 our Federal subsistence regulations. This is just --
21 you know, just kind of updating stuff that's within the
22 Refuge specific regulations.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well,
25 Trevor.....

26
27 MR. FOX: So I don't think those are
28 used that often for take of wildlife. They usually go
29 through Federal subsistence regulations.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Even though
32 it's not used that often, when the public sees it in
33 print they're like they're going to close my moose
34 season for the next five years and I can't do anything
35 about it. I mean you have to be sensitive to that's
36 what it -- that's how they feel when they see that.
37 They don't like seeing that.

38
39 So Andy.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 Yeah. I just want to echo Sue's concerns. Those were
43 my exact same concerns. And my recommendation would be
44 if you want to make a change to the temporary closure
45 provisions that -- that maybe if you're going to be
46 modifying your regulations, then create a new element
47 within those regulations to keep it status quo for
48 wildlife closures. And that would separate it. That
49 would make it much clearer for the public. And that
50 would probably -- I would venture to say all Alaskans

1 that have to deal with these kinds of things would be
2 very much in favor of that.

3

4 So if you really want to do something
5 that benefits the people and keeps clarity and also
6 protects a very strong interest for the public and the
7 use of fish and wildlife resources, that would be my
8 recommendation to you. And I understand your desires
9 to increase up to 60 days -- I'm glad you're clarified
10 that to me -- for emergency closures. But temporary
11 closures -- the word temporary in the public's mind
12 means a very short time frame.

13

14 And I understand for say an
15 archaeological or some kind of natural disaster, but
16 they need to be separated. Because quite frankly we're
17 all a little bit cynical about big government. And
18 once you open up the door and set something into
19 codification, if it's not very clearly determined and
20 very clearly defined, it opens the door for a lot of
21 potential misuse in the public's mind in the future.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 Thanks for bringing that up, Sue.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. So
28 Council Members, does anyone have any objection to that
29 discussion about the -- how -- and another suggestion
30 might be to put the wording in there like you just
31 said. It goes to the Federal Subsistence Board.
32 Anything to clarify the difference.

33

34 So would we all agree on that.

35

36 Will.

37

38 MR. KOEHLER: My only objection is
39 taking this piece -- taking it apart and kind of
40 looking at piece by piece, when in actuality we have
41 consistently opposed, as we did on our last meeting,
42 opposed the whole thing. I think that the U.S. Fish
43 and Wildlife Service has a very united front here that
44 they're presenting to us. And I don't know if
45 splitting up our view and taking this little piece
46 apart is necessarily wise when we really oppose all of
47 it.

48

49 And I think maybe just keeping it clear
50 that we oppose all of it, they're going to follow the

1 public process. And they're going to do everything
2 that is legally required of them to do. And they will
3 put this regulation in place, regardless of what that
4 -- by our perception, regardless of what public input
5 is. And I think maintaining that is maybe important to
6 say.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So first and
9 foremost, that's how we -- what we talked about last
10 meeting. We were opposed to any of this going forward.

11
12 Andy.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. I
15 agree with Will. However, given 20 years of watching
16 the process and how it generally works within the
17 Federal system, once the ball starts rolling.....

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.

20
21 MR. BASSICH:and it gets to the
22 level where we're at now.....

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's right.

25
26 MR. BASSICH:it's my feeling that
27 most of the time those changes are going to be made.
28 And what I'm seeing is that they're coming to us and
29 saying this is what we have in mind. What do we need
30 to do to modify it to make it work better for the
31 public. And so the other aspect of what Sue and I
32 brought up is that modification that potentially has a
33 better chance of going into codification than them
34 dropping the whole thing and saying no.

35
36 MR. KOEHLER: Right.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: So there is a.....

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah, thanks
41 Andy.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: There is a philosophical
44 way we should behave. But then there's the reality of
45 how the system works.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: And so I'm trying to work
50 within the reality.....

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And I think
2 that.....
3
4 MR. BASSICH:of how the system
5 really ends up working and get the most for protection
6 of our people.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So I hope we
9 had enough discussion at the last meeting about we
10 didn't want to see any of this go forward. And would
11 we all -- do we need a motion to reiterate that or do
12 you just want to have an agreement that I mean we still
13 stand firm on opposing the whole thing.
14
15 And by going through this, I appreciate
16 you bringing that out. It's very important that we
17 bring that out. That we.....
18
19 MR. KOEHLER: That in reality our input
20 means a lot less than they are saying.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
25 That's the frustration we go through here. And I hope
26 it -- I know you've heard it loud and clear. And we'll
27 probably reiterate it a couple of times.
28
29 So in regards to that, looking at that
30 one item, if you're going to do something like that,
31 take our suggestion. Keep your habitat and all that
32 other stuff you're concerned about separate from a
33 wildlife regulation.
34
35 Virgil.
36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: The thing I have
38 trouble with is where it says emergency -- the second
39 -- well, it's the third thing. The third criteria of
40 emergency closures or restrictions. Under the second
41 one, the criteria says adding the natural diversity,
42 biological integrity, and environmental health of the
43 Refuge is the current list of criteria closures. I
44 should have looked up those terms in the dictionary
45 before I came here to see what the dictionary says.
46 But.....
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I did.
49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR:but I didn't do

1 that. But I do know one thing. To different people,
2 these terms mean different things. They're very
3 subjective terms. And so to me, adding those three
4 things in there is adding confusion and causing social
5 problems. Because different people are going to define
6 those terms differently.

7
8 And I think about -- you know, I
9 remember reading an article a couple of years ago where
10 on the East Coast somewhere, the Fish and Wildlife
11 Service was killing thousands of seagulls. And the
12 reason they were killing these thousands of seagulls --
13 because I can't remember which bird it is that nested
14 on this island. But it was an endangered species bird
15 or threatened, one or the other. And the seagulls were
16 the major predator of the nests.

17
18 And so Fish and Wildlife Service
19 decided well, we're going to do something about these
20 darn seagulls eating all the eggs and the newly hatched
21 birds that we don't want to go extinct or to -- the
22 population to get worse on. And so they went out there
23 and killed -- I don't know -- 5,000 or 6,000 seagulls.

24
25
26 But when I look at those three
27 different terms, natural diversity, biological
28 integrity, and environmental health, that to me just
29 means carte blanche you can refer to those and do
30 practically anything you want. That's what it means to
31 me.

32
33 And when I think about wolves for
34 instance. When there's plenty for them to eat, they
35 average seven pups per litter. A wolf is a dog. When
36 the female comes in heat, she gets bred -- period.
37 There's no such thing as this alpha male and alpha
38 female crap, where the female unless she's the alpha
39 female is not going to get bred. She's going to get
40 bred -- period. And I've talked to lots of biologists.

41
42
43 You know, when they decided to
44 transplant all those wolves in Yellowstone and then in
45 Idaho, the Park Service attempted to capture wolves.
46 They wanted to capture 60 wolves down in Canada. They
47 spent I think approximately \$2,000,000 attempting to do
48 this. They finally gave up and hired the research
49 biologist for caribou out of Fairbanks. They borrowed
50 him and a pilot from Fairbanks and that's who went and

1 caught all those wolves for them down in Canada. And
2 those guys still live here. They're retired from Fish
3 and Game here in Fairbanks.

4
5 But anyway, I think we need to -- the
6 reason I'm on this Council -- I got on it in 2001, when
7 I was on the Board of Fisheries. And the reason I got
8 on it was because I want to make sure that we don't
9 have regulations passed that are going to basically
10 violate our Constitutional rights and our freedoms and
11 the reason why most of us live in Alaska. Because if
12 you don't participate in the process, you have no right
13 to complain. And a lot of times common sense is just
14 thrown out the window.

15
16 And so I really object to those words
17 being put in there unless there's some kind of a
18 definition that we can agree on what those things mean.
19 Because when we come to like our king salmon
20 management, genetic integrity is the most important
21 word. But when you -- if you're going to -- you say
22 natural diversity. Well, what's natural. What's
23 natural is that the predators increase their population
24 until they eat up all the prey. And then when the prey
25 crashes, it's just lynx and snowshoe hares, then the
26 predator that lives off them is just going to crash
27 right after that. So you got that big up and down
28 cycle.

29
30 And that's not what we want. We want
31 to be able to manage in a scientific manner. That's
32 what everyone sitting at this table does. Wants to
33 manage in a scientific manner so that they can have
34 sustainable and dependable subsistence harvests of
35 various animals that live in these Refuges.

36
37 So I think that's the thing that really
38 concerns me, is those three terms being put in there
39 under the closure. And when you get over here to the
40 changes we are considering on page one, and you're
41 going to circumvent various regulations that the Board
42 of Game has passed that are not really -- because in
43 order to really make much of a difference say on moose,
44 the science says that you need to kill 60 percent of
45 the wolves a year. Because like I said, they're going
46 to produce seven pups per little as long as there's
47 plenty for them to eat. But I think that we lose sight
48 of why we're even here at this meeting. And that's to
49 provide for subsistence uses of these resources on
50 Federal lands. That's why we're here.

1 And when people can't go out and
2 successfully harvest what they need to eat, then we're
3 not doing what we're supposed to be doing. And we
4 should all be partners in doing this. To try to figure
5 out the best way to do these things.

6
7 And because of the bad press we get,
8 like if we want to have a predator control program on
9 either wolves or bears, the State Board has been very
10 reluctant to pass these type of proposals to say
11 grizzly bears, for instance. However, the Board has
12 realized that we have to somehow manage the predators.

13
14
15 I know people -- you know, I'm 72 years
16 old. And I know some guys that are dead now, most of
17 them, that used to actually be Federal hunters and
18 trappers. And you talk to those guys -- but like I
19 said, most of them are dead -- about the things they
20 used to do that were -- they were employees of Fish and
21 Wildlife Service or BLM is who they were. You know,
22 they flew around in their Super Cubs at 5,000 feet
23 looking for packs of wolves. And when they found them,
24 they tried to kill every darn one of them.

25
26 I can remember when I was a kid in
27 Arizona where I grew up and we were out hiking in the
28 mountains. This is back in the 50s. And my buddy's
29 dog went over and got one of those cyanide things that
30 the Fish and Wildlife Service put out to kill coyotes.
31 And of course that dog was dead pretty quick.

32
33 But I think of the things that the Fish
34 and Wildlife Service used to do and then the direction
35 they are at now, which is totally 180 degrees opposite,
36 it's hard to understand. But I think I'm -- I think
37 you know how I feel about this. We need to work
38 together to provide subsistence resources for the
39 people on the Federal lands. That's why we're all here
40 in this room right now.

41
42 And so this proposed rule, if you're
43 going to circumvent these various regulations.....

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR:that the Board of
48 Game has made, it's totally counterproductive to the
49 mission. And we need to be mission oriented.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: I am a retired infantry
4 officer. And the focus is on the mission regardless.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's right.
7
8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: And you're overlooking
10 the mission. Provide subsistence resources for these
11 qualified users.
12
13 Thank you.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
16 Virgil.
17
18 Rhonda.
19
20 MS. PITKA: Yes. Thank you. I'd like
21 to agree with a lot of what Virgil just said. That's
22 sort of a first for me. But.....
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 MS. PITKA:you know, I really do
27 have concerns about who makes the determination on what
28 natural diversity is, biological integrity and
29 environmental health. And I have those concerns
30 because -- I don't know -- I feel like there's a
31 cultural divide here and a cultural norm.
32
33 So when you say environmental health,
34 you're talking about like well, you know, you go
35 outside and that's the environment over there. But
36 really the environment is around us all the time. So I
37 think that's kind of a huge cultural norm.
38
39 And then also I think a lot of Native
40 people also have another cultural norm about talking
41 about bears. And, you know, when I talk about it,
42 it's kind of really embarrassing for me and it's
43 bothersome. So I think that a lot of silence that you
44 get on the issue doesn't mean that people are agreeing
45 with you at all. It's a cultural norm that we just
46 don't talk about it.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes.
49
50 MR. ELLIS: Can I respond, Madame

1 Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes. Go

4 ahead.

5

6 MR. ELLIS: Okay. Thank you. I don't
7 want folks to get the impression that the terms natural
8 diversity, biological integrity, and environmental
9 health were made up or pulled out of the air. We all
10 know the natural diversity phrase comes directly from
11 ANILCA. That's a purpose for every Refuge in Alaska to
12 maintain natural diversity on Refuges.

13

14 The biological integrity and
15 environmental health -- that comes directly from the
16 National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, which
17 was passed in 1997. And so the regulations in 50 CFR
18 36, these closure procedures haven't been updated for
19 decades. And so what we're doing is bringing new
20 statutes. This criteria -- adding that criteria as a
21 way to -- you know, it's another criteria we would use
22 to institute a closure only to protect those statutory
23 driven purposes.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I need you
26 to.....

27

28 MR. ELLIS: And they're defined in
29 policy. Our biological integrity policy, which is
30 available for anyone to read, defines what biological
31 diversity is. How our agency interprets that. It's
32 the variety of life and its processes, including living
33 organisms, genetic differences in communities, and
34 ecosystems. Biological integrity is the biotic
35 composition, structure, and functioning, including
36 natural process, at genetic, organism, and community
37 levels comparable with historic conditions.

38

39 So these phrases are not -- they're not
40 poorly defined. They're very specifically defined.
41 And, you know, the natural diversity.....

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Mitch, I need
44 to interrupt.

45

46 MR. ELLIS: Well.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And just I
49 need you to explain something. Criteria. It says the
50 criteria includes on the current.

1 MR. ELLIS: Right.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And this is
4 potential update. Is this language still going to stay
5 in there.
6
7 MR. ELLIS: Yes. The current language
8 would stay.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And you want
11 to add this.
12
13 MR. ELLIS: Yeah.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Why does this
16 have to be added. You have a policy. And why does it
17 have to be regulation. You have a policy. Things
18 change. And taking something that's a policy and
19 turning into a regulation is something we -- I don't
20 think anybody in my Council would agree with.
21
22 MR. ELLIS: Well, it's important that
23 managers have clearly defined regulations to guide how
24 they institute closures. Policies are very helpful as
25 well, but they're not a regulation. Policies can be
26 waived. Regulations can't. And so I think it's in the
27 public's interest to know exactly what the framework is
28 on those closures.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That is what
31 you think. And I don't think it's what we think.
32 So.....
33
34 MR. ELLIS: And that's fine.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy. And
37 then I want to get a consensus on that particular one.
38
39 MR. BASSICH: Okay. It occurred to me
40 thinking about this this winter that maybe our Eastern
41 RAC has been going in the wrong direction and for a
42 long time. And what I'm referring to is basically
43 predator control and trying to make sure that food --
44 natural food sources for people who live in Refuges and
45 on Federal lands is protected. And it seems to me --
46 and I'm trying to add a little bit of humor into our
47 discussion here. But it occurred to me that really the
48 most effective way that we could ensure our access to
49 wildlife would be to consider human beings to be a
50 endangered species within these Refuges.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. BASSICH: And classify them as a
4 natural diversity. And maintain the biological
5 integrity of humans within these preserves. And, you
6 know, maybe this sounds a little bit absurd, but
7 sometimes you have to get to the absurd point in a
8 discussion to make a point. And the point that I'm
9 making is that people who live in remote parts of
10 Alaska are leaving. And they're leaving because of the
11 competition and the lack of ability to live there and
12 have consistent, reliable access to the resource
13 because the resource is going away. That's the bottom
14 foundation for I think what many of us are talking
15 about here.

16

17 And so I think what many of us are
18 trying to do is preserve the long term integrity of
19 that food source for people. Because how it -- we tend
20 to always think of ourselves as something other than
21 animals. But we are animal on this planet that is
22 living within an ecosystem. And we have the ability to
23 change that. We're one of the few animals that do.
24 But we still fall under the same laws of nature. We
25 have to eat. We still have to feed ourselves somehow.

26

27 And so I'm just bringing that up
28 because I think it's a really important foundation.
29 And I know it sounds absurd. But you know what. It
30 may have to actually go to that at some point in time.
31 We're being.....

32

33 MR. ELLIS: So I'd like to respond.
34 You know, I understand that. And our subsistence
35 purposes on Refuges, we take those very seriously.
36 We're required by law to provide subsistence
37 opportunities. But I think it's important to remember
38 that ANILCA created the National conservation lands.
39 They have very broad purposes. Yes, they benefit
40 Alaskans. But they're also -- these conservation units
41 were put in place for the benefit of all Americans.

42

43 The way we manage wildlife on National
44 Wildlife Refuges is different in some cases than it is
45 in adjoining State areas or BLM lands or Forest Service
46 lands. We have very specific laws that say we have to
47 manage for the natural diversity on these Refuges. And
48 that means we don't manage one species for the
49 detriment of another. There are some case.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Is that your
2 opinion?

3
4 MR. ELLIS: No. That's the law.
5 That's the law.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The law says
8 we don't manage -- the law has this words in it. We
9 don't manage one species over the benefit of the other.
10 Or is that your interpretation of natural diversity.

11
12 MR. ELLIS: The law says we manage
13 National Wildlife Refuges for that natural diversity.
14 And that's -- again, a lot of folks want to know what
15 that means. And so we go back to the Congressional
16 record, for example. And I can read a passage from the
17 Congressional record during the ANILCA deliberations if
18 you'd like.

19
20 I mean to conserve fish and wildlife
21 population and habitats in their natural diversity.
22 That's the phrase and the purpose statements of these
23 Refuges that's in the Statute. In summary, it is the
24 intent of the above language to direct the U.S. Fish
25 and Wildlife Service to the best of its ability to
26 conserve, protect, and manage all fish and wildlife
27 populations within a particular National Wildlife
28 Refuge unit in their natural mix as occurring now and
29 not to emphasize management activities favoring some
30 species to the detriment of others.

31
32 So if you look to the Congressional
33 record, it's very clear what Congress intended. It
34 doesn't mean that we can't have.....

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's.....

37
38 MR. ELLIS:harvest frameworks in
39 place for predators, just like we do for ungulates.
40 There's a surplus that can be harvested. And we do
41 predator control as a tool at times when it's
42 necessary. But we don't do it -- we're not allowed to
43 do it simply to have additional hunting opportunities
44 even for.....

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So that's
47 happening here is you guys.....

48
49 MR. ELLIS: Uh-huh.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER:are
2 interpreting predator control to something that we
3 don't see as predator control. And this come out at
4 the SRC meeting. And it came out strongly. When --
5 the AHTNA people on RSRC will argue with you that
6 you're managing predators by not allowing some of these
7 seasons and bag limits in the benefit of the predator
8 over the moose or the caribou or the sheep.

9
10 So I mean we don't agree with all of
11 what you're saying here. And to me it comes out to
12 your interpretation, like Virgil brought out and Rhonda
13 agrees with. And I think this whole group -- we all
14 agree. Your interpretation and the interpretation --
15 that's what frightens us. The things that we think is
16 important to us are not.....

17
18 MR. ELLIS: Madame Chair, with all due
19 respect, it's not my interpretation. This is not Mitch
20 Ellis' interpretation. This is the law. It's a
21 Congressional record. These are the policies and
22 directives that tell us how we manage National Wildlife
23 Refuges in Alaska. And some of these apply to Refuges
24 throughout the country.

25
26 It's a valuable discussion. I think
27 the input is good. The policy statement and how we
28 address predator control.....

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. We
31 disagree. We'll go from that.

32
33 Virgil.

34
35 MR. ELLIS: Well, I think there's some
36 valid discussion with the methods and means. I just
37 wanted to acknowledge that. I think the four or five
38 specific methods and means that we're talking about,
39 there's definitely a lot of room for public input. And
40 that may help guide how this rule is developed, so I do
41 appreciate that part of the discussion.

42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. You have two
44 mandates. One is to manage for natural diversity. The
45 other one is to provide subsistence resources for
46 qualified subsistence users. So you're going to have
47 to make a choice. And it sounds like the choice you've
48 made is natural diversity over providing the
49 subsistence -- meaningful subsistence opportunity.
50 Meaningful means to me that the diligent person, if

1 they go out and attempt should be able to harvest their
2 subsistence resources. If they're diligent.

3

4 And so to me, you're saying that of
5 your two mandates -- because you're mandated by both by
6 law -- that you have selected natural diversity over
7 providing meaningful subsistence opportunity. Is that
8 -- I mean to me it looks like you have to make a
9 decision. And the decision you made. And you're
10 attempting to get the public to accept that decision.

11

12 MR. ELLIS: That decision was made in
13 1980, when ANILCA was passed. The purposes in Refuges
14 in Title 3 of ANILCA lays out the purposes for the
15 Refuges. Every Refuge has a purpose. The first one
16 for natural diversity. The second one is to treaty
17 obligations that we have to fulfill. Migratory Bird
18 Treaty Act, other treaties. The third purpose is
19 subsistence purposes. But if you look at ANILCA the
20 wording is we are mandated to provide meaningful
21 subsistence opportunities insofar as they are
22 consistent with the first two purposes. And so it does
23 create a hierarchy of mandates. And that laid out in
24 ANILCA.

25

26 So natural diversity purposes are the
27 primary purpose. Subsistence is a purpose, but it has
28 to be consistent with the natural diversity purposes.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. A lot of
31 this depends.....

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do you have a
34 question. Do you have another question.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes. I do.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

39

40 MR. UMPHENOUR: But I have to build up
41 to my question. It won't take me a minute.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I don't know
46 what the moose hunters success in Yukon Flats is. But
47 I know it's not very high. I do know what it is in
48 21D, which is Koyukuk Refuge. The lower part. And
49 this is of the rural residents because there they have
50 to go through a check station to go hunting. It's less

1 than 30 percent hunter success. So if only one family
2 out of three gets a moose in a year, one moose is not
3 going to feed three families. I can assure you of
4 that, depending of course on how many kids they have.

5
6 And so I don't know what the hunter
7 success is in Yukon Flats, but some of these
8 regulations that are getting -- going to get thrown
9 aside basically, circumvented, were put in by this RAC
10 to hopefully help people harvest the moose in the Yukon
11 Flats for instance. And so I don't know how because
12 you listed that the number three thing in ANILCA, that
13 providing meaningful subsistence opportunity, how the
14 biological diversity trumps it. I don't -- is there
15 something that says that that trumps meaningful
16 subsistence opportunity.

17
18 MR. ELLIS: Well, again the hierarchy
19 as laid out in ANILCA does say that directly. But in
20 Title 8 of ANILCA, the title that deals with
21 subsistence, it speaks to Alaska subsistence
22 opportunities. And it basically says to provide the
23 opportunity for continued subsistence by rural
24 residents as long as this use is not in conflict with
25 the conservation -- sound conservation principles. And
26 I think everybody would agree with that.

27
28 Again, it's ANILCA. We're simply
29 following the law. We're not -- again I think we're
30 getting off track because the -- this rule really
31 doesn't affect Federal subsistence regulations. It
32 isn't intended to. Now, we understand that most
33 subsistence harvest occurs under the State general
34 hunting. So we get that. We understand that people
35 are taking advantage of the State system -- and they
36 should.

37
38 The Federal subsistence regulations
39 won't be affected by this rule at all, in any way,
40 shape or form. The way it will be put forward is it --
41 the Federal subsistence regulations will trump this
42 regulation as long as it's consistent with the purposes
43 of the Refuge. So it's not -- this rule is only going
44 to apply to the general hunting regulations.

45
46 Again we're not intending to.....

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy
49 didn't.....

50

1 MR. ELLIS:to affect the Federal
2 subsistence.....

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: He didn't
5 lead up to his question. Go ahead. And then Andy,
6 Donald. We've got four of them in a row.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. We're all well
11 aware that it's not going to affect the Federal
12 regulation because Federal regula -- the Federal
13 subsistence -- and one of them it will. And that's
14 baiting grizzly bears. But the seasons, it won't
15 affect the Federal regulation, but it will affect the
16 State regulations. And we submitted -- this RAC
17 submitted those regulations. But we're well aware of
18 the process. You have sitting on this RAC two former
19 State Board members that promulgated regulations.
20 Between Sue and I, we've got, you know, about 12 years
21 worth of that on the State Boards.

22
23 So we're well aware of that. But you
24 just said something that bothers me. And that is that
25 the subsistence opportunity cannot violate sound
26 conservation principles. That's another big, debatable
27 point. What are sound conservation principles. And I
28 mean having -- I don't know how many bears per square
29 mile there are in Yukon Flats, but I know there's a
30 heck of a lot more bears than there are moose.
31 But.....

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And there are
34 more bears than people.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: And so if you allow
39 baiting of bears and leave the season on wolves go
40 until the end of May instead of closing at the end of
41 April, a few more animals might get taken. It might
42 save a few more moose calves. I don't see how that
43 could be violating sound conservation principles. So
44 could you maybe explain how that is violating sound
45 conservation principles.

46
47 MR. ELLIS: So the methods and means
48 section of this rule would include the four or five --
49 and includes the baiting issue you're talking about.
50 Collectively, those liberalizations of harvesting

1 predators collectively could have population level
2 impacts.

3

4 Again, we don't have any issue -- we
5 support hunting. We -- it's a priority public use on
6 National Wildlife Refuges all over the country. But
7 there has to be -- we cannot treat predators or devalue
8 predators on Refuges. We treat all wildlife on Refuges
9 the same. And so when we have liberalizations in the
10 harvest frameworks that appear to be intending to
11 reduce the populations, that's really what that methods
12 and means section is about.

13

14 Again, I think there's room for
15 discussion on those. But.....

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I think we'll
18 get to that.

19

20 MR. ELLIS: Yeah.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And again
23 it's interpretation. So I'd like to get from the rest
24 of the guys.

25

26 MR. ELLIS: Sure.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.
29 Then.....

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.

32

33 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have one.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh, God. He
36 says he has one.....

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes or no answer.

39

40 MR. ELLIS: All right.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: A yes or no
43 answer. Please yes or no.

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. My question is
46 do you have the authority to say the heck with this.
47 We're not going to do this.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes or no.

50

1 MR. ELLIS: It's a collective decision.
2 It's not my decision to make.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So no.
5
6 MR. ELLIS: So no.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.
11
12 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 I think we've had some pretty good discussion here.
14 But I think we're starting to go down a path that could
15 lead us to a lot of discussion for a long time. And
16 really we're not taking on it. What we can take action
17 on is what you began to do before we got sidetracked.
18 And that is to make a recommendation to the Fish and
19 Wildlife Service on the proposed changes.
20
21 And so I think I'd like to see us as a
22 RAC redirect our focus on what recommendations we'd
23 like to make, whether it be in the form of a motion or
24 just through our deliberations here.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I saw
27 all the hands.....
28
29 MR. BASSICH: And move on.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER:and Don
32 -- I think -- yeah, go. Bill was next and then Andrew.
33 I almost called you Donald. Sorry.
34
35 Bill.
36
37 MR. GLANZ: Anyway, I know I flew a lot
38 of years out of the Fire Service out of Fort Yukon.
39 Seen lots and lots and lots of bears, but only a few
40 moose. And it's a -- and so I talked to some
41 biologists. They said that's a moose desert out there
42 on those Flats.
43
44 In my first meeting, I believe it was,
45 Craig Fleener was our Chair. And the first time I'd
46 ever been to one of these meetings, he got up. He was
47 the Chair. And he says I'm going to tell you
48 something. If you guys were running grocery stores
49 you'd all be fired out there. There's nothing out
50 there for people to eat. If you went to the grocery

1 and there was nothing to eat, they would fire you. A&P
2 would fire your butts. So I have to revert to what
3 Craig Fleener said. That's all.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andrew.

8
9 MR. FIRMIN: I had one comment on a
10 couple specific things. And my one little comment,
11 it's just always nice to be reminded by Refuge Staff
12 that the well being of my family and my ability to feed
13 them is third on their priority list below wolves,
14 bears, and Canadian and Mexicans there through
15 treaties. No offense to any of those people.

16
17 But on specific things, I think the --
18 on your list here under the authority, I kind of -- it
19 says no updates being considered. I kind of would
20 think that you would want some type of local or maybe
21 Tribal consultation criteria added to that. I don't --
22 on the emergency closure parts, I could see needing
23 that. Maybe sometimes you do need an extra 30 days.

24
25 On the temporary closures and
26 restrictions portion I don't see why you would need a
27 five-year extension. I mean isn't year to year enough.

28
29
30 But I would also like to see on the
31 bottom to -- under the Tribal consultation part to
32 include more than just fish and wildlife issues. Maybe
33 like you said, the natural disaster portions or
34 something. I mean wouldn't you want to consult with
35 the Tribe on say land access or maybe there's a tornado
36 or something. But don't worry about them. You know,
37 they might want to work together or add something to
38 that effect to there.

39
40 I did like the additions to the
41 permanent closure restrictions and to your notices
42 through the use of social media at the bottom.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone else.

47
48 Donald.

49
50 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

1 And with due respect to all the Refuge managers and
2 you, Mitch, I want to cite this letter that we have
3 from Northway Village Council, saying that they do not
4 this proposed regulation change.

5
6 And I think that the Council feels that
7 you guys are eliminating a large portion of people's
8 harvest. And whether you believe that or not, that's
9 how we feel. And that's why the Council is upset with
10 this proposed regulation change. Because it's food out
11 of our mouths and our family's mouths and our
12 grandchildren's mouths.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Will.

17
18 MR. KOEHLER: I think we've made our
19 point clear. I think we've had good discussion. I
20 think we should move on.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. The
23 thing that I want to ask is under here, the
24 prohibition. Take of brown bears over bait. Take of
25 bears using traps or snares. Take of wolves and
26 coyotes during the spring season. The first one I
27 admitted was not to our Region, so I didn't talk about
28 it. But take of bears from an aircraft or on the same
29 day as air travel has occurred. Take of wolves and
30 wolverines from aircraft or on the same day as air
31 travel has occurred is already prohibited under current
32 regulations.

33
34 I mean I personally would like to
35 address the bears over bait, the brown bears over bait.
36 I know people from Northway that are heavy into
37 baiting. And they've been able to take brown bears
38 over bait. And this would eliminate all of that. And
39 I think that's very critical.

40
41 Because I too baited bears last year.
42 And I can tell you when you set up a trail cam on a
43 bait station, there are way more bears out there than I
44 ever felt there -- I knew there was a lot bears in that
45 country, but I had no idea how many. In six bait
46 stations we had over 30 bears that came in. And we
47 took seven.

48
49 My family have a guiding business and
50 this is something I would not like to see happen. I

1 don't see that it's a problem. Grizzly bears come into
2 these bait stations very cautiously. A black bear
3 would just sit there and eat all day long, but a
4 grizzly bear is only there sometimes or seconds or
5 sometimes never comes in. And the opportunity to take
6 that grizzly bear is not that great, but it is a great
7 opportunity for people. I would say somebody like
8 Andrew and any of the people in the Villages that might
9 want to get into the guiding business, that this is an
10 opportunity they would lose.

11
12 In places like Fort Yukon where it's
13 all Refuge land, it just doesn't seem like that should
14 be going in there right now. I don't see that it's a
15 huge concern because there was baiting occurring in 20E
16 in my region. And it was more remote, but the success
17 rates are low. So saying -- coming out and saying that
18 that's going to increase some great potential, I
19 disagree with that. And I think it needs to be on the
20 record for the experiences that I've had doing it.

21
22 So is there any other discussion.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Hearing none,
27 I guess we'll.....

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I guess I'm a
34 little bit confu -- not necessarily confused, but I'd
35 like clarification on how we're going to make our
36 recommendations to you. Is it something where they
37 have to wade through all of our testimony or do we want
38 a -- kind of a unified statement to them giving our
39 position in the form of a motion or otherwise. Letter,
40 whatever. I just need clarification on that because I
41 -- we've had a lot of great discussion and I don't want
42 it to be missed when we give our recommendation.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I agree.

45
46 Go ahead, Mitch.

47
48 MR. ELLIS: Yeah. Madame Chair, we
49 have a person on staff that this is one of the projects
50 they're focused on. And so they will go through the

1 record and pull all of that input out. It's fine if
2 you want to make a motion. That would be helpful as
3 well. But you don't have to. We'll go through the
4 written record and we'll pull all of the input out.
5 And we've been making notes as well. But.....

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'd love a
8 motion.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I think I'd feel
11 more comfortable putting a motion in. I have something
12 that's maybe a rough draft. It could be amended if the
13 Chair has accepted that, a motion.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Do you
16 have it that you can read it right now.

17
18 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Just real rough.
19 But.....

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Just
22 give a stab at it.

23
24 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I'm good at
25 stabbing things.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Eastern -- this is the
30 motion. Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Committee
31 opposes any changes to the criteria and temporary
32 closures in the CFRs. However, if the changes are to
33 be made, the Eastern Interior RAC recommends that the
34 fish and wildlife temporary closures should fall under
35 separate CFR codes and should remain unchanged.

36
37 Yeah. And then I guess, Madame Chair,
38 if there was any discussion on some of the language and
39 the criterias which Virgil brought up, we could include
40 that in the motion, too. But I think my very first
41 part of that motion that opposes any change to the
42 criteria and temporary closures would cover that, what
43 Virgil was referring to, Madame Chair.

44
45 So does that make sense to you. Would
46 you like me to read it again.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No. I guess
49 I'd like to keep it simple. I wonder if you could just
50 say we -- -- we -- the very first part and then refer

1 to our -- they assure us, I hope I can trust them.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Well, the other
4 option would be to just do it in two separate motions
5 if that makes it less confusing. Because it's
6 basically one motion says that we're opposed to any
7 changes in the.....
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Let's
10 go down that road.
11
12 MR. BASSICH: Okay. So the motion --
13 the single motion would be the Eastern Interior
14 Regional Advisory Committee opposes any changes to the
15 current.....
16
17 MR. GLANZ: Predator control CFRs.....
18
19 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Current CFR
20 codification regarding closures -- emergency closures,
21 temporary closures, permanent closures, notices, and
22 criteria.
23
24 MR. KOEHLER: Second.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do we need
27 any other discussion.
28
29 Virgil.
30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I don't know if
32 we captured changing the hunting regulations.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: In that
35 motion.
36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I know his
40 intent, but maybe the wording isn't perfect.
41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Maybe we should table
43 this and.....
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Come up with
46 a good one.
47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR:and over lunch
49 figure out exactly how we want to write this so that
50 it's -- we send a clear message.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Let's do
2 that.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I move to table
5 till time certain after lunch.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. We'll
8 defer it till after lunch.
9
10 Okay. Just so you know, I know this is
11 your guys' jobs. And I just want you to know that we
12 look at things a lot differently than someone sitting
13 in an office that it's their job to read all this stuff
14 and come up with stuff. We only have moments to deal
15 with it. And sometimes put on the spot. And hard to
16 do it in two meetings a year. And a lot of us are at
17 other meetings. And sometimes we take it out on people
18 personally. I don't want it to feel that way. I want
19 to have good dialogue with you guys. And thanks for
20 coming to the meeting.
21
22 We really appreciate it.
23
24 MR. ELLIS: Great. Thank you. And I
25 assure you I don't take any of it personally. Neither
26 does my staff. We're just trying to do our job.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. We can
29 arm wrestle later.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 MR. ELLIS: Okay. We appreciate the
34 opportunity. Thank you very much.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
37 you.
38
39 Okay. Now, this has been really hard.
40 We already -- this person wanted to speak to the Refuge
41 proposed rule and I'm going to allow it. A short
42 testimony. Percy Herbert from Fort Yukon.
43
44 MR. HERBERT: Thanks. I just heard you
45 talking about the ANILCA law, you know, and stuff. I
46 think we need a great change on ANILCA because seems
47 like that person is -- Fish and Wildlife are using it
48 to keep the subsistence people down and the Native
49 people down. They let the commercial people take all
50 the fish they want. And they let all these commercial

1 people with planes going on hunting games. And, you
2 know, if people don't try to stop that by putting a
3 little guy with a commercial fisherman got to hold his
4 little net. And he sets it and what comes a big, holey
5 law. And, you know, I like some change on that ANILCA.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.

10 Thank you, Percy.

11

12 All right. I've got to get my agenda.

13 Okay. Next on the agenda is that Annual Report.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
16 you have a draft Annual Report. It was mailed to you
17 and then also in your purple folders in the
18 supplemental materials. If you've had an opportunity
19 to review that and if you have any recommendations for
20 additional language or wording or other issues that
21 have come up, this is the opportunity for the Council
22 to finalize your report to the Board.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. How do
25 you want to proceed, guys. Do you want -- do you have
26 anything that you want to add to it now or do you want
27 to go through the meeting and make these special notes
28 of what you would add to it. Did you find it.

29

30 I mean what we've done in the past is
31 we've gone ahead and go through the meeting. And I've
32 asked you all when there's a point of concern to, you
33 know.

34

35 Yes, Andy.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I agree with that.
38 I think there will be other discussions that maybe
39 might spark some memories or some other additional
40 items that we'd like to add to that, Madame Chair.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So if you
43 would all add that to the end of the meeting. After
44 OSM there. Annual Report finished. Okay. Then we'll
45 move on.

46

47 Charter revisions.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
50 you will find in your meeting books on page 72 is the

1 Regional Advisory Council's charter. We have an
2 opportunity to review and revise the charter. There
3 are minor elements of the charter that can be amended.
4 You'll see on page 74 -- and this was the discussion
5 from last fall where Councils were asked to make any
6 recommendations to charter changes.

7
8 Specifically, we discussed some of the
9 challenges with the appointment process. The delays in
10 the Secretary of the Interior Office appointing Council
11 members to each of the Councils. We had circumstances
12 where the delay caused a lapse in Council membership
13 where terms were completed prior to another nomination
14 being made by the Secretary.

15
16 So the recommendations that were made
17 previously that are highlighted in yellow in your
18 charter were for four-year terms. Currently they're
19 three-year terms. That would extend that process so
20 that there's less need for turnover and applications of
21 long-serving members. And then if no successor is
22 appointed on prior expiration of a member's term, then
23 whoever is an incumbent in that seat can continue to
24 serve as opposed to current circumstance that position
25 would lapse and it would be vacant.

26
27 And that would be for 120 days, which
28 would allow getting through the winter meeting cycle.
29 So the appointments are generally made in December --
30 around December 3rd. So 120 days would allow current
31 serving members to continue until an appointment was
32 made or whichever is sooner.

33
34 And then also official alternates. So
35 currently we don't have an official alternate process
36 where someone is selected -- we have a full membership,
37 but someone is selected that if an unexpected vacancy
38 comes up, that they could then be selected to serve
39 immediately on the Council.

40
41 So those were recommendations that were
42 made last time. It's highlighted in your charter. One
43 of the other things that's not in here, but the Council
44 had discussed was the membership. So total membership
45 of the Council can also be changed at the Council's
46 wish.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The number.

49
50 MS. PATTON: The number. So this

1 Council has ten members. For example, Southeast
2 Regional Council has 13. I know this Council had
3 discussed previously some of the challenges having a
4 balanced membership when a motion is made by vote in
5 the case of a tie and also concern for having greater
6 representation throughout the Region. More seats, more
7 representation from communities throughout the Region.
8 So that's an option as well.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So what
11 you're looking for right now is even though we voted
12 for it last time, it's up again and we need to vote.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, these
15 particular issues that are highlighted here were
16 discussed by the Council and brought forth as changes
17 to the membership designation and appointment process.
18 So today would be a vote approving the charter as
19 written here with these amendments. Or if there's any
20 further amendments that you would like and approve
21 today.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
24 Thanks.

25

26 Andy.

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I'd like to make a
29 motion that we accept the charter as written, with the
30 addition of the highlighted items. I guess that's it.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: Okay. I'll second it.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Discussion.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I guess I'll
37 reference much of our talks previously at the last
38 meeting when we talked about this in great detail and
39 added these to the charter as recommendations for
40 improvement, Madame Chair.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
43 other discussion.

44

45 MR. GLANZ: I second it.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I heard the
48 second. Yeah. Uh-huh. Discussion.

49

50 MS. PITKA: Oh. I was just going to

1 ask like why.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Rhonda.

4

5 MS. PITKA:why the nomination
6 process was so unwieldy.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair, it's
9 unknown entirely why -- you know, what the delays were.

10

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Funding was
13 one.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Funding was one. We don't
16 have control over once the nominations go to the
17 Secretary of the Interior. So there's a -- yeah. As
18 you know, you know, a process of application and then a
19 review. And then recommendations that are made to the
20 Board. The Board then forwards those recommendations
21 to the Secretary of the Interior. And once it goes to
22 D.C., you know, it's a long process.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.

25

26 MS. PATTON: There's a lot going on
27 there. We did have great supports through the
28 Solicitor or rather our Special Secretary in Alaska,
29 who had assisted. It's unknown why they did respond
30 this year. We got timely appointments, so hopefully
31 all of the feedback from both the Councils -- we had
32 Councils that wrote letters and also a lot of feedback
33 and discussion on the record. So the appointments were
34 timely this year and hopefully it will proceed that
35 way.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MS. PITKA: Okay. Because I was just
40 concerned about like making reg -- I guess making
41 changes to something that's already a process. I
42 think, you know, like if there's a process then it
43 should be followed. You know, so that was my only
44 concern.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. As I
47 remember, I think there was something -- what -- didn't
48 -- something happened in D.C. I think it was something
49 about a.....

50

1 MS. PATTON: Was it sequester.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes. Uh-huh.
4 And it just prolonged the decision being made. So
5 people came forward and wanted to do this. And it -- I
6 guess it changes staff. They don't have to interview
7 us but every four years instead of every three years
8 was another one.
9
10 MS. PATTON: Okay.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So yeah.
13 They changed the process for that.
14
15 Yes, Andy.
16
17 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Rhonda. I think
18 what we were trying to do is modify this so that we
19 could hopefully assure that we had as much
20 representation consistently at our Council.
21
22 MS. PITKA: Yes.
23
24 MR. BASSICH: And that they're -- under
25 the old system we were finding that we often had gaps
26 that were not being filled. And we felt that by making
27 these additions we could hopefully keep this Council
28 table full as much as possible.
29
30 MS. PITKA: Thank you.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
33 Any other discussion. I'm sorry. Larry.
34
35 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 This is just a comment. And I was just noticing here
37 that there's no provision for in case there's a vacancy
38 on the Council. That there's no provisions for an
39 alternate being appointed. And I would just like to
40 have somebody clarify that for me and then I'll ask
41 another question.
42
43 Thank you.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Go ahead,
46 Eva.
47
48 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council
49 Member, that was one of the changes that was
50 recommended. So part of the highlighted portion of the

1 charter on page 74 did. Many of the Councils -- this
2 Council had recommended.....

3

4 MR. WILLIAMS: I got.....

5

6 MS. PATTON: Yeah.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But I think
9 -- did you say how the alternate would be made. Is
10 that what your question was.

11

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
13 Chair. What I was thinking was that if there is a
14 vacancy on the Board all of a sudden through some
15 unforeseen circumstance, how would the Council or the
16 Secretary of the Interior make an alternate appointment
17 to fulfill that seat. Would it be from the same
18 hometown. Like for maybe Fort Yukon or Venetie or
19 whatever. Or would it be from a general area which the
20 member was representing. How do they -- how would they
21 go about that. I'd like to have some clarification on
22 that.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I
25 could probably take a stab at it. The alternate would
26 be determined prior to. And if you didn't show up, the
27 alternate -- your alternate would show up. Am I
28 correct.

29

30 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Madame Chair. That
31 is correct. In the current language in the Charter it
32 just says vacancies will be filled in the same manner
33 in which appointments are made. So every year we
34 solicit applications from the Region for people to
35 apply for the Councils. So let's say for example we
36 might get seven applications for the Eastern Interior
37 Region one year, but there's only three vacancies.
38 After there's a review process with the nominations
39 panel -- those are the people who call you and conduct
40 the interviews of you and your references. And then
41 the Interagency Staff Committee and the Board make
42 their recommendations. They rate and rank the top
43 three candidates to fill those three vacancies. But
44 then the fourth ranked candidate would be identified as
45 an alternate.

46

47 So it would be from that pool of
48 applicants and through that review process that the
49 alternates would be identified. And it can only be
50 from that pool of applicants.

1 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, to follow up
2 also, Larry, that it wouldn't necessarily be somebody
3 from the same community or area. It's part of the pool
4 of the whole application. Whoever was selected as that
5 alternate then would be the alternate to step in.

6
7 MS. PITKA: I just had a quick
8 question.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Go ahead.

11
12 MS. PITKA: Who sits on the Nomination
13 Panel.

14
15 MR. JOHNSON: Each region each year
16 actually has a different Interagency Nominations Panel.
17 It's all -- typically the field staff from the agencies
18 that have participated in Federal subsistence
19 management. So for this area it would be the actual
20 staff who work in the Refuges and work in the National
21 Parks. There might be BLM staff who work at the field
22 offices within the Region. And then the Council
23 Coordinator for that Region facilitates their discussion
24 in panel meetings. But really it's the field staff who
25 are the personnel who serve on the Nominations Panels.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The
28 government. Thank you.

29
30 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.

33
34 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Yeah. Larry,
35 maybe something that might help you -- it just occurred
36 to me. And that would be if that's a concern of you
37 that your area is -- may potentially not be represented
38 here, then the best thing you can do is to try and
39 encourage people within your community to apply for the
40 position. And then they would then be in that pool and
41 my guess is probably would have maybe a leg up a little
42 bit on, you know, filling your seat say if you were
43 left -- left the seat.

44
45 So that would be my recommendation to
46 you. Try and get some people in your community to
47 apply and be on board as an alternate.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You know, I
50 don't want to draw this out, but I guess I would --

1 just a recommendation for the panels that choose
2 people. When appropriate, you should be looking, like
3 Larry's bringing out, if -- at that pool of people. If
4 Larry's the one that's not showing up then somebody
5 from his community shows up. Or vice -- any of the
6 communities.

7

8 Andrew.

9

10 MR. FIRMIN: I was just going to ask a
11 question to that effect. Also, like if we did have one
12 or two alternates and say me and Don can't make it to
13 the next meeting, then they could automatically grab
14 those two people. So yeah, that actually has a ten
15 person Board instead of an eight. Or.....

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's my
18 understanding. Yes.

19

20 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. That was -- I just
21 wanted to clarify that.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But I didn't
24 realize that you had a pool of people, that was how you
25 were going to do it. I didn't realize how you were
26 going to do it until we asked these questions today.
27 So it's good discussion.

28

29 Do you have any other things, Larry.

30

31 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, I don't know.
32 Excuse me, Madame Chair. But I lost my train of
33 thought here.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Hey, I do
36 that all the time.

37

38 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. I'm getting old.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It will come
43 back to you.

44

45 MR. WILLIAMS: Anyway, what was I going
46 to say.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I relate. I

1 know exactly what you're going through.
2
3 MR. WILLIAMS: I have a question,
4 Madame Chair.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Donald.
7
8 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. I remember now.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Good. Go
13 ahead. You remembered.
14
15 MR. WILLIAMS: So if a member -- say
16 any one of us from a particular community cannot make
17 it because of work or any other family emergency or
18 anything like that, we will just let the Council
19 Coordinator know it and that alternate would be
20 appointed for that one meeting, or is that how it
21 works. Or just -- I mean exactly how does the process
22 work. I mean maybe I haven't been keeping up with my
23 duties and that, but one of the things that I do not
24 know -- and I'm sorry to say that -- is that I do not
25 know my alternate.
26
27 Thank you.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, right
30 now there is no alternates. This is a proposal.
31
32 MR. WILLIAMS: There is none?
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: There is
35 none.
36
37 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: This is a
40 proposal to do that.
41
42 MR. WILLIAMS: Oh, okay.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So in that
45 pro -- we are commenting on putting this into our --
46 what is it, our manual.
47
48 MS. PATTON: Charter.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Our charter.

1 Yeah. Does that help.
2
3 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.
6 There's nothing going on right now. We were just
7 proposing to do so.
8
9 MR. GLANZ: Andy did you have one more
10 question.
11
12 MR. WILLIAMS: No.
13
14 MR. GLANZ: Okay.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Donald had
17 one.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: I'll call for the question.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Donald had
22 raised his hand. I'm going to give him the
23 opportunity. Yeah.
24
25 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 I attended the Western RAC meeting on Tuesday and it
27 appears that the process has been speeded up and that
28 their new Council Members were seated in a timely
29 manner. And I was hoping that maybe Rhonda's process
30 was smoother.
31
32 MS. PITKA: No.
33
34 MR. WOODRUFF: It wasn't.
35
36 MS. PITKA: I think I first started
37 applying two or three years ago.
38
39 MR. WOODRUFF: So there still are
40 difficulties.
41
42 MS. PITKA: Uh-huh.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. And
45 the question's been called for. Unless you had
46 something to add, Carl.
47
48 MR. JOHNSON: No, Madame Chair. I was
49 just going to clarify we would envision the alternates
50 would -- in one way they would be utilized, as Larry

1 suggested, would be that they would temporarily fill in
2 just if a member couldn't make. And they would do it
3 for just that meeting. Or if there was somebody who
4 completely vacated their seat, then they would step in
5 and be the new Council Member in that seat. So that
6 would be the two ways the alternates would be used.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

9

10 MR. GLANZ: I've got just one comment.
11 It seems like it would be a problem. Let's see. I
12 call up and I say I can't make it. By God, it's
13 Friday. I can't be there Monday. There's no funding
14 for that guy who's going to show up. I think it would
15 have to be a permanent deal there. Because we've had
16 meetings before where there's been one or two missing.
17 We didn't move along anyway. So anyway.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. I
20 think that's going to have to be a little common sense
21 involved here. Hopefully that would be used. Yeah. I
22 mean if somebody can't make it and it's the last
23 minute, it would be tough to pull someone else in. And
24 that person might end up coming in late. Because you
25 guys do that often with your pilot -- you know, flying
26 in sometimes with the air schedules not fitting.

27

28 But okay. Well, the question has been
29 called for. All in favor, say aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone
34 opposed.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Now,
39 next on the agenda is call for proposals. And I think
40 there's a lot of them floating around here. So who
41 would like to go first. Actually, I would like to
42 bring up -- do we have to have a presentation first.
43 I'm anxious to get started.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, for the
48 benefit of the public, Tom Evans can give a brief
49 overview on the call for proposals and the process.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
2 Sorry about that. I've been pushed to get things
3 through, so it's hard to get it done.

4
5 MR. EVANS: I'll keep it short, Madame
6 Chair. All right. Okay. Good morning, Madame Chair
7 and Members of the Council. I'll just present a brief
8 summary of the process to submit a wildlife proposal
9 for -- for everybody. I know most of the people heard
10 it yesterday, so I'll make it short.

11
12 The brief summary of how to submit a
13 wildlife regulatory proposal can be found in page 76 of
14 your book. The Subsistence Board will be accepting
15 proposals through March 25th, 2015 to change the
16 Federal regulations for the subsistence harvest of
17 wildlife on Federal public lands for the 2016, 2018
18 regulatory years. No proposals will be accepted after
19 March 25th, 2015.

20
21 The Board will consider proposals to
22 change Federal hunting and trapping seasons, harvest
23 limits, methods of harvest, customary and traditional
24 use determinations on Federal public lands. The
25 Federal public lands include National Wildlife Refuges,
26 National Parks, monuments and preserves, National
27 Forests, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, BLM Areas
28 that are not part of the National Conservation system.

29
30 The Federal regulations do not apply to
31 the State of Alaska lands, private lands, military
32 lands, Native allotments or selected Federal lands by
33 the State or Native Corporations.

34
35 Councils may choose to work with the
36 Staff to develop a proposal. If the Council would like
37 to submit a proposal, then an action has to be taken at
38 this meeting and a motion accepted. Proposals
39 addressing these issues may also be submitted by the
40 other individuals and organizations as well. That's
41 been stated several times during these meetings the
42 last three days.

43
44 Information on the proposal includes
45 your contact information; the regulation you wish to
46 change, including the management unit and species that
47 you want to change; the regulation as you would like it
48 seen written; an explanation as to why the regulatory
49 change should be made; and then a description of the
50 impact of the change on wildlife populations, change to

1 subsistence users or other recreation, sport or
2 recreational or commercial uses.

3

4 You can deliver the proposal in three
5 -- it can be submitted in three different ways. Mail
6 or hand deliver to OSM, at the Federal -- at this -- at
7 the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
8 meeting, or you can go to the web and go to the Federal
9 e-rule making portal, which as of yesterday Jack
10 explained can be a somewhat complicated and
11 intimidating process. But that is the process we have
12 going at this point.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I need
19 clarification. Are we also at this meeting allowed to
20 put in proposal for fisheries. Or are we sticking with
21 just wildlife proposals.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I don't think
24 the fisheries call is up. It's the wildlife, right.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
27 the fisheries and wildlife proposals come in an
28 alternate year. So for the regular regulatory process,
29 this is the time for wildlife proposals. There is
30 always an opportunity through the Federal Subsistence
31 Program to submit out of cycle proposals, which are a
32 special request if there's an urgent issue.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Thank you for
35 that.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any other
38 questions. And of course we can put in proposals.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Can I get one more
41 clarification.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: One more.

44

45 MR. BASSICH: We do have deadlines
46 coming up for the State Board of Fish call for
47 proposals. And so I guess that's what I'm getting at.
48 I think I have -- I've been developing an idea for a
49 proposal that I would like to submit to the State. And
50 when it comes time, it would also fall before the

1 Federal Board. So if we have time during this meeting,
2 I'd like to address that.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. And we
5 always take up the Board of Game and the Board of Fish
6 proposals. So if anyone has anything, this is your
7 opportunity to bring it up if there's a deadline out
8 there.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Yep.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. So
13 going to Federal call, there's several people who have
14 talked to me about proposals. So Andrew, I think I'd
15 like to bring up Walter Peter. He had requested to
16 talk about lynx trapping dates and winter moose hunt.
17 And this is going to be a -- I think it turns into an
18 idea for a proposal.

19

20 So Walter, here's your chance to give
21 us some testimony.

22

23 MR. PETER: Yeah. Hello, Madame Chair.
24 My name is Walter Peter. I currently live in Fort
25 Yukon, Alaska. I lived there all my life for about 39
26 years now.

27

28 I currently trap, hunt, and fish off
29 the land. Feed my family. And one of my occupations
30 is trapping. And I just wanted to bring up a proposal
31 that I thought that was a good idea was the lynx
32 trapping dates. Currently, now the lynx trapping dates
33 are November 1st through February 28th. And most --
34 from what I hear and from personal experience, most
35 trappers don't start trapping until the last week of
36 November or the first week of December. And that's
37 because of the fur. The fur isn't prime yet. The hair
38 is short. You know, it really isn't worth as much as
39 they would be in the later months.

40

41 And right about February 28th is what I
42 notice is a lot of the fur's getting prime. It's still
43 cold. The temperatures are fairly cold. You know, we
44 get up to like 40 below in the Yukon Flats still during
45 the month of March.

46

47 And what my proposal was to change was
48 to extend the lynx trapping dates two weeks into March
49 15th. And so, you know, I.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Which GMU's.
2
3 MR. PETER: Oh.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Which GMU's.
6
7
8 MR. PETER: Oh. Sorry about that.
9 That's Unit 25D. And I also believe a wolverine trap
10 would be the same dates. You know, a lot of the
11 wolverine trapping is done, you know, with lynx traps.
12 So, you know, that wouldn't be conflicting with one
13 another by lynx season closing on the 28th and the
14 wolverine trapping season closing towards the middle of
15 March. So it would really align those dates.
16
17 And that was the proposal that I
18 thought of. And that -- you know, I'm currently on the
19 AC. The Fish and Game AC. And I seen a similar
20 proposal for the Western side. Around the Koyukuk area
21 I seen a proposal submitted. And so that gave me the
22 idea on that. You know, that same process should be,
23 you know, applied toward the Eastern Interior and the
24 Yukon Flats.
25
26 I was -- I also considered -- I was
27 thinking about the -- also the winter moose hunt in
28 February. You know, there's a State season in
29 February. But I was corrected that that was also open
30 for -- on Federal land, so I don't need to discuss
31 that.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
34 Andrew, are you going to help write a proposal.
35
36 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. And I kind of got
37 something going here. But the other thing I was
38 thinking on that moose one. Due to the low population
39 there is a Federal season. We essentially have four
40 moose seasons in Unit 25D. And I was just curious if
41 that would be one thing would be to maybe suspend or
42 shorten one of those seasons. But I think that would
43 be taking opportunity away from users also.
44
45 But the other one is I noticed in the
46 Federal wolverine trapping, it ends March 31st. And I
47 was thinking do you have a preference of March 15 or
48 the 31st?
49
50 MR. PETER: No. No. No. It's just

1 the lynx trapping. You know, February 28th is a little
2 earlier. You know, a little too early for me. And,
3 you know, a lot of other trappers would like to
4 continue trapping during the middle of March. You
5 know, the fur's still good. You know, there's -- you
6 know, it's fairly cold. And, you know, that -- right
7 now, you know, we had to quit trapping the 28th and I'm
8 just starting to see prime lynx. You know, a nice,
9 good, silver, thick-haired lynx. You know, towards the
10 end of February, you know, they're pretty brown through
11 December and January, from what I've been catching.

12

13 And I just really think this is a good
14 proposal. It would help the community, especially with
15 the low income in the winter months. You know, it
16 would provide income for families in Unit 25D.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Will.

19

20 MR. KOEHLER: Is it -- you said 25D is
21 the unit.

22

23 MR. PETER: Yes.

24

25 MR. KOEHLER: So when I'm looking in
26 the Federal trapping regulations, all rural residents,
27 I'm not seeing Unit 25 in here at all. Am I not
28 reading it.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh, it's
31 there. 19, 21, 24, and 25.

32

33 MR. KOEHLER: Oh, okay. All right. I
34 see.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And 129. I
37 had the same problem.

38

39 MR. KOEHLER: And it's to November 1st
40 to February 28th.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So I guess
43 what I need -- the discussion would be, do you want --
44 it's already in regulation for those -- all of those
45 units. 19, 21, 24, and 25 from November 1st to
46 February 28th.

47

48 MR. KOEHLER: He wants to extend it.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right.

1 MR. KOEHLER: To March 15th.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But he's just
4 talking about 25D. So my question to the Council is do
5 you change it for all of those units because that's the
6 way it's in the regulation.
7
8 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.
9
10 MR. KOEHLER: Or at least for Unit 25.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's the
13 way I would look at it.
14
15 MR. FIRMIN: I would suggest Unit 25A,
16 B, and D. And exclude C possibly.
17
18 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chairman, if I
19 may. We have the same discrepancy. 20E closes later
20 than 25D. And there's more pressure in 20E. And it
21 just doesn't make sense to me. It should be
22 consistent. Because the river -- Yukon River is where
23 the boundary is. And the game is the same each side of
24 the river. There's no difference whatsoever as far as
25 conservation goes.
26
27 So this is a very good proposal.
28
29 Thank you.
30
31 MR. PETER: Okay. Thank you.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
34 All right. So now we have the call. Does anyone have
35 a proposal that they want to bring forth.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: What's going
40 on. You ready.
41
42 MR. FIRMIN: You want it in a motion
43 then?
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yep.
46
47 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. The regulations to
48 change would be Unit 25 lynx trapping. The current
49 season is November 1st to February 28th. And we'd like
50 to change that to November 1st to March 31st to make it

1 coincide with wolverine trapping dates that are
2 currently in Federal regulations. It will also align
3 it with other lynx seasons in the same page. And I
4 believe there is going to be a similar proposal to
5 change the State trapping regulations submitted by the
6 Yukon Flats AC also.

7

8 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to second that and
9 support it.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
12 Discussion. I want to get it clear. It's 25, you
13 said, and you're letting out C. Did I hear you say
14 that.

15

16 MR. FIRMIN: No. I just said Unit 25.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. That's
19 the proposal, is for Unit 25, and no other GMUs, right.

20

21 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Larry.

24

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 I agree with the proposal. But I have a problem with
27 November 1st being the starting date for lynx. People
28 who live off the land for years and years -- I've been
29 trapping off the land for years myself. But anyway, we
30 all know that the lynx are no good till maybe the first
31 week in December. Depends on the weather and other
32 factors.

33

34 But opening it November 1st -- I have a
35 problem with that. Because some people might not know,
36 like these newcomers. And they just put out lynx
37 snares on the 1st of November and they catch a lynx and
38 it's brown. And it's worst. To me, that's a waste.
39 So, you know, I think we should have a discussion on
40 that or leave it the way it is. So, you know, but I
41 thought I would bring out that concern.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's the same
46 where we are. They're pretty brown early like that.
47 Yeah.

48

49 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I think you bring
4 out a great point, but I -- the way I interpret that is
5 that in some areas other trapping opens up around that
6 time. And so if you incidentally catch a lynx during
7 that time, you're not then considered a criminal for
8 doing that. Because you do sometimes.....
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's right.
11
12
13 MR. BASSICH:have bycatch of
14 other animals.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 MR. BASSICH: But I think that.....
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. I
21 remember that discussion. Yeah.
22
23 Okay. So hands up. Will, Andrew,
24 Bill. Will's first.
25
26 MR. KOEHLER: I think we should -- if
27 the purpose of this proposal is to line up the
28 wolverine season with the lynx season it seems to me
29 that this proposal should be for 25A, B, and D.
30 Because 25C for wolverine opens -- or closes on
31 February 28th. So the regulation is already in line
32 for Unit 25C.
33
34 So if the purpose is -- is to have the
35 same area -- for the areas to have the same seasons,
36 then we would want this proposal to have 25A, B, and D.
37 Unless we wanted to put in another proposal just
38 extending 25C for wolverine.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Well,
41 stick to the motion. We're talking about possible
42 changes. So I hear what you're saying.
43
44 Bill and Andrew and then Lester.
45
46 Bill, did you have anything.
47
48 MR. GLANZ: It's just that -- he was
49 clarifying it all. So I'd like to see all of 25. In
50 25C everybody was whining to me about they had to pull

1 their lynx sets out. Well, they didn't have an actual
2 lynx set. They had wolverine sets.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right.
5
6 MR. GLANZ: And so.....
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That ending
9 date is important.
10
11 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.
14
15 Andrew.
16
17 MR. FIRMIN: So you'd rather see all of
18 Unit 25 then, Bill.
19
20 MR. KOEHLER: Yes.
21
22 MR. GLANZ: Yes. Make it simple across
23 the board.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So who
26 seconded. Were you the second.
27
28 MR. GLANZ: I was the second. Yes.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do you want
31 to withdraw so he can re-change the motion.
32
33 MR. GLANZ: Okay. I'll pull it.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Leave
36 it go.
37
38 MR. FIRMIN: I'm fine with it either
39 way. And if Bill -- I was unsure about 25C because I
40 see it's differentiated with the wolverines, but maybe
41 that could be a second proposal for 25C to extend it to
42 March 31st also.
43
44 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah. I would agree with
45 that.
46
47 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. So we'll leave the
48 motion as stated. And I guess to the other effect, I
49 have heard other people talk to the effect of changing
50 the November 1st. But I think the bycatch issue is a

1 fair reason to leave it as is. And also that having
2 that -- changing that November to December you're
3 taking opportunity away from users also at the same
4 time. So I'd like to leave it as stated, from November
5 1st to March 31st.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Lester.

8
9 MR. ERHART: Yeah. That 25C is our
10 area, too, and I think you should include it in there.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So we can
13 just take -- this one is to lynx, so you can make
14 another motion for another proposal. Okay.

15
16 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.

17
18 MR. ERHART: Yeah.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any other
21 discussion. Does everybody understand we're just
22 voting on the lynx. Extending it until March 15th, was
23 it.

24
25 MR. FIRMIN: 31st.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh. You had
28 the 31st. Okay. All in favor.....

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 MR. KOEHLER: If we're going to do.....

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: What.

35
36 MR. KOEHLER: We won't be lined up if
37 we do 31st.....

38
39 REPORTER: Will, turn your mic on.

40
41 MR. KOEHLER:because here it's
42 March.....

43
44 REPORTER: Will.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You need to
47 turn your mic on.

48
49 MR. KOEHLER: I'm sorry. Isn't the
50 wolverine season March 15th in here.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No. It's
2 31st.
3
4 MR. KOEHLER: Oh, I'm sorry.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.
7
8 MR. KOEHLER: Okay.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. It's
11 March 31st.
12
13 MR. KOEHLER: All right. I apologize.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. All
16 right. I guess I heard a call in my mind for question.
17 So all in favor of putting the proposal forward.
18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone
22 opposed.
23
24 (No opposing votes)
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
27 Continue.
28
29 Andrew.
30
31 MR. FIRMIN: I'd like to make a motion
32 to change wolverine trapping in Unit 25C, which is
33 currently November 1st through February 28th, to add
34 the closing date March 31st.
35
36 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do you have
39 any other discussion.
40
41 MR. GLANZ: Well, refer to our previous
42 comments on the last proposal so it would align the
43 current seasons and keep them all closing on the same
44 day.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
47 other discussion.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Question.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The
4 question's been called for. All in favor.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone
9 opposed.
10
11 (No opposing votes)
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Are
14 there any other proposals.
15
16 Andrew.
17
18 MR. FIRMIN: I have another one here.
19 Let me see if I could see it. I have a -- I don't know
20 if there's somebody from the State in there, but I was
21 looking in the State trapping regulations and from the
22 way I read it, you can shoot beavers in the springtime
23 and have no limit on them. And yet in our Federal
24 hunting regs you're only allowed to shoot one per day
25 and one in possession.
26
27 So does that State trapping reg trump
28 our Fed book or should we change that.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, there's
31 a lot of more liberal seasons on this date side. And
32 that's where as subsistence users, if you use the State
33 regulations, you're -- you know, when they say it
34 doesn't affect us, that's where it affects us. So this
35 is one of those. But I don't know if anybody here
36 can.....
37
38 You know what's happened in the past is
39 if the State closes something, then it goes to the
40 Federal season. And in most cases the Federal season
41 would be more liberal. In this case it's not, so I'd
42 say put it in.
43
44 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. So let me see if
45 I've got this worded right. So I guess I would like to
46 make a motion to change the beaver hunting in Unit 25,
47 minus Unit 25C, is how it's written, from October 16th
48 to October 31st as one per day, one in possession. I'd
49 like to change that to align with the State trapping
50 regulations from April 16th to June 10th of no limit.

1 And leave the rest of the -- and go back to the one per
2 day, one in possession after June 10th. And this will
3 reflect the ADF&G trapping regulations so they are in
4 line.

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second that.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
9 other discussion.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Question's
16 been called for. All in favor of submitting that
17 proposal say aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone
22 opposed.

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Are
27 there any other proposals to put forth.

28

29 Andy.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Just as I
32 mentioned, if you want to get into a fisheries one, it
33 might take a little bit of time to deliberate on that
34 one.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I was
37 just giving everybody a chance first. I have one also.
38 But I see Andrew's hand up.

39

40 MR. FIRMIN: I have another one that
41 has to do with coyotes. So I guess I'd like to make a
42 motion to change the coyote trapping regulations in
43 Unit 25, which is currently November 1st to March 31st,
44 to coincide with the coyote hunting season, which is
45 August 10th to April 30th. And that will line up with
46 the wolf hunting and the wolf trapping seasons. It'll
47 keep the coyotes in line with the wolf, if that makes
48 sense.

49

50 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second that.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Virgil wants
2 that clarified. What were the dates again.

3

4 MR. FIRMIN: I'm verifying my
5 scribbling in my notebook here. Currently, the wolf
6 trapping is October 1st to April 30th. And the ending
7 date is the same as the hunting for coyote and wolf;
8 however, the coyote trapping season ends March 31st.
9 So I would like to change that March 31st coyote
10 trapping date to coincide with the wolf hunting and
11 trapping date.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And the dates
14 are.

15

16 MR. FIRMIN: From -- the trapping date
17 would be November 1st to March 31st. Actually, to
18 align with the wolf trapping it would be -- I'm
19 confusing 25 here -- October 1st to April 30th would be
20 the new dates for coyote trapping.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.
23 October, did you say 1st.

24

25 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: To.....

28

29 MR. FIRMIN: April 30th.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER:April
32 30th. Okay. We're -- this is the motion on the floor.

33

34

35 Eva, is something coming up.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Well, no. Madame Chair
38 and Council, just to clarify, which games units for the
39 record.

40

41 MR. FIRMIN: Unit 25.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

44

45 MR. KOEHLER: Could we add Unit 12 to
46 that. Because we have the same problem there.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Unit
49 12 here is October 15th to April 30th now under the
50 Federal regs, which is coinciding with the State.

1 MR. KOEHLER: Oh. Oh, okay. Okay.
2 I'm looking here. So it's our -- okay. Okay.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm looking
5 under coyote. Coyote, right.
6
7 (Council nods affirmatively)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And we have
10 that.
11
12 MR. KOEHLER: Okay.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And I'm going
15 to tell you that instead of bringing a bunch of
16 proposals here, the Upper Fortymile has about four of
17 them that are similar. And Will, if you'd like to come
18 to the next meeting, I told them they have one more
19 chance to get some proposals in. And I think.....
20
21 MR. KOEHLER: Okay.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
24 So instead of bringing all those proposals here and
25 having you guys like add to it, I'm just letting it go
26 through the process. And we'll be taking them up at
27 the -- when they come up at the next meeting.
28
29 All right. Any more discussion on this
30 proposal.
31
32 MR. WOODRUFF: Question.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The
35 question's been called for. All in favor.
36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Anyone
40 opposed.
41
42 (No opposing votes)
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right. I
45 have one. And I had some help writing it. It's
46 regarding the Unit 11 sheep for subsistence. It has
47 been any sheep for a long time. And just hearing all
48 the conservation concerns about sheep, and I just would
49 like to see this go forward to -- and three-quarter
50 curl ram. It's full curl for the regular hunting

1 season, but it's been any sheep for a long time.

2

3 And I think that it's really important.
4 There's areas where the numbers are down and I just
5 don't like the idea of shooting ewes and lambs. And I
6 think it's too hard to tell the difference between a
7 half or quarter curl ewe to a ram. So I want it to be
8 three-quarter curl.

9

10 Any rate, this is the proposal. And if
11 you don't like the language, I can change it. But it's
12 basically to change any sheep in Unit 11 -- Unit 12
13 currently has a full curl ram for subsistence. And
14 when the Park Service gives out permits for the any --
15 the elder hunt that occurs -- they -- I think it's odd
16 that it's so different. But -- and I think there's --
17 I actually was at a subcommittee meeting with some --
18 just a few of the RAC -- I mean the SRC. And I asked
19 Gloria if she felt they could support that. And she
20 said as long as we don't mess with the elder hunt. And
21 the elder hunt has you can't shoot a ewe or a lamb when
22 there's a ewe -- a lamb present. So a barren ewe would
23 be shot, which I'm not too crazy about that either,
24 because I like to see the ewes out there making babies.

25

26 It hasn't been a problem much in the
27 past, but there is some areas where -- and I'm told by
28 Staff that one family goes in -- in one area and shoots
29 ewes and lambs every year. And that's not conservation
30 in my mind. I would like to protect the sheep.
31 There's issues that need to be -- conservation needs to
32 be taking care of them.

33

34 So any rate, that's the proposal.
35 Three-quarter curl ram in Unit 11.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to make the
38 proposal for you, Madame Chair, if we run this through.

39

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

42

43 MR. GLANZ: Okay. I didn't realize
44 there was antler-less hunts for sheep. I never did
45 knew that. That's.....

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Not antler-
48 less, but any sex.

49

50 MR. GLANZ: Well, still. Yeah.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.
2 Yeah.
3
4 MR. GLANZ: Antler-less.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh. So
7 that's a motion for the proposal.
8
9 MR. GLANZ: Yes.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Is
12 there a second.
13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: He beat you
17 to it. Do you guys want to discuss it any further.
18
19 MR. KOEHLER: I would like to support
20 the motion and I'll speak to my support. Of the
21 subsistence users that I know of in the area -- and I
22 do know some of them -- this would not be something
23 that would be hindrance to their hunting. The
24 subsistence users that I know in Unit 11 that are
25 pursuing sheep are usually wanting to take rams for
26 conservation reasons. And so I think this would be a
27 reasonable proposal to put forward and would not put
28 undue hardship on the subsistence hunters that are
29 there and would be good for the resource.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Anyone
32 else.
33
34 MR. WOODRUFF: Question.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Question's
37 been called for. All in favor.
38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone
42 opposed.
43
44 (No opposing votes)
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. And
47 does anyone else have anything.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's noon.
2 So do you want to talk about fish after lunch. Okay.
3 Let's have a lunch break and try to be back at 1:00.
4
5 Thank you.
6
7 (Off record)
8
9 (On record)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
12 We've having some copies made that we wanted to look
13 at. And we're just going to go right into this fish
14 proposal that you spoke of.
15
16 And Andy.
17
18 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
19 So one of the things that I've been thinking for quite
20 a long time and I'd like to start taking some time to
21 have some dialogue and potentially put a proposal out
22 is some protection for the upper river districts,
23 primarily District Five in the Yukon River for fall
24 chum.
25
26 With the decline of the chinook salmon
27 we all know and agree that fall chum is being -- is
28 going to feel a lot greater pressure in the future for
29 people. The importance of fall chum in the Upper.....
30
31 (Lester on cell phone)
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We might have
36 to work this out.
37
38 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Lester, next
41 time I think they don't mind if you jump into the
42 kitchen there.
43
44 MR. ERHART: All right.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Is that okay.
47
48 MR. ERHART: All right. Fine.
49
50 (Laughter)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
2
3 MR. GLANZ: Get me a piece of meat when
4 you're there.
5
6 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, bring out a pizza,
7 too, would you.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm not going
10 to fine you five bucks like Southeast does. I'm just
11 being patient.
12
13 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Sorry. I lost my
14 train of thought.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: How did that
17 happen.
18
19 MR. BASSICH: I was listening to
20 Lester's comments there.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 MR. BASSICH: So bottom line, what I'd
25 like to do is I'd like to entertain a motion to put
26 some protection for fall chum so that people in the
27 upper river districts that that's their only resource
28 now that's available to them along the Yukon River for
29 winter food and also dog food, that that can be
30 protected.
31
32 It seems kind of ironic that I'm
33 talking about this right now when we're having almost
34 record runs of fall chum, but the impetus behind this
35 is that if you look at the long history of fall chum or
36 any fisheries, there's always that cyclic high and
37 lows, crashes, booms, and busts. And so given the
38 amount of time it takes sometimes to put some of these
39 measures into regulation, that's why I'm beginning this
40 right now, so that when the fall chum do crash,
41 hopefully we'll have some tools in place to put some
42 protection and have some equitable use of that fall
43 chum.
44
45 So my idea here -- the first idea that
46 I have -- and I think probably the most plausible -- is
47 to limit this proposal to when the projected run
48 estimates are at 650,000 or less fall chum. That seems
49 to be talking with managers the amount of fish that
50 they feel is absolutely necessary to meet subsistence

1 opportunities and get escapement.

2

3 So this first proposal would basically
4 fall into action when the projected run is 650,000 or
5 less fall chum. And what I'm proposing is that a
6 second pulse protection be put in place at that time.
7 And the reason why I'm choosing the second pulse
8 protection is because we have kind of a grey area
9 during the fishing season when we transition from
10 summer chum to fall chum.

11

12 Managers want to take advantage of that
13 last little bit of summer chum commercial fisheries
14 that takes place. And oftentimes it's very difficult
15 to tease out the difference between the fall chum and
16 the summer chum, so this is an effort to allow people
17 on the Lower River to continue to harvest those summer
18 chum as late as possible, have some economic gain to
19 the people down there, and also provide for subsistence
20 opportunity down in those lower districts.

21

22 The first and second pulses are
23 generally the greatest number of fish that then go up
24 into the border districts. The Porcupine River and the
25 Canadian main stem. And so these are the fish that
26 would be needed to meet escapements up in those areas
27 and would also benefit subsistence users up in there --
28 that area by making sure that adequate numbers are in
29 the run in their areas in their prospective sub-
30 districts within District Five to allow for both
31 escapement and to meet their subsistence needs.

32

33 Once second pulse protection comes
34 through then managers generally by the third and fourth
35 pulse, they have a pretty good feeling for whether or
36 not there's going to be more surplus that could be
37 harvested in the lower river or whether there's going
38 to be shortages and may have to create some
39 restrictions.

40

41 The main reason for this proposal is
42 because of what we call oops management. In the past,
43 we have a long history of managers thinking that a run
44 is going to come in at a certain strength only to find
45 later that either the commercial or the heavy harvest
46 in the lower districts took the surplus and they closed
47 down the upper rivers. So this is by no means meant to
48 be an allocation issue. It's just meant to be a method
49 in the toolbox for managers to assure that escapements
50 are made and subsistence opportunities are met at a

1 reasonable level in the upper districts.

2

3 So I guess I'll just stop right there,
4 Madame Chair. And I guess if -- I'd like to have some
5 discussion with some of the other Council Members. And
6 then maybe we could just make a motion for that.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
9 He's entertaining a proposal to go before the State
10 Board of Fish, which the deadline was when. May 1st,
11 was it. Or some.....

12

13 MR. BASSICH: I believe it's in March.
14 March 25th or something for the State.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But this is
17 the Board of Fish.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Correct.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So did
22 everybody understand what he's trying to propose. And
23 is there some dis -- you know, I don't think we should
24 get into a long debate over -- you know, how should I
25 -- you know, like you would through analysis or
26 anything like that. Just decide if you want to see the
27 proposal go forward.

28

29 MR. KOEHLER: I would like to see this
30 proposal go forward.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Is
33 there any other -- Virgil.

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Maybe I was
36 preoccupied reading something, but I didn't -- in order
37 for the Board to adopt a proposal you have to
38 specifically state what you want them to do. Could you
39 specifically state that so I understand it.

40

41 MR. BASSICH: Very good. Yeah.
42 Absolutely. So my motion would read regarding fall
43 chum on the Yukon River, when projected run estimates
44 are 650,000 fall chum or less, second pulse protection
45 of fall chum would be put in place to move fish up
46 through District Five -- up to District Five
47 unmolested, unharvested.

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Let me try to
50 understand this. I think currently it's -- do we have

1 a fall season manager in the room. We don't.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: No. He left.

4

5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Is Fred -- Fred's here.
6 He understands it. Okay. Currently, Fred, I believe
7 that in order to have a prosecuted commercial fishery
8 there has to be projected a minimum of 500,000 fall
9 chum. Is that what it is. What's the minimum.

10

11 MR. BUE: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
12 Chair. Mr. Umphenour, I believe that is. And it's
13 part of the fall chum management plan. And so I think
14 the proposal would be towards the plan and not just a
15 section in the regulation.

16

17 So you could craft it however you want,
18 but the escapement goal is between 300 and 600,000.
19 And then there's different levels for subsistence and
20 for commercial and then -- and how -- to what level it
21 is. But I think 500,000 seems -- as I recall, is a
22 trigger for threshold for commercial.

23

24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. And if my memory
25 serves me right, at one time we needed I believe
26 670,000 projected before they could have a commercial
27 fishery. And then it got lowered down. And now it's
28 at the lowest it's ever been. And I can remember when
29 we had a big, gigantic fight over lowering the
30 escapement goal. And the Yukon River fall chum was the
31 first escapement -- now my mind -- I'm suffering from
32 old timers disease.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We all have
35 it now.

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Well, we got
38 different classifications for escapement goals. But
39 anyway, it was the very first time that the Board of
40 Fisheries adopted an escapement goal that's not a
41 biological one. But a sustainable escapement goal, I
42 believe, was -- the Yukon River fall chum was the first
43 one the Board of Fisheries did. And I know we had a
44 giant fight over lowering it to 400,000 for a minimum
45 escapement goal.

46

47 And so I don't know exactly what you
48 said, but the way to achieve what you want would be to
49 raise the minimum projection from 500,000 to something
50 higher to ensure that you would have subsistence

1 opportunity. That's the only way you're going to be
2 able to do it in regulation. And then that would go in
3 the fall chum management plan.

4

5 Did I state that correct, Fred.

6

7 MR. BUE: It's pretty much a grey area.
8 Because like you say, I guess first off Ms. Yuhas
9 reminded me that the deadline for these proposals is
10 April 10th. And so for your information. But yeah, I
11 think the management plan you can do -- make different
12 triggers that -- what we're still managing for is the
13 escapement goal. And then how you arrange the
14 allocation and the harvest among the different user
15 groups, that's the Board of Fish business. That's what
16 you as public members give the Board of Fish direction
17 on where you would like that balance to be.

18

19 I can see where you could say that you
20 can't have commercial unless subsistence is fully open.
21 And so that's why -- like you were saying, if it's less
22 than 600,000 then how could you have a commercial
23 fishery start at 500,000 in the current plan. So you'd
24 have to rearrange everything. But it could be that
25 you're not preempting subsistence. You're just putting
26 a different threshold for a different aspect of the
27 management plan. And so you may still be able to have
28 that commercial fishing if you have a run better than
29 500,000. On the surplus above 500,000 would be
30 commercial, I believe, on the first pulse, like Andy
31 says.

32

33 And so maybe it is -- just requires a
34 lot of work by the subcommittees and the RACs and the
35 AC's to do that. I can't say for sure how the Board of
36 Fish would go with that.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: What I would recommend
39 based on my experience is that -- because what can
40 happen -- and I've seen this happen many times -- is
41 the commercial fish manager thinks that the run is
42 stronger than it is. And you never really know for
43 sure what's going to come in the river. And 2000 is a
44 really good example of this. The year 2000 as to what
45 came into the river.

46

47 And so what can happen is the
48 commercial fish manager thinks there's more fish than
49 there really is. And if they fish with drift gillnets
50 in the lower river, and they deploy -- all the

1 commercial fishermen deploy their nets, they're going
2 to har -- even the way it is right now, they still
3 harvest about 50 percent of the available fish. And
4 that's with only 300 to 400 fisherman fishing. But
5 they have over 700 commercial fishing permits in the
6 Lower Yukon. Because they're drift gillnet fishing
7 with 300 feet long nets.

8
9 And so if the commercial fish manager
10 messes up and then the fish don't come in like they
11 think they're going to -- although they've been
12 managing much more conservatively recently. But still
13 what could happen is they have a commercial fishery in
14 the lower river and then they end up having to close
15 subsistence in Y5 especially, where that is the only
16 fish that they have. And so the only way to really
17 address that is to raise the minimum number of fish
18 projected so that the commercial fish manager, that'll
19 put the monkey on his back to make damn sure that he's
20 got that many fish before he prosecutes the commercial
21 fishery.

22
23 And so my recommendation would be to
24 raise the lower limit for 500,000 projection to 600,000
25 projection. That would be my recommendation. But at
26 one time it was up to 670,000 projection before they
27 could have a commercial fishery. But that was after we
28 had had several really bad years on fall chums.

29
30 So that would be my recommendation,
31 Andy.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. And
36 thank you for reaffirming my oops management scenario.
37 That's exactly what I'm referring to when I say oops
38 management. It's been a pretty consistent pattern up
39 until recent years with the current manager that that
40 has happened.

41
42 I guess I'd like to maybe get some of
43 your perspectives on the current pulse protection that
44 we have in place for chinook salmon. Because what I'm
45 attempting to do here is put something in place that is
46 very similar to what that is. And that is that when
47 the projection of a certain number, managers will be
48 mandated to make sure that that second pulse is moved
49 through the lower river with no commercial harvest on
50 it. And that that fish is then going to be available

1 for escapement and subsistence opportunity.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: So we have something in
6 place right now that.....

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: If I could,
9 this -- instead of getting into the full discussion is
10 that you're putting forth a proposal, right.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So can we
15 just talk about if we're going to put the proposal
16 forward or not.

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Well, I think it's
19 important to tease some of this stuff out because some
20 of this may affect whether or not the proposal even has
21 a chance of being adopted. So that's what I'm trying
22 to do. I'm trying to begin a dialogue because I see
23 this as a long term safety net for people in the upper
24 river. It's a very, very important one for people who
25 rely on fall chum. And that's from Tanana up to Eagle.
26 That is our only resource. And with the king numbers
27 at the low numbers that they are right now, there is a
28 lot of pressure.....

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

31

32 MR. BASSICH:right now. And it
33 will continue to grow on that fall chum. And I see the
34 opportunity for oops management to happen again in the
35 future. And that's what I'm trying to avoid have
36 happening.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So -- well,
39 just in the essence of time.....

40

41 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair, this is
42 Jeff Estensen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
43 Forgive me for interrupting, but I just wanted to let
44 you guys know that I'm on the line and -- and just I'm
45 here. So thank you. Sorry.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Well,
48 thank you for letting us know.

49

50 I guess I would like to get a feel from

1 you guys from the Yukon now. Is this something you'd
2 want to pursue.

3

4 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Lester.

7

8 MR. ERHART: Yeah. Last year they were
9 kind of late opening the fall chum season in Tanana.
10 They didn't open it till August 11th. So it put kind
11 of a hardship on us.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So this
14 proposal is something you'd like to see.

15

16 MR. ERHART: Yeah.

17

18 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair, this is
19 Jeff Estensen. Just if I may.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes. Go
22 ahead, Jeff.

23

24 MR. ESTENSEN: There's a point of
25 clarification. Actually, it was July 31st that the
26 District Five went to five day a week schedule. And I
27 think it was August 11th is that we went to seven day a
28 week in District Four. So.....

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Lester.

31

32 MR. ERHART: Yes. They still wouldn't
33 let us fish though till the 11th. And could I tell
34 why.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Sure you can.

37

38

39 MR. ERHART: All right. There was a
40 guy poached a few king salmon. He -- somebody snatched
41 on him. Fish and Game didn't catch him. So he went --
42 they went there and got the net and took the fish and
43 everything. And so this was around the end of July.
44 And so they told us that we can't have no nets in the
45 water for two weeks because what he did. All right.
46 So this fall they took them to court and the judge
47 threw it out because the arresting officer didn't have
48 the right paperwork. So we got two weeks of nothing.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Did you have

1 something, Rhonda. Okay.
2
3 MS. PITKA: No. I agree. I agree with
4 the proposal.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. So I'm
7 hearing some agreement on a proposal. I think we're
8 okay. There was a -- did you make a motion.
9
10 MR. BASSICH: I don't believe I did.
11 No.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Go ahead.
14
15 MR. BASSICH: So I'll put this in a
16 motion then. In times of projected run estimates of
17 650,000 fall chum or less, second pulse protection
18 should be put in place to -- with no commercial fishing
19 up through District Five.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do we hear a
22 second.
23
24 MR. GLANZ: I'll second it.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
27 more discussion.
28
29 Virgil.
30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. You made the
32 motion for 650,000. Is that what it was.
33
34 MR. BASSICH: Correct.
35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think it would have a
37 better chance of passing if it was 600,000, which is
38 100,000 more than what it is now.
39
40 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Well, Madame
41 Chair, I'm happy to take Virgil's advice on that and
42 move it to 600,000 for the projected run.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Concur from
45 the second.
46
47 MR. GLANZ: I concur with that.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. So
50 it's 600,000. Do we need any more discussion to put a

1 proposal forward to the Fish Board. It doesn't mean
2 it's passing. You know, it's just a proposal.

3

4 All in favor.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. It
9 passes.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

16 Virgil.

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. These Yukon Fall
19 chums are a unique fish. I brought some strips in over
20 there. People can try if they've never had any of
21 them. There were caught in the rapids, which is 40
22 miles upriver from the Village of Tanana. But the
23 marketing on the fall chums is -- well, fall chum
24 caught at the bridge has a higher oil content than a
25 Copper River red caught at the mouth of the Copper
26 River. And so there is a very great demand for these
27 fish, especially the ones caught in the lower river.

28

29 And there will be a lot of pressure put
30 on the manager. There always is. To open that fishery
31 up and let them fish. And like I said earlier, even
32 with the reduced number of fishermen, they still have
33 the capability to catch over 50 percent of the river
34 that are in the district at one time.

35

36 Thank you, Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I
39 think we've got some oil in our fish, too. So.....

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. WOODRUFF: I'd like to just make
44 one comment.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes. Go
47 ahead.

48

49 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm going to support
50 this proposal because as I remember, we've got -- we

1 got shut down three or four times with this type of
2 management in the past. And it really hurts the upper
3 river.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thanks for
8 that additional comment. We already voted on it.
9 That's great. All right.

10

11 Okay. Do we have any other proposals
12 that you want to put forward to the Federal Board or to
13 the Fish Board. And we want to just clarify. I guess
14 there's -- like those trapping proposals. If there's
15 anything you wanted to put in, the State trapping thing
16 is a year out. Okay. And then if you want to do
17 something to make it parallel, the only avenue left is
18 the agenda change request to make any changes on the
19 State Board of Game.

20

21 MR. KOEHLER: Did we ever figure out a
22 statement that we were going to give to the U.S. Fish
23 and Wildlife Service. That we were going to do.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No. We did
26 vote on it.

27

28 MR. KOEHLER: We did. But we were
29 going to defer -- we deferred to after lunch the
30 statement that we were going to try to make for.....

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I think we
33 all went to lunch on that. I don't know what that
34 done.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I
39 think that we will -- I'm going to appoint a little
40 committee. You're one and Virgil's one on that
41 committee. And Rhonda. She's agreeing with Virgil, so
42 I think it would be great for you three to work on
43 that. And.....

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah, Andy.

48

49 MR. BASSICH: I just wonder if --
50 regarding what Will just said, if us just drafting a

1 letter from the Eastern Interior would serve equally as
2 trying to have a motion here with something. It would
3 give us more time to really do a better job of creating
4 our statement. And we've done that in the past.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, that's
7 what I was suggesting right now.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Is that what we're going
10 to do.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Uh-
13 huh.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I was under the
16 impression it was going to be a motion or something.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Not this
19 minute. We want to work up a letter and.....

20
21 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.
24 They're going to bring it to us, yeah.

25
26 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
29 I'm having a senior moment. Yeah, Jennifer.

30
31 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
32 In regards to deadlines.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.

35
36 MS. YUHAS: The State Board of Game
37 Statewide proposals are due May 1st. And that includes
38 the antler-less hunts.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Jennifer
41 informs me she's losing her voice. So she's not really
42 sad right now.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Maybe she is.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 MS. YUHAS: So the Region is next year.

1 The Statewide is due.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Next year.
4 Statewide is what's coming up next year.
5
6 MS. YUHAS: Due May 1st.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And which
9 is.....
10
11 MR. BASSICH: May 1st.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER:May 1st.
14 Yes.
15
16 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
19
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: There's no proposals
21 for our area coming up this year, for Board of Game.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, ask
24 it on the record so we are all clear. No -- what did
25 you just say.
26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Okay. The cycle
28 -- what Jennifer was trying to tell us for the Board of
29 Game is Statewide. And so those proposals are due the
30 1st of May.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right.
33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Through the Board of
35 Game. And so our Region, the Eastern Chair Region, is
36 not going to be addressed at the upcoming winter's
37 Board of Game schedule. But like we already did.....
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's a year
40 out.
41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: The Board of Fish is.
43 And those proposals are due the 10th of April.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right. I
46 think we understand that.
47
48 Okay. Can we recess for one second. I
49 want to say something here just to clarify. Well, I
50 don't need to.

1 (Pause)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: If you look
4 on the agenda, we have under U.S. Fish and Wildlife
5 Service, NWRS acronym, Statewide Regulation Proposal.
6 I think -- is that the -- on this -- what's this NWRS.
7 What does that mean. National Wildlife Refuge System.
8 Okay. I got it.

9

10 And that's with what we're talking
11 about. So we'll bring it up at that time. Okay.
12 That's when we'll bring up -- we'll have -- try to get
13 everybody together who had the letter and bring it up
14 at that time. Okay.

15

16 So next on the agenda. Tribal -- let's
17 see now. Agency reports. And you've got a time limit
18 of 15 minutes or less. Tribal governments are first.
19 Is there a Tribal government report.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: TCC here?

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Or they gave
28 it earlier. Yeah. I think we got that yesterday as a
29 dual with the RAC.

30

31 Any Native organizations have any
32 reports for the Council.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. We're
37 up to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

38

39 Oh. Did you -- come up and state your
40 name. And use the mic, please.

41

42 MR. CARLO: Good afternoon, Chair and
43 Board. My name is Glenn Carlo. I'm with Denakkanaaga.
44 And I'd just like to invite any agencies to join in our
45 conference on June 1st through June 5th at Anvik. And
46 all that information can be absorbed and brought back
47 to the Villages. That our 42 Villages come together
48 for information, singing and dancing and good food.
49 And we could use all -- any donations of fish.

50

1 Thank you.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And that's 42
4 Villages get together.
5
6 MR. CARLO: Yeah. Uh-huh.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
9
10
11 MR. CARLO: Yeah.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And it's June
14 6th.
15
16 MR. CARLO: June 1st to June 5th.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh, okay.
19
20 MR. CARLO: Thank you.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
23 Thank you. Are there any other Native organizations.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Arctic
28 National Wildlife Refuge. And then after that it will
29 be the Yukon Flats.
30
31 MR. GLASPELL: Good afternoon, Madame
32 Chair and Council. For the record, my name is Brian
33 Glaspell. I'm the Refuge Manager at Arctic National
34 Wildlife Refuge.
35
36 Last year in October at your meeting I
37 presented to you a summary of activities that might be
38 of interest to you at Arctic Refuge. And you have in
39 your packets an update of that summary. A lot of the
40 information is similar to what you heard previously
41 because it's -- we've just gone through the winter and
42 haven't had an opportunity to go out and update many of
43 those studies.
44
45 What is new is that our Comprehensive
46 Conservation Plan, the final version was released at
47 the end of January. That's the first item in your
48 packets. And I think you have this planning handbook
49 in your packets as well. And so I'm going to focus the
50 bulk of my time on going over the relevant details of

1 that plan and save some time for questions.

2

3 So there's been quite a bit of press
4 about our plan. And most of that is focused on the
5 wilderness recommendations. And I'd like to emphasize
6 that that's just one portion of the plan. There's a
7 lot of other meat to it that guides our day-to-day
8 activities on the Refuge. And I'll go over a few of
9 those.

10

11 There are really three principle
12 components to the plan. The first part is the part
13 that sets our general vision for the Refuge. And there
14 is literally a vision statement in there. And then
15 unlike the narrative that describes the general desired
16 future condition of the Refuge. And that's set down
17 right from our legislated purposes and from a lot of
18 the feedback that we got from the public.

19

20 The second part of the plan, which is
21 really the meat in terms of the management guidance
22 contains goals and objectives. There are nine broad
23 goals and each of those has specific objectives within
24 it. And I might call your attention if you all have
25 this planning update number five, on page four, there's
26 a discussion of each of those goals and what changed,
27 where there were changes made between the draft and the
28 final. You might be particularly interested in goal
29 number four. And that's referenced in the lower
30 righthand corner there on page four of your planning
31 update.

32

33 We got quite a bit of feedback on that
34 goal. And it speaks directly to what the Council here
35 is convened to do. And I'll just read that one
36 outright. The Refuge in consultation with appropriate
37 parties addresses concerns about proposed actions that
38 may be substantially or directly affect subsistence or
39 cultural resources, rural subsistence or cultural uses
40 or the rights of Tribes. So the important point here
41 is this is one of nine key goals that's going to guide
42 our annual budgeting and work planning process for the
43 next 15 or 20 years.

44

45 What you all do and what we're talking
46 about here at this meeting is critical. It's one of
47 the key pieces that will guide our management decision-
48 making for years to come.

49

50 The final sort of key component of the

the preparation in the plan included
3 completion of an EIS, an environmental impact
4 statement. And there were six alternatives presented
5 in that EIS. And the general narrative description of
6 the vision for the Refuge and the goals and objectives
7 do not vary across those alternatives. What did vary
8 across the alternatives is wilderness recommendations,
9 wild and scenic river recommendations, and various
10 packages of specific management approaches for the
11 Kongakut River, which is the -- one of the most heavily
12 visited portions of the Refuge and something we heard a
13 lot of concern about during scoping for preparation of
14 the plan.

15

16 So on the back of your planning update,
17 the very back page, the preferred alternative is
18 described in some detail. The alternative that was
19 selected is alternative E. In that alternative, the
20 bulk of the Refuge would be recommended for wilderness
21 designation. At present there's about 7.2 million
22 acres that is designated -- that was designated in
23 ANILCA. And in this plan we recommend an additional
24 approximately 12.3 million acres for wilderness
25 designation.

26

27 Removed from consideration are any
28 private lands of course within the Refuge and lands
29 that are near and adjacent to Arctic Village and to
30 Kaktovik.

31

32 I'd like to emphasize that a wilderness
33 recommendation is just that. It takes an act of
34 Congress to create any new wilderness. And unless and
35 until Congress acts on the recommendation in this plan,
36 we'll continue to manage the Refuge just like we do
37 now. If at some future date Congress passed a bill and
38 designated any additional portions of the Refuge
39 wilderness, there's very little that would change in
40 terms of public use and access or subsistence
41 activities.

42

43 As you well know, most all of that
44 stuff is protected in ANILCA. The nature of uses and
45 activities within the currently designated wilderness
46 portion of Arctic Refuge aren't different than on the
47 remainder of the Refuge. And nothing in that sense
48 would change.

49

50 It's a really important point to make.

1 I think in some of the media accounts and some of the
2 discussions I've heard over the last month regarding
3 this plan, there's a lot of concern about what a
4 wilderness recommendation and potential future
5 designation would mean. And it's important to
6 understand that for subsistence users what it would
7 mean is that the habitats that support the wildlife
8 that they depend on are protected in perpetuity. It
9 would not mean that their opportunities to access or
10 use those areas in the same way they do now would
11 change at all.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I have a
14 quick question. This means they're eligible for
15 wilderness. It doesn't mean that they are wilderness.
16 Or -- or.....

17

18 MR. GLASPELL: That.....

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I mean
21 there's two different things. We ran into this with
22 the Park Service and it makes a lot of confusion. It
23 doesn't mean that you're turning it into the total
24 wilderness right now. You're taking all of the area
25 and making it recommended or qualified I guess is what
26 you're saying for wilderness.

27

28 MR. GLASPELL: That's correct. You
29 used several different words there. But essentially I
30 think what you're getting at I would agree with here.
31 Yes. Once again to repeat, we're not making any new
32 wilderness and neither the Service nor the President
33 for that matter can make new wilderness. It takes an
34 act of Congress.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So when.....

37

38 MR. GLASPELL: We're merely
39 recommending that the lands that have wilderness
40 character -- wilderness characteristics be designated.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: How long does
43 it stay in that status under this if this went through.

44

45

46 MR. GLASPELL: It stays in that status
47 unless and until Congress says otherwise. Until they
48 act to make it wilderness or take some other action.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So you took

1 the whole Refuge system up there. Is that what the
2 12.28 is. The entire.....

3
4 MR. GLASPELL: That's the bulk of the
5 remainder of the Refuge. As I said, the lands adjacent
6 to Kaktovik and Arctic Village were removed. They're
7 not recommended for wilderness designation.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And are you
10 coming to us for -- or is this a done deal.

11
12 MR. GLASPELL: This is a done deal.
13 The.....

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.

16
17 MR. GLASPELL: We're.....

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

20
21 MR. GLASPELL: We're still in a 30-day
22 holding pattern essentially.....

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The
25 final.....

26
27 MR. GLASPELL:which follows the
28 release of any IS. And at some point a record of
29 decision will be signed.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. I just
32 wanted to clarify that. So go ahead with the rest of
33 your report.

34
35 MR. GLASPELL: Well, that's the bulk of
36 what I had to share with you about the plan. I think
37 again the point I'd like to emphasize is that the meat
38 of the plan is the part that guides our management over
39 the next 15 to 20 years. The goals and objectives in
40 the management guidelines in that section of the plan.
41 The wilderness recommendations are important in the
42 sense that they make clear the desired future condition
43 of the area. And beyond that, they don't change our
44 day-to-day management. And even if Congress were to
45 act and designate those areas, there's very little that
46 would change about our day-to-day management.

47
48 The key thing is that the protections
49 that are now in place are largely administrative
50 decisions. The Refuge is zoned in what we call a

1 minimal management category. That's described in some
2 detail in the plan itself. Those same management
3 approaches would be protected in perpetuity through a
4 wilderness designation. A wilderness designation would
5 not create something new in terms of the management
6 regime that's on the landscape now.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: How does that
9 affect subsistence access.

10

11 MR. GLASPELL: It doesn't.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: How about on
14 a -- with a snowmachine.

15

16 MR. GLASPELL: Snowmachines are
17 authorized in wilderness and outside of wilderness for
18 subsistence access. That's protected in 1110(a) of
19 ANILCA.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: How about for
22 four-wheelers.

23

24 MR. GLASPELL: Four-wheelers are
25 prohibited on the Refuge whether it's wilderness or
26 not.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. The
29 thing that came up in Wrangell-St. Elias was small
30 motors for like chainsaws. And it got real complicated
31 for us on the use of chainsaws for cutting firewood.
32 Because it wasn't including subsistence. So what does
33 it do with small motors and chainsaws.

34

35 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah. Chainsaws would
36 be authorized for subsistence. For the general public
37 to go in and use a chainsaw in a designated wilderness
38 area, no. That would be prohibited.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And ice
41 fishing. And an ice auger.

42

43 MR. GLASPELL: That's a good question.
44 An ice auger, generally speaking motors of that kind
45 are prohibited in wilderness. For subsistence use, I
46 don't know the answer.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So by -- this
49 is a done deal. This will probably be out in the final
50 rule. So when you guys down the road come and talk to

1 -- say okay. We want to take this many acres and turn
2 it into wilderness, that's when we get to talk about it
3 again.

4
5 MR. GLASPELL: I'm not sure I
6 understand your question.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. I
9 know. My mind's pretty simple.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: How it
14 affects the subsistence user is right now these are not
15 turned into -- these are what you're calling qualified
16 for wilderness.

17
18 MR. GLASPELL: They're recommended for
19 wilderness.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I thought
22 that meant that it doesn't make it a wilderness
23 instantly.

24
25 MR. GLASPELL: That's correct.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So down the
28 road if it's qualified to be wilderness -- so down the
29 road somewhere somebody is going to say well, I want
30 this area turned into wilderness. Is that when we get
31 to comment on it again.

32
33 MR. KOEHLER: We don't get to comment
34 on it.

35
36 MR. GLASPELL: We are saying right now
37 that we recommend these areas to be designated as
38 wilderness. But again that can only happen if Congress
39 acts. If Congress takes this up and passes a law
40 designating wilderness. There's no further action by
41 the Service or by you that would make wilderness. If
42 there were a law -- if there were a bill to come before
43 Congress, you as a citizen and every other citizen in
44 the United States would have an opportunity to be
45 involved in that process, like the normal lawmaking
46 process.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So is it too
49 late for us to say we disagree with that.

50

1 MR. KOEHLER: We do not have a say in
2 this. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can legally
3 put area up as being qualified for.....

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

6
7 MR. KOEHLER:wilderness area
8 without a public process.

9
10 MR. GLASPELL: Well, I'd like to.....

11
12 MR. KOEHLER: If I understand it right.
13 I'm not accusing anything or anything like that.

14
15 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah. That's not quite
16 accurate. There was a lengthy and extensive public
17 process that went into the production of this plan and
18 the resulting wilderness recommendations. This began
19 back in 2010. There were meetings held all over Alaska
20 and some in the Lower 48. And we received almost a
21 million public comments. That's all detailed in this
22 update that you have. There's a breakdown of the
23 proportion of those comments that came from people in
24 Alaska and outside and from various advocacy
25 organizations and so on.

26
27 So we did not go into a closed room and
28 come up with this. We engaged the public in the State
29 of Alaska and Native organizations and so on to almost
30 set an unprecedented level. A million comments is no
31 small thing.

32
33 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you. I apologize
34 for saying that wrong.

35
36 MR. GLASPELL: No worries.

37
38 MS. PITKA: Oh. I just wanted to thank
39 you for endorsing alternative E. I also am the
40 Chairwoman of the Council of Athabascan Tribal
41 Governments. It's an organization that represents ten
42 Tribal governments in the Yukon Flats. And this
43 alternative has been endorsed by our Board and the
44 Boards of Venetie and Arctic Village.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MR. GLASPELL: Yes. Thank you. And I
49 should add that in the last month I've traveled with
50 various other members of my staff and representatives

1 from our regional office to Kaktovik, to Arctic
2 Village, to Venetie, to Fort Yukon. We presented the
3 details of this plan to the Tribal Councils and other
4 community members in each of those places. And I
5 wouldn't say that we had unanimous support for
6 everything, but we received generally pretty strong,
7 positive feedback.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Bill.

10

11 MR. GLANZ: Yes. Thanks, Madame Chair.
12 Yeah. I want to tell you guys that are against it
13 write your Congressman. Because Don Young's against
14 it. And I know Murkowski and Sullivan are. So they
15 can stop the funding for a lot of this stuff and put
16 this stuff to rest. I mean, you know, so that's --
17 that's my recommendation. If you don't like it, get a
18 hold of your Congressman and senators. Because nothing
19 comes through until they fund it or adopt a CFR on it.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. And if
22 I tax my brain for remembering, we can't write letters
23 to Legislators as a Council. We have to write our
24 letters individually.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Unless we have a Supreme
27 Court decision saying that we can.....

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. If you
30 have something important, you might want to put it on
31 the record.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: No, I was being
34 facetious.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Will.

37

38 MR. KOEHLER: I may not have my
39 information right, but I know that there have been
40 problems in other Federal -- and Parks in particular,
41 where they have had these desig -- you know, what did
42 they call them. Required -- possible for -- possible
43 wilderness areas designated. Not designated by
44 Congress, but put in as fitting the requirements for a
45 wilderness area. And the agency developing a policy
46 that manages that area as a wilderness area.

47

48 And I've heard that -- you know, we've
49 had a little bit of -- we've had some conversations
50 with that in Wrangell-St. Elias with the area that I am

1 and is designated as potential wilderness area. And,
2 you know, they've made suggestions that I should be
3 prepared for in the future if they manage it. If they
4 start managing it as a wilderness area. Even though it
5 is not designated, their policy would be to manage it
6 as it is. And then at that point, I would no longer be
7 able to use a chainsaw or generator in the form of my
8 commercial actions. Not in my subsistence actions.

9

10 So I think that's something to be aware
11 of as a possible danger to our lifestyle.

12

13 MR. GLASPELL: Madame Chair, if I could
14 respond directly to that. We differ from the Park
15 Service and the Forest Service for that matter in that
16 we have specific National policy that says here in
17 Alaska we do not manage recommended wilderness areas.
18 As wilderness, we manage them to protect the features
19 that make them eligible to be wilderness. And in this
20 specific case at Arctic Refuge that means we manage
21 them in the minimal management category in precisely
22 the same way they have been managed for the last 25
23 years.

24

25 MR. KOEHLER: I was right in saying
26 that that does happen in other Federal agencies.

27

28 MR. GLASPELL: I won't speak for the
29 other Federal agencies. I'm not as clear about their
30 policies. But I can tell you that we have policy on
31 Refuge lands in Alaska that says that specifically does
32 not happen.

33

34 MR. KOEHLER: Excellent. Thank you
35 very much.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Bill.

38

39 MR. GLANZ: One more question. And I'm
40 not against it. I mean I know it's in the Park Service
41 there. You can't -- I can't ride a four-wheeler, but
42 the Rangers ride four-wheelers. Do your Rangers use
43 four-wheelers where you're working.

44

45 MR. GLASPELL: We do not.

46

47 MR. GLANZ: Huh?

48

49 MR. GLASPELL: We do not.

50

1 MR. GLANZ: You do not. Okay. No
2 problem.
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 MR. GLANZ: I just wanted to say well,
7 then I can.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Just keep it
10 that way.
11
12 (Laughter)
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.
15
16 MR. GLASPELL: If I could add one more
17 comment.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes. Go
20 ahead.
21
22 MR. GLASPELL: I'm certainly not here
23 to convince you to be in favor of wilderness or not.
24 But I think it's important to understand that
25 wilderness is not the end in itself. It's not a goal
26 in itself here. Our planning policy says that in the
27 development of a plan like this we're supposed to look
28 at the Legislative purposes of the Refuge. We're
29 supposed to identify the special values of the place by
30 getting feedback from the public. And then we're
31 supposed to identify programs and procedures to protect
32 those things. And through this planning process we
33 identified wilderness as a tool. To be the best tool
34 to protect the values and the conditions on the Refuge.
35
36
37 And at the end of the day, a wilderness
38 recommendation and potential future designation is
39 aimed at protecting the wild, natural character of the
40 landscape. The habitat that the wildlife rely on.
41 That the subsistence users rely on.
42
43 So it's an important point of
44 clarification that the end goal is not to create a
45 wilderness. It's to protect the landscape. And
46 wilderness is one tool that we can do that with.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anything
49 else.
50

1 MR. GLANZ: Mainly it's just a tool to
2 stop development is what it really amounts to. I mean
3 when you really analyze it, that's just all it is.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Not
6 the end result of this, but I just -- maybe you could
7 just hit on a million comments. And what's frustrating
8 for Alaskans I think as a whole is to -- if we were on
9 a different side of something, how do you weigh out a
10 million comments to the people here. Especially the
11 people that it might affect. I mean are we one for
12 one.

13
14 MR. GLASPELL: It's not a vote. And
15 that's a really important point and I'm glad you asked
16 that. When we get comments, you don't stack them up
17 and compare the size of one stack to another. The
18 point of getting comments is to help us identify
19 significant issues, not to weigh the relative favor
20 among the public for one path versus another.

21
22 So when I say a million comments,
23 that's a measure of the level of public interest in
24 this plan. It's not to say that 99 comments from
25 somewhere other than Alaska would outweigh one comment
26 from Alaskans. What matters at the end is the meat of
27 that comment. Is it substantive. Does it address an
28 issue that we can do something about or point out a
29 flaw or failing in our reasoning. That kind of thing.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Virgil has a
32 question.

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. How many of
35 the letters were form letters from various
36 organizations that try to get a whole gob of people to
37 send in a form letter.

38
39 MR. GLASPELL: A good proportion of
40 them. So I should say that one entire volume of the
41 four volume plan contains the full text of all the
42 substantive comments we received and our responses to
43 those comments. A second entire volume of the plan
44 indexes all the comments and contains a whole bunch of
45 summary tables and comparisons so you can slice and
46 dice where the comments came from and how many came
47 from which organization any way that you choose.

48
49 There's a summary of that in this
50 planning update that you have in front of you. And I'm

1 looking for the right page so I can point you in the
2 right direction here. Page 12. And it generally says
3 that in the second phase of the comment period -- so we
4 began with -- by inviting general comments, scoping
5 comments to help us identify issues. Then we developed
6 this draft plan and invited comment on the draft plan.
7
8

9 At that stage we received as you can
10 see here approximately 612,000 comments. Of those,
11 just shy of 2,000 were original statements. Thirty-six
12 percent of those were from Alaska. There were 26
13 different groups the developed form letter campaigns.
14 And 610,000 approximately of the comments came in that
15 format.
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Virgil.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. It would have
20 been nice to had this and read it before we had our
21 meeting. But reading there, it says of these comments
22 1,988 were original statements. And so that's out of
23 the million comments. That's all that were not really
24 a form letter.
25

26 MR. GLASPELL: That's out of the
27 612,000 comments.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Where did the
30 million come from. I'm sorry. Where did the million
31 come from.
32

33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

34
35 MR. GLASPELL: As I was just
36 explaining, there were two phases.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh, okay.
39

40 MR. GLASPELL: We began the process
41 with a general scoping period.
42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I guess my
44 question is just for the purpose of the public here --
45 or I mean our Council -- is how do you weigh the 2,000
46 that were probably substantive to those form letters.
47

48 MR. UMPHENOUR: And the 36 percent from
49 Alaska.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And Virgil's
2 reminding me 36 percent from Alaska. How do you weigh
3 it.

4
5 MR. GLASPELL: Well, again there is no
6 weighting. It's not a vote process. The purpose of
7 soliciting comment is to provide information. To get
8 useful feedback.

9
10 I mentioned earlier that one of the
11 things we do is identify the special values of the
12 Refuge. It doesn't matter if 100,000 people identify a
13 value or if one person does. If it makes sense. If
14 it's consistent with the legislated purposes and so on,
15 then it gets consideration.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Virgil.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I think you guys
20 did a good job writing this thing up from -- I haven't
21 got to look at it long. I mean for completely. But I
22 really like that paragraph there because you actually
23 break it down into how many were form letters and et
24 cetera. So that was good, I think.

25
26 MR. GLASPELL: Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anything
29 else, Council Members.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

34 Another.....

35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: And like I said, I
37 would have liked to have had this in advance. But the
38 musk ox. The State has been really concerned about the
39 musk ox up in your Refuge and on the North Slope. And
40 do you have anything to add to what you've got written
41 in this report here.

42
43 MR. GLASPELL: Well, we flew a survey
44 this last spring and we didn't find any musk ox on the
45 Refuge. That's a significant change from years past.
46 We -- there's a subsistence hunt there for musk ox that
47 has effectively been closed now for several years
48 because there's just simply nothing to hunt.

49
50 So we know that some of those musk ox

1 have moved east and west. We occasionally see musk ox
2 on the Refuge at other times of the year, but it has
3 been some time since we've seen them during our spring
4 surveys. I don't know that we have a good sense of
5 exactly what's going on at this point and whether that
6 represents an overall population decline or just a
7 movement of what we used to have there.

8

9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I know the
10 State was really concerned because there were I don't
11 know how many grizzly bears. But some grizzly bears
12 were keyed in on the musk ox. And, you know, the State
13 did open a special hunting season and they eventually
14 went up and actually did kill a couple of them
15 themselves. The State did. That were keyed in on the
16 musk ox.

17

18 So my question is there were musk ox
19 there on the Refuge ten, fifteen, twenty years though,
20 weren't there.

21

22 MR. GLASPELL: There sure were. Yes.

23

24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Did
27 you have anything else.

28

29 MR. GLASPELL: That's it.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
32 Thank you. Appreciate it.

33

34 MR. GLASPELL: Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Next is the
37 Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

38

39 MR. MATTHEWS: We're going to -- I need
40 to introduce some people, but I need to know which is
41 the hot seat here, so I make sure.....

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's yours,
44 Vince.

45

46 MR. MATTHEWS: Oh. All right. Well,
47 thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm joking.

50

1 MR. MATTHEWS: Well, I just want to
2 warm it up for my supervisors coming up here.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 MR. MATTHEWS: Sorry. As you know, I
9 used to work for and, et cetera, and now I work for the
10 three Refuges. So real quickly, we wanted to have a
11 lot of Refuge information technicians. We lost
12 funding. And so then recently we were able to hire
13 Paul Williams back, who was speaking yesterday on his
14 own. So we now do have another RIT, which I will
15 introduce in a second.

16
17 I also deal with permits, so when you
18 talk about 25D I'm the one that enters those wonderful
19 things in, with input from others.

20
21 Now I will go into the other thing that
22 came up real quickly here. It was a cooperative effort
23 with the State to conduct a waterfowl harvest survey.
24 You do not have jurisdiction of a waterfowl, but the
25 point was it was a very cooperative effort at a last
26 minute to do a waterfowl harvest survey.

27
28 Well, we wouldn't have been able to do
29 it with the person I need to have come up here, which
30 would be our current Refuge information technician.
31 And that would be Julie Mailer. So she may want to
32 introduce herself and then we'll go into the regular
33 program.

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Vince, is it possible
36 to focus that thing. I think my eyeballs are out of
37 focus on it.

38
39 MR. MATTHEWS: Well, I'm not in the hot
40 seat to do that.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MR. MATTHEWS: No. Someone else can do
45 that. But anyways, Julie should.....

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: He's moving
48 out of the hot seat.

49
50 MR. MATTHEWS: So maybe Julie just

1 wants to intro -- maybe she just wants to introduce
2 herself.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: What did you
5 do, scare her already?

6

7 MR. MATTHEWS: We couldn't have pulled
8 off that harvest survey. We wouldn't have been able to
9 pull off a lot of other things without the support of
10 Staff like that. So.....

11

12 MS. MAILER: Hi. My name is Julie
13 Mailer. You need to excuse me. I have a bad cold.
14 But I got hired on locally from Fort Yukon to work with
15 the Fish and Wildlife. And what I've been doing is
16 working with kids in camps and then traveling, doing
17 the AMBCC waterfowl survey, and a lot of odds and ends.
18 So I enjoy working with them and my people, I should
19 say.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
22 That's great.

23

24 MR. MATTHEWS: And also the Flats may
25 see her on the river this summer. She'll be working
26 close on river activities assuming we can get funding
27 beyond -- her term ends in May. So we're working on
28 continuing her term. But again it's subject to
29 funding.

30

31 MR. BERTRAM: Good afternoon, Madame
32 Chair and Council Members. I'm Mark Bertram and a
33 wildlife biologist with Yukon Flats.

34

35 And you're all familiar I think with
36 Yukon Flats. It's a 10,000 square mile wetland basin.
37 Very significant for waterfowl. It's one of the
38 reasons why it was established. So we spend a lot of
39 our time inventorying waterfowl on the Refuge.
40 So I thought what I'd present for you this afternoon is
41 work that's been done by one of the PhD candidates on
42 our Refuge, Tyler Lewis. He's from UAF. And he's
43 going to summarize the work that he's been doing. The
44 data that he collected from 2010 to 2012. And it's
45 really focused on the wetlands out on Yukon Flats and
46 looking at some of the long term changes that we've
47 seen.

48

49 So I hope this is a bit of a break for
50 you. This will be kind of a science presentation for

1 the next ten or fifteen minutes. Thanks.

2

3 Tyler.

4

5 MR. LEWIS: Okay. Hi, everybody. I'll
6 try to make this quick and not get too deep into the
7 weeds here. I don't know how to make this thing blow
8 up. So this is just some data that I collected the
9 last few years. I'm probably not going to go into too
10 much detail, but I'll self-promote here. If people are
11 interested in the heavy details, I'm actually giving a
12 dissertation defense on March 25th. So about three
13 weeks from now. It's a Wednesday at UAF at 12:00 p.m.
14 in Elvey Auditorium. It's open to the public.

15

16 So let me -- let's see here. We'll
17 skip this. So Mark introduced Yukon Flats real quick.
18 Big basin. About 40,000 lakes out there. And it's a
19 major breeding area for waterfowl in the summer. And
20 there's a few habitat concerns about there that were of
21 interest to us.

22

23 One is increased forest fires. If any
24 of you have been out there you know there's a lot of
25 fires. It's the major natural disturbance. It's
26 always been natural. I find this figure interesting.
27 This was from another paper, but these guys recreated a
28 10,000 year fire record. It's an approximation, but
29 they looked at charcoal deposits from lake cores out
30 there. And you can see over time, over 10,000 years,
31 there's a lot of variation in frequency of fire out
32 there. But if you look at the most recent decades, it
33 seems to be like there's a new pattern out there.
34 There's a lot of fires now and some of them are quite
35 intense. And so one of our interests was how could
36 that affect waterfowl out there.

37

38 There's a few different ways it could
39 affect waterfowl. But we were approaching it from a
40 trophic perspective. Fires take down these forests.
41 There's a lot of resources trapped in those terrestrial
42 resources in the trees and the soils. And, you know,
43 from a lot of other research they've shown following a
44 fire you get a pulse of terrestrial derived nutrients
45 that can hit the aquatic systems. Nitrogen and
46 phosphorus are released from these terrestrial sources.
47 And when they find their way into an aquatic system, a
48 river or a lake -- in the case of the Yukon Flats we
49 were interested in lakes and wetlands -- they can
50 essentially affect the system by cranking up the

1 primary productivity, so you're getting more overall
2 energy into the lake system.

3
4 It can be short lived, but you can see
5 a response from that productivity all the way up the
6 food web. First to invertebrates and then up to the
7 top to fish or water birds where you can see changes in
8 the distribution or abundance of animals as they
9 respond to increases in productivity. So we were
10 interested in that.

11
12 And we were also interested in some of
13 these shrinking lakes that they've been seeing in
14 certain regions of the Refuge. They recently did a
15 survey of 15,000 lakes out there. They estimated about
16 nine to sixteen percent have lost significant surface
17 area. It's been a focus of a lot of different people's
18 research. This is a photo of a shrinking lake we see
19 out there. You can see the current lake. And that's
20 kind of -- you can see the vegetation. You can see
21 what it used to look like based on the ring of
22 vegetation around there. So the water is essentially
23 receding more rapidly than the vegetation can move
24 inwards.

25
26 And so we were also interested in these
27 lakes because there's two processes thought to drive
28 that. Increased evaporation. Just because these lakes
29 are frozen less, you know, breakup is earlier. Freeze
30 up can be later. Such that we're seeing more
31 evaporation on some of these lakes. And with
32 permafrost thaw we might be seeing some loss of water.
33 And both of those activities -- evaporation can
34 concentrate the nutrients already into the water into a
35 smaller volume. And permafrost, kind of like a fire,
36 it releases a -- you know, previously frozen organic
37 matter back into the decomposition cycle. And then you
38 can see some of those nutrients hitting the lakes out
39 there.

40
41 And so you might see -- similar to what
42 we thought could be going on with fires, you might see
43 more nutrients in these lakes -- in these drying lakes
44 because of the thawing permafrost and the increased
45 evaporation. And that could go on to affect the food
46 web out there.

47
48 And so this is our study area where we
49 looked at fires. We had 14 lakes out there. Half of
50 them were impacted by the fire. Half were not. And we

1 had some data from before and after the fire. And so
2 we tried to answer some of these questions.

3
4 Just to give you an idea of what it
5 looked like out there, we had -- we camped at the lake
6 here. This is our camp lake where we landed the float
7 plane before the area burned, so there was dense forest
8 cover in the whole area up to the lake. It was a 30 or
9 40-year old forest out there that had previously
10 burned. And then you can see after the fire that the
11 -- in the burned areas the forest cover is basically
12 gone. And there was a lot of peat and soil cover on
13 this study area. And that was essentially burned off,
14 too. So you essentially had bare, exposed mineral
15 soils out there.

16
17 So I won't go too deep into the woods
18 and the data, but we were looking here at nitrogen,
19 phosphorus, and chlorophyll concentrations. And we
20 were interested, did they change from before to after
21 the fire. And was there a pattern between burned and
22 unburned lakes. And contrary to what we thought might
23 happen, we saw no response in nitrogen, phosphorus or
24 chlorophyll. And we're using chlorophyll here. It's
25 kind of our index of primary productivity. The fire
26 seemed to have no impact on any of those measures. So
27 at the base of the food web everything seemed to be
28 stable following the fire.

29
30 We looked at aquatic invertebrates. We
31 looked at five groups. And again the stability seemed
32 to be the major factor here. For four of these groups
33 we really found no effect of the fire. For one of the
34 groups we found a slight positive effect. And that was
35 on what we call our shredders, which are primarily
36 anthropoids. And then we looked at.....

37
38 MR. BASSICH: Scuds.

39
40 MR. LEWIS: Yep. Scuds. Good duck
41 food out there.

42
43 And then we looked at abundance of
44 waterbird chicks on these burned versus unburned lakes.
45 And I don't know how well we can see it. It's hard to
46 see. But the pattern persisted. Again we found really
47 no effective fire on abundance of waterbird chicks.
48 Waterbirds seemed to go back, breed, and the fire,
49 despite the loss of habitat or any of the changes
50 incurred from the fire, didn't appear to impact the

1 waterbirds.

2

3 And just to dig into some data from our
4 late drawing study, we had a little more expansive
5 study design for this. We went to six different study
6 pods in the Refuge. You can see the Refuge boundary
7 there. We used 55 lakes that were sampled from the
8 1980s. And we re-sampled those same lakes for water
9 chemistry and invertebrates and birds to see if there
10 were any impacts on these drying lakes.

11

12 So the data from the 1980s was
13 essentially before much of the change had occurred in
14 lake surface area, so it kind of gave us a window into
15 the past for us to re-sample these lakes. And of the
16 55 lakes, 37 of them really had no change in surface
17 area from the 1980s to present. Eighteen of them
18 though lost at least 20 percent of their surface or
19 more. So we did a comparative study there. Just
20 comparing these stable and shrinking lakes over time.

21

22 For nutrients -- for nitrogen and
23 phosphorus we found a large effect. We found on
24 shrinking lakes here from the 1980s in yellow to
25 present in white, we found about a 200 percent increase
26 in nitrogen and 100 percent increase in phosphorus on
27 the shrinking or drying lakes. On the stable lakes
28 there was essentially no change in any of the aquatic
29 nutrients, so it appeared there is a real effect there
30 on nutrient levels.

31

32 Nonetheless, we found only a slight
33 change in chlorophyll levels, which is we're kind of
34 using as our index of primary productivity. Those
35 increases in nutrients didn't appear to scale up to
36 large changes in productivity at least as measured by
37 chlorophyll. This is only one way to really understand
38 what's going on out there in terms of primary
39 productivity.

40

41 We looked at invertebrates. A lot of
42 data there. But again really no change on shrinking
43 versus stable lakes in terms of invertebrate abundance.
44 And we looked at distribution of waterbirds and again
45 really no effect on the -- looking at from the 1980s to
46 present on stable versus shrinking lakes.

47

48 So we saw the large nutrient changes on
49 these stable lakes, but it appeared to have minimal
50 impact on aquatic invertebrates and more importantly on

1 the waterfowl in the lakes. We saw really no changes
2 in their distributions despite those changes in water
3 volume and nutrient content.

4
5 I think I'll leave it at that for now.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.

8
9 MR. LEWIS: Yeah.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any
12 questions.

13
14 MS. PITKA: Oh. I just have one
15 question.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Rhonda.

18
19 MS. PITKA: Do we have a written report
20 from Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. I saw a
21 really nice one from Arctic....

22
23 MR. GLASPELL: I do not believe we
24 provided you with one. Did we, Vince?

25
26 MR. MATTHEWS: We usually go with the
27 fall.

28
29 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah. We provided you
30 with one in the fall. At the fall meeting.

31
32 MS. PITKA: Oh, okay. I'm a new
33 member, so I didn't know any of that.

34
35 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah. Yeah.

36
37 MS. PITKA: I was just -- I had a
38 question about that just because.....

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You can still
41 ask the question.

42
43 MS. PITKA: Hmm?

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do you have a
46 question.

47
48 MS. PITKA: No. No. I had a question
49 about just a written report.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh, okay.
2
3 Virgil.
4
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. This
6 doesn't have to do with the waterfowl, but you should
7 have been looking at -- I know you saw them while you
8 were out there. But what did the muskrat situation
9 look like.
10
11 MR. LEWIS: Well, we see a lot of
12 muskrats. Yeah. In terms of drying versus stable
13 lakes and forest fires, my guess is both of those could
14 have negative impacts on muskrats. Just given that
15 muskrats are -- you know, I'm thinking of one of the
16 study sites for instance where they're real common.
17 All that bull rush and other good vegetation up to the
18 lake edges was consumed by the fire. And, you know, we
19 weren't counting muskrats, so this is just anecdotal.
20 But my guess it could be bad news for them overall.
21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.
23
24 MR. LEWIS: Yep.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any other
27 questions.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
32 Thank you, guys.
33
34 Next is Tetlin.
35
36 MR. BAYLESS: Good afternoon, Madame
37 Chair, Council Members. It's good to be back here. We
38 were here in October. That was my first RAC meeting.
39 This is my second. So good to see you all again.
40
41 I am Sean Bayless. I'm the Refuge
42 manager at Tetlin. I brought my deputy project leader,
43 Jerry Hill. He also functions or serves as a
44 supervisory wildlife biologist for Tetlin. It's pretty
45 common to wear two hats these days and that's -- those
46 are his two hats.
47
48 Quickly I want to discuss just three
49 things. We've had a busy winter, believe it or not.
50 As we mentioned last fall, we began a lynx study. And

1 the principle investigator for that is Nate Berg. He's
2 our -- one of our biologists on the Refuge Staff.

3

4 And I'm going to let Jerry talk about
5 that, but I wish Nate was here. Unfortunately, he as
6 we speak is on the trap line trying to find a lynx. We
7 -- I think as of now we have not yet caught one. We're
8 still trying. But been a lot of logistical work
9 getting ready for this project. But Jerry will get
10 more into that.

11

12 He's also going to talk a little bit
13 about the GSPE moose survey we conducted cooperatively
14 with the State and also the Park Service. It was a
15 very good project. And it was one of the best periods
16 of weather they've seen for that survey. I think they
17 got it done in four days, which is.....

18

19 MR. HILL: Right.

20

21 MR. BAYLESS:which was a record.
22 So that was good.

23

24 He'll also talk about our hunting
25 seasons that we have going on. The moose season just
26 ended Saturday. The winter moose survey or moose
27 season on the Refuge. He'll give you some preliminary
28 numbers on that. And also the caribou season -- the
29 winter caribou season is ongoing right now through
30 April. So he'll talk a little about that. So I'm
31 going to pass the buck to Jerry.

32

33 MR. HILL: Thank you, Sean. Well,
34 appreciate being here, Madame Chair, Members of the
35 Council. My first time to get to address the Eastern
36 Interior RAC. I spent four years in McGrath working
37 with the Western Interior RAC, so I appreciate the
38 time. Like Sean said, I'll just go over basically
39 three topics.

40

41 The first is just going over the two
42 winter subsistence hunts that we have on the Refuge.
43 First is our moose hunt which runs November 1st to
44 February 28th, so it just ended basically this past
45 Saturday. This year we entered or we issued 84
46 permits. We have 16 harvest reports back. Of those,
47 we know three bulls taken on the Refuge. In the past
48 three years, we've had two, three, and five bulls
49 taken, so it looks like we're on track for that again
50 this year.

1 Issuance has fluctuated. Anywhere from
2 25 to 101 in the past three years, so 85 is kind of
3 right where -- kind of in that range. On the high end
4 of it. So we're getting pretty good participation.

5
6 As Sean said, with the caribou hunt
7 that started late October. That's a varying start date
8 based on where we see the caribou. And if there is any
9 mixing between the Nelchinas and the Mentasta Herds.
10 We're focusing on Nelchina caribou. Anyway, that will
11 run through April, like Sean said unless, when we do
12 our telemetry checks, if we're seeing any mixing with
13 the Mentastas it will be closed for that reason.

14
15 Excuse me. I have a cold I'm dealing
16 with here. Anyway, with the caribou we issued 95
17 permits. We've had 18 harvest reports returned. We
18 had six caribou harvested. And it depends on the year
19 whether it's bull cow or just bull. This year it's
20 bull cow. It's kind of a conversation we have with
21 Fish and Game based on their survey data. Three of
22 those were bulls, three cows.

23
24 Issuance is down from approximately
25 average 125 the last five years, so a little less
26 participation on the caribou and for whatever reason.

27
28 As Sean referenced, this past November
29 we -- the Refuge assisted ADF&G in Wrangell-St. Elias
30 Park with a GSPE moose survey with an annual range of
31 the Chisana Caribou Herd. This survey is conducted in
32 part to address an objective within the Chisana Caribou
33 Management Plan to better understand -- excuse me -- to
34 gain a better understanding of the predator/prey
35 relationships within the Refuge range of the caribou
36 herd.

37
38 The survey covered an area basically
39 just east of Nabesna all the way over into the Yukon
40 Territory of Canada, up to the southern boundary of the
41 Refuge. The moose densities are higher in Alaska than
42 they were in the Yukon portion; however, moose
43 densities were much lower in this area than other
44 survey units within Unit 12. The average moose per
45 square mile is .3, so fairly low. Bull/cow ratio is 49
46 out of 100, which is fairly good. Very low cow/calf
47 ratio. We only had 14 calves per 100 cows here in the
48 survey. And I wasn't able to get the previous data
49 from Fish and Game, so I don't know how that compares
50 to previous surveys that are taking place down there.

1 The last study that Sean referenced was
2 -- they call it the predator wave or lynx movement
3 study. We call it the mobile predator study because it
4 incorporates both lynx and coyote. Nate presented this
5 at the fall meeting. And basically the overall
6 objectives of this were to examine how lynx movements
7 are controlled by snowshoe hare abundance. So we know
8 lynx migrate quite a ways based on previous collared
9 data.

10
11 So we're also looking to investigate
12 the role long distance movements play in population
13 maintenance, so how these movements amongst lynx -- you
14 know, how does it affect populations in local
15 territories and local landscapes.

16
17 And finally we want to investigate if
18 snowshoe hare abundance is surrogate for monitoring
19 lynx abundance habitat and population connectivity. So
20 we do snowshoe hare pellet counts on the Refuge. I
21 believe we do seven transects to 50 transects -- 50
22 sites per transects so we have that data for our
23 Refuge. And certain areas across the State do the same
24 thing I believe.

25
26 And there are a number of cooperatives
27 on this project. A couple are UAF and Koyukuk Nowitna
28 National Wildlife Refuge. And I believe Y-K Flats may
29 participate in the future if funding allows.

30
31 We're also interested in coyotes. A
32 relatively new predator in our ecosystem. Their range
33 is expanding, so kind of want to see what kind of
34 affects they may have on both lynx and snowshoe hare
35 populations. And plus with the collared data -- you
36 have the GPS collars. We'll see if we see interactions
37 between lynx and coyotes themselves if that's something
38 we can take out from this data.

39
40 So with that, that's just kind of an
41 overall summary of those projects. Like I said, I wish
42 Nate was here. He's got a little better grasp on the
43 details of this.

44
45 With the mobile predator study we did,
46 it's quite the undertaking. We've been establishing
47 trap lines on the Refuge. That's one of the biggest
48 part of it in the first year. Currently have traps out
49 on the Refuge as of two weeks ago, I believe. We've
50 been running traps on the Tok Cutoff for almost a month

1 now. We had a couple of misses. Hopefully lynx start
2 moving a little more this time of year, so we're hoping
3 to get a handful of collars out this year.

4
5 So we're in the trapping phase at the
6 moment. And we have three young volunteers on board to
7 help us out, so.....

8
9 MR. BAYLESS: And what's the goal,
10 Jerry. How many collars do we want out for the
11 project.

12
13 MR. HILL: Well, we want as many as we
14 can get. I think we have 24 collars right now. And if
15 we had the money, we'd probably get more. Because
16 we're also interested like I say in putting some of
17 them collars on coyotes. So depending on how many
18 coyotes we catch might determine how many more collars
19 we need for the lynx.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So you're
22 also on the Tok Cutoff.

23
24 MR. HILL: Yes. On State land along
25 the Tok Cutoff.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The
28 State.....

29
30 MR. HILL: Down to the.....

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Just for the
33 study.

34
35 MR. HILL: Yes.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.

38
39 MR. HILL: Down to about Clearwater
40 Creek.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Not quite to
43 my house.

44
45 MR. HILL: Not quite to your house.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.

48
49 MR. BAYLESS: We thought we'd better
50 leave that one alone.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. HILL: There is the potential to do
4 more trapping along the Alaska Highway up to Robertson
5 River and maybe down along the Refuge itself.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's all good
8 information.
9
10 MR. HILL: Yeah. We're kind of limited
11 on, you know, logistics and manpower and the cost of
12 the power, that sort of thing.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Have you
15 tried to work with trappers.
16
17 MR. HILL: Yes. Fish and Game and a
18 local trapper in Tok may help us out here later this
19 month.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Uh-
22 huh. I see a hand.
23
24 Will.
25
26 MR. KOEHLER: I just have a question
27 out of curiosity. What are you -- you're using some
28 kind of a live trap. How does it work.
29
30 MR. HILL: We're using what's called a
31 Belisle Foot Snare. It's basically a round trap that
32 has an extra kind of throw arm jaw. So you basically
33 anchor the snare outside of one the springs through the
34 eye. And it just sits over one of the jaw --
35 underneath one jaw in order to throw arm so when the
36 lynx steps on the trap it throws that snare up onto the
37 -- over the leg. And when the lynx pulls back, that
38 cinches the snare down on its foot. We're going to try
39 a different.....
40
41 MR. KOEHLER: I have seen those
42 but.....
43
44 MR. HILL: We're going to try a
45 different -- since we had a couple of misses, our faith
46 in that set up is shaken a little bit. So we're going
47 to try and use what they call a Fremont Snare, which
48 actually throws the snare a little harder. And
49 actually when it -- when the trap goes off, it actually
50 pulls tension on the snare to cinch the snare down.

1 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.
2
3 MR. HILL: Yeah. We're also trying to
4 utilize cage traps. We've been building some cage
5 traps that we can put out. And even considering on the
6 Refuge building some more permanent style cage traps
7 that we can just run every year.
8
9 A lot of times talking to local
10 trappers in Tok, those cats will come back to the same
11 site repeatedly. You know, using beaver ca -- for lure
12 and that. So used to having a trap and just, you know,
13 getting familiarity with the.....
14
15 MR. BAYLESS: We've gained a lot of
16 information from the local trappers there. They've
17 been doing this a long, long time. And the vast
18 majority of us, myself excepted [sic], are young folks
19 and have a lot to learn. So it's very good to have
20 that resource there in Tok, these folks that do this
21 for a living forever, so they've been very gracious and
22 generous to help us out with this project.
23
24 MR. HILL: Yeah. And it's a great
25 project, too. Like I say, bringing the young
26 volunteers on gives great experience. And Fish and
27 Wildlife Service relies as much on volunteer hours as
28 it does permanent employee hours, so we utilize
29 volunteers quite a bit on our Refuge.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Our
32 area is full of trappers.....
33
34 MR. HILL: Yeah. Yeah.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER:trying
37 to find a place to go trap.
38
39 MR. HILL: Yeah. Koyukuk Nowitna has
40 collared one lynx so far, but -- and they kind of
41 bragged that they got one before us. But then we found
42 out a couple of days ago they didn't catch it. They
43 got it from a local trapper that incidentally caught it
44 in a snare and it was alive, so -- so we're considering
45 we're still equal. So.....
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Did you have
48 something, Virgil.
49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think I heard you say

1 you have 24 coyotes with radio collars on them. Is
2 that what you said.
3
4 MR. HILL: No. I said -- excuse me --
5 Mister or Chairman or Councilman -- I can't say your
6 last name.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Enstminger.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MR. HILL: Enstminger. I should know
13 that because we'll be talking here shortly about some
14 of the RAC stuff.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.
17
18 MR. HILL: But no. We have 24 collars
19 total right now to put out on animals. And whether
20 they all go on lynx or some on coyotes or some on lynx,
21 it just depends on how successful we are with each
22 species. So.....
23
24 MR. BAYLESS: You know, we're targeting
25 lynx right now, but coyotes is also a factor in the
26 study design, too.
27
28 MR. HILL: Yeah. Coyote this year will
29 be more opportunistic. We're focused on lynx since
30 that's the primary species of interest.
31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.
33
34 MR. HILL: Yeah.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Just for your
37 information, going by my memory of 35 or 7 years of
38 going to meetings, the Department did a study on the
39 lynx on the Tok Cutoff, I believe. And it's probably
40 been close to 30 years ago. Are you aware of that
41 report.
42
43 MR. HILL: I am not.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Robert
46 Stevenson did that.
47
48 MR. HILL: No.
49
50 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah. I think.....

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You might
2 talk to -- Kelly House was a biologist back then.
3
4 MR. BAYLESS: Oh.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And they did
7 a lynx survey then or some -- you know, he was doing
8 just what you're doing. Yeah.
9
10 MR. HILL: Hmm.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And I do
13 remember the moose numbers being a little higher in the
14 past than what you're reporting now. And then the
15 coyotes, I also remember a report from Fish and Game
16 that did a survey south of Fairbanks probably 25 years
17 ago, where they found lambs taken by coyotes up to 50
18 percent. So.....
19
20 MR. HILL: Uh-huh.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do you
23 remember that one, Virgil?
24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. They did the
26 study over where I used to guide and where my son
27 guides. A gal from Canada did it. And it was.....
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well.....
30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: It wasn't that long
32 ago. Ten to twelve years ago. She did a three or
33 four-year study out there.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I wonder if
36 that's the -- the assistant area biologist from Glenn
37 Allen had gone -- moved up here to Fairbanks. And he
38 was -- Scott, I think I remember, his last name or
39 first name. He was part of the one I'm remembering. I
40 remember going to a meeting and him giving that report.
41 And I thought it was pretty astounding that there was
42 quite a significant amount of lambs taken by coyotes.
43
44 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah. I.....
45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: When I caught my first
47 coyote, it was south of Fairbanks in a fox trap in '73.
48
49 MR. BAYLESS: I am guessing, Madame
50 Chair, that the principle investigator Nate Berg is

1 very familiar with those studies. But like I said,
2 unfortunately he's not here. We've got him working.
3 So the next time we visit, we'll have a better update
4 on this project. Because it is a very interesting
5 project. It's interesting to almost everybody we talk
6 to. So.....

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Especially
9 about coyotes, too.

10
11 MR. BAYLESS: Yes, ma'am.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.

14
15 MR. HILL: Yeah, Madame Chair. I
16 believe there's been some lynx studies done in the
17 Refuge in the past as well. So some of the lines we're
18 setting right now are lines that they created in the
19 past in previous projects.

20
21 Like Sean, I've only been there seven
22 months. I haven't had the chance to go through all the
23 data on previous projects. But also in reference to
24 that moose survey, that's on the very eastern side of
25 -- you know, from Chisana over into Yukon Territory.
26 So those densities probably aren't really
27 representative of what's actually near the Tok Cutoff
28 or on the Refuge.

29
30 But this coming November 2015 is
31 actually the three year rotation for the GSPE in the
32 Refuge itself. So next winter at this meeting we'll
33 have updated moose data for the Refuge in that area as
34 well, the percent.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone else.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I want to
41 thank you guys for coming, the Refuge manager. For a
42 long time we didn't have the Refuge manager coming and
43 it's been nice to have you guys here.

44
45 MR. BAYLESS: Well, I enjoyed it. And
46 I look forward to the next one, Madame Chairman.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.

49 Thank you.
50

1 MR. BAYLESS: Thank you, Council
2 Members.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.
5
6 MR. HILL: Like he said, thank you.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Is it
9 time for a short break and get our little committee
10 together. Okay. Let's take a short break here. And
11 it might not be a short one, so bear with us.
12
13 (Off record)
14
15 (On record)
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I've got two
18 Andys missing. So while we're waiting for Andrew and
19 Andy to show up, I wanted to ask you guys. The next
20 thing on the agenda is just continuing our discussion
21 that we had this morning with the Statewide proposed
22 rule. Where did Will disappear to. Oh, right there.
23 Do you want to have the Service come up or just want to
24 get our letter done. There's a potential motion here.
25
26 MS. PATTON: I think they had to catch
27 their flight.
28
29 MR. KOEHLER: They left.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh. They've
32 got to leave. Okay.
33
34 MR. KOEHLER: They left.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So they don't
37 get to hear things that we want to.....
38
39 (Laughter)
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
42
43 (Laughter)
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
46 you.
47
48 (Laughter)
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Darn it. Do

1 you guys just want to get started without those two.

2

3 MS. PITKA: Yeah. Yeah, that's fine.
4 They're right outside.

5

6 MS. PATTON: I saw Andy, he was coming.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Yeah.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. All
13 right. We talked about it at lunch and Will is ready
14 to read something into the record.

15

16 Will -- or, at break, I'm sorry.

17

18 MR. KOEHLER: So to the -- you mean
19 this is the main body of a letter that we would send to
20 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, if I'm correct, as
21 our statement to our opposition to the proposed changes
22 in public participation and closure procedures.

23

24 The Eastern Interior Advisory Committee
25 opposes all updates to the public participation and
26 closure procedures proposed by the U.S. Fish and
27 Wildlife Service. These changes reduce subsistence
28 opportunities for Alaskans and rural residents. The
29 ban on taking brown bear over bait is particularly
30 restrictive as hunting these bears in the timbered
31 areas is very difficult without bait. The Council
32 opposes the proposed extension of temporary closures to
33 five years because it believes the public comment and
34 participation should be reviewed at least every 12
35 months. The Eastern RAC is very concerned that these
36 proposed additions to regulation have no biological
37 purpose and are part of a trend by the Agency to make
38 access and activity in their areas more difficult for
39 Alaskans and subsistence users. The RAC references the
40 letters and comments by local Tribes, particularly the
41 letter to Refuge Manager Bayless from the Northway
42 Village Council.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And that's a
45 motion.

46

47 MR. KOEHLER: And that is a motion.

48

49 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that for you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Do you
2 guys have -- I know he read it into the record and we
3 could probably get it typed up. Are you ready to --
4 discussion, I should say. We have the motion on the
5 floor.

6
7 Virgil.

8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madame
10 Chair. Someone made up part of the -- or made a copy
11 of this National Wildlife Refuge Coordinating and
12 Conservation System through Law, by Robert Fishman.
13 And.....

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Virgil, do
16 you have something you want to add. Okay.

17
18 (Pause)

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I guess someone's
23 going to read what I was going to.....

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I apologize.
26 Rhonda would like -- didn't get conveyed to Virgil.

27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR:say something
29 about, anyway.....

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But Virgil,
32 when she reads it then you can comment further. Okay.

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'll comment on
35 it after she does that.

36
37 MS. PITKA: This is in page 185 of the
38 National Wildlife Refuges, Coordinating a Conservation
39 System through Law, by Robert Fishman.

40
41 In Alaska, ANILCA modifies the
42 hierarchy of use preference in the Refuge system. Non-
43 wasteful subsistence uses receive priority over
44 wildlife dependent recreational uses.

45
46 16 USC Section 314. Subsistence uses
47 displace the usual secondary priority general public
48 uses and are subject only to public safety,
49 administrative, and conservation limitations.

50

1 16 USC Section 668DDA3C and 316 --
2 3126B. As the Service acknowledged in its rulemaking
3 implementing the subsistence provisions, the
4 administrative limitation is potentially broad.
5 Certainly, it is steeped in discretion. The
6 administrative limitation may be used to protect the
7 Refuge purposes and values in the Refuge area and to
8 otherwise manage the Refuge prudently. That's 46
9 Federal Register 31, A25 in 1981.

10
11 ANILCA characterizes the conservation
12 limitations on subsistence uses in two ways. First,
13 the section establishing the priority for subsistence
14 uses conditions them on restrictions in order to
15 protect the continued viability of populations of fish
16 and wildlife.

17
18 Second, the section limiting the
19 applicability of the subsistence subchapter of ANILCA
20 states that the law does not permit subsistence uses
21 where they are inconsistent with the conservation of
22 healthy populations. The Fish and Wildlife Service,
23 relying on the ANILCA legislative history, interprets
24 the two descriptions of the subsistence limitation as
25 the single standard that maintains fish and wildlife
26 resources and their habitats in a condition which
27 ensures stable and continuing natural populations and
28 species mix of plants and animals in relation to their
29 ecosystems, including recognition that local rural
30 residents engaged in subsistence uses may be a natural
31 part of the ecosystem, minimizing the likelihood of
32 irreversible or long term adverse affects upon such
33 populations and species and ensures maximum practicable
34 diversity of options for the future. And that's 46
35 Federal Register 31, 823.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
38 you, Rhonda.

39
40 Virgil, you wanted to.....

41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. I wanted to
43 speak to a couple of the terms and this character --
44 and the characterization of the conservation
45 limitations on subsistence uses. The first one was in
46 the first section. And it says in order to protect the
47 continued viability. Viability is something that
48 people could argue about for a long time, what is
49 viable and what isn't viable.

50

1 The second one is the conservation of
2 healthy populations. It doesn't say conservation of
3 healthy populations of just one specie or two species.
4 It says healthy populations. And so that is another
5 term that people could argue about for a long time.
6 What is a healthy -- what one person deems a healthy
7 population, another person may not deem a healthy
8 population.

9
10 And I think that consideration should
11 be given into how long it takes a population to recover
12 once it's not really what one might consider a healthy
13 population. Because .3 moose per square mile to me is
14 not a very healthy moose population. What one would
15 consider, which is what's in the Tetlin Refuge from
16 what we just heard a while ago. That's one moose for
17 every 3.1 mile -- square mile. That's not very many at
18 all. Considering that the Tanana Flats straight across
19 from Fairbanks has got two to six moose per square mile
20 depending on where you're at over there.

21
22 And so there could be lots of debate on
23 those terms. Viability, what a healthy population is,
24 and what's a stable and continuing natural population.
25 And what long term adverse effects on such population
26 species would be because, you know, a moose like in the
27 Tanana Flats, which has one of the most viable moose
28 populations in the State and produces -- Al can correct
29 me if I'm wrong -- but I think about 30 percent of the
30 moose harvest in the whole damn State comes from the
31 Tanana Flats.

32
33 And places like -- I don't know what it
34 is in the Yukon Flats, but we just got through hearing
35 what it was in the Tetlin Refuge. But I think it's
36 much lower in the Yukon Flats than it is there. Bue
37 when you consider that a moose in the Tanana Flats,
38 that only ten to fifteen percent of them have twins.
39 The rest of them have a single moose calf. And we know
40 that half those moose calves get -- that survive until
41 September are going to be dead by predation from wolves
42 by May. At least 50 percent of them are going to get
43 killed. Usually the average is around 1,800 to 2,000
44 of them are killed every winter.

45
46 The moose only has one calf a year.
47 The wolves have seven puppies a year. And so you need
48 to -- when you're considering conservation of healthy
49 populations and what's viable, I think that what needs
50 to be considered is the reproductive potential of the

1 various animals that are out there. Because the way I
2 read this, they're supposed to conserve healthy
3 populations of all the animals, not just the wolves and
4 the bears.

5
6 And so I think that that needs to be --
7 more weight needs to be considered -- given to the
8 populations of animals that do not have the
9 reproductive potential versus the ones that do have a
10 very high reproductive potential.

11
12 And that's all I have to say, Madame
13 Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.

16
17 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
18 Rhonda, thank you for bringing that document up and
19 reading it in the record. And I think it did a much
20 more elegant job of bringing the point that I was
21 trying to make earlier in our discussions. And that is
22 that human beings have been an animal in the ecosystem
23 long before ANILCA was enacted. And with the advent of
24 ANILCA, we placed new interpretations as to humans
25 roles within the ecosystem. And that's the point I was
26 trying to make earlier.

27
28 And I think that that's a very valid
29 point that we often forget. And it's probably at the
30 very foundation of this discussion that Virgil just had
31 regarding predation and balance of ungulates to
32 predators and so forth. But I think that's missing.
33 And I think that's a point we should continually drive
34 home. Because that is a fundamental part of what's
35 lacking in a lot of management within the parks and the
36 Federal Refuge systems.

37
38 That's all I have, Madame Chair.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
43 other discussion on our motion.

44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: I need to just add just
46 a teeny bit.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Just a
49 teeny bit.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. I'm going to add
2 just a little bit. Okay. In the Tanana Flats, I
3 didn't go look up the data that's the very most recent
4 data. But I think on average there's about 200 bears
5 -- black bears killed a year in the Tanana Flats --
6 Flats.....

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR:by bear hunters in
11 the spring. And the trappers average 60 to 80 wolves I
12 believe in the Tanana Flats per year. And like I just
13 said, approximately 30 percent of the moose harvested
14 Statewide come from the Tanana Flats. They average two
15 to six moose per square mile depending on where you're
16 at out there. And that's just an example of the
17 differences in what a healthy population is and
18 conservation of a healthy population.

19
20 If you want healthy populations of
21 moose so that humans can harvest them and the predators
22 can harvest them, then you don't want the predators to
23 get greatly out of control. You've got to pay
24 attention to the reproductive potential of the various
25 species of animals. And I think that is the biggest
26 heartburn that people have with this proposed rule.

27
28 Madame Chair.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I hit
31 the wrong button again. There's a lot of nodding heads
32 here. So I think there's an agreement. Is there any
33 other addition that you would like to put on the
34 record.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

43
44 MR. GLANZ: I'll call the question.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Question's
47 been called for. All in favor of the motion say aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone
2 opposed.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: None. Okay.
7 Motion passes.

8
9 All right. Next on the agenda is the
10 National Park Service, the Yukon-Charley Rivers
11 Preserve.

12
13 MS. OKADA: Good afternoon, Madame
14 Chair, Council Members. Eva's just handing out the
15 update for Yukon-Charley. My name is Marcy Okada. I'm
16 the subsistence coordinator for Yukon-Charley National
17 Rivers -- Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. So
18 I'll just give a brief update on the latest surveys
19 that were conducted for various species.

20
21 The last moose survey that was
22 conducted on Yukon-Charley was in 2012. We're hoping
23 to conduct another survey in 2016. Surveys conducted
24 in Yukon-Charley Rivers in the fall of 2012 show the
25 population of moose dropping back down from an above
26 normal increase in 2009 to a near -- to near the long
27 term average of approximately 936 moose.

28
29 While the numbers of hunters has
30 increased since the early 1980s, hunter success rates
31 have remained comparable to the 20-year average. The
32 population estimates and sex and age composition of the
33 moose population appear to be consistent with a low
34 density stable population.

35
36 And just below that there's just some
37 statistics that came out of those surveys. If you
38 would like more information on the moose surveys that
39 were conducted, please contact Kyle Jolly.

40
41 As far as dall sheep goes, the last
42 sheep survey was conducted in 2009. We hope to
43 complete a sheep survey this summer if funding is
44 available. But we do recognize that there is a need
45 for a new sheep survey in the Preserve, especially
46 since the RAC had submitted a proposal for customary
47 and traditional use of dall sheep in Yukon-Charley.

48
49 As far as wolf monitoring goes, the
50 Wolf Monitoring Project is winding down. There are

1 currently three collared wolves in the Preserve. We
2 have about 22 years of data and are working on a new
3 protocol to monitor wolves and their ecology within the
4 Preserve.

5
6 No furbearer studies were conducted in
7 2014 and none are scheduled for this summer field
8 season -- or this season.

9
10 Peregrine falcon surveys were not
11 conducted last summer. And the Migratory Bird Treaty
12 Act prohibits the capture of Peregrine chicks for
13 falconry purposes within all Park units within the
14 State. I guess that had recently come up as an issue.
15 And the final verdict is that the Migratory Bird Treaty
16 Act prohibits this type of activity.

17
18 And lastly for vegetation and habitat,
19 the Central Arctic Inventory and Monitoring Network,
20 which is a branch off of the National Park Service, has
21 conducted several vegetation and habitat surveys. A
22 soil survey was completed in 2014 and there are ongoing
23 vegetation mapping and fire ecology studies within the
24 Preserve. Those studies are conducted every summer
25 field season.

26
27 And that's it. I'll take any
28 questions.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.

31
32 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 Marcy, do you have numbers on when you look at the
34 amount of hunters that have been coming in since 1980,
35 do you actually have hard numbers per year that could
36 be graphed and presented to us in the falltime.

37
38 MS. OKADA: I would have to look into
39 that. But I mean at present, I would say most likely
40 not. We haven't been monitoring that type of activity
41 per se.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I guess, Madame
44 Chair, I bring that up because of a lot of the
45 discussion that we've had over the last two days about
46 hunter influx into the area, competition, increased
47 pressure. And I see the number here you're quoting
48 from 1980 that hunter success rates have remained
49 comparable. So I assume that's numbers on just
50 harvested moose.

1 But I think it might be prudent given
2 concerns with both the Eastern and the Western RAC to
3 maybe try and develop some type of a study or try and
4 get some baseline information from this point forward
5 on hunters entering into the Preserve and their success
6 rates. Because I think we're going to need that
7 information in the future.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Virgil.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: The report says the
14 last sheep survey was flown in 2009. Do they plan to
15 fly another one in the future, and when.

16

17 MS. OKADA: I guess it was with the
18 hopes that there would be enough funding to conduct a
19 survey this summer. But I -- that's not secure right
20 now as far as the survey planned for the summer.

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. Yeah.
27 The other question I had. Looking at your estimated
28 moose densities is .302 moose per square mile. And I
29 was just wondering if that has any concerns. I know
30 that's really low, but that seems exceptionally low.
31 And I'm wondering if there's any concerns by Yukon-
32 Charley biologists or the Preserve in general as to
33 such low numbers of moose densities.

34

35 MS. OKADA: I think from what I recall
36 from a previous meeting that we had with some community
37 members, moose density was always pretty low in the
38 Preserve. I guess one thing, it would be interesting
39 to see as surveys are done over time if it stays
40 consistent. But I don't have, you know, specific
41 information on that.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: So I guess maybe another
44 information request at the fall meeting. If you could
45 have a history of when those studies started. And if
46 we could just kind of a breakdown. You know, 20-year
47 or 25-year breakdown of once a Preserve was initiated,
48 came into being, I'm sure there was studies done. And
49 if we could see something that would track moose
50 densities, hunter access, hunter success over those

1 time frames, that might help this body in the future
2 with making some proposals.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any other
7 questions.

8
9 Donald.

10
11 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Madame Chair.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh, I'm
14 sorry. Bill.

15
16 MR. WOODRUFF: Go ahead.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. You
19 were ahead.

20
21 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. I was ahead of
22 everybody, but I haven't gotten my chance. But now's
23 my chance, Madame Chair.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Go for it.

28
29 MR. GLANZ: Anyway, I think that was a
30 good deal that you guys did to fix that strip up there.
31 Galvin's Strip up at the headwaters. That was a fine
32 deal. That kept probably 50 people from floating to
33 the river. From the outfitters hauling them up there.
34 And I was hoping and assuming you'd keep it shut down.
35 You know, because there -- anyway.....

36
37 Anyway, oh, in the early '80s me and
38 Jim Wild would go up. Go 50 miles up the Charley up to
39 the Hannah Creek. And we camped there. Never see
40 anybody. Now you go 50 miles up the Charley, you're
41 going to go by five or six camps at the mouth and about
42 one every eight, ten miles going up. There's a lot of
43 hunters going in there. And I mean they've ruined the
44 hunting up there.

45
46 And one year Craig Compole (ph) went up
47 there and he got two moose in camp at the mouth of the
48 Charley. And he had them hanging -- the pictures
49 hanging on the wall. Hell. We had to get us a traffic
50 cop out there to direct traffic. Everybody going where

1 did you get them, Craig. Man, they just walked right
2 into my camp. But anyway, that kind of use is not
3 anymore there. There's no -- hardly.....

4

5 But I don't know about Eagle, but I
6 know that Circle you have to have friends so you can
7 park your car somewhere because there's no room in the
8 parking lots up there. Everybody's just jammed it up.
9 It's horrible. But that's just the way life is, man.
10 Welcome to the population zones.

11

(Laughter)

12

13
14 MR. GLANZ: But see, I'd like to see
15 that survey like -- just me and Greg, your boss, was
16 talking about doing here if we could. Have you ever
17 thought about using an aircraft instead of a
18 helicopter. It would be a whole lot cheaper. Covers a
19 lot of grids faster. You know, I mean you're using the
20 R44, what they had up there, that Robinson. But I
21 suggest using an aircraft. You can get by a -- instead
22 of \$1,400, \$1,800 an hour, you could probably do it for
23 \$200 an hour, \$250, you know. So whatever.

24

25 But that would be my suggestion also.
26 I'm not volunteering to use mine, but you can rent one
27 somewhere. Okay. That's a suggestion.

28

And Donald.

29

30
31 MR. WOODRUFF: Marcy, this new protocol
32 for your moose -- for your wolf monitoring, do you have
33 any insights on that yet.

34

35 MS. OKADA: Currently our wolf
36 biologist is out of town till April. But I can have
37 him get back to you.....

38

MR. WOODRUFF: Okay.

39

40
41 MS. OKADA:as far as how that's
42 going.

43

44 MR. WOODRUFF: Yep. Maybe he could
45 email me.

46

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone else.

47

48

49

50

MR. GLANZ: Just one more question.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Bill.
2
3 MR. GLANZ: One more question. So last
4 summer you only -- didn't even have but one ranger I
5 think in the whole Park. Is that all, that I talked
6 to. I think -- there was more than one? Okay.
7 Because I know that you guys were split between how
8 many national parks are or wildlife areas.
9
10 MS. OKADA: Normally we try to have two
11 rangers within Yukon-Charley because, you know, two
12 is.....
13
14 MR. GLANZ: Okay.
15
16 MS. OKADA: It's a two partner system.
17 But we're dividing our rangers up between Gates of the
18 Arctic and Yukon-Charley.
19
20 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.
21
22 MS. OKADA: And there were some
23 personnel shortages.
24
25 MR. GLANZ: Yes. Okay.
26
27 MS. OKADA: And they had to work that
28 out.
29
30 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. Because, I know, I
31 didn't see Markers, none of them guys hanging out up
32 there at all in the river this summer or this -- in the
33 fall. Thanks. Appreciate it.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So Bill, I
36 have a question. So you want rangers up there doing
37 what they did to Upper River?
38
39 MR. GLANZ: No. No. But there was
40 some people I came across stranded.....
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I just.....
43
44 MR. GLANZ:on the river. You
45 know, they hit a gravel bar. And me and my hunting
46 buddy, we had a moose in there. So I couldn't do much
47 for them, you know. So I called -- called the
48 headquarters. And I talked to some lady there. And
49 she said well, we can't do anything right now. But she
50 said we do have some rangers coming soon. Not

1 tomorrow, but the next day. And I says well, these
2 people are stranded out on this gravel bar. You know,
3 so we landed as close as we could get to them. Took
4 them some provisions to give to them. But then
5 somebody else came by that night and pulled them off.

6

7 So I mean -- but that's the only reason
8 I like them there. Because no matter how stuck they
9 are, the rangers will come and get the people. You
10 know, and that helps provide aid. Plus they had that
11 R44 running around, so that's even better yet for
12 Medevac or something. Anyway, there's a place for
13 them.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. It's
18 funny how things change.

19

20 Donald.

21

22 MR. WOODRUFF: Bill, I can respond to
23 that. Mark is going to be there. And he's going to
24 have an assistant this year.

25

26 MR. GLANZ: Is he. Okay.

27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: And I invited them to
29 come to my house. And we'll visit a little bit before
30 they go on patrols.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. Yes. He called me
33 last summer and I never did show up on the river. But
34 okay.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
37 Anything else.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
42 Thank you so much.....

43

44 MS. OKADA: Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER:Marcy.
47 And next is Wrangell-St. Elias.

48

49 Barbara.

50

1 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
2 Chair. I believe that my handout is in your
3 supplemental materials unless -- actually, it looks
4 like Eva is distributing it now.

5
6 I talked about the Chisana Caribou Herd
7 in the fall, so I wasn't planning on talking about it
8 again. But if there's questions, I'll do my best to
9 answer them.

10
11 I wanted to talk a little bit about
12 community harvest assessments in Park-affiliated
13 communities. The second handout that Eva is
14 distributing is a four-page summary of the report that
15 we recently did for Gakona, Chitina, McCarthy, and
16 Kenny Lake. And that completes the work that we have
17 planned in the Copper Basin. And I do have some copies
18 of the full report if anybody wants a copy of the full
19 report. You're just getting -- Eva's distributing the
20 four-page summary.

21
22 When you combine the work that the Park
23 Services funded with work that Fish and Game was able
24 to do with other funding, we've completed pretty much
25 all the Copper Basin communities. And earlier this --
26 no -- last month. Last month during the depth of the
27 cold spell that we had, a crew from Fish and Game was
28 in Northway, Alaska. And did a community harvest
29 survey there. So we'll be getting you the results from
30 that survey at some point here in the future. And if
31 you're interested, we could see if the -- see if
32 somebody from Fish and Game could come and give you a
33 presentation on that project.

34
35 Unit 11 winter moose hunt, that's
36 actually -- I put together one report for both RACs.
37 This winter moose hunt nobody from -- I believe no one
38 from here has C&T -- no one in Eastern Interior has C&T
39 for that hunt. So I won't talk about it unless you
40 want me to.

41
42 Nabesna community history, I have been
43 working with Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium, the
44 Cheesh'na Tribal Council to do a -- more of a narrative
45 report about Upper Ahtna ties to the northern part of
46 Wrangell-St. Elias. And we're in the process of
47 getting that publication printed and I'll have some
48 copies at your next meeting.

49
50 Planning update from our planner Bruce

1 Rogers. And his name and phone number and email
2 address are there in case you have questions that I
3 can't answer. But work on the Copper Lake Trail is
4 continuing in 2015. This is off of the Nabesna Road.
5 This project has been quite a challenge, but we're
6 persevering. And we're also getting started on a
7 wilderness stewardship back country management plan and
8 will be kicking off the public involvement on that this
9 summer.

10
11 There is a table towards the back of
12 the report with Federal subsistence hunting permits.
13 Just sort of hunting permits we issued. How many
14 people hunted. How many animals were harvested. So
15 that's there for your information. If anybody has
16 questions, I'll do my best to answer them.

17
18 So -- and then I have a little blurb
19 about what the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource
20 Commission is. I try to put that in there in case
21 there's new members who are not familiar with the
22 Commission.

23
24 And then after my report we have a
25 report from our wildlife biologist Judy Patera. I
26 believe that at the fall meeting we didn't have a
27 population estimate for the Chisana Caribou Herd. Now
28 we do. So based on the -- actually, we have -- well,
29 it's the comp count. So we had a population estimate.
30 We did -- like every three years we do censuses and
31 then do comp counts in the years we don't do the
32 censuses. And so those data are provided. The
33 population remained stable and the calf and bull cow
34 ratios exceed the minimum thresholds outlined in the
35 management plan for that herd.

36
37 And then as you heard earlier from
38 Tetlin Refuge Staff, Park Service, Fish and Wildlife
39 Service, and -- Fish and Game did a moose survey in the
40 range of the Chisana Caribou Herd. I'm not going to
41 talk a whole lot about it since Jerry gave you a
42 report. But I will point out that we have both a table
43 with the survey results and a map of the survey area in
44 this report.

45
46 The report also provides some
47 information on the Upper Copper River Federal
48 subsistence salmon fishery in case anybody's interested
49 in that. There are people in the Upper Tanana who have
50 customary and traditional use determination for that

1 fishery.

2

3 And that's pretty much all that I had
4 unless there are questions.

5

6 And I don't know if Sue wanted an
7 update on the proposed rule. I could do that.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Would you
10 guys like to hear a report on the Park Service proposed
11 rule.

12

13 (Council nods affirmatively)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Go
16 ahead.

17

18 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. So during the
19 initial -- this is -- we've been talking about this for
20 a bit. And there was a public comment period from
21 between September and December of last year during
22 which 112,662 comments were received. The comment
23 period was reopened for additional comments from
24 January 15 through February 15. As of last week an
25 additional 16,933 comments had been received, which
26 brings the total number of comments to 129,595. Anyone
27 with internet access can actually go to regulations.gov
28 and view both the comment numbers and the comments
29 themselves.

30

31 We've begun reviewing and analyzing the
32 comments received and hope to have the initial review
33 completed by the end of March. And then the next step
34 is to start responding to the comments and evaluating
35 potential changes. Once that gets done, there will be
36 an internal review process before a final rule is
37 published. And it will take many months to get through
38 the rest of this process.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any
41 questions.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No questions.
46 Thank you, Barbara.

47

48 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh. Next

1 is the Denali National Park and Preserve.

2

3 MS. CRAVER: Good afternoon, Madame
4 Chair and Members of the Council. For the record, my
5 name is Amy Craver and I'm the cultural resource and
6 subsistence manager for Denali National Park and
7 Preserve.

8

9 I'm going to make my update brief. I'm
10 just hitting on some of the high points and if you've
11 got questions, I'll be happy to answer them.

12

13 Eva has passed out -- there's green
14 folders. And I wanted to just provide you with some
15 briefing papers. And unfortunately I've just been -- I
16 didn't have a chance to really interface with our
17 wildlife biologist before I was to come to this
18 meeting. But I was able to get just an update from him
19 on moose. And then there's an update on caribou and
20 also bears. And the fact sheet on caribou is recent.
21 Lane Adams just finished it. It's hot off the press.

22

23 But partly I've been -- the last six
24 months I've been on a detail at Lake Clark National
25 Park. And so in addition to doing my subsistence
26 duties at Denali, I've also been acting as Chief of
27 Cultural Resources and Subsistence for Lake Clark. And
28 I have to say it was a really positive experience and
29 it was really interesting. We did have a SRC meeting
30 in Lake Clark at -- and then Dalton and it was really
31 interesting to interface with the different Subsistence
32 Resource Commission.

33

34 And I also -- last week, on Wednesday,
35 we had our Denali Subsistence Resource Commission here
36 at Pikes. And it was -- I think it went really well.
37 And one of the things I think people need to know,
38 Denali -- the leadership at Denali is really -- we've
39 gone through a lot of changes in the last year. We
40 have a new superintendent and pretty much all upper
41 management has changed.

42

43 And one of the positive things about
44 this SRC meeting that we just had last week was that we
45 were able to have a lot of involvement -- a lot more
46 involvement than we had in the past with upper
47 management in dealing with subsistence issues. And our
48 new superintendent -- he's not that new. He's been
49 around for about a year and a half. But his name's Don
50 Striker. And he's very much engaged in subsistence and

1 has -- I've gone to several Tribal Council meetings
2 with Cantwell Tribal Council and Ahtna. And we're
3 going to be meeting with Nenana Tribal Council next
4 month. But he's very much into hearing local concerns
5 and really trying to meet the needs of subsistence
6 users.

7
8 So for example, one of the things that
9 Denali -- it was before my time, but what we were
10 dealing with was the -- getting the EA for ORV use in
11 the traditional use area in 13E. And he heard loud and
12 clear from meeting with local subsistence users that
13 they are still lingering -- there's still a lot of
14 animosity towards the Park Service about this whole
15 notion about using ORVs for retrieval of moose. And so
16 this is something that he's taking very seriously and
17 he is looking into how we can be more responsive to
18 subsistence users and while also meeting our Park
19 Service mandate.

20
21 So this is something that we talked
22 about at the SRC and our Subsistence Resource
23 Commission is going to write a letter in support of the
24 Cantwell subsistence users trying to get the Park
25 Service to sort of move forward in trying to revisit
26 this policy. So I just wanted to bring that to your
27 attention.

28
29 And in your packet -- in addition to
30 the wildlife updates, I've also provided you some --
31 we've had several projects funded. And one of them is
32 -- and there's just sort of a briefing on that. And
33 it's understanding subsistence use and identity
34 construction in the communities surrounding Denali.
35 And that's a master student from University of Utah.
36 And so she went around to our resident zone communities
37 and did a lot of interviews. And so that's just -- and
38 she did finish her thesis. And that's just kind of
39 hitting the highlights.

40
41 And then we also had Corey Knapp. And
42 she's a PhD student at UAF. And she was looking at how
43 -- how do local observations about climate change
44 inform and understand how the Park Service responds to
45 those kind of local observations. And you'll see that
46 that's a publication that was in Society and Ecology.
47 And I thought that that might be of interest to you.

48
49 And then finally we have a project that
50 I'm working with Ray Collins and Telida Village

1 Council. And it's a place name project on the Upper
2 Kuskokwim River areas. And they were able to meet last
3 week and had some pretty -- real positive interactions.

4
5 And then one of the topics that we
6 discussed at the meeting was the Park Service is --
7 next year, 2016, Park Service is going to be
8 celebrating their centennial. And then the following
9 year, 2017, Denali's going to be celebrating their
10 centennial anniversary. And one of the things that was
11 really great about having the management team at the
12 Subsistence Resource Commission meeting last week was
13 for them to hear directly some of the initiatives that
14 they would like to see the SRC -- for us to respond to.
15 And part of this centennial initiative is trying to
16 make the Park relevant to its local communities and
17 users. And try to engage local kids to be more
18 actively involved in the Park. And so it's trying to
19 make the Park relevant to its neighbors.

20
21 And so one of the things that the SRC
22 came up with as a topic for us to fund -- base fund is
23 a potlatch to happen in Kantishna. And that would be
24 with the elders and youth from the surrounding
25 communities. And partly what that would focus would be
26 trying to document how the Park was utilized by people
27 in the past and to pass that on down to the kids.

28
29 Because, for example, we did get the
30 winter -- the community sheep hunt passed by the
31 Federal Subsistence Board for residents of Nikolai.
32 And one of the things we're going to be doing is
33 documenting them to go out and do that winter hunt.
34 And because there's not that many people that remember
35 how they used to utilize the Park to hunt sheep.

36
37 And so it's really trying to doc --
38 because we're losing a lot of people. They've lost a
39 lot of people in Nikolai this past year. But it's
40 trying to document that knowledge about how this Park
41 -- the Park was utilized in the past and to pass that
42 on to the children. And then also to visitors so that
43 they know that that's part of the Park story.

44
45 So I think that's going to be something
46 that's going to be really positive for -- the Park
47 Service is very -- or our Superintendent's really
48 enthusiastic about working with the SRC in local
49 communities about doing this potlatch. And so that
50 will probably -- we've got it slated for funding from

1 base in 2017.

2

3

4 And then finally the last thing I want
5 to bring up is that we do have some vacancies on the
6 SRC. And I want really advertise that widely. We have
7 one vacancy with the governor's office. And I'm not
8 sure exactly what happened, but we did have -- the
9 governor -- for whatever reason, the last
10 administration decided not to make an appointment. We
11 had a couple of applicant and for whatever reason it
12 was decided not to fill that appointment at this time.
13 So now with the new administration, I'm definitely
14 hearing from Clarence Summers that the State wants to
15 get these vacancies filled. So that's something to
16 keep in mind.

16

17

18 And then we have a Department of
19 Interior appointment that has just expired. And so I'm
20 -- the SRC is -- you know, really wants to get that
21 reappointed. And one of the things that we're lacking
22 in terms of geography is Nenana representation. We've
23 got -- we have two -- Lester Erhart, he's the rep from
24 the Eastern Interior RAC. And his appointment will --
25 goes until November 2015. And we also have James
26 Roberts from Tanana. But what we're lacking is sort of
27 Nenana area. But that's kind of an open seat. And
28 feel free to contact me. And we have an application
29 form. But we'll be moving on that really soon to get
30 that filled. So I encourage people to provide us with
31 recommendations.

31

32

And that's about all I have.

33

34

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: How many
35 seats were open in the State. Governor's position.

36

37

MS. CRAVER: There's one vacancy.

38

39

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh. I
40 thought you said two.

41

42

MS. CRAVER: No. No.

43

44

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh.

45

46

MS. CRAVER: Two vacancies altogether.

47

48

49

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: One is.....

50

1 MS. CRAVER: One is the governor's
2 appointment and then the DOI.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And one is
5 the Interior.
6
7 MS. CRAVER: Yeah.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh. Any
10 other questions, guys.
11
12 MR. FIRMIN: Is this Ray's parents.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: What's the
15 question.
16
17 MS. CRAVER: Oh. You know, actually,
18 you got -- I actually took those fact sheets out of
19 everybody else's. And you must have the only one.
20 That is Florence Collins from Minchumina. And what
21 he's referring to -- I wasn't sure if you thought it
22 would be relevant. As part of the Women's History
23 initiative, we've developed about four different fact
24 sheets about women in the Park that are significant
25 historically. So we have like Abbey Joseph and
26 Florence Collins and a few other women that we've
27 developed just for visitors. And I have them back
28 there. A couple of them.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So you didn't
31 think that was important to us?
32
33 MR. FIRMIN: They were an interesting
34 read for me.
35
36 MS. CRAVER: Well, that's.....
37
38 MR. FIRMIN: I was just -- that's Ray
39 Collins' parents, though, right.
40
41 MS. CRAVER: I thought because it
42 was.....
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Women in the
45 Park is very important to us girls.
46
47 (Laughter)
48
49 MS. CRAVER: Okay. No. I just thought
50 well, it's not -- I put it in and then I thought well,

1 it's not really subsistence. But no. So I have --
2 I've got two of the profiles in the back. And I'll be
3 happy to share those with you.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Sure. That
6 would be great.
7
8 MR. WOODRUFF: Great job. Good job.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.
11
12 MR. FIRMIN: But that is Ray's parents
13 though, right?
14
15 MS. CRAVER: You know, the weird thing
16 is no. Ray Collins -- we've got Ray Collins in McGrath
17 and then we have a Collins family in Minchumnia. And
18 they're not related.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Micky
21 and.....
22
23 MS. CRAVER: Micky and Julie.
24
25 MR. FIRMIN: But they have a son named
26 Ray.
27
28 MS. CRAVER: That's Micky and Julie's
29 mother. Florence Collins.
30
31 MR. FIRMIN: Oh, I know. But it's --
32 and they have a child named Ray Collins also.
33
34 MS. CRAVER: They do.
35
36 MR. FIRMIN: That's what made me think
37 that.
38
39 MS. CRAVER: I know. It's weird.
40 Yeah.
41
42 (Laughter)
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: There's no
45 relation between the Collins. Okay.
46
47 MR. FIRMIN: Good read though.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
50 Any other comments or questions.

1 (No comments)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
4 you, Amy.
5
6 MS. CRAVER: And I may add that I did
7 -- our superintendent really wanted to show up today.
8 And -- but things came up that he wasn't able to. But
9 he definitely wants to show up at the next RAC meeting
10 because he's really engaged in these subsistence and
11 wildlife issues and how we can work with other agencies
12 and subsistence users. So I can guarantee you that if
13 he can make it, he'll be at the next meeting to speak
14 to you directly.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The room was
17 so full on the first -- yesterday morning. Was he
18 here?
19
20 MS. CRAVER: Well, actually.....
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No?
23
24 MS. CRAVER:because it was so
25 full yesterday I didn't -- I wanted him to have some
26 meaningful interaction with the RAC and particularly
27 you. And I just said -- told him that -- he had
28 something else pressing. And I said well, maybe the
29 next meeting would be better. Because I just
30 didn't.....
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
33
34 MS. CRAVER: Yeah.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anything
37 else.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
42 Amy.
43
44 Okay. The next thing on the agenda is
45 the Fish and Game. Is someone giving a report today.
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: We never did get the
48 bison.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And then I

1 was thinking the wood bison report. Are you going to
2 do that, too, Rita.
3
4 MR. BASSICH: Let's do that. Let's do
5 wood bison.
6
7 MS. ST. LOUIS: Okay.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, we were
10 going to at least have a report, I think.
11
12 MS. PATTON: Jennifer's really hoarse
13 so she.....
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we
16 know.
17
18 MR. BASSICH: Go, Rita. Give us some
19 good news.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We know that
22 Jennifer's really having a difficult time. So Rita is
23 coming in.
24
25 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you, Madame
26 Chair. For the record, my name is Rita St. Louis. I'm
27 a planner with Fish and Game. I know that you are
28 running late, so I really shortened my report a lot.
29 And I was hesitating because there's a Fortymile report
30 to which I'm not prepared to give. But I think Ruth
31 Gronquist might be able to help a little bit on that.
32
33 So this is a wood bison update. And
34 I'm happy to say that a release is finally happening.
35 So we're having some kind of -- when I say we, it's
36 sort of a collective group of people who are working
37 wildly and madly to get all this done. We're gathering
38 some Conex containers retrofitted by Steel Fab in
39 Anchorage. And bison will be loaded onto those
40 containers and then they will be trucked to Anchorage
41 and put on C-130s and flown out to Shageluk. And then
42 those containers will be off loaded and -- then the
43 bison will be off loaded from them into holding pens.
44 And they'll be kept for one to three weeks and then
45 they'll do a soft release.
46
47 And the bison will be led from the pens
48 to about five miles away with wood, sort of like Hansel
49 and Gretel and the cookies, you know.
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

2

3 MS. ST. LOUIS: And then across the
4 river. And hopefully they will be -- they'll cooperate
5 with that. We've been doing trials with them. And
6 these animals will be put in the -- in an area which
7 will be -- they will be calving fairly soon. And
8 research has shown that animals are pretty -- show
9 pretty good fidelity to their calving ground, so we're
10 hoping they'll stay there and then branch out from
11 there.

12

13 Altogether we're planning to take 50
14 cows and 25 of those are -- roughly 25 of those are
15 pregnant, 30 calves, and 20 one to two-year olds. And
16 the calves and yearlings and two-year olds are roughly
17 50/50 sex ratio, so there will be a lot more females.
18 Like roughly 75 females and 25 young bulls.

19

20 And then in early summer we're planning
21 to barge some bulls there in the spring -- or in the
22 early summer. And I'm not exactly sure the number of
23 those.

24

25 Meantime, Darren Bruning, who's the
26 area biologist in Delta, has been working with us.
27 We've taken him off of his duties. And he's developing
28 a protocol for a calming drugs for these animals. How
29 much you give them and how long the drug will last so
30 that when they're put on the containers and stuff they
31 don't panic too badly. And he's getting some really
32 good and interesting results. There's been no studies
33 of this so far. They've done some things with zoo
34 animals and animals in Africa, but this is sort of a
35 brand new thing that's going on. So that's pretty
36 exciting.

37

38 And then the 15th of this month --
39 excuse me -- we're going to be going down for what
40 we're calling a dress rehearsal. We're committing to
41 two weeks of going down and as I say do a dress
42 rehearsal. And trying to have a really well-oiled
43 machine because on the week of the 22nd, weather
44 permitting these animals will be actually flown out to
45 the Shageluk area.

46

47 So it's all pretty exciting. One thing
48 I want to really emphasize that's exciting to us is
49 that there's a real spirit of sharing going on. And
50 that's really heartening. For example, about every

1 able bodied man in Shageluk turned up with their
2 hammers and chainsaws and enthusiasm and built this pen
3 to hold the animals in. And it's just pretty exciting.

4
5 And other sharing that's going on that
6 I find pretty exciting -- being a planner, I suppose
7 I'm even more excited. The 10(j) Rule, as you know,
8 said that we had to develop a plan for -- a management
9 plan for these animals before they're released. And
10 the plan needed to be endorsed by both the Federal
11 Subsistence Board and the Board of Game. Well, we're
12 in such a compressed timeline that we didn't even get
13 the go until August. And so from September on we've
14 been scrambling like mad. But we employed the help of
15 a gentleman named Dr. Alistair Bath from Memorial
16 University in Newfoundland, Canada, to facilitate three
17 two-day sessions between October 2014 and February
18 2015, during which we had a planning team to make a
19 plan.

20
21 Fish and Game -- and the 10(j) says we
22 need to get a whole eclectic group of people. So we
23 identified 29 groups that we thought sort of had a --
24 anybody that we thought would have a pony in the race,
25 we wanted them at the table. So we identified 29
26 groups, 28 accepted. And that's how the plan was
27 developed.

28
29 Fish and Game did not have a
30 preconceived outline or outcome in mind to forward to
31 the team. Instead Dr. Bath helped the team itself
32 tease out what it really wanted in a plan. And all
33 decisions were by consensus. The team came up with
34 seven goals. And there were some plans on the Board
35 back there. I don't know if they're -- do you have any
36 in your packet.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Yes, I think they're.....

39
40 MS. ST. LOUIS: Yeah. Anyway, there
41 were seven goals. And I'm not going to go over
42 everything just in the interest of time. But I would
43 like to mention a few things I think are kind of
44 germane to this Council.

45
46 First goal is to establish a herd in
47 the Lower Innoko Yukon River area. And for the first
48 years the team did not want to have a population cap.
49 They didn't want to say start with 300 or 500. They
50 just want to see how the herd grows. Just to see how

1 it interacts with this environment and so forth and so
2 forth. And then emphasized keeping wood bison and
3 plains bison separate. And the 10(j) also says that
4 has to happen, too.

5
6 Goal two was to ensure adequate
7 staffing and funding for all phases of wood bison
8 management. And to that end, the team wanted drawing
9 permit application monies to go toward that.

10
11 Goal three was to minimize conflicts
12 between humans and the wood bison. And we wanted to
13 identify concerns that people have about interacting
14 with these animals and share information about what we
15 have learned. This is a new animal on their landscape
16 and the people really don't know fully what to expect.
17 And then we need to establish procedures and training
18 to deal with problem bison.

19
20 And goal four was to encourage
21 cooperation among land managers to ensure reasonable,
22 standardized land use access. The four -- Grayling,
23 Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross Villages Corporations.
24 Those are -- I hate to -- thank you -- mention them
25 because I butcher their words while trying, got
26 together and agreed for a common fee for land use. A
27 hunter would pay one fee no matter no matter whose land
28 they were on and whose corporation land they're on.

29
30 And the fees were like zero for
31 shareholders; \$300 for Alaska residents; \$500 to \$1,500
32 for non-residents. And these funds are all going to go
33 into a scholarship fund -- one fund and -- that
34 (indiscernible) will administer and to help students
35 learn about, you know, my guess it will be biology
36 students. But I don't know how they'll be doing that.

37
38 And then Doyon was also a member of
39 this team. And they're meeting in March. And their
40 procedure is a little more complicated to have land use
41 on their land.

42
43 Goal five was to manage harvest
44 allocation to equitably benefit both local resident,
45 non-local resident, and non-resident hunters. To begin
46 harvest when there is a harvestable surplus of 20
47 animals. Now, 20 percent of the allocation would go
48 toward registration permits issued in the four -- each
49 of the four Villages. That translates to one permit
50 issued in each of the four Villages to start with.

1 And then 80 percent of the allocation
2 would go toward drawing permits for residents and non-
3 residents with no more than ten percent of those to be
4 for non-residents.

5
6 Goal six was to minimize wood bison
7 impact on other wildlife species and the ecosystems on
8 which they depend. To watch that the bison -- they're
9 all going to be collared. Nearly all of them at least.
10 And will have both satellite and VHF collars. Tom
11 Seeton (ph) will be monitoring the animals daily at
12 first and then less often as he feels comfortable with
13 how they're doing. And of course conduct other
14 wildlife and habitat surveys as necessary.

15
16 And goal seven, ensure continuing
17 communication among all user groups. Have regular
18 updates among the team members and meet yearly as funds
19 allow. And of course take advantage of educational
20 opportunities. And two samples I know of that is
21 there's a curriculum developed for seventh and eighth
22 graders that's available to anybody, as developed by
23 Bear Trust International and Alaska Wildlife
24 Conservation Center.

25
26 And then a teacher in Wasilla named Tim
27 Lunt took a bison skeleton and had his students
28 disarticulate it and take all the meat off the bones.
29 And so you can take this box of bones and they've
30 numbered them. They can re-articulate them and put a
31 bison back together. So that's pretty cool.

32
33 The Board of Game did adopt the plan.
34 The Federal Subsistence Board deferred for a couple of
35 reasons. We had such a compressed timeline that when
36 they met, they did not have the final-final plan. So
37 they can't approve a draft plan. And so they deferred
38 until the plan was final. And they also deferred
39 because they wanted the Y-K RAC and the Western
40 Interior RAC to adopt the plan and instruct them that
41 they would like to have it approved, too. And both of
42 those RACs have now met and have approved the plan.

43
44 There's always questions about whether
45 the bison will be taken to the Yukon Flats. At the
46 moment we have no plans right now. We will not be
47 supporting animals at AWCC after this release. But
48 that's not to say that they could never go to the Yukon
49 Flats. It needs solid support of -- and desires of all
50 the communities.

1 And honestly I think once these animals
2 are de-listed, the changes are way better. And so, you
3 know, it's a good idea to write letters to Board of
4 Game and Doyon and all that. I think those are all
5 really important. But writing to Congressmen and so
6 forth and getting these animals de-listed, that would
7 be the most important thing. To get them -- that way
8 they're like any other animal in Alaska and people
9 aren't concerned about critical habitat and threatened
10 species and things like that.

11
12 So that concludes my presentation.
13 I'll gladly entertain any questions.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thanks, Rita.
18 That is very exciting. After all these years of
19 listening to wood bison.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I just wanted to
26 say congratulations. I know you and a lot of people
27 have dedicated probably over a decade or more of time
28 -- their time to this. And I think I can't remember a
29 single meeting where we didn't hear something about
30 wood bison in the last eight or so years, so yay.

31
32 (Applause)

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Three
35 planners.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: And I'm happy to see that
38 somebody in Alaska is going to benefit from this. And
39 hopefully this will be a great lesson and we can expand
40 on that for people living out in remote areas to help
41 give them some food security and bring back some
42 natural animals back into the country that are gone.
43 So great project.

44
45 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair.
46 Thank you. I would like to say that it was really
47 interesting. This group of people that got together --
48 they were very, very polarized. But they actually came
49 together with common goals and common desires and
50 that's pretty exciting. So yeah and thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So Rita, were
2 you part of that. Did you bring it all together.
3
4 MS. ST. LOUIS: I helped invite people
5 and stuff, but I was not part of the team. Fish and
6 Game just offered technical support and, you know,
7 biological information and stuff like that. But we
8 were not part of the team.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But who was
11 responsible for bringing these people together. I mean
12 this is incredible.
13
14 MS. ST. LOUIS: Oh, a bunch of us.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Twenty-nine
17 people.
18
19 MS. ST. LOUIS: Twenty-nine groups.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All agreeing
22 on something.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 MS. ST. LOUIS: Actually, it's more
27 people than that. Twenty-nine groups. So yeah.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. That's
30 amazing. It's exciting.
31
32 MS. ST. LOUIS: Yeah. It was exciting
33 and a lot of fun. Yeah.
34
35 MS. ST. LOUIS: Uh-huh. Yeah.
36
37 MR. BASSICH: When do we get to eat
38 one.
39
40 MR. GLANZ: I just want to say that the
41 caribou season went well this winter hunt. I thought
42 it went very well with Jeff Gross and everything,
43 (indiscernible) when they called me and they said
44 there's all 34 is collars and they're all in your
45 backyard. I mean, you know, a couple of days -- a part
46 of that they were over by you guys past the Taylor.
47
48 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.
49
50 MR. GLANZ: Three days later they

1 migrated clear across the whole damn State. I couldn't
2 believe it, man. It was amazing. But anyway, that
3 worked out well through the way Jeff handled that. He
4 shut it down quick and extended it out.

5
6 MS. ST. LOUIS: Good.

7
8 MR. GLANZ: That was a good job. You
9 know, so.....

10
11 MR. WOODRUFF: I was chasing them.

12
13 MR. GLANZ: Pardon.

14
15 MR. WILLIAMS: I was chasing them.

16
17 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MS. ST. LOUIS: Excuse me, Ruth. Are
22 you going to give an update on.....

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The
25 Fortymile.

26
27 MS. GRONQUIST: I can do that either
28 during the BLM Report or whenever.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Might as well
31 come up. I like joint effort. Before you leave, the
32 bison skeleton -- was it one of those that had to be
33 shot.

34
35 MS. ST. LOUIS: Yeah. We had to cull
36 some -- several bulls because we ran out of space and
37 stuff like that.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.

40
41 MS. ST. LOUIS: So all the meat was --
42 went to charity. And the bones went places. And the
43 hides went places and so forth.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.

46
47 MS. ST. LOUIS: But yes. It was one of
48 those.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Cool.

1 MR. BASSICH: Some of it should make it
2 to Virgil's smoker.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. BASSICH: What do you think,
7 Virgil. A little bit of bison sausage.

8
9 MR. GLANZ: I'd just like to have.....
10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I hope they
12 migrate over to the Yukon Flats.

13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: No. Some of those
15 bulls got mean. And they harvested several of them. I
16 don't know. Maybe a dozen or so. And I think we cut
17 up three or four of them here. They were shipped up
18 here, that went to the food bank. But they were big,
19 old bulls is what they were. The one weighed -- the
20 carcass weighed 1,300 pounds.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Wow. That's
23 awesome. Actually, two of them came in from Canada
24 about I don't know how many years ago. Just around
25 Northway and Tok. People were looking at them with
26 their chops.

27
28 Okay, Ruth. Go ahead.

29
30 MS. GRONQUIST: Chair, Members of the
31 Board. My name is Ruth Gronquist and I'm a wildlife
32 biologist with the Eastern Interior Field Office of the
33 Bureau of Land Management. And we've been working
34 jointly on management of the Fortymile Caribou Herd as
35 all you know for many years now. Actually starting
36 with some management planning back in 1995.

37
38 So I was just going to make a couple of
39 comments about the herd and add some things that Jeff
40 has -- that Jeff sent. He wasn't able to be here, so
41 I'll fill in some of the blanks and take any questions
42 on that, that I can answer.

43
44 The State hunt is still open for
45 Fortymile Caribou in the eastern part of zone two,
46 which is a more remote section of the herd range and
47 just to the west of 20E. And in fact includes part of
48 20E. And then it's also the northern portion of zone
49 three, north of the Fortymile Bridge is still open.
50 And there aren't very many caribou there unless they've

1 moved in there since the last report I have on our GPS
2 collars. So my prediction is that that will stay open
3 until March 30th, which is the -- 31st? Which is the
4 normal close of the season.

5
6 But everything else is closed except
7 the Federal hunt. The Federal hunt is still open
8 throughout the Range. And as many of you know,
9 everything but these parts of the State hunt were
10 closed around -- on the 22nd of February, so we -- as
11 Bill said, we -- especially Jeff -- have been
12 definitely keeping an eye on these this winter. If
13 you're interested in the harvest, I have a few notes on
14 that.

15
16 So again most of the caribou stayed in
17 Alaska this year, unlike last year. They're spread out
18 right now pretty much from the Steese Highway across to
19 the border. But they're avoiding that area north of
20 the Fortymile Bridge and a great deal of the Yukon-
21 Charley Preserve.

22
23 So some of the things that -- well, let
24 me back up and just say that Don and Bill, Andy and
25 Will have been very active. We just met in October?

26
27 MR. WOODRUFF: Right.

28
29 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. Yeah.

30
31 MS. GRONQUIST: To discuss a few things
32 about the Fortymile -- the harvest management
33 coalition.

34
35 Sue's been engaged and.....

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Frank's been
38 engaged.

39
40 MS. GRONQUIST: Pardon me?

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Frank has
43 been engaged.

44
45 MS. GRONQUIST: And Frank has
46 definitely been engaged.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.

49
50 MS. GRONQUIST: But just in terms of

1 members of the Council, we continue to have a really
2 excellent joint management situation with the
3 Fortymile.

4

5 So you were all updated on the herd.
6 We haven't gotten a census done since 2010 because of
7 weather. That's conducted in post-calving time.
8 Weather, fires, whatever else can be thrown at us by
9 Mother Nature has not allowed us to do the census. But
10 the fall estimate was about -- well, it's quite a
11 range. 50,000 to 55,000 caribou in this herd.

12

13 The current Harvest Management Plan is
14 from 2012 to 2018, so we do as I said meet. Rita puts
15 those great meetings together. And whenever there is
16 something that comes up for discussion, the group gets
17 together. The agencies are advisors. We're not on
18 that group. Just looking through Jeff's notes to see
19 what you might want to know.

20

21 One of the really great things this
22 fall -- and I think I'll turn it over to Rita for this,
23 was the youth hunt. And some of the progress that's
24 been made since our meeting in October on the youth
25 hunt.

26

27 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you. Yes. I
28 just wanted to update you that -- remember the
29 Fortymile Coalition -- back up. Start with youth hunt.
30 Had 30 permits offered and planning to take I think ten
31 -- or twenty animals. And these 30 permits were
32 divided between the zone one and the zone three,
33 fifteen for each zone. And the Coalition said let the
34 kids hunt wherever the caribou are. Because if I'm a
35 little kid and I draw for zone three and all the
36 caribou are in zone one, then I still can't hunt.

37

38 So that concept was taken to the Board
39 of Game and they approved that wherever the caribou
40 are, that the kids could hunt. So that's kind of a
41 cool thing. It's discretionary authority, but we still
42 like to notify the Board of Game of what the Coalition
43 wants.

44

45 MS. GRONQUIST: I had the opportunity
46 to be with Fish and Game this fall in the Taylor area
47 at the beginning of the hunt to do harvest monitoring.
48 And we met a few people whose kids had been out on the
49 hunt and had just had a great time. It was a real
50 cherished time for the parent and the kids. Nothing's

1 more fun than seeing a kid get their first caribou with
2 their mom or dad.

3

4 Well, I was going to change entirely to
5 the Eastern Interior RMP, but you're welcome to stay,
6 Rita.

7

8 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you. I think I
9 will step away.

10

11 MS. GRONQUIST: All right.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. GRONQUIST: Jeanie Cole usually
16 comes before you and talks a little bit about this
17 plan. This seems like the forever plan. As many of
18 you may recall, we started with our public scoping in
19 2008. We've gotten a lot of what feels like hairpin
20 turns on this one, but right now we are in the process
21 of writing the analysis for our proposed alternative.
22 And I don't know how much you folks know about our
23 proposed alternative. Some of you, Andrew, probably
24 know more than other folks. But it will look more like
25 Alternative B. If that means anything to you,
26 then.....

27

28 MR. BASSICH: That's good, Ruth.

29

30 MS. GRONQUIST: So it does borrow from
31 a lot of different parts of the other alternatives.
32 But it's -- when I look down the table of how the now
33 five alternatives are different, in a lot of places it
34 says refer to Alternative B.

35

36 And hopeful -- I'm not sure of the
37 schedule. I'm sorry about that. I thought Jeanie was
38 going to come and talk to you. And I might not be able
39 to answer very many questions. Oh, the other thing
40 we're doing now -- we've just finished incorporating a
41 lot of the public comment. We look at every one of
42 those. They get divided among the specialists who
43 address that in the analysis and then we incorporate
44 them or respond to them.

45

46 So it's similar to what other people
47 said today. There will be a section of the --
48 hopefully it won't be an entire volume, but it might be
49 of the comments, our responses to them or directing to
50 the sections of the plan that we changed because of

1 those comments.

2

3 And some of the biggest changes that I
4 see when I look through it is that there have been some
5 changes in what was going to be open to locatable and
6 leasable minerals and an increase in the number of what
7 we call riparian conservation areas that will give us
8 an opportunity to protect streams in a way that we
9 wouldn't be able to without those riparian areas --
10 those riparian conservation areas.

11

12 So I've probably raised more questions
13 than answered. And I apologize for that because my
14 understanding of the whole plan isn't as deep as
15 Jeanie's. But I thought I'd just give you a heads up
16 that we're just at the hopefully final writing stage.
17 And then there's a period of time before we produce our
18 record of decision. There's the opportunity for appeal
19 on our plan that comes somewhere in the scheme of
20 things.

21

22 But hopefully you guys have continued
23 to be updated or gotten indications when new
24 opportunities are coming. And I'll talk to Jeanie and
25 make sure that this RAC is on -- stays on the
26 distribution list -- and try to talk to many of you and
27 let you know when there's something that's new being
28 released.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Bill, do you
31 have a question.

32

33 MR. GLANZ: Yes. I know that it's hard
34 to be remembering. Like I can't remember all the
35 different parts. So, you know, A, B, C, D, and that --
36 what was B. What was just the general part of B, Ruth,
37 if you can recall. Oh, you might have it there. Okay.

38

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: There's
41 something underneath there.

42

43 MS. GRONQUIST: Excuse me.

44

45 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

46

47 MS. GRONQUIST: My tattered papers.

48

49 MR. GLANZ: Well, you can have some of
50 ours.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MS. GRONQUIST: Oh, that's great. I'm
4 looking at a table.....
5
6 MR. GLANZ: Okay.
7
8 MS. GRONQUIST:that I'm not sure
9 is going to be that meaningful for me to talk about on
10 the record. So I think if you have spec.....
11
12 MR. GLANZ: Well, we could be off the
13 record. I mean just a general.....
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MS. GRONQUIST: Well, I don't know -- I
18 mean what I'm looking at here is -- well, for example,
19 in Alternative B we had the highest number of
20 watersheds designated as riparian conservation areas.
21 Designate is probably not the right word because that
22 has a different meaning in land management terms. But
23 recognized. Areas that were important for -- they have
24 -- they're important to subsistence use, they got
25 points for that. They have a wide range of important
26 species. They have an anadromous fisheries. A number
27 of different criteria were used.
28
29 And so as we went from Alternative B to
30 Alternative D, which people often referred to as the --
31 allowing more development. It dropped to 24. Well,
32 now we're back to 73.
33
34 MR. GLANZ: Okay. Thank you. Like I
35 said, I wasn't trying to put you on the spot. I just
36 couldn't remember all five plans. When we had the
37 meeting and talked with the people, that's -- you know,
38 that's.....
39
40 MS. GRONQUIST: Yeah, Bill. Believe
41 me, neither can I. And when I go back to start writing
42 again I have to create my own tables just to understand
43 what's going to impact the subsistence resources when I
44 go back to write it that -- or write it for Alternative
45 E. And then there will be a new ANILCA Title 8,
46 Section 810, evaluation and finding conducted for
47 Alternative E, is what we're calling the proposed
48 alternative.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Maybe

1 you could help Bill -- get that provided to him. Maybe
2 an email.

3

4 MR. GLANZ: I've got all this on paper
5 at home, but I don't have it on me. But then again
6 they probably all turned it around, I imagine. But
7 we'll wait till Ruth comes up with her final draft or
8 whatever it's called. Probably be easier. But -- and
9 we had community meetings and so forth and so on. They
10 were up front with it. I mean they were going
11 community, community, so it was very nice. Yeah.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah, Eva.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Just for a reminder for
18 the Council, the Council was quite engaged in the EIS
19 process at the outset. And had formed a subcommittee.
20 Many of you spent a lot of time reviewing and also
21 participating in the community hearings. So this
22 Council had drafted a couple of letters commenting on
23 that EIS. So I can send those back out to you for that
24 same refresher that many of us need down the road here.
25 And then -- yeah. And then we'll be in touch on any
26 updates, too, and keep the Council apprised of.....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.

29

30 MS. PATTON:any developments and
31 opportunity to comment.

32

33 MS. GRONQUIST: One of the things I was
34 going to mention -- and I think that probably a lot of
35 you that live in the Fortymile area are aware of, we
36 have since the draft RMP proposed -- we received a
37 nomination during the public comment period to create
38 an area of critical environmental concern for the
39 Mosquito Flats for various reasons. We have to run it
40 through our criteria of whether or not they're
41 considering it as an ACEC, I'll say for short, meets
42 the relevance and importance. And then what kind of
43 management can we apply to protect those relevant
44 resources. So that is a new proposed ACEC since the
45 draft.

46

47 We also have expanded the Fortymile
48 ACEC, which was in the northern part of the Fortymile
49 subunit -- planning subunit. And that's primarily to
50 protect caribou and sheep, as I recall. So a couple of

1 changes I just wanted to point out.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: I had one other thing. Was
4 Denali handed us this piece of paper and me and Andrew
5 are amazed. We're looking at it. It says caribou
6 males, two years old, 205 pounds. Four year olds, 612
7 pounds. I said no wonder they seemed so heavy when I
8 carry them.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That was from
13 the Denali report?

14

15 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Madame Chair. And
16 then it says here evaluating it as, what is it a
17 plateau of about 590 pounds for bulls up to six years
18 of age. And that's amazing. I'm just totally blown
19 away. I was always thinking a big caribou was 300
20 pounds or something, you know, but -- yeah.

21

22 MR. KOEHLER: Sounds good to me.

23

24 MR. GLANZ: Two years old, 205 pounds;
25 four years old, 612. It's on the -- Denali handed it
26 to us. And the cover sheet there bear monitoring, and
27 you go through them and, anyway.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, some of
30 the herds are bigger animals than others, too.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: Oh, certainly.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Uh-
35 huh. All right. Do we have anything else.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 (Sneezes in audience)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Bless you.
42 Bless you. Bless you.

43

44 MS. GRONQUIST: I was going to refer
45 once to a question Andy had earlier for Yukon-Charley
46 Preserve about what they know about hunter
47 participation and harvest. The Yukon-Charley is in
48 three game management units, but the regulation is the
49 same for all three. And this Council actually promoted
50 that being a -- that regular -- or the seasons conform.

1 MR. GLANZ: We like to unify them just
2 like everything else. So.....

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.

5
6 MR. GLANZ: Just like the caribou there
7 -- not to change the subject quick, but a couple of
8 years ago they were shooting the caribou. And they
9 were oh, that's Steese White Mountain, I think to
10 Fortymile. So me and the wife flew it. And they were
11 all coming through the Charley heading that way. And
12 so we changed the caribou. You get the same tag to
13 hunt from Circle all the way to Fairbanks on the Steese
14 Highway.

15
16 So they eliminated all these -- and
17 also this year Donald and Andy, we made it where they
18 -- we put a buffer zone in the north bank of the Yukon
19 River to protect the caribou. Because they were
20 swimming across the Yukon and there you can shoot ten
21 caribou a day. You know, so we put a buffer in there.
22 Well, anyway, that saved a lot of caribou, too. And
23 they were everywhere this year. I know they're moving
24 out because I didn't see one on the road coming in the
25 other day. So none even in the hilltops. So they're
26 heading east.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Don.

29
30 MR. WOODRUFF: Bill, I need to correct
31 you on that. It was ten caribou total, not ten caribou
32 a day. Thank you.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. GLANZ: No. No. You can take --
37 you can get ten a day if you lived there on that side
38 of the river. And you can only export five back across
39 the river. That's the Arctic -- whatever it is. The
40 Arctic they call it. Yeah. Well, I can look at the
41 book.

42
43 MR. WOODRUFF: It's 10 total.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You're saying
48 it's a ten caribou limit, not ten a day.

49
50 MR. GLANZ: Well, I'm going to have to

1 look at that book.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: If it's ten a
4 day, holy crow.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MR. GLANZ: Well, it doesn't matter, if
9 you take five people, that's 50 caribou.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Who's going
12 to deal with ten caribou a day per person.
13
14 MR. BASSICH: Ruth, what was your
15 point. I'm sorry.
16
17 MS. GRONQUIST: My point was that that
18 hunt is on a harvest ticket. And those are the most
19 difficult kinds of hunts to keep track of harvest, let
20 alone trying to figure out hunting pressure.
21
22 MR. KOEHLER: Uh-huh.
23
24 MS. GRONQUIST: So just to empathize a
25 little bit with Yukon-Charley, that's going to be a
26 hard one for them.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.
29
30 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah. I think I'm not as
31 concerned about caribou harvest as I am about moose
32 harvest. And I guess what I'm trying to bring up as a
33 point is that given the situation that seems to be
34 exacerbating itself yearly, there needs to be some
35 effort into collecting a baseline data from where we
36 are. And something that we can collect on a yearly
37 basis so that we can track that type of pressure --
38 increased pressure on a already extremely low
39 population density. That's my concern.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Anyone
42 else.
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
47 Anything else, Ruth.
48
49 MS. GRONQUIST: Thank you, Madame Chair
50 and Council.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
2 Thank you.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
5 On the agenda we still have OSM reports. And as he's
6 coming up, I'm going to remind you guys the annual
7 report is -- have any things you want to add, be
8 thinking about that.

9
10 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
11 For the record, Carl Johnson, Office of Subsistence
12 Management. There's two main items I want to go over
13 with you.

14
15 First of all, a staffing update. It's
16 been quite an exciting time at OSM to be filling the 14
17 or so vacancies we had last year. You've already met
18 one of our -- a couple of our new hires. Orville Lind,
19 our new Native liaison. Adrienne Fleek, who is one of
20 our new Council coordinators who is assigned to the Y-K
21 Delta and Seward Peninsula Region. On the line we also
22 had listening our -- another new Council coordinator,
23 Karen Deatheridge, who is assigned to the Kodiak
24 Aleutians Region. Karen came to us from BLM and
25 Adrienne came to us from the EPA.

26
27 We also now have hired for the first
28 time in almost two years a new Anthropology Division
29 Chief. Her name is Jennifer Harden. She's currently a
30 cultural anthropologist with the Yosemite National Park
31 and she'll be starting in OSM in a couple of weeks.

32
33 Kayla McKinney was hired as an
34 Administrative Records Specialist, so she'll be working
35 with our Regulation Specialist Theo, to help in
36 collating the administrative record and doing other
37 things to assist him in his work. She came to us from
38 active duty in the U.S. Army, where she was an IT
39 specialist.

40
41 We also hired two new wildlife
42 biologists, Lisa Moss, how worked the Upper Mississippi
43 National Wildlife Refuge. And then also Suzanne
44 Worker, who is currently with the Western Alaska LCC at
45 their regional office for U.S. Fish and Wildlife
46 Service. I don't know exactly their start dates, but
47 they will be starting soon.

48
49 I also received word that we have made
50 a selection, but not yet a hire, for a biometrician

1 within the Fisheries Division. And I know that they
2 are also in the process of hiring more fisheries
3 biologists. And those are ongoing processes.

4
5 We also just closed on a recruitment
6 announcement for a new subsistence policy coordinator
7 to replace the vacancy left when David Jenkins went
8 into a position with the Forest Service.

9
10 So that's it for a staffing update.
11 Make sure I got everybody. Yes.

12
13 The other issue is the All Council
14 meeting. There was a meeting of the Chairs, the
15 Council Coordinators, and Orville Lind after the
16 Federal Subsistence Board meeting to do the initial
17 planning for the All Council meeting. Now, this will
18 be a meeting of all ten Regional Advisory Councils, all
19 together at the same time in the same room. This is
20 something that the Councils have been asking for for
21 quite some time. And we have selected to do that for
22 the winter meeting cycle of 2016. Just because with
23 the winter meeting cycle also being a fisheries year,
24 they will be less likely to have a lot of other things
25 on your individual agendas. So the date selected for
26 that is going to be March 7th through 11th. So that
27 will be five days. And it will be in Anchorage. The
28 venue is to be determined. We have to go through a
29 contracting process in order to figure out where we're
30 going to do it.

31
32 The general format would be to start
33 with a joint session -- a full day joint session of all
34 the ten Councils together. The agenda would include --
35 and this was the suggestion of the Chairs at our
36 meeting we had. The agenda would consist of common
37 issues that the Councils have been raising on their
38 annual reports. So we're using that as kind of a
39 guideline to identify the issues that are common to all
40 of the Councils.

41
42 After that initial joint session, the
43 remaining four days would be breakout sessions that
44 would consist of you, your Councils, having an
45 opportunity to have a full day to address your own
46 Regional issues. And then when you're not doing that,
47 we would have reports, panels, and training sessions.
48 So for example, you could have a joint Yukon River
49 Salmon Report, where you would have an opportunity to
50 sit down and hear a report from the Managers on salmon.

1 Have a discussion with them, not dissimilar to what you
2 were having yesterday with the Western Interior Council
3 or other multi-regional reports like Western Arctic
4 Caribou Herd or bycatch.

5
6 Training would target a lot of the
7 subjects that are identified in the Tribal Consultation
8 Policy as training objectives to fulfill the mandates
9 of that policy. So subjects could include everything
10 from ANILCA -- a basic on Title 8 of ANILCA to Federal
11 Indian Law to cross-cultural communication so Federal
12 Staff can better understand how to communicate and the
13 different ways of communicating with Alaska Native
14 people.

15
16 And then finally some panels where we
17 could have opportunities to learn about different
18 subsistence organizations. For example, having a panel
19 discussion where you have a RAC member with a member
20 from an SRC, a member from possibly an AC, and then
21 also possibly from the AMBCC to kind of learn how these
22 different groups operate and what they do within their
23 regulatory structure.

24
25 So that's just kind of an overview of
26 the vision. And we're going to move forward with --
27 the Planning Committee will again consist of the
28 Chairs, the Coordinators, our Native Liaison, and also
29 our Subsistence Outreach Specialist Deborah Koble since
30 there would definitely be a lot of public outreach that
31 would be involved in this process.

32
33 And I'll entertain any questions that
34 the Council may have.

35
36 Thank you, Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any
39 questions.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: How many
44 people is that. Ten Chair.....

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MR. JOHNSON: If everybody is seated
49 and all, there are no vacancies, that's 109 people,
50 Madame Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: 109 people.
2 Well, the Bison Group did it with 29. That's what.....
3
4 MR. KOEHLER: Groups.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.
7 Groups. Interesting. Okay. And then these Chairs
8 meeting is always going to be the Federal Board, when
9 we have Federal Board meetings.
10
11 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. If there is a
12 desire to have such a meeting like that in the future,
13 the most logical time to do it would be in conjunction
14 with the Federal Subsistence Board meeting. Because
15 then all the Chairs are in town for that anyway.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
18 Anything else.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
23
24 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.
25
26 MS. PITKA: Oh. I was just going to
27 ask about.....
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh, Rhonda.
30
31 MS. PITKA: When do you think the draft
32 agenda will be available.
33
34 MR. JOHNSON: We would plan to have --
35 we would work with the Chairs and the coordinators over
36 the next few months to finalize the issues, come up
37 with a -- kind of a schedule matrix to -- because the
38 idea will be -- you know, you might have reports
39 appearing more than once throughout the week. So that
40 if you missed one on the day of your individual,
41 original meeting, you could attend it at another time
42 later in the week. So it's going to take a little bit
43 of magic to figure out how that all works together.
44 But the plan will be to work with the Chairs to
45 finalize an agenda, the full schedule, and have
46 everything -- and also of course start preliminary
47 discussions with, you know, the different State
48 agencies, Tribes, Federal agencies who would be
49 involved. And then have a final, full schedule
50 available at your fall meeting.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
2 Anything else.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
7 you, Carl. Moving on for annual report.

8
9 Eva.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
12 if I can just check in briefly with the Council if
13 you've had an opportunity to read the draft annual
14 report. I'll just cover the main -- the main topics
15 are here. And if you have further detail that you
16 would like to add to these topics. This is what was
17 discussed at length at the fall meeting in terms of
18 concerns and recommendations to the Federal Subsistence
19 Board.

20
21 One was a Tribal consultation with
22 Federal Subsistence Board and engagement in the
23 Regional Advisory Council process, inquiring on how the
24 Federal Subsistence Board and program will engage with
25 Tribes and how Tribes will be represented at the
26 Council and Board meetings. There's more detail on
27 that.

28
29 And then the second subject of concern
30 was dwindling moose population, increased hunting
31 pressure, and greater important for Yukon communities
32 with closed subsistence chinook harvest. And that was
33 specifically concerned about wildlife subsistence
34 opportunities for moose in particular and also caribou,
35 given the greater importance with a reduction in
36 chinook harvest for subsistence.

37
38 Recommended fisheries management
39 actions to protect subsistence coho from excess bycatch
40 in the chum commercial fisheries was also identified.
41 Again concerns that a reduced chinook subsistence
42 harvest -- there's greater importance on other salmon
43 species. Coho, fall chum, summer chum.

44
45 And number four was protection of
46 caribou front runners. A concern of letting the
47 leaders pass, an education to that regard. And also
48 discussion with other communities and groups to
49 encourage that local knowledge and understanding of
50 allowing the leaders to pass.

1
2 The Council had also identified the
3 hunter etiquette. We've got a draft letter that's been
4 being developed, since the Council wanted to make full
5 and detailed recommendations to the Board of how to --
6 and the Federal Subsistence Program of how to begin to
7 address that. So we'll be adding the discussion that
8 was held at this meeting to that letter. And that will
9 be coming around for your review as well.

10
11 So if there's additional topics or more
12 detail in this report that you'd like to add.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I don't know if
15 it's more detail. I got to admit I came to this
16 meeting and one of the most important things I wanted
17 to talk about was the issue of hunter education,
18 ethics, wanton waste, whatever. That general
19 discussion. And I feel like -- personally, I feel like
20 yesterday -- I feel like we're in limbo. I didn't
21 really feel like I had any clear direction on what
22 future progress is going to be made, what the next
23 steps are on that.

24
25 And so anything that can help clarify
26 that or any direction that we can get from either OSM
27 or from the State program regarding a combined effort
28 or any type of effort to begin the process of that
29 outreach and education. I'd really like to be kept up-
30 to-date on that. I would much rather -- what I was
31 looking for yesterday and I didn't get, was I wanted to
32 get some sort of commitment from OSM and the Department
33 of Fish and Game to begin to engage in that process.
34 And to work with Council members, whether it be through
35 committee or through the process -- full process.

36
37 My gut feeling is we -- we began the
38 committee process a few years ago and it kind of
39 fizzled out. But it was a really good start. And I
40 think that's really the way to initiate it initially.
41 To brainstorm a little bit on what we want to
42 accomplish and how we want to accomplish it and who
43 needs to be involved. And I think that's the first
44 step.

45
46 And so I would like to just keep
47 furthering that. And I'll probably sound like a broken
48 record for the next couple of meetings on that until we
49 start addressing that. Because I think that's
50 pretty.....

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay, Andy.
2 Do you want to add that as a -- I thought it was on
3 here.
4
5 MR. BASSICH: It is on there. But
6 there again I don't feel like there's any real clear
7 direction on where -- what the next step is that.....
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So do you
10 want to add it to the annual report.
11
12 MR. BASSICH: Certainly.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
15 That's.....
16
17 MR. BASSICH: Because that forces them
18 to kind of giving us some direction on where the --
19 what the thinking is on that.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.
22
23 MR. BASSICH: What the next steps are.
24 I would hope.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So would you
27 guys be okay with adding that to the annual report.
28
29 (Council nods affirmatively)
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. We
32 have a consensus.
33
34 Anyone else have anything you want to
35 add the annual report, that we went through at this
36 meeting.
37
38 MR. WOODRUFF: I gave you something,
39 Sue.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Huh? I'm
42 sorry.
43
44 MR. WOODRUFF: I gave you something.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Donald, you
47 gave it to me. But I'm having a.....
48
49 MR. WOODRUFF: It was on the.....
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Mic. What
2 was it. Was it this one. No. I've got yellow
3 stickies all over the place.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 MR. WOODRUFF: Yep. That's it.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, bring
10 it up.
11
12 MR. WOODRUFF: Refresh my memory.
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 MR. WOODRUFF: Dysfunctional Fish and
17 Wildlife.
18
19 MR. WOODRUFF: Oh, that's right. Okay.
20
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Website.
23 Sorry.
24
25 MR. WOODRUFF: May I proceed.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes.
28
29 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. I
30 participated -- or I was in the audience during the
31 Western RAC meeting. And it came to light that the
32 Fish and Wildlife website was inadequate and
33 unacceptable for access. And I want to support the
34 Western RAC and sort of put this in our newsletter -- I
35 mean our annual letter -- to do something about this.
36 Because it's not working. And even the Staff has a
37 hard time using the website. So it needs to be
38 corrected.
39
40 Thank you.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You'd like to
43 give us some input on that.
44
45 MR. JOHNSON: Well, just a
46 clarification as to which website. My side discussions
47 I had with members of the Western Chair or Council was
48 in reference to the regulations.gov website. So I want
49 to clarify for the record and also for the benefit of
50 your annual report that that's the website we're

1 referring to.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That is the
4 dysfunctional website we're talking about. Okay. You
5 don't think it's dysfunctional.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
8 I know in working with this Council and also with the
9 public that the OSM website is very challenging for
10 both Council members, rural community members, and
11 other Agency Staff to utilize. So that was my
12 understanding from the discussion, was it was accessing
13 information on the OSM website.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Jack needs to
16 help. Annual letter dysfunctional.....

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. REAKOFF: Thanks, Madame Chair. I
21 got stuck here for weather and I just happened to be
22 here.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I thought so.

25

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: We were talking about we
28 wanted a proposal form. There used to be a proposal
29 form. We were real concerned that the direction that's
30 -- it's sort of like fill in your name and kind of do
31 this and kind of do that. It's by guess and by golly.
32 And the public was coming up with pieces of paper, like
33 they didn't have a proposal form.

34

35 Our annual report says we want a
36 proposal form. We want it digitized just like the
37 Board of Game. Go on the Board of Game website. Click
38 on a pdf. It's writable. You download it. Type in
39 all the information for a proposal. You transmit it
40 back to a Fish and Game and you're done in 15 minutes.
41 That's what we want.

42

43 And the direction that OSM's site
44 directs you to the DOI site. And you're supposed to
45 like hunt through this kooky thing. And my bandwidth
46 isn't strong enough to handle that thing. It's real
47 slow. It's real glitchy. And that is not what the
48 public needs. That's not what the Council needs.
49 That's not what the subsistence users need.

50

1 And so our annual report is going to
2 talk about the need for a digitized proposal and a
3 proposal that should -- a format that should be on the
4 back of this book, just like quite a few -- for many
5 years, you could just open the book and there was a
6 proposal form right there. Anybody could make a
7 proposal and send it in. It had the address right on
8 it. That's what our annual report is talking about.

9

10 Thank you, Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I
13 really share your frustration. If somebody tells me to
14 go to the web to get something, I'm there going -- it
15 says click here. Click here. Click here. And then
16 it's like but go back here. That stuff is not that
17 easy to do. And I feel like I'm kind of a reasonably
18 smart person. But it's an aggravating situation. So
19 the simpler the better.

20

21 So I hear you, Jack. And so we're
22 talking two things. The form.....

23

24 MR. WOODRUFF: No. It's the same
25 thing.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Or we're
28 talking the one thing. The proposal form.

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: Same thing.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The proposal
33 form should be easily -- yeah. Well, okay. They're
34 saying over here they're hearing two things. The
35 website and this form.

36

37 So your concern was just the form or
38 your concern was the website.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: My concern was the form
41 and the direction to the DOI website. I will concur
42 that OSM's website -- it's a little bit
43 counterintuitive. It's a little bit hard to work
44 through that site. It takes you -- now that I've used
45 it quite a bit, I can work it. But I could see how the
46 general public could go on there and like -- it's not
47 real intuitive. It kind of needs to be readjusted a
48 little bit. Just worked out just a little bit. I mean
49 the general format's not that bad. But it needs a
50 little bit of work.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So that
4 sounds like three things. Don't direct us to DOI.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. I don't want to
9 look at Washington, D.C.'s website when I'm looking for
10 Eastern Interior's meeting minutes. That kind of
11 thing. I know exactly what you mean.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's a good
14 point. Yeah. So those three things. Do you want to
15 have those three things in the report.

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So there's
20 three things. We all agree. Don't take us to DOI and
21 run us through a rabbit chase just to get one thing.
22 And then an easy form for the proposal. And fix your
23 site. No. I mean work on the site to make it so it's
24 not so hard to navigate through.

25

26 (Council nods affirmatively)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Carl.

29

30 MR. JOHNSON: I do know that they are
31 going to be in the process of making some changes to
32 the website format. I don't know what they are, but I
33 guess we'll find out soon enough.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Well,
36 it's okay for us to give it in our report. So we'll do
37 that. And everyone's in agreement.

38

39 (Council nods affirmatively)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Good.
42 That will handle the report. And future meetings. If
43 you go back to page 77, you'll see the schedule. I'm
44 looking at the fall.

45

46 MR. GLANZ: It looks like October 29th
47 and the 30th. Is that our writing there, I can't
48 hardly read this, yeah, that's EI Fairbanks.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Are you

1 talking to yourself, Bill?
2
3 MR. GLANZ: No. I'm talking to you,
4 Madame Chair.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh, okay.
9 Maybe you should call my name once in a while.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 MR. GLANZ: And for everybody else,
14 too.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: What did you
17 say.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: I said it looks like it's
20 October 29th through the 30th for the fall meeting.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
23
24 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And I don't
27 think there's going to be any changes.
28
29 MR. BASSICH: There's no way to move
30 that up a week? There's absolutely no way I'm going to
31 make that with the river ice flowing that time of year.
32 So I just wanted to give you a heads up on that. It
33 seems like every year we keep pushing our meetings
34 back. We used to be -- when I first started -- October
35 1st. Then we have a lot of hunting guides on our
36 Council and so we pushed it back a little bit because
37 they were barely able to get back in time. And then it
38 became around the 15th. And now we're into the third
39 week or last week of October.
40
41 For those of us who live in remote
42 areas, that's the time where the seasons are changing
43 and it's almost impossible to travel.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Are you
46 saying it's better the 22nd?
47
48 MR. BASSICH: Absolutely. At a
49 minimum. But that's doable.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Council
2 Members.
3
4 MR. KOEHLER: I can do the 22nd.
5
6 MS. PITKA: I think that's during AFN,
7 Alaska Federation.....
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I think
10 that's why we did it.
11
12 MS. PITKA: I think that that's why we
13 did that.
14
15 RECORDER: Turn your mic on.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm pretty
18 sure that's what.....
19
20 MS. PITKA: Huh?
21
22 RECORDER: Turn your microphone on.
23
24 MS. PITKA: Oh, sorry. I was like what
25 is she doing. Okay.
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 MS. PITKA: Okay. I think that's
30 during the Alaska Federation of Natives meeting. And I
31 certainly wouldn't be able to meet then.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I think
34 that's what we came up against. Yeah.
35
36 MR. BASSICH: Okay.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. So
39 29th and 30th it is.
40
41 MR. BASSICH: Then I won't be here.
42
43 MS. CELLARIUS: I can answer the AFN
44 question. AFN's actually the week before that. It's
45 the 15th, 16th, and 17th. We looked this up for the
46 Southcentral meeting, which is now the 21st and 22nd,
47 instead of the 20th and 21st.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So
50 Southcentral -- pencil that in. Is in 21st and 22nd.

1 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah. And the Wrangell
2 SRC is meeting the 19th and 20th.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And that's
5 me.
6
7 MS. CELLARIUS: For Sue's benefit.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's me.
10 SRC.
11
12 MS. CELLARIUS: And I will just let you
13 know we will do our best to have someone at both
14 Southcentral and Eastern Interior. But when
15 Southcentral and Eastern Interior meet on top of each
16 other, you will -- it's harder for us to get to -- you
17 know, we'll have somebody at the meeting. I just don't
18 know whether it will be or the biologist.
19
20 MR. FIRMIN: Which days work better for
21 everybody that week then. 22nd and 23rd or.....
22
23 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, do we.....
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, wait a
26 minute. The 22nd and 23rd is a -- right with the
27 Southcentral RAC.
28
29 MR. FIRMIN: Or 21st and 22nd.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm sorry?
32
33 MR. FIRMIN: The 21st and 22nd, right
34 on top of Southcentral's.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I highly
37 don't recommend that.
38
39 MR. KOEHLER: We could have a joint
40 meeting.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, they'd
43 probably love that. And then -- well, then there's the
44 15th and 16th.
45
46 MS. CELLARIUS: That's AFN.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's AFN.
49 AFN. Okay. So make a decision. Hurt me.
50

1 MR. FIRMIN: I'm okay with moving it up
2 a week, if that's -- because Southcentral is 21st and
3 22nd. We'd only overlap them a day. But the SRC is
4 meeting those two days?
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Before.
7 Yeah. Does everybody agree. Eastern Interior on the
8 22nd and.....
9
10 MR. GLANZ: Which days are we talking
11 out here.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: 22nd and 23rd
14 of October.
15
16 MR. GLANZ: Oh. I thought we couldn't
17 do it because of the Natives.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No. We found
20 out it was the week before.
21
22 MR. GLANZ: Oh, cool. Okay. Sounds
23 good to me.
24
25 MS. PITKA: I'm okay with those days
26 now. Either the 22nd and 23rd or the 29th and the
27 30th. I'm okay with both of those days.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Is everybody
30 o.....
31
32 MR. FIRMIN: What's wrong with it, 21st
33 and 22nd? Because the 21st would be.....
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The 21st is
36 when we would at least have somebody from the.....
37
38 MR. FIRMIN: I mean what.....
39
40 MR. WOODRUFF: Every other Council
41 meeting's overlapping.
42
43 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. They always have
44 two per week.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, we have
47 the Wrangell-St. Elias that comes to our meetings. And
48 so we could move their report to early in the meeting
49 and just take it up the first day.
50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Or the last day and give
2 them a chance to get here.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Or give them
5 a chance to get here.
6
7 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. That
10 would be fine.
11
12 MS. CELLARIUS: If I can.....
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Barbara.
15
16 MS. CELLARIUS: So the SRC is meeting
17 on Monday and Tuesday.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.
20
21 MS. CELLARIUS: If you're trying to get
22 up here for a meeting on Wednesday, that.....
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No. They're
25 talking the 22nd and 23rd.
26
27 MS. CELLARIUS: 22nd and 23rd I think
28 would be -- wouldn't affect your travel. But if you
29 had to be in Copper Center on Monday and Tuesday and
30 had to be in Fairbanks on Wednesday.....
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. I get
33 that. But I guess I thought we were talking about the
34 22nd and 23rd. Yeah.
35
36 MS. PITKA: We are.
37
38 MS. CELLARIUS: And we'll just -- I
39 mean Judy and I will just have to split up. And you'll
40 -- one of us will go to Southcentral.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right.
43
44 MS. CELLARIUS: And the other will go
45 to Eastern Interior. And we'll make do.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So the 22nd
48 and 23rd I think will be fine.
49
50 MR. KOEHLER: Does that help you at

1 all, Andy.

2

3

MR. BASSICH: Yeah. That helps me.
4 We'll be here for the whole weekend though because
5 there are no planes flying back to Eagle on Saturday.
6 So we'll come in on Wednesday and we won't get out of
7 here until the 26th, which is just going to cost OSM
8 more money. Wait until they get my beer bill after a
9 whole weekend here.

10

(Laughter)

12

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So what do we
14 want to do.

15

MR. KOEHLER: I think we're good with
17 that.

18

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: 22nd and
20 23rd.

21

(Council nods affirmatively)

23

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
25 Everybody agree. I'm sorry, Andy. You get to drink
26 beer all weekend. Or you could go -- when does your
27 flight leave anyway. What time in the day.

28

MR. BASSICH: Mornings.

29

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: In the
32 mornings.

33

MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

34

MR. WOODRUFF: Or never.

35

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You might be
39 here anyway, like Jack.

40

MR. BASSICH: It's called Neverts, not
42 Everts.

43

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. It's
45 called Neverts. Okay. We're going to have to work
46 through this. I'm sorry.

47

MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
49 also just to confirm. There was discussion at the last
50 meeting about the Council wanting to check in and hear

1 back from communities if there were communities that
2 had specific concerns for subsistence. If the Council
3 wanted to address those concerns and meet directly in a
4 community. So just wanted to check in. Fairbanks was,
5 you know, the fallback standard. But see if anybody
6 had heard from their communities or had any
7 recommendations for meeting in a rural community.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So Council
10 Members, anyone have a recommendation to have it at
11 their community.

12

13 MR. KOEHLER: I recommend you come out
14 to my place.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I think we
17 should.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I would enjoy
22 that. We would all be stuck there for the winter.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And there's
27 no beer.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: I can brew.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
34 Fairbanks. And if something changes, you need to
35 contact Eva or I, or both. So it's Fairbanks the 22nd
36 and 23rd.

37

38 MS. PITKA: I can provide Council
39 contact information for all of the Councils in my
40 Region, in the Yukon Flats. I have those lists, so if
41 you need to get a hold of anybody there.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's great,
44 Rhonda. Okay. Closing comments. It's about 5:00
45 o'clock. And I know sometimes when we say closing
46 comments, I watch your guys put your coat on and leave.
47 So anybody have any closing comments.

48

49 Andy.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I just wanted to
2 say thank you to OSM for arranging for the dual meeting
3 with the Western Interior. I really enjoyed that. I
4 think it's really important for us to get face-to-face
5 and to hear each other's concerns. I think it showed
6 that we have a lot of shared concerns. And I think
7 that carries more weight when we send a message back to
8 the Federal Subsistence Board.

9
10 And again just thanks for all of you
11 for coming. And especially those of you who came and
12 testified before us. I think this is the first meeting
13 I can remember in Fairbanks where we had so much public
14 testimony. And I really appreciated that. I really
15 enjoy hearing from the public.

16
17 And then finally for all of you who
18 have to sit through all of our meetings for many, many
19 hours just to have your 15 minutes of fame up here, I
20 know that's a hard thing to do. But it is appreciated,
21 getting these reports and keeping us up-to-date.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Bill.

24
25 MR. GLANZ: Yes. I'd just like to say
26 that the Eastern and Western Interior are fortunate to
27 have you, Sue, and Jack as our Chairs. I'll tell you.
28 You guys do a wonderful job.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 You guys are perfect.

33
34 Thank you. Yeah.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's deeply
37 appreciated. Thank you.

38
39 Go ahead Andrew and then Donald.

40
41 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. I enjoyed having
42 the joint meeting. I think that was one of the first
43 joint meetings I've attended. Or I know we've had them
44 in the same building before, but I don't think we
45 actually had joint meetings. And I think they were
46 good and well put together. And thanks for all the
47 participation from everybody.

48
49 MR. WOODRUFF: I want to thank all the
50 RAC members that showed up. We had a full house. And

1 the audience and the Agencies and the class that was
2 here. And I think that they did a really good job
3 testifying last night at the public meeting.

4
5 And I just want to reemphasize that
6 although I may not agree with you, I still respect your
7 opinions. And that's important for us to continually
8 repeat that.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Virgil.

13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, it was good to
15 have a joint RAC meeting. We hadn't done that in a
16 long, long time. And we do have some disagreements in
17 philosophy. And I think we actually had a pretty good
18 meeting. Some of their reports that we've got are
19 pretty interesting. I like the fact that the Refuge
20 Service broke out the comments on the proposed rule.
21 And I think that's good. But that's about all I've got
22 to say.

23
24 We still, you know, have a lot of
25 issues, as far as our conservation issues with our
26 salmon. And we have to keep on top of the -- keep on
27 top of the issues. And some of us sitting here at the
28 table will be heading to Whitehorse in a month -- or
29 less than a -- about a month to argue with the
30 Canadians over the fish.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thanks.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Lester.

37
38 MR. ERHART: What.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm going to
41 ask you to go next.

42
43 MR. ERHART: What.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do you have
46 any comments. Wonderful comments.

47
48 MR. ERHART: Oh, yeah. This was a very
49 good meeting. And one of the best, I thought, with the
50 two RACs. And I want to say thank you to everybody

1 that participated in there. Okay.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Larry, any
4 comments.

5

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Thank you. I
7 thought it was a very good meeting. I really enjoyed
8 meeting those people from the Western Interior.

9

10 And I'd like to bring up a subject that
11 a gentleman at the end said yesterday from the Western
12 Interior. He said we keep talking about the same
13 things over and over again for the last 20 years. You
14 know, we're just reheating the same old soup or hash or
15 whatever you want. And, you know, there's -- and, you
16 know, my way of life, of thinking is that there's a
17 time to talk and there's a time to take action. And,
18 you know, if we're going to bring up a subject, we
19 don't need to talk it to death. You know, we just need
20 to set a clear trail for ourselves. And the time for
21 talk is over and time for action is here.

22

23 So, you know, we need to keep that in
24 mind. And he brought up a good point.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. KOEHLER: No comment. Just have a
29 safe trip home.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Rhonda.

32

33 MS. PITKA: I'd like to thank you all
34 for educating me during this meeting. It was really
35 enlightening learning this process. Learning this
36 process has been pretty eye-opening. It's amazing to
37 me how, you know, little public comment we've actually
38 had. You know, maybe there are better ways that we can
39 do some more outreach to communities so we can get more
40 call-ins from them.

41

42 There are concerns on the ground that I
43 think that we haven't been hearing. So I think that I
44 want to hear more of those and less Agency reports.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.

47

48 MS. PITKA: I mean those are great.
49 But, you know, I think public comment is also very
50 important, too. And thank you. Thank you all for all

1 of your work on this.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes. And I
6 would like to thank the young people that are on our
7 organization -- or our RAC. Will and Rhonda, I was
8 thinking you're both close to the same age. But she's
9 got a few on you. So that's what's.....

10

11 MS. PITKA: Yeah. You'll catch up.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's really
14 important. And Andrew, you're a very smart young man.
15 I really appreciate what you bring. And I know the
16 elders are a little quiet, but we try to get you to
17 speak out and we appreciate everything that you bring
18 to it.

19

20 All of you. I appreciate all of you
21 guys. I appreciate you -- the support for chairing and
22 hope I do you a good job. So thank you, guys.

23

24 And again I want to ditto everything
25 for all the help out there. And I do. I agree with
26 Rhonda. I think it needs -- we need to figure out how
27 to get more public involved -- reports from the public.

28

29 And thank you. And thank you, Eva, for
30 all your work.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: Yes. Fine job, Eva.
33 Wonderful job.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes. We
36 really appreciate you.

37

38 MR. GLANZ: Thank you. You do a lot of
39 hard work for us. Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh. All
42 right. Did I forget anything. Besides.....

43

44 MR. BASSICH: Motion to adjourn.

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I heard a
49 motion to adjourn. I heard a second. All in favor.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
4 Thanks, guys. And have safe travels.
5
6 (Off record)
7
8 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

