

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8
9 Pike's Landing
10 Fairbanks, Alaska
11 October 12, 2011
12 8:30 a.m.

13
14
15
16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

17
18 Sue Entsminger, Chair
19 Andrew Bassich
20 Lester Erhart
21 Andrew Firmin
22 William Glanz
23 Frank Gurtler
24 Joseph Matesi
25 Virgil Umphenour
26 Larry Williams
27
28 Regional Council Coordinator, K.J. Mushovic

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 10/12/2011)

(On record)

MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. If everyone will take their seats, we'll get started.

(Pause)

MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'm calling the meeting to order. This is Wednesday the 12th of October.

Could we hold the racket down, please.

This is the Eastern Interior RAC meeting addressing primarily wildlife proposals. We have 9 of 10 Council members present.

Last night before we broke for the evening we tabled.....

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, we didn't.

MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes, we did. We tabled Proposal 10465/66 until this morning.

But before we get started this morning, we have a member of the public that would like to testify that can't be here later.

Let's see, and I believe we have another announcement to make. The administrative announcement on the teleconference stuff; could you cover that, please?

MS. MUSHOVIC: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe that the Council would like those of you who are aware of folks who want to call into this teleconference, that you suggest they do so at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For customary trade.

MS. MUSHOVIC: Only if you're interested in customary trade.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Go ahead.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
4 regarding this teleconference, when people call in, do
5 they talk to anyone to know where we're at? So they're
6 blindly coming into our meeting. Man, we need a
7 process. When we hear somebody come on, we probably
8 need to ask them what they're interested in or if
9 they're going to listen to the whole meeting, and then
10 give them an idea of when something's come up to help
11 them.

12

13 MS. MUSHOVIC: So you want me to
14 interrupt this meeting and interact with the callers
15 every time? Because I can do that.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What do other
18 Councils do?

19

20 MR. BASSICH: I've tried to sit in on a
21 number of these teleconferences. I think what would
22 really help, a lot of times people are making phone
23 calls to different people in the room or whatever. So
24 I think if you can do like what you just did, make an
25 announce if there's a critical issue that people want
26 to testify on, which usually there's one or two, and
27 set a time that you're going to try to address those,
28 and then people can call in. I think that would
29 alleviate a lot of the problem. I would feel very
30 disruptive personally if every time someone calls in we
31 need to stop what we're doing and address them. But I
32 think generally at most of these meetings there's one
33 or two issues that people really are interested in
34 listening to, and so if we -- if the Chair could try
35 and schedule a general time for that, that might really
36 work the best. But most people have contact with
37 someone in the room or a Council member that they can
38 get that information. I think it's just if the Chair
39 could set aside times.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But they
42 could call OSM and find out where we're at, too, or
43 not? No. Oh. Boy, that makes it hard.

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, that issue is a
46 challenging issue on how to solve the problem, but it
47 definitely is a problem.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Larry has a
50 question. He had his hand up.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Larry, you had
2 something to say this morning.

3
4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
5 Chair.

6
7 People calling in, I think the Council
8 members here serve the public or supposedly serves the
9 public, so I have no problem with people calling in
10 with their concerns at any time during the meeting, you
11 know. We can keep our train of thought and listen
12 correctly to the concerns and comments that the public
13 makes, so I don't see no big problem with. I know
14 that's the way I feel personally, you know.

15
16 Thank you very much.

17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Maybe we
19 can have a discussion on this a little later in the
20 day.

21
22 Right now we have a member of the
23 public that is going to have to leave, and so I'd like
24 to call that person up now before we get started on the
25 regular business. Charlie Swaney.

26
27 MR. SWANEY: I'm going to have to leave
28 here real quick.

29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Could you sit down at
31 the table, and then there's a button to turn on the
32 microphone. And if you could identify yourself and
33 where you're from first.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MR. SWANEY: I'm going to have to leave
38 here real quick, because I have to go to a medical

39
40 My name is Charlie Swaney. I live in
41 Arctic Village.

42
43 I come here today as I speak for my
44 people. Ever since Red Sheep was opened to hunting, we
45 got nothing. We got no moose and we got no sheep.
46 Nothing. Every since all the plane activity started,
47 we got nothing.

48
49 My uncle is in the back right here.
50 His name is Gideon James. Last year he spent \$1500 on

1 gas, just gas alone, so we could go hunt. No, we came
2 back with nothing. Nothing.

3

4 Arctic Village is where we live. It's
5 not like we can go down to the store and buy food. No.
6 No. No way. We make very little. You know, last
7 year and this year I made \$12,000 annual income.
8 \$12,000. This year, too. Can you live off of that?
9 Every one of you. Every one of you. \$12,000 annual
10 income. Can you live off of that? That's what I made.

11

12

13 So when we go out there in the woods
14 and we hunt, we hunt for our food. That's our
15 lifestyle. That's our lifestyle. That's our
16 tradition. We make dried meat, everything. When we
17 get moose or we get caribou or we get sheep. That's
18 our lifestyle. That's how we live. We're from there.
19 We're from there. Arctic Village. Arctic Village. We
20 live off the land. I tell you straight up right now,
21 eye-to-eye, all of you. Eye-to-eye, all of you, we
22 live off the land. That's our lifestyle. That's how
23 we live. When I was kid, even my grandkids now, my
24 kids, my grandkids, that's how they live. I tell you,
25 eye-to-eye right now, all of you, that's how we live.
26 That's our lifestyle.

27

28 Ever since that Red Sheep Creek is
29 open up, nobody's gotten moose upriver. Nobody's
30 gotten sheep up river. We travel 70 miles by boat as
31 far as we could go, and from there we got to hike 8, 9
32 miles, try to go up there and get sheep. No, not this
33 year. Nobody. No. Even this fall. Even this fall.
34 How many people went upriver, tried to get moose. No.
35 Nobody succeeded. That's because of all of that plane
36 activity is flying over and chase them out. We live up
37 there. We live up there. That's our life. Our life
38 is up there. That's the way we live. Our life is up
39 there. Come around and jeopardize our living. That's
40 why we're here, because we're not getting nothing.
41 We're not getting nothing. All that plane jeopardize
42 our living. Our living. Our lifestyle. All that
43 plane activity.

44

45 I speak for my people, the whole
46 village. That's why they sent me down here, to speak
47 in front of you. They -- I'm out there all the time.
48 I'm out there all the time. That's why they sent me
49 down here. They want me to speak for them. I speaking
50 for my people. I love my people. That's my family.

1 That's my family. All the people of Arctic Village,
2 that's my family. We live off the land, and we want to
3 continue living off the land.

4
5 All this plane activity that's going on
6 up there in Red Sheep Creek, no, we can't get no moose.
7 We can't get no sheep. There's nothing. They chase
8 them away. They run away. They run away. We hike 6,
9 7 miles up there. Nothing. Can you imagine that, any
10 of you? Can you imagine that? Hiking all the way up
11 there, and stay up there 6, 7 days. No, nothing.
12 Nothing. Nothing. That's what's happening right now.
13 That's what's happening right now.

14
15 I come to you today. I ask you, close
16 Red Sheep Creek, because Arctic Village, we live in
17 Arctic Village land that's our lifestyle now. We want
18 to go out and continue hunting, and to out there and
19 get sheep and go out there and get moose, but that's
20 not possible right now. That's not possible right now.
21 After all that plane activity up there, it's not
22 possible.

23
24 My uncle, Gideon James, way up here in
25 the back, like I told you, last year he spent \$1500 on
26 gas money alone, just gas money. No, came back with
27 nothing. Can all of you imagine that? We're paying
28 \$10 a gallon of gas in Arctic Village. \$10 a gallon of
29 gas. It's hard.

30
31 Red Sheep Creek is open right now and
32 it make it even harder on us. I'm not just speaking
33 for myself. I'm speaking for my people. I'm speaking
34 for my kids, my grandkids, all my grandchildren up
35 there. Everybody. They call me Babba (ph). They call
36 me grandpa. All those kids up there, they call me
37 grandpa Babba. Babba. I'm speaking for them. I'm
38 speaking for them.

39
40 We've got a life up there. Why does
41 our life have to be jeopardized? Why? Just so
42 somebody can charter a plane, spend \$1500, \$1600 to go
43 up there and get sheep? Well, here, us, we're spending
44 \$10 a gallon of gas and all that, and we go up there
45 and we get nothing.

46
47 This is where we're from. This is our
48 village. We go way up there and we get nothing,
49 because all that plane activity chased all that sheep,
50 all that moose away. I can't say any more to it with

1 my kids, my grandkids. That's they're future. That's
2 they're future. They -- what we're trying to teach
3 them, we're trying to live off our land.

4
5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You can cut short.

6
7 MR. SWANEY: Yeah. What I -- I can't
8 express to all of you any more. We're struggling.
9 We're struggling. And our lifestyle is from off the
10 land out there. Our entire lifestyle is from off the
11 land out there. So I bring that to you. We're
12 struggling. We're struggling. But what's out there,
13 that's how we live. That's how we live. That's how we
14 live. That's our lifestyle. And I bring that to your
15 full attention right now. I bring it to you eye-to-
16 eye, person-to-person. That's our lifestyle. We live
17 that way. That's our tradition.

18
19 So I can't say any more for my people
20 though, but I hope you listen to me. I hope all of you
21 listen to me. Please close Red Sheep Creek. Please.

22
23 I thank you very much. And I speak for
24 my people. I speak for my people. Please close Red
25 Sheep Creek. I ask you, all of us. The whole Arctic
26 Village ask you. The whole Arctic Village beg you,
27 close Red Sheep Creek.

28
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Swaney.
30 I think we got your message.

31
32 MR. GLANZ: We also are on your side.
33 We're the one that proposed closing it down, guys.

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'll entertain a
36 motion to bring Proposal 105, 65/66 back to the table.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: So made.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Second.

41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Sue, do you have
43 something to bring forward.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Mr.
46 Chair. I spent a lot of time talking with Park Service
47 last night after we closed, and talking with Staff, a
48 lot of Staff, and in order to move forward, I've come
49 up with some language that pretty much is close -- we
50 have before us the motion to adopt the proposal as

1 modified by OSM with the addition of Nabesna and
2 Tanacross at the list of communities.

3

4 And what I'd like to do is to amend the
5 main motion to clarify the Council's intent regarding
6 the hunt.

7

8 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
9 Preserve superintendent would be delegated the
10 authority (1) to announce the harvest quota, the number
11 of permits to be issued, and the reporting period; (2)
12 to open the season; and (3) to close the hunt by local
13 announcement when the quota has been taken. This would
14 be done in consultation with ADF&G, the Tetlin Wildlife
15 Refuge, who are the managers, and the Chairs of the
16 Eastern Interior and Southcentral RACs. This is
17 parallel to what's done in Unit 12 in the Refuge
18 currently.

19

20 NPS would provide a status report on
21 the hunt to the Councils at their winter/spring 2013
22 meeting.

23

24 And I would like to -- I mean, that's
25 my amendment to the main motion. After talking to
26 Staff, it's important to have something that they can
27 -- tangible to work on.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: I second that.

30

31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Do you want to
32 speak to your amendment.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. There's
35 been a lot of work for four years done on this. This
36 is a limited hunt, and I actually hunted there. I
37 didn't say this yesterday with all the discussion that
38 was going on. I was there 31 years ago with my family.
39 My husband was hired to help a guide and we flew into
40 an area. It's very remote. WE flew into a small lake
41 called Wolf Lake on the Snag River, and we hunted from
42 horses from there. And then we hunted from feet from
43 the horses, my husband and I and son. And we ended up
44 just hunting for ourselves after he had worked for the
45 guide, and took one of the Chisana caribou. My son was
46 10 years old, and he shot the animal. It wasn't a big
47 trophy bull; it was just something that we wanted meat,
48 and that's the first thing we saw, and that's what we
49 took. But I can tell you from first-hand experience,
50 it's very remote, and right now I don't see a lot --

1 any problems in this, over-harvesting it, because of
2 the remoteness.

3
4 I think to -- there -- actually I'd
5 like to hear more discussion. I'm getting tired I
6 think, because we've talked about it so much. But this
7 is a solution that came up with the Park Service last
8 night. I've talked to Fish and Game. I've talked to
9 OSM Staff, and this would move things forward, and I
10 think it's a good way to go, because we've demonstrated
11 we've done it in Unit 12 for the Tetlin Wildlife
12 Refuge.

13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Sue. Before
15 I ask other Council members if they want to speak on
16 your amendment, I'd like to just ask you a question.
17 And that is why didn't you put a recommendation for a
18 season?

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because I
21 thought I was taking good advice from Staff.

22
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Other
24 Council members, do you have any questions of Sue
25 regarding her amendment.

26
27 Andy

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
30 Chairman.

31
32 As far as your question, I think
33 biologist that monitor this herd and Park Service Staff
34 that have been working with the biologists are quite
35 capable of putting together a time frame to conduct a
36 hunt. And in my view this is just an opportunity to
37 open up a hunt, although it's limited. It's an
38 opportunity to harvest some animals that could
39 potentially be used by people. I'm not concerned about
40 the allocation issues. I think I've seen many cases
41 where hunts have been opened in the state. If there is
42 a problem, it's usually addressed at a later time
43 through a working group or some other means, other
44 proposals to amend it or modify it. And so I think
45 that given the limited nature and the remoteness of
46 this hunt, I think it would be very prudent for us to
47 open this up, allow the hunt to be conducted. And then
48 if we need to address this in the future, if it's
49 brought to us to address, we can address it at that
50 time. I think that's a very reasonable thing to do.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Other Council members.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: It looks like no one
8 else has anything to say, so I'll say a little bit.

9

10 We're kind of between a rock and a hard
11 place the way I look at this, because of the way the
12 Federal law is written. I don't know how long this
13 would take, but if and when the participation, because
14 of the remoteness, the cost and the difficulty of
15 accessing these animals if the Federal subsistence
16 users -- that is, if -- there's a -- if the Board
17 adopts this amended proposal, that if the animals are
18 not harvested by the Federally-qualified subsistence
19 users, then I would like to see the general public be
20 able to hunt these animals.

21

22 I believe, but I could be wrong, that
23 we're the only state in the -- of the 50 states where
24 we have a process such as the one that we're engaged in
25 right now. I believe in all other states the state
26 manages the wildlife as far as the hunting goes. So
27 this is really difficult for me.

28

29 When I was on the Board of Fisheries,
30 the reason yesterday I brought the muskox issue, I was
31 one of the -- we had a joint committee of Board of Game
32 and Board of Fish members that met with the Federal
33 Subsistence Board and some of their Staff to develop a
34 Memorandum of Understanding and a number of other
35 documents. And the muskox deal on the Seward Peninsula
36 was really a sore point with a lot of us, but.....

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But it's
39 fixed.

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: And that's been changed
42 over time, so hopefully something can come about with
43 this. This is different, because the State has
44 expended a great deal of manpower managing this herd in
45 the past, and money, and even now they've been
46 expending manpower and money in coming up with this
47 plan. And so I really reluctantly will vote for this.

48

49 Do I hear the question.

50

1 MR. GLANZ: Question.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: I see Mr. Probasco has
4 something and then I'll get to you, Sue.
5
6 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7
8 I just want to clarify for Mr. Bassich
9 and the rest of the Council. The amendment to the
10 motion already has a season. It's September 1 to
11 September 30th, and only the Board can establish
12 seasons. And then the manager within that can do the
13 authority that Sue outlined in her amendment. So the
14 season is September 1 to September 30th.
15
16 And the other clarification based on
17 the Council's discussion yesterday, the motion only
18 speaks to the communities listed on Page 98 as far as
19 the .804 analysis. I don't believe there's anything
20 else on the -- to make any additions to that. The
21 amendment to the motion is on Page 98.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:
24 (Indiscernible, mic not on)
25
26 MR. PROBASCO: I thought you pulled
27 that motion to add. Okay. I stand corrected. Thank
28 you. So we added Nabesna and Tanacross.
29
30 Thank you.
31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Sue.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wanted to
35 hear what he had to say. Thank you.
36
37 Now I'll all for the question.
38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Well, before we
40 call for the question, I think administratively we need
41 to clarify exactly what we have before us, because the
42 motion got amended. Tanacross and Nabesna added.....
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, it didn't
45 get added.
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR:yesterday. That
48 was.....
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I can

1 turn you off still.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR:I believe what was
4 on the table when we recessed for the evening.
5
6 REPORTER: It is on the table.
7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. That's what
9 was on the table last night.
10
11 REPORTER: That's right.
12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: And this morning, what
14 Sue wanted to do, or what we did a while ago, was she
15 -- and this is what we're addressing right now. She
16 made another amendment.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wait a
19 minute. Stop.
20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: She read, and I don't
22 want us to get bogged down administratively.....
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Stop. Oh,
25 geez, I can't do that.
26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR:with something
28 procedurally that's incorrect.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're done.
31 No.
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think we have to --
34 okay.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We did
37 not.....
38
39 REPORTER: It's on the table.
40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: We need parliamentary
42 advice here, and it looks like we've got it over there.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It is my
45 understanding, Virgil, that I pulled that amendment to
46 the amendment business and I made one main motion. And
47 that main motion was, help me out, the only motion that
48 was on the floor until I added this amendment, and that
49 was the exact same as to support the modification of
50 the -- it's an .804 analysis adding those two

1 communities. That was one motion; it wasn't an
2 amendment to an amendment.

3

4 REPORTER: Right.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just one main
7 motion. That's the one on the floor, so you have --
8 right now you just have one amendment, and this is to
9 with the administration of the hunt. Don't mix it up,
10 please.

11

12 REPORTER: That's right, Virgil.

13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So the only
15 thing we've got on the floor right now is what Sue read
16 off a while ago.

17

18 REPORTER: As an amendment.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: As an amendment. So we
21 have to vote on your amendment, Sue.

22

23 REPORTER: That's right.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Would you please re-
26 read your amendment so that all Council members
27 understand exactly what they're voting for.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could I ask
30 the Council members, do you understand the amendment,
31 or do you want me to read it again?

32

33 MR. BASSICH: I would appreciate
34 hearing it again.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. My
37 amendment to the main motion is to clarify the
38 Council's intent regarding the hunt.

39

40 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
41 Preserve superintendent would be delegated the
42 authority (1) to announce the harvesting quota, the
43 number of permits to be issued, and the reporting
44 period; (2) to open the season; and (3) to close the
45 hunt by local announcement when the quota has been
46 taken. This would be done in consultation with ADF&G,
47 the Tetlin Wildlife Refuge Staff, and Chairs of the
48 Eastern Interior and Southcentral RACs.

49

50 NPS will provide a status report in our

1 winter 2013 meeting, which is after the first hunt.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Question on the
4 amendment. So my understanding, Mr. Chairman, is now
5 we need to approve the -- or vote on the amendment and
6 then vote on the main motion. And then we should be
7 able to move on.

8

9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. But first I want
10 to make sure everyone understands it. Does everyone
11 understand it.

12

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So let
16 me ask you one question, Sue. Was Tanana an Nabesna
17 then deleted from -- are they.....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.

20

21 MR. UMPHENOUR: They're in there.
22 Okay. We're ready for the question then I think on the
23 amendment. All in favor say aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Opposed same sign.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Question on the main
32 motion, Mr. Chairman.

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: All in favor say aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Opposed same sign.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Did I have the speaker
43 off when I said that?

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

46

47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. That also passed
48 unanimously.

49

50 REPORTER: I got it.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Moving
2 rapidly along.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So that brings
5 us to Proposal 70 and 73. So if we could get the
6 proposals introduced, and the analysis presented.
7
8 MR. RIVARD: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
9 Members of the Council. My name is Don Rivard. I'm
10 Staff biologist with the Office of Subsistence
11 Management.
12
13 We're going to take up now Proposal
14 WP12-70 and WP12-73. These two proposals were analyzed
15 together. And this begins on Page 183 in your book.
16 It's the executive summary. I would like you, if you
17 would, please, you had a package of maps, six maps that
18 you were handed out yesterday. And this is map number
19 4 we're going to be looking at of those 6. It says on
20 top, WP12-71, map 1, Units 11 and 12 moose, affected
21 harvest areas.
22
23 I want to point out an error that we
24 made when we put this book together. There's two of
25 them.
26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Mr. Rivard, could you
28 hold on a minute.....
29
30 MR. RIVARD: Sure.
31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR:so that all
33 Council members can find the appropriate paperwork.
34 Could you tell us where we might find that, please.
35
36 MR. RIVARD: The maps? The maps -- it
37 was a handout of six maps yesterday I believe. The
38 first map says Nabesna Road in pretty big letters. Of
39 course, that's not the one we're going to -- we're
40 going to look at the fourth map in.
41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Has everyone found the
43 maps.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think so.
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I think we're
48 ready.
49
50 MR. RIVARD: Okay. Again it says -- on

1 the map it says, WP12-70, map 1, Units 11 and 12, moose
2 affected harvest areas. Okay.

3

4 And then I'm going to point out -- I
5 want to point out an error that's in the book. There's
6 two of them actually, it's the same error on two
7 different pages. So I'll get that out of the way first
8 as well. This was brought out by the Southcentral
9 Council last week. They caught this error in the book.

10

11 So if you look on Page 184 under OSM
12 preliminary conclusion, everybody got that, the Unit
13 12. It says, Unit 12 remainder, one antlered bull, and
14 the antlered is struck out. That word antlered should
15 not have been struck out. Okay? And it's the same
16 thing on Page 196. There towards the top of the page
17 again, it's Unit 12 moose, Unit 12 remainder, one
18 antlered bull. The antlered was struck out. It should
19 not have been struck out right there.

20

21 MR. MATESEI: That changes things.

22

23 MR. RIVARD: It does. Okay. Everybody
24 got that? Okay. I'll go here now.

25

26 Proposal WP12-70, submitted by the
27 Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game Committee,
28 requests dividing Unit 11 into two hunt areas, changing
29 the harvest limits and dates of the fall moose season
30 in Unit 12 remainder, and creating a single joint
31 Federal/State registration permit to administer the
32 hunt area along the Nabesna Road in Units 12 and 12 --
33 excuse me, Units 11 and Unit 12 remainder.

34

35 So on your map you can see the affected
36 area there, Unit 12 remainder is the crosshatch from
37 upper right -- or upper left to lower right. And then
38 the Unit 11 section is that other crosshatched area.
39 So that's the affected area of this proposal.

40

41 Proposal WP12-73, submitted by the
42 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
43 Commission, requests changing the dates of the fall
44 moose harvest season in Unit 12 remainder and removing
45 the spike fork antler harvest restriction during August
46 14th through the 23rd, which is the current regulation.

47

48 There are two different sets of moose
49 season harvest dates and harvest limits along the
50 Nabesna Road in Units 11 and 12, and permits/tags

1 required for Federally-qualified users hunting under
2 Federal regulations. Unit 11 requires a Federal
3 registration permit, and Unit 12 remainder requires a
4 state green harvest ticket. Milepost 25.2 along the
5 Nabesna Road is the boundary between Units 11 and 12
6 remainder.

7
8 WP12-70 would change the harvest limit
9 to one bull in a proposed newly designated portion of
10 Unit 11 along and near the Nabesna Road, and in Unit 12
11 remainder. It would also change the dates of the fall
12 moose harvest season in Unit 12 remainder to August
13 20th to September 20th to match the current season
14 dates in Unit 11.

15
16 The proponent requests the creation of
17 a joint Federal/State permit modeled after the joint
18 State/Federal registration permit, RM865, utilized in
19 Unit 20E off the Taylor Highway, which has had much
20 better reporting compliance than the State green
21 harvest ticket.

22
23 WP12-73 would change the fall moose
24 harvest season in Unit 12 remainder to August 25th to
25 September 25th, so both the start and the end dates
26 would be five days later than what's proposed in 70,
27 and would liberalize the harvest limit to one antlered
28 moose -- one antlered bull for the entire season by
29 eliminating the spike fork restriction during part of
30 the current fall season.

31
32 Now a moose population census for all
33 of Unit 11 has never been conducted, although density
34 estimates have been extrapolated from trend counts
35 beginning in the 1950s. Density estimates have ranged
36 from 0.3 to 0.6 moose per square mile, or between 2500
37 and 3,000 in all of Unit 11 between 1990 and 2009.

38
39 The Unit 12 moose population is
40 considered to be of low density and relatively stable.
41 However, in the Nabesna Road area the density of moose
42 is extremely low and hunting pressure has been
43 increasing over the past five to seven years.

44
45 Now the OSM preliminary conclusion,
46 this on Page -- starting on Page 195, is to support
47 Proposals WP12-70 and WP12-73 with modification to
48 divide Unit 11 into two hunt areas, change the dates of
49 the fall moose season in Unit 12 remainder, establish a
50 harvest limit of one antlered bull and create a single

1 joint Federal/State registration permit to administer
2 the hunt along both -- along the Nabesna Road in Units
3 11 and 12 remainder.

4
5 Now the proponent for WP12-70 also
6 submitted a companion proposal to the Alaska Board of
7 Game. The earliest the Alaska Board of Game could take
8 up the companion proposal is March 2012 for Unit 12;
9 and for Unit 11, the Alaska Board of Game is scheduled
10 to meet in March 2013. If the proposed joint permit
11 were adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board at its
12 scheduled January 2012 meeting, it would likely need to
13 be contingent upon positive action or concurrence by
14 the Alaska Board of Game.

15
16 The proponent for WP12-73 has also
17 submitted a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game to
18 address the, quote, over-crowding, high hunting
19 pressure on a low density moose population, unquote,
20 along the Nabesna Road in Units 11 and 12. Its
21 proposal calls for changing the harvest limit for
22 residents in the State's Unit 12 remainder from one
23 bull to one bull with spike fork antlers or 50-inch
24 antlers with three-inch or more brow tines on at least
25 one side, which would align the harvest limit with the
26 harvest limit in Unit 11 under State regs.

27
28 So with all that, this proposal is
29 somewhat contingent upon the Alaska Board of Game
30 endorsing a joint permit in March 2012. Otherwise this
31 would be by Federal regulation permit only.

32
33 The justification for the OSM
34 preliminary conclusion is that the Federal moose
35 seasons, harvest limits and permit requirements along
36 the Nabesna Road and along the trail systems off the
37 Nabesna Road in Unit 11 and adjacent Unit 12 remainder
38 would be aligned to simplify regulations. The use of a
39 joint Federal/State registration permit should also
40 improve harvest reporting.

41
42 The population appears healthy enough
43 to allow a few more bulls to be harvested. However,
44 retaining the harvest limit of one antlered bull as
45 proposed in WP12-73 should lessen the increase in
46 harvest and is consistent with the harvest limit in the
47 rest of Units 11 and 12.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50

1 That concludes my presentation.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Council members, any
4 questions on the presentation.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Seeing none, it's Fish
9 and Game's turn.

10

11 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

13

14 Because we are a State entity and we
15 have a dual process, our recommendation is going to be
16 to defer until the Board of Game decision is made. I
17 understand what that means procedurally for you.

18

19 Of course, we support having the
20 regulations aligned so there's reduced user confusion.
21 The September 20th closing date is something that we'll
22 be recommending. And the one antlered bull for the
23 remainder of the unit along with, if antler
24 restrictions are adopted here, we'd want to see the
25 same thing on the State side. But we can't predict
26 what the Board of Game will do, only that we would be
27 recommending alignment. So at this time we're
28 referring -- or we are recommending deferral to the
29 Board of Game.

30

31 **No official written comments
32 inserted/provided by State at this
33 time**

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Sue.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think in my
38 many meetings I might have learned that the Unit 11
39 portion that he spoke to that would be not done until
40 2013 was going to be jointly taken up at this Board of
41 Game meeting.

42

43 MS. YUHAS: And I'm going to defer the
44 specifics to Jeff Gross, our area biologist.

45

46 MR. GROSS: For the record, Jeff Gross,
47 Tok area Fish and Game biologist.

48

49 That was my understanding, that a
50 request was made to do that, but I would actually like

1 to verify that, but that was my understanding. So they
2 would take it up this cycle.

3

4 MS. YUHAS: Which, Mr. Chairman, for
5 Member Entsminger, would be in March, which would be
6 after the Federal Subsistence Board meets.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I
9 understand the timing. I just also understand the
10 State is supporting these season dates. And for it to
11 actually happen, it would -- the Board of Game would
12 have to take up Unit 11 out of cycle, and I'm hoping
13 it's my understanding is correct. So can you get us an
14 answer to that?

15

16 MR. GROSS: (Nods affirmatively)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Council members, other
21 questions.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I have a
26 question then.

27

28 Okay. So the State's recommendation is
29 to defer until the Board of Game can address this
30 issue, but unless the Board of Game would accept a
31 petition or an agenda change request, they could not
32 address -- it would take two meetings to address this
33 issue. And so my question is this. Does the -- do you
34 think that -- or would you -- if this comes up at the
35 March meetings, which will be held here in Fairbanks
36 for Unit 12, then would you also try to lump Unit 11 in
37 so it's one proposal like we're looking at right now,
38 using the established procedure? And do you think
39 there's a problem with that?

40

41 MR. GROSS: Again, that's my
42 understanding that we would be able to do that, but
43 again I would want to verify that for you before we
44 promise anything and then could follow through.

45

46 MS. YUHAS: And, Mr. Chairman, even if
47 we're to make a recommendation, we don't know if that
48 recommendation would be accepted or not. That's up to
49 the Board of Game, which is part of why you're getting
50 such a vague answer.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Council
2 members, any other questions.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just have a
5 question.
6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Sue.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm just
10 going to ask the question again to make it fresh in
11 someone's mind, but even though you're deferring it,
12 you agree with these changes, the State of Alaska.
13 You've gotten together and once if the Board of Game --
14 that is your recommendation to the Board of Game.
15
16 MR. GROSS: Through the Chair. The
17 recommendation would be to align State and Federal
18 seasons, that's our normal sort of preference.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. I
21 like that fresh in people's minds.
22
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: No other questions?
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Any other
28 Federal agencies.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Native tribal, village
33 or other.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: InterAgency Staff
38 Committee.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Advisory groups.
43
44 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 The Southcentral Regional Advisory Council supported
46 Wildlife Proposal 12-70/73 as modified by OSM with the
47 error about the antlered bull corrected.
48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Any Fish and Game
50 Advisory Committees.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair. I
2 was at Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee, and
3 they worked on this heavily, and, yes, they support it
4 with the recommendation from OSM.

5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. National
7 Park Service.

8
9 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence
11 Resource Commission unanimously supported the proposal
12 as modified by the OSM Staff recommendation. The
13 proposal will benefit subsistence users by reducing the
14 number of permits that they will need to obtain and by
15 aligning the seasons and harvest limits along the
16 Nabesna Road.

17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Any questions.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Seeing none, do we have
23 any written comments.

24
25 MS. MUSHOVIC: Yes, Mr. Chair. The
26 AHTNA Tene Nene' Subsistence Customary and Traditional
27 Use Subcommittee opposed adamantly Wildlife Proposal
28 12-70. They do not support any joint State/Federal
29 regulation hunts. They supported Wildlife Proposal 12-
30 73, Unit 1 [sic] remainder, one antlered bull with a
31 hunting season date of August 25 to September 25 with
32 an amendment to have a Federal registration permit hunt
33 only in Unit 12 for moose.

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Do we have
36 any public that wants to testify.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Seeing none, we're
41 ready for the motion. Sue.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I make a
44 motion we support OSM staff's recommendation that
45 clarifies the antler.

46
47 MR. GLANZ: I'll second it.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's been moved and
50 seconded to support the OSM recommendation.

1 Would you like to speak to your motion,
2 Sue.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I like it
5 better when you guys did this.

6
7 Yes. There's been a lot of work done.
8 There's been some issues arise. I think SRC, Barbara
9 stated that it would make it would make it easier on
10 the subsistence user. You don't have to have the green
11 harvest ticket plus the other one. If you're just
12 driving down the Nabesna Road, you've got to have two
13 permits. This would make it one It just simplifies
14 things for the user. It's a little bit longer season.
15 And then the antlered part they justify -- or they
16 pulled out, it is in there, it stays in there.

17
18 I was at the SRC meeting and a couple
19 public members got up and spoke in favor of it also.
20 As a matter of fact, one applauded the State for
21 working together on it.

22
23 That's all.

24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Andy.

26
27 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
28 Chair.

29
30 Yeah, I think it's more just of a
31 housekeeping. I don't think we have to get too
32 involved.

33
34 But in the motion we took the
35 recommendation from OSM, and I just wanted to make it
36 clear -- clarify that the one antlered bull would
37 remain in that motion, that it would not be stricken.
38 So just for clarification on that.

39
40 Thank you. I am in support of this,
41 and I'll just reference the comments from Wrangell-St.
42 Elias.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Council members, any
45 other comments.

46
47 MR. FIRMIN: I have a question.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: The question's been
50 called.

1 MR. FIRMIN: I mean, I have another
2 question.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Oh, you have a
5 question. Okay. Andy, go ahead.
6
7 MR. FIRMIN: A question. I was just
8 curious as to the one written comment. Did they have
9 any reason of why they opposed 70 and didn't oppose 73?
10
11 MS. MUSHOVIC: Through the Chair. 70
12 was opposed, but it appears basically on the premise
13 that the AHTNA 'Tene Nene' Subsistence Customary and
14 Traditional Use Committee does not support any joint
15 State/Federal regulation hunts; and supports Number 73,
16 makes it easier for the public to understand, and
17 additionally a later moose hunting season would allow
18 Federally-qualified subsistence users to take a moose
19 when it's cooler during the moose hunting season and
20 meet would not spoil during the cooler months.
21
22 Thank you.
23
24 MR. FIRMIN: Okay, thank you.
25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Any other comments.
27 Yes, Joseph.
28
29 MR. MATESI: I have a question for the
30 Chair. I believe I heard a motion to support the
31 modification, but I don't remember hearing the motion
32 to support the proposal.
33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: The modification
35 actually, the way she did it, replaces the proposal.
36 If I'm wrong, someone tell me.
37
38 REPORTER: You're right.
39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. It looks like
41 I'm right.
42
43 Any other questions.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Then I'll entertain the
48 question.
49
50 MR. BASSICH: So move.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: The question has been
2 called by Mr. Bassich. All in favor of the amended
3 proposal.....
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's not
6 amended; it's the motion.
7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Signify by saying aye.
9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.
11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Opposed same sign.
13
14 (No opposing votes)
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: The motion passes
17 unanimously.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's take a
20 break.
21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. We'll take a
23 short break, about 15 minutes. But 15 minutes is 15
24 minutes, not like 10 minutes being 20.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's why I
27 say 10.
28
29 (Off record)
30
31 (On record)
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Stan, could you tell
34 the people outside we're ready to start.
35
36 (Pause)
37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Mr. Rivard, I
39 think we're ready for Proposal 71/72.
40
41 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
42 executive summary for this proposal starts on Page 198,
43 and the analysis itself starts on Page 200.
44
45 Proposal WP12-71 -- well, first of all,
46 just so we get everybody -- the next map you have in
47 your packet, the next one, it also shows Units 11 and
48 12. And we're dealing with the one now that's labeled
49 Map 2 for WP -- it says WP20 -- or, excuse me, WP12-70,
50 Map 2. We're not on that proposal obviously, but it

1 does show the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and the
2 Unit 12, what's labelled as Unit 12, section 1. That's
3 what we're going to be dealing with for this proposal.
4 Do you see that? Basically the Tetlin National
5 Wildlife Refuge. There's more to it than just the
6 Refuge itself, but it's basically that part.

7
8 Okay. WP12-71, submitted by the Tetlin
9 National Wildlife Refuge, requests that the fall moose
10 harvest season in a portion of Unit 12 be changed to
11 August 24 to September 20th, and that it be
12 administered through a joint State/Federal registration
13 permit.

14
15 WP12-72, also submitted by the Tetlin
16 National Wildlife Refuge, requests that the winter
17 moose harvest season in that same portion of Unit 12 be
18 changed to November 1st to March 31st, and that it be
19 administered through a joint State/Federal registration
20 permit.

21
22 Now that was the original proposal for
23 November 1st through March 31st. In subsequent
24 discussions with the proponent after submission of
25 their proposal, they requested that the proposed end
26 date of the winter season be March -- or, excuse me,
27 February 28th instead of March 31st, so just kind of
28 keep that in mind as we go through the rest of this.

29
30 Both proposals request that a single
31 joint State/ Federal registration permit be valid for
32 both the fall and winter seasons, so you would just
33 hunt under one joint registration permit for both of
34 those seasons. Those were the original proposals.

35
36 The Unit 12 moose population is
37 considered to be of low density and relatively stable.
38 The latest moose survey in the Tetlin National Wildlife
39 Refuge and adjacent areas in Wrangell-St. Elias
40 Preserve affected by the proposal was conducted in
41 2008. There may be some subsequent ones, some of the
42 Staff may be able to tell us about that. From that
43 survey, the moose population was estimated to be 1,843
44 animals at a density of 0.62 moose per square mile.

45
46 Between 2004 and 2008 the ratio of
47 calves per 100 cows declined from 47.8 to 24.5. And
48 the ratio of yearling bulls per 100 cows declined from
49 16.2 to 14.

50

1 In the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge
2 portion of the unit, the bull to cow ratio has been
3 relatively high with a range of 60 to 90 bulls per 100
4 cows in surveys conducted since 1990. So State
5 management objectives have consistently been met in the
6 Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge portion of Unit 12.

7
8 A little bit of the harvest history.
9 All hunters utilize a State harvest ticket for the
10 Federal and State fall moose seasons on the Tetlin
11 National Wildlife Refuge. The reported harvest on the
12 Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge averaged 12 moose per
13 year from 1991 to 2010. That's the fall. The winter
14 moose season is for Federally-qualified users only and
15 is prosecuted under a Federal registration permit.
16 From 2000 to 2009, an average of 24 permits have been
17 issued per year with an average of 7 people actually
18 hunting per year. To date, this is 2000 to 2009,
19 there's been no reported harvest of moose in the winter
20 season.

21
22 Now, if the proposal were adopted, the
23 fall season dates would change from August 24th to 28th
24 and September 8th through the 17th, so it's a split
25 season, to a one -- just a one season basically of
26 August 24th to September 20th. And the winter season
27 dates would change from November 20th to December 10th
28 to November 1st to March 31st, which would add -- which
29 would provide an additional 14 days of harvest
30 opportunity in the fall season and an additional 130
31 days in the winter season.

32
33 All users hunting in the Tetlin
34 National Wildlife Refuge and the northeast corner of
35 Wrangell-St. Elias Preserve portion of Unit 12 would be
36 required to utilize a joint State/ Federal registration
37 permit on Federal lands for the fall season instead of
38 a State green harvest ticket.

39
40 If the proposed joint permit were
41 adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board at its
42 scheduled January 2012 meeting, it would likely need to
43 be contingent upon positive action by the Board of
44 Game, which is scheduled to meet in March 2012 for Unit
45 12. There would likely be an increase in the number of
46 moose harvested due to the longer fall and winter
47 seasons.

48
49 Mr. Chair. The OSM preliminary
50 conclusion is to support WP12-71 and WP12-72 with

1 modification to extend the winter season only to March
2 28th per the proponent's request after submission of
3 the proposal.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: March?

6

7 MR. RIVARD: Excuse me, February 28th.
8 Thank you for that. February 28th and not March 31st.

9

10 And to create a joint State/Federal
11 registration for the fall season only, because I
12 believe the State does not have a winter season.

13

14 The justification for this is that
15 Federally-qualified subsistence users would be provided
16 an additional 113 days of harvest opportunity in the
17 affected portion of Unit 12. The ratio of bulls per
18 100 cows in the affected area is well above management
19 objectives, and the population appears healthy enough
20 to allow for a few more bulls to be harvested.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Council members, any
25 questions of the Staff. Joseph.

26

27 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 Yeah, I have some questions on some of
30 the population numbers. Is there anything more recent
31 than 2008? I'm especially curious about this bull to
32 cow ratio. Is there any data from 2009 or 2010?

33

34 MR. RIVARD: I'd have to defer that to
35 the managers, either Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge or
36 the State folks that could provide that.

37

38 MR. MULLNOW: Mr. Chair. Members of
39 the Council. My name is Ryan Mullnow. I'm the manager
40 for Tetlin Refuge.

41

42 And those moose surveys are done every
43 three years, so we do not have -- we would actually be
44 on par to do those additional surveys this fall, this
45 winter. So we do not have that information right now.
46 The State might. I don't know if they have any other
47 information though.

48

49 MR. MATESI: Thank you. I notice that
50 those high ratios have persisted over the past 18

1 years, so it's probably not an anomaly. But I'm used
2 to populations of moose where that ratio is much, much
3 lower. Do you have any explanation as to why it's so
4 high?

5
6 MR. MULLNOW: To tell you honestly, I
7 do not. I would have to probably defer to the State to
8 help out with that.

9
10 MR. BENTZEN: Torsten Bentzen with
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

12
13 To answer a question about 2008 moose
14 surveys, we don't have any data more recently than that
15 either. We will be doing surveys this year together
16 with Tetlin Refuge, and probably also next year.

17
18 I think that the bull/cow ratio is so
19 high because hunting pressure is pretty low in Tetlin
20 Refuge. There's a lot of area that's quite
21 inaccessible in that area to hunters. So compared to
22 an area like Tanana Flats which gets hunted very
23 heavily, Tetlin Refuge is quite a different situation
24 there.

25
26 MR. BASSICH: I have a question.

27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Andy.

29
30 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Does the intensive
31 predator control that's been taking place in that
32 region, has that been also conducted in a way that it
33 would affect some of the populations in the Tetlin
34 area?

35
36 MR. BENTZEN: Possibly a little bit,
37 although there's no predator control actually on Tetlin
38 Refuge. The boundary for the intensive management area
39 is the Alaska Highway, so that's just a strip of
40 pavement away from Tetlin Refuge. However, the
41 majority of the efforts in that intensive management
42 area have not been in the southeast corner, which is
43 close to Tetlin Refuge. So there may be some limited
44 effects there, but probably not a lot. There's still
45 healthy wolf and bear populations in Tetlin Refuge.

46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Any other questions.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I have one. I
2 noticed that the calf to cow ratio dropped in half in a
3 four-year period, so do you have an explanation for
4 that?

5
6 MR. BENTZEN: I don't have a specific
7 explanation for that. I can see that there's been
8 quite a bit of variability between years. It seems
9 like an average of a little more than 30 from 2000 to
10 2003, then quite higher, the 2004 number, and then
11 lower in 2008. I think some of that may just be
12 variability in the survey units, the way those surveys
13 are conducted. Also it's just brought to my attention
14 that quite a few more cows were counted in 2004, so
15 just by randomly counting more cows, that's going to
16 give a lower calf to cow ratio.

17
18 So I'm not sure I would put a lot of
19 concern on that lower number in 2008. It's certainly
20 something that -- to be aware of, and to look at data
21 from future years, but it's not something at this point
22 that Fish and Game or Tetlin Refuge would have much
23 concern about.

24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Council
26 members, any other questions.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, thank you. It's
31 Fish and Game's turn.

32
33 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
35 Torsten Bentzen is also here for questions.

36
37 While we don't have any conservation
38 concerns associated with this proposal, we do hope to
39 reduce user confusion by retaining the fall season
40 dates rather than having them misaligned between the
41 State and the Federal season.

42
43 New information since the proposal was
44 first brought is that the Department has collaborated
45 with the Fish and Wildlife Service and we support using
46 just the State/Federal permit -- or just using the
47 State permit rather than the joint State and Federal
48 permit at this time.

49
50 Leaving it the way it is, Mr. Chairman.

1 **No official written comments
2 inserted/provided by State at this
3 time**

4
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Would you say that
6 again, please.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MS. YUHAS: Why are they chuckling
11 behind me. The State supports retaining the current
12 fall season date rather than making the change and
13 supports retaining the current system of using the
14 State permit rather than adopting the change for the
15 joint permit, and that's after collaboration with the
16 Fish and Wildlife Service, but we'll let them speak at
17 their turn.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. We have
20 several questions. Sue.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I've
23 been to so many meetings I forget stuff, but I'm going
24 to try to get reminded. Currently there isn't a
25 Federal -- need for a Federal permit. You just need
26 your green harvest ticket and you go hunting.

27
28 MS. YUHAS: Right.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the
31 reason that the State wants to keep that is -- are you
32 thinking it's simpler for the user?

33
34 MS. YUHAS: Jeff Gross with the
35 Department is here for a clarification.

36
37 MR. GROSS: I'm Jeff Gross with Tok
38 Fish and Game.

39
40 Through the Chair. Actually it just is
41 my fault. I kind of misspoke here to Jennifer, that
42 the discussions I've had with the Tetlin Refuge was
43 that there would actually be a Federal registration
44 permit rather than a joint State/Federal registration
45 permit. But we did discuss having an actual Federal
46 registration permit.

47
48 And the reason being would be hopefully
49 that would allow people that are participating in the
50 season outside the normal State season dates to

1 understand that this is supposed to be on Federal land
2 only, rather than having a green harvest ticket and
3 maybe it would be more confusing about where they could
4 actually hunt. We're hoping that with a Federal
5 registration permit, if this longer season is adopted,
6 that it would be more clear to the hunter which
7 regulations they're supposed to be following.

8

9

Does that make sense?

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought it
12 made sense to start with, because I thought we talked
13 in Tok that there was going to be a joint one, and then
14 I -- now to clarify what Jennifer said -- I like things
15 being simple, guys, and now you've confused me. Sorry.

16

17 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chairman. Members of
18 the Council. Greg Risdahl, the deputy manager at
19 Tetlin Refuge.

20

21 Jeff and I have discussed these
22 proposals at length before the Refuge submitted them.
23 And our original thought was to have a joint
24 State/Federal permit similar to what is used in Unit
25 20E, and it's worked well up there, even though the
26 State hunt occurs oftentimes in a different area and at
27 different times than the Federal hunt. The Federal
28 hunt up there takes place only on Federal corridors.

29

30 So in this instance we were trying to
31 get things set up in a way so that it was easier for
32 subsistence users to know when, and they would only
33 have to have one permit rather than a green harvest tag
34 and a permit. We had some other discussion, I won't go
35 into that, about the Nabesna Road and the whole works
36 and making things align, but what we ended up with then
37 was this State/Federal registration permit.

38

39 And since then, one of the things we
40 realized was that the Board of Game then, of course,
41 would have to act on that as well and be a participant
42 in this State/Federal permit. And since then, just
43 for, as Jeff was saying, the ease of the permit
44 process, it might be better just to have a Federal
45 permit for both the Federal -- both the fall and the
46 winter hunts. As Jeff was saying, subsistence users
47 would then be -- would realize that they could only use
48 that permit on Federal public lands, but the same
49 permit would be useful or usable for both the fall and
50 the winter hunts.

1 MR. GROSS: And to add to that, because
2 there are -- if you want to hunt the winter hunt,
3 they're already going to have to get a registration
4 permit for that.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How does this
7 affect the other hunt we did on the Nabesna Road?

8
9 MR. GROSS: That wouldn't be affected.
10 There would be a registration hunt for that geographic
11 area around the Nabesna Road. Then the remainder of
12 Unit 12 would be under a green harvest ticket for State
13 regulations. And then these few divergent seasons on
14 the Tetlin Refuge would require a Federal registration
15 permit.

16
17 And one of the reasons why we got away
18 from having a joint State/Federal registration permit
19 was that we would have multiple season dates around the
20 unit with a single registration hunt just wouldn't
21 work, having a whole bunch of different season dates.
22 And we didn't see any real reason as far as lack of
23 reporting, for instance, to go with a State
24 registration permit on State lands up in northern Unit
25 12.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know you
28 guys spent a lot of time on this, and I know we've been
29 through it at all these meetings, okay. But keeping it
30 simple is so important. And with Unit 12 having one
31 section, two, section, and three section, we have -- I
32 guess I'm questioning why wouldn't you just have one
33 permit and they have -- just like -- I mean, are you
34 not trusting that they'll know where the Federal land
35 is, and yet you trusted them where the Federal land is
36 in 20E for caribou?

37
38 MR. BASSICH: It's all labeled and
39 marked on the road.

40
41 MR. GROSS: Yeah. Through the Chair.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm being
44 told it's all labelled and marked on the road and you
45 know, but I tell you, we've done that and I still had
46 to go get maps.

47
48 MR. GROSS: I would characterize it as
49 being more confusing on the Tetlin Refuge. Most of the
50 hunters hunt along the river systems. And because

1 there's no signs on the rivers, it is more difficult to
2 determine if you're on State or Federal lands.

3

4 I don't know. This will probably be a
5 question for enforcement as far as whether or not a
6 green harvest ticket for all the hunt area around the
7 Tetlin Refuge would suffice, or, you know, if they have
8 other concerns. I don't know.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. You
11 see where I'm heading.

12

13 MR. GROSS: I understand.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you're a
16 user and there's a -- I mean, I can't believe how Unit
17 12 got chopped up so many ways, but it did. And so now
18 you want to go hunting. And I've talked to Sylvia
19 Pickin in Northway, and she said that they drive over
20 and they hunt the Nabesna Road. So, you know, what's
21 she going to do now when she gets her permission to go
22 hunting, and they want to hunt in the Refuge, or on the
23 land, the Native land there. Keeping it simple is
24 really important. And so I'm just trying -- I go to
25 these meetings and still I don't understand what's
26 going on sometimes. But keeping it simple.

27

28 And I guess -- did you guys think about
29 that? What's the easiest way for the user to come
30 around -- to be able to use this, all of these
31 different hunts?

32

33 MR. GROSS: We did as far as the
34 Nabesna Road, because the Slana ranger station is right
35 there, and a lot of folks are used to going there and
36 getting their State -- or their Federal permit anyway.
37 We didn't see it as being a very negative thing down
38 there. We actually felt it would be -- actually
39 simplify things along the Nabesna Road.

40

41 As far as the Tetlin Refuge, there has
42 definitely been, especially during the winter caribou
43 hunt for instance, a lot of caribou shot under the
44 Federal-only hunt on private lands, which is illegal.
45 There's a lot of confusion about where those -- the
46 Federal is, the legal areas to hunt are. And there
47 wasn't been real good compliance.

48

49 And so it's -- again, that's one of the
50 reasons why we thought, well, having a Federal permit

1 would make it pretty cut and dry, and hopefully would
2 help with education. If somebody has to go into the
3 Tetlin Refuge to get a permit to hunt on the Tetlin
4 Refuge hunt, that would give an opportunity to Tetlin
5 Refuge to provide some education about where they can
6 hunt versus if they just go get a green harvest ticket,
7 there's no real mechanism to educate them about where
8 they can and can't hunt.

9

10 And one of the big reasons I was kind
11 of opposed to having a -- or I wanted to retain the
12 green harvest ticket along the Alaska Highway is
13 because the whole stretch of the Alaska Highway there,
14 including over towards Delta requires a green harvest
15 ticket. And so a lot of the folks that hunt along the
16 road would be forced to get multiple permits, and it
17 would be more confusing for more villages than if just
18 the people, for instance, primarily in Northway have to
19 get this Federal hunt, but still have a green harvest
20 ticket for most of the area they hunt, if that makes
21 sense. The main -- again, there is a little bit of
22 Tetlin Refuge land that comes up to the Alaska Highway
23 down toward the border, but most of the hunting occurs
24 along the river systems. At least most of the harvest
25 occurs along the river.

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Andy.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30

31 Yeah, if you could clarify something
32 for me. After hearing some of the discussion here, if
33 you could go to Page 198, and on the proposed
34 regulation in the OSM preliminary conclusion, I
35 understand the changes for recommending the winter hunt
36 to go from March 31st to now February 28th, but under
37 the bold letters it still says joint State/Federal
38 registration. So are you saying you want to strike the
39 State out of that and that you want to have just a
40 Federal permit?

41

42 MR. GROSS: Through the Chair. That's
43 correct.

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I just wanted to
46 clarify that for the future motion, Mr. Chairman.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MR. MATESI: Mr. Chair.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Joseph.
2
3 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4
5 Yeah, thank you, Andy, because I was
6 trying to get a handle on that as well.
7
8 So does that apply to both the hunts
9 then? I understand you want to be -- maybe -- let me
10 ask this. Would you mind succinctly summarizing the
11 modifications being proposed by the State and also by
12 the Refuge?
13
14 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chairman. I'll let
15 the State go first, because I wasn't sure about -- I
16 hadn't heard about the not going along with creating a
17 -- changing the split season to a single season, and I
18 heard Jennifer say something about that, so I'll let
19 her go first.
20
21 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 Jennifer Yuhas.
23
24 That's correct. We'd like to retain
25 the current season, because it is aligned with State
26 regulations to reduce user confusion.
27
28 MR. MATESI: Yeah. And no joint
29 State/Federal registration for that hunt only?
30
31 MS. YUHAS: Correct.
32
33 MR. MATESI: Okay. Okay. That makes
34 sense. Thank you.
35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. This -- I have a
37 question. It appears to me that potentially the --
38 what we have here before us now, the modification, that
39 it's possible that the people sitting at the table
40 might want to discuss this and maybe change that, have
41 an amendment of some type or another, am I correct or
42 am I not correct?
43
44 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. Our
45 role at these meetings is to make a recommendation. We
46 are unable to make an amendment, but the members at the
47 table can listen to our recommendation and later offer
48 an amendment based on our recommendation.
49
50 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chairman. Members of

1 the Council. The Refuge does not propose any suggested
2 changes other than this joint State/Federal permit.
3 After further discussion with my counterpart over here,
4 we decided that it probably would be less confusing if
5 we just had a Federal permit for the Federal hunts.

6
7 Originally our thought was, hopefully
8 this will clarify it, Sue, is that it would simplify
9 the monitoring of the harvest by having one permit, but
10 it's kind of one of those six of one, half a dozen of
11 the other type situations. One, if you have two
12 permits, you have a green harvest tag and a Federal
13 permit, then you have two different agencies collecting
14 information. So we thought one, a combination joint
15 Federal permit would make it easier, because then only
16 one agency would be monitoring the hunt.

17
18 But then comes the need to have the
19 Board of Game act on that. And then some of these
20 other things that Jeff brought up, for example, about
21 most of the State hunting along the highway, whereas
22 the Federal subsistence hunting is taking place on the
23 Refuge by boaters going up the river, that sort of
24 thing.

25
26 So the Refuge, we still, of course,
27 would like to see increased hunter opportunity during
28 the fall season. In other words, going along with the
29 original proposal to change the split season to a
30 single season that begins, what is it, October [sic]
31 24th and running all way through September 20th.
32 Because as it stands now, there is no subsistence
33 opportunity during that fall hunt. And it is actually
34 difficult for folks to come back and go back out again.

35
36 The original intention of that State
37 hunt was to try to limit the urban residents coming up
38 into that part of the country and spending a lot of
39 time there moose hunting, so it has also impacted our
40 subsistence users. So that's why we suggested having
41 this one season instead of the split season. So that
42 has to do with the fall part of the proposal.

43
44 As far as the winter hunt goes, just
45 some background information to make that more clear to
46 people, since that season was proposed as Don Rivard
47 had discussed in his analysis, no bull has ever been
48 harvested. And the main reason that's taking place is
49 because the moose have pretty much left the Refuge.
50 About 95 percent of those moose leave the Refuge

1 sometime around the end of October, first part of
2 November. As the Refuge -- you know, as fall turns to
3 winter and it gets real cold and it's low habitat, and
4 the temperature is considerably warmer at higher
5 elevations. And those moose moved up into those lower
6 foothills of the Nutzotin Mountains south of us and
7 across the highway into the Ladue and some other areas.
8 That's where they spend their winter.

9

10 By opening the season a little earlier,
11 November 1st, you're actually providing some
12 opportunity for hunters to take moose basically as
13 they're leaving the Refuge, which is where a lot of the
14 hunting takes place. And then at the end of the
15 season, as the weather warms, spring comes, days get
16 longer, people get out more and those moose start to
17 move down out of those hills and become available once
18 again on the refuge.

19

20 Now, we've had the question asked
21 before, well, you know, we're talking antlered bulls.
22 Don't all the bulls shed their antlers? Well, most of
23 the bulls do shed their antlers by late December, early
24 January. However, there's still a considerable number
25 of those yearling bulls, spike forks, small paddle that
26 are still retaining those antlers clear into March and
27 April. And those are the bulls that could potentially
28 be harvested late in the season. So we're talking
29 about just increasing the harvest a very small amount
30 during that winter hunt no matter how you look at it.

31

32 The greatest opportunity for increased
33 harvest by subsistence users would be by expanding that
34 early -- the fall hunt. In other words, changing it
35 from split season to one continuous long season, adding
36 14 days in there. But the average harvest as you've
37 heard is about 12 moose per year, and we have a very
38 high bull/cow ratio. A lot of the Refuge just simply
39 isn't hunted.

40

41 So those were the primary reasons for
42 the proposals to increase hunter opportunity for
43 subsistence users.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Jennifer.

48

49 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

1 I guess our collaborative effort here
2 at the table is a good example of the State and Federal
3 process and managers working together.

4
5 I suppose we're still under the section
6 for the proposal that relates to State comments, so I
7 just wanted to clarify your question with regards to
8 the season dates, that should the Federal program act
9 and change the season dates, we don't have a
10 conservation issue in this area as we've already
11 testified. That would in turn mean that we would
12 advocate aligning the season dates on the State side.
13 But our testimony is simply that we want to reduce user
14 confusion by keeping the seasons aligned. If you act
15 here, we would have to advocate a change on the State
16 side.

17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: That helps me a lot.

19
20 Council members. Any more questions of
21 the Staff.

22
23 MR. GLANZ: I have. I'm just a little
24 confused, Jennifer. If we align this, then the State
25 is going to align theirs and we're still going to carry
26 a single Federal harvest -- I'm all confused on this
27 issue.

28
29 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chairman.

30
31 I'm not speaking to the single harvest
32 ticket, but just speaking to the season dates. We
33 cannot guarantee that a change would be made, but this
34 is the portion of the agenda where we give the State's
35 position. And the State's position is aligning the
36 season dates. So we're currently supporting leaving
37 the season dates as they are. Should the RAC recommend
38 that the Federal Subsistence Board act and change these
39 dates, and should they in fact change them, then our
40 position before the Board of Game would be to make a
41 change to align the season dates. We're advocating
42 reduced user confusion and reduced enforcement issues.

43
44 And I believe Jeff Gross has a comment.

45
46
47 MR. GROSS: Yeah. And along those same
48 lines, while we would explore aligning the State dates,
49 we would have to look at the harvest information,
50 hunter effort, et cetera to determine whether or not

1 there would be a conservation issue if we align the
2 State dates. And there's a possibility that we would
3 identify a conservation issue of lengthening the State
4 season, because there's a much larger pool of hunters
5 that would be involved in that.

6

7 So again as Jennifer's saying, there's
8 no guarantee that we would extend -- recommend
9 extending the State season, but we'd explore that.

10

11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So now when we
12 look on Page 206 at the modification, or at the
13 modified regulation, how it would read, then right now
14 it's incorrect. Or, I mean, it would be incorrect on
15 what I've just heard, because don't want the joint
16 State/Federal registration permit. I think that's what
17 I heard. You want on the Federal land they'd have to
18 have a Federal registration permit and they would still
19 also have to have the green harvest ticket for the fall
20 hunt, and everyone else on the -- all other land would
21 be -- they would have to have the green harvest ticket.
22 Is that correct?

23

24 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chairman and Council
25 members.

26

27 Well, if you extended the fall hunt, in
28 other words by changing it from a split season to one
29 continuous season, you would have to have a Federal
30 registration permit, because there's no State season
31 during that middle section. However, a hunter could
32 have both a green harvest ticket and a Federal
33 registration permit in case they were on State land,
34 which is probably what most hunters would do. For
35 example, if they were driving down the highway, or
36 there's two large sections of State land within the
37 boundaries of Tetlin Refuge. But the bag limit or the
38 -- excuse me, not the bag limit, but the antlered bull
39 restriction is different on the State land versus on
40 the Refuge. So it would be a more liberal season on the
41 Federal land. So you'd really -- just to make it
42 short, you would need both, because if you were on
43 State land, you couldn't -- well you'd have to have a
44 green harvest ticket; but if you were hunting on the
45 refuge, you'd certainly want the Federal registration
46 permit, because it's a longer season and a more liberal
47 harvest. Does that make sense?

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Jeff.

50

1 MR. GROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 One other thing that popped in my head,
4 some of the reasoning why -- that Greg and I discussed
5 about why to use a Federal registration permit if we're
6 not going to have a joint State/Federal permit is
7 because the way reporting works with green harvest
8 ticket and thinking of the reality of how people
9 generally report in this area. If we had a joint
10 State/Federal -- or if we had just strictly a green
11 harvest ticket, and somebody took an animal -- well,
12 let's see, how am I going to say this. I'd be
13 concerned about their being able to weed out which
14 animals are taken under the Federal season on Federal
15 lands. I mean, you would assume that they get their
16 harvest, their dates correct, et cetera, but there can
17 be errors made there.

18

19 In addition, there's no mechanism with
20 the green harvest ticket to go back later and try to
21 get the report from the hunter, such as reminder
22 letters, et cetera, like there is with a registration
23 hunt. And trying to weed out how much more harvest is
24 occurring under the Federal season, if there's a
25 Federal registration permit would be more accurate than
26 having just green harvest tickets.

27

28 But the more discussion I'm hearing
29 here, I don't know if actually it's worth it going to
30 -- getting away from just a green harvest ticket for
31 both seasons. I don't know. Maybe Greg can speak to
32 that a little bit more, or maybe we need to have
33 another discussion about it.

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Larry.

36

37 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, they've been
38 telling me the only dumb question is the question
39 that's not asked. But I noticed here that, I'm
40 addressing this to both the Federal and State, and
41 there's only 24 permits issued, and only 7 were
42 utilized during the winter hunts. Can you tell, were
43 there any study or any questions asked of why this was
44 such a low number? I think I know the answer, but I'd
45 like to hear your comments.

46

47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Sue wants a time out so
48 we can.....

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, let him

1 answer that.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Oh, okay. Go ahead.

4

5 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chairman. Council
6 members. Mr. Williams. I can answer that question.

7

8 The reason why the number of
9 participants in the hunt has been so low is because
10 after the first few years, people realized the
11 likelihood of even coming across a moose was very low.
12 So people just haven't been participating; therefore
13 the proposal to change the season so that it actually
14 did offer additional opportunity for subsistence. So
15 we added 20 days to the beginning of the hunt when
16 there was still moose on the refuge, and it extended it
17 through into the spring when the moose were actually
18 beginning to come back down onto the refuge. So that
19 would actually give people a genuine opportunity to
20 take a moose.

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Well, let me see
23 if I can settle this a little faster.

24

25 What we're looking at right now, the
26 modified regulation would read -- it doesn't read what
27 you guys want, and so before we can vote on anything,
28 the people sitting up at the table need to rewrite it.

29

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: take a time
32 out

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: And then I think we can
35 finish -- I think that's what Sue wanted a time out
36 for, but that's what we need to do, and so maybe we
37 should just take a short break and staff sitting at the
38 table could rewrite this thing so that we're voting on
39 what you really want.

40

41 MR. BASSICH: All we have to do is
42 strike one word.

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Say that again, Andy.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: I believe all we have to
47 do -- my understanding looking at this, all we need to
48 do is when we make the motion strike the word State
49 under the bold print and correct the March 31st to
50 February 28, and then we are -- what is now being

1 proposed by them. That's the only changes we have to
2 do.

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, we could give
5 them say three or four minutes to do that or whatever
6 else they think they need to do, and not leave the
7 room. Everyone stay here in the room, let them take
8 care of it, and then read it to us and make sure
9 everyone understands it and we can move on.

10

11 (Off record)

12

13 (On record)

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Sue has a motion
16 to make.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I make a
19 motion we table this -- you know what, we don't even
20 have it on the -- there's not even a motion on the
21 floor. I just -- do you need a motion? I just suggest
22 that we let them figure it out and bring it back to us
23 tomorrow morning.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Any objection.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the thing
28 is, we haven't even finished all this stuff here, you
29 know.

30

31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I believe
32 procedurally we can make a motion to address the
33 current proposal that we're getting the Staff analysis
34 on, to reschedule that until tomorrow morning. We can
35 do that. So make that motion, Sue.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So made. But
38 I will remind you that we didn't finish our process
39 here.

40

41 MR. GLANZ: so is that a motion then,
42 Sue, or.....

43

44 MR. FIRMIN: Second.

45

46 MR. GLANZ: Okay. I'll -- okay.
47 Whatever.

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Any objections to Sue's
50 motion to bring the two current proposals, which are

1 No. 71 and 72, reschedule them, to finish them tomorrow
2 morning so that we can be more clear on what we're
3 doing.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Seeing no objections,
8 I'm going to turn the Chair back over to Sue. You're
9 back in charge, Sue.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
12 Mr. Chair, or whatever you are now.

13

14 Okay. Moving rapidly along, we're on
15 -- we're going to do the C&T, Proposal No. 69. Staff
16 analysis.

17

18 DR. JENKINS: Good morning, Madame
19 Chair. Council members. David Jenkins. I'm back.

20

21 This is WP12-69 you have in front of
22 you, submitted by the Eastern Interior Regional
23 Advisory Council, and it requests a change in the
24 customary and traditional use determination in Unit 25
25 remainder from all rural residents to residents of Unit
26 25.

27

28 Now, the proponent has expressed
29 concern that as the Fortymile caribou Herd expands, it
30 may draw Federally-qualified users from outside of Unit
31 25. Now, the proponent's concern is focused on the
32 Fortymile Caribou Herd in Unit 25C, but the proposal
33 speaks to Unit 25 remainder, that is Unit 25A, B, and
34 C.

35

36 Let me give you a little regulatory
37 history very briefly. In 1998 the Federal Subsistence
38 Board adopted a customary and traditional use
39 determination for caribou in Unit 25D for rural
40 residents of Units 20F, 25D and Manley. And for the
41 remainder of Unit 25, the Board made no specific
42 customary and traditional use determination, which
43 meant that all Federally-qualified users were eligible
44 to harvest caribou in Unit 25 remainder. Again, that
45 was in 1998.

46

47 There are several communities in Unit
48 25D, Stevens Village, Beaver, Birch Creek, Fort Yukon,
49 Venetie and Circle. Arctic Village is in Unit 25A and
50 Central is in Unit 25C. So these are the communities

1 that we're talking about in Unit 25.

2

3 Let me briefly mention what the eight
4 factors for determining customary and traditional uses
5 are that the Board makes its determinations on.
6 Generally the Board relies on information indicating a
7 long-term consistent pattern of use which occurs in
8 specific seasons over many years and consists of
9 methods of harvest which are characterized by
10 efficiency and economy of effort. A consistent harvest
11 of use or use which is reasonably accessible to a
12 community or an area. A means of handling, preparing
13 and storing, which has been traditionally used by past
14 generations, conditioned by recent technological
15 innovations. A pattern of use which includes the
16 handing down of knowledge between generations. A
17 pattern of harvest which is shared within a definable
18 community. And, finally, a pattern of use which
19 relates to a reliance upon a diversity of resources.

20

21 Okay. So these are the eight factors
22 that the Board uses to make a customary and traditional
23 use determination.

24

25 Now an analysis of customary and
26 traditional caribou use for communities in 25D and 20F
27 and Manley is found in the Staff analysis from 1998,
28 upon which the Federal Subsistence Board relied to make
29 its determination. Let me briefly mention what that
30 analysis concluded.

31

32 It concluded that historical and
33 contemporary Gwich'in Athabascan territories
34 encompassed 25D, portions of which were also used by
35 Koyukon Athabascan. And members of these Athabascan
36 communities recognize and continue to recognize caribou
37 as an important subsistence resource. And evidence of
38 patterns of use, these eight factors, includes caribou
39 fences, traditions associated with hunting, seasonal
40 hunts, traditional means of storage, distribution
41 through networks of kin and the incorporation of
42 caribou into larger pattern of resource use, including
43 sheep, moose, bear, waterfowl, small game, fish, and so
44 on. Now these patterns broadly persist to the present
45 day, conditioned by current State and Federal
46 management regimes and other historical alterations.

47

48 Residents in Unit 25, more broadly,
49 that is 25 remainder, exhibit similar historical and
50 contemporary patterns of caribou use, not limited to

1 Unit 25D. Gwich'in Athabaskan territory, for example,
2 extended beyond Arctic Village to the north and well
3 into western Canada.

4
5 For Unit 25 remainder, the evidence of
6 patterns of caribou use is generally the same as the
7 evidence of patterns of caribou use in 25D, which I
8 just enumerated for you. In general, when caribou
9 migrations enter into areas proximate to human
10 settlements, caribou were and are harvested.

11
12 Now, if you look on Page 179, it's a
13 misidentified table, table number 3, you can see for
14 Arctic Village residents they harvested 92 caribou in
15 1993, 168 in 1994, 110 in 1995, 56 in '96 and 11 in
16 1997. So the point is, when caribou are available,
17 people harvest caribou.

18
19 Residents from a number of Federally-
20 qualified rural communities statewide have also hunted
21 caribou with a joint State/Federal permit in Unit 25.
22 You can see that in table number 2. For example,
23 residents from Kodiak and Barrow and Sitka, among many
24 other communities, have hunted caribou in Unit 25
25 between 2000 and 2009. For example, over this time,
26 Kodiak residents received 24 permits and harvested 7
27 caribou. Barrow residents received one permit and
28 harvested no caribou. Sitka residents received 12
29 permits and harvested 5 caribou.

30
31 Now, remember factor 4 refers to
32 reasonably near or accessible to a community or an
33 area. And it is reasonable to exclude from a customary
34 and traditional use determination people from these
35 far-flung communities at some distance from Unit 25.

36
37 There's no information available
38 indicating that the harvest by residents of communities
39 outside of 25 should be included in a customary and
40 traditional use determination for Unit 25. For these
41 residents, Unit 25 is not reasonably accessible.

42
43 The exceptions may be residents in Unit
44 24A. The residents, for example, of Coldfoot harvest
45 caribou in Unit 25 and residents of Wiseman also hunt
46 caribou in Unit 25. For these residents, 25 is
47 reasonably accessible and should perhaps be considered
48 for a positive customary and traditional use
49 determination.

50

1 So what are the effects of the
2 proposal? The effects would be to exclude Federally-
3 qualified users from outside of Unit 25 with the
4 possible exceptions of those residents in Unit 24A from
5 harvesting caribou under Federal regulations in the
6 remainder of 25, That is 25A, B and C.

7
8 So if the proposal is adopted as
9 written, then recognition of customary and traditional
10 uses of caribou for residents of Unit 25 would not be
11 provided for those who have a pattern of use within the
12 remainder of Unit 25. Now, I should note that
13 Federally-qualified users who customarily and
14 traditionally harvest caribou in this unit have been
15 inadvertently excluded, then they may choose to submit
16 a proposal to be considered for a positive customary
17 and traditional use determination, and then we would go
18 through the usual steps in analyzing that proposal.

19
20 The Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
21 Council should provide further guidance on including
22 appropriate residents in this proposal -- for this
23 proposal.

24
25 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
26 support WP12-69 with modification. The modification
27 would be to include 24A among the qualified residents.

28
29 And the justification is that residents
30 of 25 generally exhibit the eight factors for
31 determining customary and traditional use of caribou
32 throughout Unit 25 remainder, and adopting the proposal
33 would recognize that customary and traditional use by
34 Federally-qualified rural residents.

35
36 Thank you, Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
39 Mr. Jenkins.

40
41 Questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions
46 of David.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We'll

1 move on.

2

3 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

4

5 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

6 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

7

8 I'd like to clarify whether you simply

9 want our comments on this proposal at this time, or if

10 this was the time in the agenda you had intended to

11 hear about the planning effort on the FortyMile.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So many

14 issues. Do you think it's appropriate to do it now, or

15 do you want.....

16

17 MS. YUHAS: Your choice, Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. They

20 had talked to me, I'm sorry, Council members, now that

21 I took over the Chair. There's so many people talk to

22 me at these meetings, that's -- things I forget.

23

24 Would you like to hear the Fortymile

25 Caribou Planning efforts now before we take up this

26 proposal? We just heard the analysis so it might be

27 more better for us to hear the current status.

28

29 MR. GROSS: Madame Chair, but.....

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I guess

32 I'm wrong about this.

33

34 MR. GLANZ: No, I think Andy will go

35 with this We probably should go into that also, the

36 planning of it.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want

39 to go through this analysis first?

40

41 MR. GLANZ: Because this is tied into

42 that also.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want

45 to go into that after this or do you want to go through

46 it now.

47

48 MR. GLANZ: I think probably now will

49 be better just so we get an idea of who's.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I'm struggling
4 here trying to craft what a motion would be for this,
5 so actually I wouldn't mind listening to the Fortymile
6 Caribou and that might give me little bit more time to
7 kind of craft a motion for the future, because there
8 will be some changes to what's presented to us right,
9 and I'd like to try and get it right the first time to
10 alleviate all this, as you say, axle grinding. So I'd
11 be happy to listen to that.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So does that
14 answer your question. I saw Ruth going, no, no. But I
15 think it's important, because I think this proposal
16 wasn't really -- came out the way the Council had
17 intended it to. So let's hear your report on the
18 Fortymile.
19
20 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
21 We're simply here to support the informational needs of
22 the Council before you make your recommendations. And
23 Jeff Gross with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
24 has a report on the Fortymile planning effort.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mr. Gross.
27
28 MR. GROSS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29
30 I'm going to try to keep this -- though
31 my understanding is that you all have a copy of the
32 Fortymile harvest plan in front of you hopefully, and,
33 of course, have had.....
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have miles
36 of paper.
37
38 MR. GROSS:lots of time to
39 thoroughly review it.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm informed
44 by KJ that it's on green paper. Is it a proposal form
45 or how is -- was it in here?
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: This thing.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay. It
50 was in your books. I see green paper right there for

1 yours. Yeah, this came with a book in your envelopes
2 when it was sent to you.

3

4 MR. GROSS: And I think it begins by
5 saying introduction. I don't think there's a cover
6 page saying Fortymile Harvest Plan.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My book looks
9 different than theirs. Do you have it there, Bill.
10 Okay. Does everybody have it. I have it. Do you have
11 yours, Andy.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: I believe I do.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
16 think we have it now. Go ahead, Jeff.

17

18 MR. GROSS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is very
21 long. You're going to keep it brief, right.

22

23 MR. GROSS: I'm going to try to keep
24 this quite brief. There are at least three folks on
25 the RAC that participated in the development of this
26 plan. And so I'll kind of leave it to your folks to
27 maybe identify any details you'd like me to expand
28 upon. But I'll just give a quick overview of our
29 efforts to date and the current plan.

30

31 The Fortymile harvest -- well, the
32 Fortymile herd has had some fairly extensive planning
33 efforts for both population management, people
34 management, harvest, et cetera, since 1995 when the
35 first herd management plan was developed. And then in
36 2001 and again in 2006 a harvest management plan was
37 adopted by the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence
38 Board to help guide harvest of the herd. So there's
39 been some kind of plan in place since 1995. And
40 they've worked very successfully and have generated
41 countless hours of public input and work to develop
42 these plans.

43

44 Currently the folks that were involved
45 with developing this plan, this current revision of the
46 Fortymile Caribou Harvest Plan, include both Federal
47 Advisory Committees in the herd's range as well as
48 State Advisory Committees both in the herd's range and
49 also in some of the larger communities such as the Mat-
50 Su and Anchorage that heavily use the herd, in addition

1 to international participants from the Yukon.

2

3 The primary thing to point out is that
4 the goals of the plans have remained consistent, and
5 this current revision retains the primary goals of the
6 past harvest plan, which includes to promote of the
7 Fortymile Caribou Herd and to help return it to its
8 historic range, and to continue to increase allowable
9 harvest as the population continues to increase. Our
10 most recent estimate of the herd was in summer of 2010
11 when our photo census resulted in 51,600 and some
12 caribou being counted on photographs.

13

14 We just conducted our fall composition
15 survey for the herd, and the raw numbers indicate about
16 25 calves per 100 right now, and about 39 bulls per
17 hundred, but I still need to do so analysis of that
18 data. That will likely change somewhat. But at least
19 it indicates that the herd appears to be, if not
20 increasing this year, at least stable. So that's what I
21 would characterize it as right now until I'm able to do
22 some more analysis of that data.

23

24 Some of the highlights of the hunt
25 management that's currently in place and is still
26 retained in this current harvest plan are we've tried
27 to keep the regulations fairly simple for all users,
28 State and Federal users, which includes joint
29 State/Federal permit, which allows both State and
30 Federal managers to work together, and for the hunters
31 to only need one piece of paper in their pocket to hunt
32 the Fortymile herd no matter where you're at in its
33 range. And that includes some four different sub-units
34 at this time. So that will work very well.

35

36 Allocations between Alaska and Yukon
37 and between areas and seasons have -- are going to
38 remain the same. They're essentially unchanged at
39 current population levels.

40

41 I draw attention to the Federal
42 Proposals 67, 69 and 74 that relate to the Fortymile
43 Herd and have bearing on -- or the plan has bearing on
44 each of those proposals. In addition, there's some
45 sister proposals to the Board of Game, Proposals 192
46 and 195, and we can certainly discuss those if you had
47 questions.

48

49 The primary proposals I'm going to
50 focus on today is Proposal 74 which calls to expand the

1 Fortymile hunt area to include a portion of the White
2 Mountains north and west of the Steese Highway, which
3 is a larger portion of 25C and 20F, to encompass an
4 area that was historically used by the caribou herd the
5 last time it was reaching population levels that we're
6 beginning to see now. And we anticipate the herd will
7 continue to utilize that area more and more. And in
8 order to have hunt management for the Fortymile herd
9 possible up in that area, we need to expand the
10 geographic area that's included for the Fortymile herd.
11 And so that's one of the primary purposes of the
12 proposal.

13

14 And I believe it's on Page 14 of the
15 plan you can see that zone 4, and there's also a map on
16 the back wall, if folks want to look at it, that shows
17 where zone 4 is. Zones 1 through 4 are largely
18 unchanged, although zone 1 is going to take in a small
19 portion of land just north of the Steese Highway on
20 this side of Eagle Summit, which currently is not
21 included in the harvest -- or in the hunt area for the
22 Fortymile Herd and which has proven to be somewhat
23 problematic in the last few years, because currently
24 there's different regulations on each side of the
25 Steese Highway around 12 Mile, or just this side of 12
26 Mile Summit. We have actually had some folks
27 harvesting Fortymile Caribou under the caribou
28 regulations outside of the Fortymile hunt, which Bill
29 Glanz has actually -- can maybe expand upon a little
30 bit to explain a little bit better.

31

32 The only other thing I wanted to just
33 touch on is -- one of the other primary things that was
34 discussed during the planning process of the revision
35 of this plan is the health of the herd, and everybody's
36 very cognizant I think and concerned about making sure
37 that we don't increase this herd to a point where it
38 could potentially have major health issues. And we're
39 currently monitoring a number of indices, including
40 fall calf weights, spring birth rates, and more
41 specifically birth rates of three and four-year-old
42 cows to look at effects of -- effects on habitat as the
43 herds continue to increase.

44

45 And I can certainly speak more to that,
46 but as of now, we don't have major concerns. But I
47 wanted to let the RAC know that that was discussed and
48 the Department's committed to continue to watch those
49 indices very closely. And if things change or we start
50 seeing some negative impacts, the intent of the

1 department would be to get together with the RACs, the
2 ACs, et cetera, and discuss it as quickly as possible
3 in case we need to stabilize the herd or change
4 harvest.

5
6 And that's all I have. I can certainly
7 answer questions.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
10 questions. Has your memory been jarred, Andy.

11
12 MR. BASSICH: I'm good.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
15 Andrew.

16
17 MR. FIRMIN: I just had a quick
18 question as on how you felt about the public testimony
19 we heard yesterday about removing 20F from Proposal 12-
20 74.

21
22 MR. GROSS: Through the Chair.

23
24 Thank you for drawing attention to
25 that. We did speak to the person that provided that
26 testimony, and he identified I guess you would call it
27 an error in drafting this, that we didn't specify
28 throughout the proposed language that we intended this
29 only to apply to 20F east of the Dalton Highway and
30 south of the Yukon River. And we would recommend
31 including language in the proposal, and I don't know
32 whether you want me to just show you where this is or
33 try to explain it.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will this
36 come up when we take up that proposal?

37
38 MR. GROSS: Yes.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it might
41 be better not to get into that real deep right now.

42
43 MR. GROSS: Yes. And the concerns were
44 that this could potentially impact the hunting of the
45 Ray Mountains Herd and some other caribou that are west
46 of the Dalton Highway. And so by making this
47 clarification in the wording, I believe we took care of
48 those -- or addressed those concerns.

49
50 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
2 questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So in this
7 report -- I see Rita sitting here. Is there anything
8 else you wanted to add.

9
10 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you, Madame
11 Chair. Rita St. Louis with the Department of Fish and
12 Game.

13
14 The only thing I wanted to speak to is
15 the plan itself and sort of the process, not the
16 biology. It's sort of a matter of sequencing.

17
18 Because of the changes that were
19 proposed in this plan, that's mainly the added zone 4
20 which includes White Mountain Caribou, by necessity for
21 it to work, the Federal Board will have to pass
22 Proposal 74.....

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

25
26 MS. ST. LOUIS:I think it is, to
27 make that happen. And then the Board of Game would
28 have to pass Proposal 192, which you have a copy of,
29 for this to happen. So it's sort of a question of
30 sequencing. Because the Federal Board meets in -- you
31 have a meeting here first, the end of November the
32 harvest management coalition will be meeting to draft a
33 final plan. This is a draft plan as you see.

34
35 And I'm asking that your Council either
36 let Andy or Bill Glanz or Donna Woodard, who is your
37 official representative, know any changes you would
38 like to see to the plan by the end of November. So
39 November 30th, December 1st. And then as you know the
40 Federal Board meets, we'd ask the Federal -- I mean, we
41 would ask them to endorse the plan. Then after that
42 the Board of Game will be meeting in March, and we're
43 going to ask them to pass their proposal and adopt the
44 plans. So sort of trying to keep all these balls in
45 the air at the same time, but that's mainly the
46 process..

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 MR. GROSS: Madame -- I'm sorry.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions
2 of Rita.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MR. GROSS: Madame Chair. I would just
7 expand on that just a little bit. Or summarize it.
8 What we're hoping for or encouraging the RAC to do is
9 to support Proposal 12-74 for the Federal Subsistence
10 Board and to hopefully take up, discuss, and hopefully
11 support the Board of Game Proposal 192.

12
13 Again as Rita said, in order to make
14 this plan go through we would -- there will need to be
15 support for both of those proposals, and to either
16 endorse the herd harvest plan at this time or discuss a
17 strategy that the RAC have an opportunity to endorse
18 the plan perhaps after any final changes are made.

19
20 Maybe Jennifer might have something to
21 add there.

22
23 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
24 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

25
26 Hopefully the Council has had their
27 questions that they may have had with regards to the
28 plan answered. And just to try and bring back to the
29 agenda, we're currently giving Department comments on
30 Proposal 69. Proposals 67 and 74 will come up later in
31 the agenda.

32
33 And with regards to the presentation on
34 the plan, we're using this time as a reminder to the
35 Regional Advisory Council that their endorsement of the
36 plan, should no major changes take place before the
37 Federal Subsistence Board meeting, be appreciated, and
38 that's likely something they can address under other
39 business.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
42 Very well.

43
44 MS. YUHAS: Is the Council ready for
45 our comments on Proposal 69, which you still have
46 before you.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Unless
49 there's other questions.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's
4 move rapidly ahead.
5
6 MS. YUHAS: At this time the Alaska
7 Department of Fish and Game endorses -- sorry, supports
8 a finding for 25C only at this time. There's actually
9 a typo in the book, sorry, stating that we endorse --
10 that we support the finding for the entire unit, but we
11 support the finding for 25C.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What page is
14 that typo on.
15
16 MS. YUHAS: Page 161, Madame Chair.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What is it?
19
20 MS. YUHAS: Page 161 showing your table
21 of recommendations. It's clarified in our comments,
22 but it didn't make the table. It simply says support,
23 and we support 25C only at this time.
24
25 **No official written comments
26 inserted/provided by State at this
27 time**
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
30 Council members, I want you to help me out right now.
31 Wasn't it the intent of the Eastern Interior to put
32 this proposal in on the recommendations of the
33 Fortymile working group, which probably wasn't for all
34 of Unit 25.
35
36 MR. GLANZ: Well, originally it was a
37 clerical error on our part, because there were some
38 areas in 25 would have been excluded the way we had it
39 written. Rita could probably explain that better -- or
40 not Rita, but Roy may be able to explain it better
41 where the confusion laid in there.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I'm
44 correct.
45
46 MR. GLANZ: Yes, you're correct in that
47 sense, but we.....
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because it
50 makes OSM, if it would have been 25C, it makes the

1 analysis look very different, because you would have
2 just done 25C.

3

4 DR. JENKINS: (Nods affirmatively)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
7 right. Let's keep moving on for Proposal No. 69.

8

9 Are there any Federal agencies that
10 want to speak to this. Comments.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I have any
15 -- do we? Oh, Vince stood up all of a sudden.

16

17 Native, tribal, village or other. Does
18 anyone else want to -- have comments to this.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought you
23 were going to testify for yourself there for a minute,
24 Andy.

25

26 Okay. Advisory groups.

27

28 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 The Southcentral Regional Advisory Council deferred
30 this Proposal 12-69 to the home region, because they
31 felt they had inadequate data on the wishes of the
32 people that would be affected.

33

34 Western Interior Regional Advisory
35 Council supported with modification, which I presume is
36 the OSM modification language, although the coordinator
37 wasn't quite clear. I will tell you some of the things
38 that she made note of from Western Interior, from their
39 meeting. There is evidence that shows use from
40 communities in question. There needs to be sideboards
41 set to any winter moose hunting opportunity in the C&T
42 described area on OSM map 4. Innoko moose management
43 plan section 1.9 needs to be reviewed. And the Federal
44 Subsistence Board proposal designating two zones and
45 set biologically supported allocations between zone 1,
46 map 4, and the remainder of Unit 21E.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. You're

1 waving your hand.

2

3 DR. JENKINS: Yes. I was at the
4 Western Interior meeting last week, and I can tell you
5 what their modification was. It was to support WP12-69
6 with modification so that residents of 24A would have a
7 customary and traditional use determination only for
8 25A and not for all of Unit 25. They argued that
9 residents of 24A don't hunt elsewhere, just in 25A.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
12 other questions here.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I just
17 have one question though, and it was explained to me
18 why, because it was all rural residents, that's why
19 other RACs outside our area were taking that proposal
20 up?

21

22 MS. MUSHOVIC: (Nods affirmatively)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So the only
25 two that took it up right now was a deferral.....

26

27 MS. MUSHOVIC: (Nods affirmatively)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
30 right. Then local advisory committees.

31

32 The Upper Tanana was part of that
33 Fortymile working group, and they supported 25C C&T
34 only. I might need some help from -- oh, and 25C, 12
35 north of the Wrangell Park, 20D and 20E. I wrote this
36 down as to what they were going on. Sounds clear as
37 mud, doesn't it.

38

39 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry. But I
42 think they were with you guys, because they were part
43 of the working group.

44

45 National Park Service. Barbara, oh,
46 there she is, the SRC didn't -- they didn't take this
47 up. I'm sorry.

48

49 MS. CELLARIUS: No.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Already
2 losing it. Because it's not in their region.

3
4 Summary of written comments.

5
6 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 No written comments were received. However, at the
8 Eastern Interior tribal consultation teleconference,
9 Andrew Firmin of the Council of Athabaskan Tribal
10 Governments noted that the Fortymile Caribou Herd
11 should be managed to provide for the needs of local
12 rural communities that are dependent upon caribou for
13 subsistence uses. Eligibility to hunt should be
14 limited to local rural residents that have a close
15 association with the caribou herd and not expanded to
16 other areas. Keep the resource in the region and keep
17 outside influences from flooding into the area.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
22 testimony.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
27 Hearing none, I need a motion. And I lost Andy.

28
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt 12-69
30 with the modification.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Name your
33 modification.

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: The modification is
36 printed on Page 180 of our book.

37
38 MR. FIRMIN: Second.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
41 been moved and seconded. Discussion.

42
43 Do you want to speak to it. Put you on
44 the spot.

45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. This addresses
47 the concern that we talked about at our last meeting
48 before we submitted this proposal, which was that the
49 place could be overrun with people from other areas,
50 and cause an uncontrollable harvest.

1 Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I need some
4 help from you guys that were on the working group.
5 Andy.

6

7 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Sorry. I had to
8 leave the room. I was just working on a motion for
9 this and trying to clarify a few things.

10

11 Could I hear what the motion is on the
12 table right now.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The motion on
15 the table is basically OSM's recommendation.

16

17 MR. FIRMIN: As modified.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As modified.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So are you
24 guys happy with that. Are you happy with that motion,
25 or what are we looking at. Andy, you've been working
26 hard on it and while you're -- could you answer that.

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. In an effort to
29 try and keep us from having to readdress this or get
30 tangled up, I just spent some time and kind of rewrote
31 it. And if we were to go to Page -- in the subsistence
32 regulation book, if we went to Page 117 where the
33 regulation is written, basically all we need to really
34 do here is under caribou, where it begins saying Unit
35 25D, above that we would just put 25C, Unit 25C, and
36 then we would leave everything as it is below that. So
37 we'd have the Unit 25D, rural residents, and if we want
38 to clarify it, where it begins to say Units of, we
39 would then put in Units 25B, 20E, 25C, 20F east of
40 Dalton Highway, south of the Yukon River, and units
41 north of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve, if
42 we want to be really accurate on what we're trying to
43 do.

44

45 So basically, to summarize, all we
46 would really need to do on the regulation is add Unit
47 25C before Unit 25D there, and then if we want to
48 clarify it further, we can add what the C&T
49 determination is where it begins to say units of. And
50 that should cover what we're trying to do is my

1 understanding.
2
3 Madame Chair.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
6 Unfortunately we have a motion on the floor. And I
7 would, you know, just to help us out here, I think it
8 might be.....
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: I will withdraw my
11 motion with the consent of my second.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Consent of
14 the second.
15
16 MR. FIRMIN: So granted.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
19
20 MR. BASSICH: I'll make a motion.
21 Madame Chair.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
24
25 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I'd like to make
26 the motion that we modify WP12-69, in reference to the
27 wording in Page 117 on the Federal subsistence book
28 regarding this regulation, that we just simply add the
29 wording Unit 25C, and where we begin to have units of,
30 to fully clarify that, we would have 25B, 20E 25C, 20F
31 east of Dalton Highway, south of Yukon River, units
32 north of Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve, and, of
33 course, Manley would stay in there.
34
35 And I have that written down. I'd be
36 able to give that to KJ or whomever. That would be the
37 motion. Madame Chair.
38
39 MR. GLANZ: What about 24A.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 24A.
42
43 MR. GLANZ: Because 25A is where they
44 hunt.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are we.....
47
48 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to modify that,
49 what he's making, I mean, before we second it, with
50 24A. Do you want to put that.....

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's no
2 second, so.....
3
4 MR. BASSICH: If that's a friendly
5 amendment, I'm comfortable with that. Madame Chair.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it's
8 adding 20 -- which one?
9
10 MR. GLANZ: 24A.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 24A.
13
14 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I have
17 a motion.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That we're
22 actually splitting the C&T, and then there would still
23 be the 25 remainder, correct?
24
25 MR. GLANZ: Yes.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
28 Discussion on the motion.
29
30 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I think
31 what created this in the beginning was just some
32 omissions, some typographical omissions in the original
33 presentation of the plan, and so it's just an attempt
34 to clarify the C&T determinations for Fortymile Caribou
35 Herd.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could you
38 speak to also how you come up with the C&T for 25C.
39 You know, it's my turn to put you on the spot.
40
41 MR. BASSICH: Well, I'll reference the
42 justification from the analysis on that.
43
44 MR. GLANZ: The C&T was always in
45 there. 25C there. It was already in this original.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Staff, are we
48 clear.
49
50 MR. ARDIZZONE: (Shakes head

1 negatively)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Look
4 at that. What are you referencing in the analysis that
5 would identify this. They need a little more help.
6 Are you going to be help us with what we should be
7 doing, Chuck.

8

9 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm hoping you're going
10 to help me understand.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: I'm going to pass it over
13 to Bill, because he offered the amendment to my
14 original one. So speak to 25 -- or 24, was it 24A?

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we're
17 talking about all of it. We're not just talking about
18 24A, correct.

19

20 MR. GLANZ: Correct. Madame Chair.
21 What I had written down was 25C, but no -- I didn't
22 have anything after that, because I thought all the
23 changes were in 25D, or were they under 25C?

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It was my
26 understanding 25C, am I correct?

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
31 We're adding a C&T for 25C, yeah. And I would put 25C
32 first, because that is 25C, and then I would add the
33 other ones. So just for the purpose of record, trying
34 to get more discussion from Bill and Andy. I'm just
35 trying to get more discussion to how you come about
36 these other GMUs.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: My understanding is it's
39 just -- adding those others is just a clarification of
40 who is qualified. So after you go on Page 17, if you
41 look at the regulation there, it basically states 25D,
42 rural residents, rural residents of Unit 20F, 20D, and
43 Manley. And I think what I was attempting to do is
44 just make it very clear all the people that have C&T
45 determinations for the Fortymile Caribou Herd, which
46 would be those additional ones that I added. So it was
47 just a way to clarify it, make it more.....

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I
50 was looking for.

1 MR. BASSICH: Right. But that's the
2 attempt. I guess it wouldn't necessarily have to be in
3 there, but the intent was to just try and make it very
4 clear to a person picking up this book who qualifies to
5 hunt for that.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pat.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Am I off?

10
11 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm Pat Petrivelli,
12 and I just have a question.

13
14 Because you -- when you said, you know,
15 25C and then you -- and I can't remember what you said,
16 but you said north of Wrangell-St. Elias Preserve. So
17 usually when we put C&Ts in regulations, we say
18 residents of -- or usually when it's the home region,
19 we make a C&T where all of the residents of the unit,
20 so like 25, which would be 25, but then when it's
21 neighboring, then we usually try to identify specific
22 communities. But it seems like the intent of your
23 thing is residents of -- in north of the preserve would
24 be residents of 20E, residents of 12, residents of 20D.
25 Oh, so just residents of Unit 12 north of.....

26
27 MR. BASSICH: Sorry. I guess I left
28 out the Unit 12, but, yeah. Sorry about that.

29
30 MS. PETRIVELLI: Okay. So you're
31 saying -- well, see, so you want to recognize C&T use
32 by residents of Unit 12 north of the preserve.

33
34 MR. BASSICH: (Nods affirmatively)

35
36 MS. PETRIVELLI: Also Units 20D and
37 20E? Well, see, that's the thing. We don't know what
38 communities you're trying to recognize as having a
39 positive customary and traditional use determination,
40 so would it be just from Unit 12 north of to 25C, all
41 the people that live in those areas.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess that would
44 be then all Federally-qualified users within that area.

45
46
47 MS. PETRIVELLI: So that would include
48 residents of 20D, residents of 20E, residents of 20B,
49 and then what about 20 -- well, there's 20A and 20C.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we'd
2 better take a short break.

3
4 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah. Because it's
5 just really -- and then I don't -- and then I guess
6 once you included all those people, I mean -- well, I'm
7 just -- it's just uncertain what you really mean by
8 which people you want to include in the C&T
9 determination.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: In a short
12 break, they can hash it out.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: I guess I would ask a
15 question if I may then.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: In our regulation book,
20 is it better just not to leave the C&T determination in
21 there? I thought it had to be written in. It had to
22 be very clear in the regulation who was allowed to
23 participate in the hunt. But I guess now that I'm
24 looking at it, I don't see it really clearly written
25 out in the regulation book, so I'm wondering if, you
26 know, these additional units that I added even need to
27 be in there or if we could just have the motion
28 basically state leave it as it is with the addition of
29 Unit 25C and that would be good enough. I'm not clear
30 on what we need in the regulation book.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wanted to
33 have this happen in a timely fashion and now we're
34 getting all wrapped around the axle again.

35
36 Pete, can you help me out.

37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: I thought we had it.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I did, too.
41 I thought it was cut and dried.

42
43 MR. PROBASCO: Yeah. I think, Madame
44 Chair, the best way to handle this right now is to take
45 a break and give us a little time to sit down with
46 Andy, because we do need to clarify who qualifies for
47 this hunt. And if you look at how the current
48 regulations are written, the catch-all is Unit 25
49 remainder which is all residents. So you catch a lot
50 of those people that you're trying to capture and make

1 exclusive. So I think we need to sit down and take a
2 look at Andy's amendment and then put it in the left-
3 hand column the way it should read.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And my
6 question to you, Pete, is because OSM did an analysis
7 on all of 25, would you take those and put them,
8 instead of remainder, all rural residents, do that
9 analysis? Are you following my question.

10
11 MR. PROBASCO: No.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You already
14 did analysis on the whole 25.

15
16 MR. PROBASCO: And we can use that
17 information, and now the Council can take Andy's
18 amendment, and if you wanted to narrow it, you can.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
21 Gotcha. Makes sense. Andy's going to work through --
22 do you want to take a break now, or do you.....

23
24 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, or we could just
25 table this and take it up tomorrow, and we'd have time
26 to work on it and get it right, and then bring it up
27 tomorrow after the other one. It's up to you guys, if
28 you want to keep moving.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
31 to do it at lunch.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: I can work on it at
34 lunch, too. I don't think this will take too long to
35 work on.

36
37 MR. GLANZ: I'll be with you on that,
38 Andy.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you think
41 five minutes, Pete.

42
43 MR. PROBASCO: Five minutes would do
44 it.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's all we
47 need is five minutes. Let's take five minutes and do
48 it. Get it over with.

49
50 (Off record)

1 (On record)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's get
4 started. Five minutes turned into 10 I think.

5

6 Staff has come up with something that I
7 wasn't aware of, never came up. And I'm going to ask
8 Pete to clarify that for me.

9

10 Let's see now, we've got one, two,
11 three, four. They're here. They're all here. They're
12 just standing.

13

14 All right. Go ahead, Pete.

15

16 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Madame Chair.

17

18 A couple of issues here I want to
19 emphasize that hopefully will get us out of the ditch.
20 The first important thing is once a Council acts on a
21 proposal, it cannot be withdrawn. And I was just made
22 aware that the Western Interior has acted on this
23 proposal as it pertains strictly to 24A and 25, hunting
24 in 25A. So the Western Interior's acted on this
25 proposal and it can't be withdrawn.

26

27 The issue as I see it before this
28 Council is currently in Unit 25, it's open to the
29 entire state. All rural residents of Alaska can hunt
30 in Unit 25. Your discussion today is trying to narrow
31 that pool of users. The analysis that David has done
32 can't quite get where Andy wants to go at this point in
33 time, because we're bringing in other residents from
34 other management unites that are not discussed in the
35 C&T analysis.

36

37 So if indeed the intent of this RAC is
38 to limit that pool, then this Council should look at
39 the OSM's recommendation, which applies strictly to
40 rural residents of Unit 25 remainder to hunt this area.
41 If you don't take any action, then it's still all rural
42 residents of Alaska could hunt in this area and it
43 would take a proposal specifically addressing those
44 other communities in Andy's amendment, and then OSM
45 Staff would do an analysis on that.

46

47 Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
50 members. Questions. Let's try not to get too crazy

1 here. Virgil.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: So basically in order
4 to accomplish our objective, we need to pass the
5 modified regulation listed on Page 180.

6

7 MR. PROBASCO: That's correct if the
8 intent of the Council is to limit the pool of users for
9 that management unit.

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. Yeah. I
12 think being the person who made the motion, I think
13 what I'd like to do and is withdraw the motion and
14 actually ask that we take no action on this, because I
15 think right now we don't have a tremendous impact from
16 people coming around the state on this herd. When the
17 State season closes, the primary harvest still goes to
18 most of the local people that live right around where
19 the caribou are at. And so I think it's meeting the
20 needs of the local people in the three zones -- or in
21 basically the two zones.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You're
24 speaking to.....

25

26 MR. BASSICH: So I don't think we
27 really need to further this at this point in time.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I want to
30 make sure everybody agrees with you. So are you
31 withdrawing your motion, and if so, I have to have a
32 concurrence.

33

34 MR. GLANZ: I'd concur.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
37 Virgil, but, me, personally, I don't know if I agree
38 with that, but I would ask other people. So Virgil
39 first and then Andrew.

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't agree with it.
42 I think we should pass the modified regulation. And in
43 Unit 20A on the antlerless moose hunt, we've had a
44 number of people coming in and I can foresee some of
45 these groups of people that basically under the guise
46 -- well, they use the proxy process and abuse it, and
47 basically what they are is market hunting.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
50 exaggerating?

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: And so I think we
2 should go ahead and pass what we have before us as
3 written. That's what I think we should do.

4
5 Madame Chair.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Because this something
10 that could happen and I think that is the best way to
11 handle it.

12
13 Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

16
17 MR. FIRMIN: As I recall, the whole
18 reason this proposal came about was the expansion of
19 herd and its migratory patterns and the possible
20 pattern in the future. And I believe we should pass
21 this as written and exclude 24A, because they have a
22 completely different caribou herd, and they're not
23 going to traipse 400 miles down the highway to hunt
24 this herd. If the herd does get that far, we can add
25 them at a later date. And I would like to see it
26 passed as written, just residents of 25 and exclude 24A
27 until such time that we see necessary or residents from
28 that area would like a C&T determination. They're in
29 the Western Interior. They can submit their own
30 proposal at that time.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
33 I've got to hear a motion, then we can discuss.

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move to adopt the
36 modified regulation as written on Page 180 of our book.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
39 second.

40
41 MR. MATESI: I second.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been
44 moved and seconded. Discussion.

45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: I would like to
47 incorporate my previous remarks.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So heard.
50 Others. Joe.

1 MR. MATESI: I would like to see the
2 modification allowing residents of 24A to hunt in 25A
3 retained, because it's not that they're trying to
4 access the Fortymile.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's in the
7 motion.
8
9 MR. MATESI: Huh?
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be
12 in the motion though.
13
14 MR. MATESI: Well, yeah, it is in the
15 modified motion.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I hear
18 your discussion is.....
19
20 MR. MATESI: My discussion.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:you
23 agree with allowing them to stay. Okay.
24
25 MR. MATESI: Yes. Right. Because
26 they're looking at Central and Porcupine animals that
27 are next door to them in 25A.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Other
30 discussion. I might -- Andrew, did I miss you.
31
32 MR. FIRMIN: I agree with Joe on
33 supporting the Western Interior's support with their
34 modification that 24A get the C&T with 25A, associated
35 with that. The Western Interior's amended proposal.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
38 motion in front of us though is.....
39
40 MR. GLANZ: I concur with him on them.
41 And we can always modify this two years from now if
42 there's a problem.
43
44 MR. MATESI: I haven't made a motion.
45 I was just making comment, and I assume that one of us
46 can make that modification as a motion.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Is
49 that what I heard just now.
50

1 MR. MATESI: No.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
4
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's included in the
6 modified language.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.
9
10 MR. MATESI: No, it just adds 24A.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Not the
13 Western Interior, not 24A for 25A.
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: It has -- if you read
16 it, it says, Unit 25 remainder, residents of Unit 25
17 and 24A.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Clarification
20 from Pete.
21
22 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23
24 What's before you is residents of 24A
25 could hunt the entire Management Unit 25. What Mr.
26 Firmin wants to do is support Western Interior's
27 recommendation to take 24A and limit it to only 25A.
28 So it would take an amendment to you motion to make
29 that.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
32 what I was waiting for.
33
34 Do you want to make it, Andrew, or do
35 you want Virgil to.
36
37 MR. FIRMIN: Virgil's ready.
38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. We're talking
40 about 15 or 20 people and like someone else here said a
41 few minutes ago, they're not going to drive 500 miles
42 to go hunt caribou there. they're going to hunt
43 caribou across the road from where they live. So I
44 don't think it's a concern for the 24A people.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I don't
47 hear a motion.
48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: No.
50

1 MR. MATESI: All right. I'll try.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think it's fine the
4 way it's written in the book myself. You're only
5 talking 15 or 20 people, and like I.....
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
8 right.
9
10 MR. MATESI: I make a motion to a amend
11 proposal, okay, that residents of 24A be allowed to
12 hunt in Unit 25A. Reword that as necessary, but that's
13 the intent that I'm trying to come across with.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I need some
16 help, Pete.
17
18 MR. PROBASCO: The intent of Joe's
19 motion is to define, we're talking about C&T, define
20 for residents of 24A their C&T finding is for hunting
21 in 25A for caribou.
22
23 MR. FIRMIN: Second.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do we
26 understand.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion on
31 the motion.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question on the
36 amendment.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Done? Ready?
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor
43 of the amendment.
44
45 IN UNISON: Aye
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
48 opposed.
49
50 (No opposing votes)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
2 the amended.....
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question on the main
5 motion.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are we ready.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MR. GLANZ: Question.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in
14 favor.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
19 opposed.
20
21 (No opposing votes)
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It passes.
24 We got through that. Good.
25
26 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We're moving right
27 along.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's great.
30 I think Virgil's hungry. All right. We're going to
31 break for lunch. Is 1:15.
32
33 And before we leave, I had a request
34 from Arctic Village for people that are on the
35 teleconference wanted to testify on Proposal 76, and
36 we've agreed to do this at 4:00 o'clock. Is there any
37 opposition to that, or do you want to wait. 4:00
38 o'clock today. It's taking it out of sequence, but
39 we'll just have to bring it back up later. I mean,
40 we're not going to take up the proposal, we're just
41 going to hear the testimony.
42
43 Okay. All right. We'll see you at
44 1:15.
45
46 (Off record)
47
48 (On record)
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Calling the

1 meeting back to order. We left confused and I think we
2 remain confused.

3

4 Okay. We're going to move to the next
5 proposal, because we left on to come back to, and that
6 was -- yeah. 71/72, right? No. 67 and 74, we're
7 going to bring that back later. We're on 75.

8

9 MS. MUSHOVIC: No, this is the one we
10 were on before. We were on 69, we've moved to 67/74.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
13 clarifying. We were on -- no, we weren't. We were on
14 67/74. Yeah.

15

16 MS. MUSHOVIC: I'm sorry.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Not really,
19 but I think we're getting our wits together. Thank
20 you.

21

22 Go ahead, Chuck.

23

24 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. Chuck
25 Ardizzone for the record. Proposal 67 and 74 begins on
26 -- they begin on Page 140 of your meeting book.

27

28 Proposal 67 requests the caribou season
29 start date for the fall hunt in Unit 20E be changed
30 from August 10th to August 1st. The proponent states
31 that due to the migratory nature of the Fortymile
32 Caribou Herd, the herd has often moved away from the
33 river corridor by August 10th, eliminating an
34 opportunity for Federal subsistence users to harvest
35 caribou from the Fortymile herd.

36

37 Proposal 74 requests expanding the
38 joint State/Federal registration permit to include 20F
39 east of the Dalton Highway and south of the Yukon
40 River, and Unit 25C. Season dates would be aligned
41 across Unit 20E, a portion of 20F east of the Dalton
42 Highway and south of the Yukon River, and 25C. The
43 proponent further requests that Units 25C and 25C
44 remainder be combined into one unit.

45

46 The Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
47 Council in cooperation with the Fortymile Caribou Herd
48 Harvest Management Coalition has developed this
49 proposal to simplify regulations and expand the area
50 covered by the joint State/Federal permit.

1 The Fortymile Caribou Herd has grown
2 and moved into the range of the White Mountain Caribou
3 Herd. This proposal would eliminate the General White
4 Mountain Caribou Herd hunt and combine the White
5 Mountain Caribou hunt with the fall and winter hunts
6 for the Fortymile Herd. The harvest of both the
7 Fortymile and White Mountain Caribou would be under the
8 same registration permits. The herds would be managed
9 separately and have separate harvest quotas.

10
11 The Fortymile Caribou Herd harvest is
12 managed in zones for the hunters in all parts of the
13 herd's range have hunting opportunities. A new hunt
14 zone would be created to replace the area currently
15 under the fall general White Mountain caribou hunt in
16 Units 20F and 25C.

17
18 The Fortymile Caribou Herd is managed
19 under the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan. The
20 first one was completed in 1995, and the plan is
21 currently going under revision.

22
23 Since implementation of the Fortymile
24 Caribou Herd Plan in 1995, the herd has increased
25 significantly. The most recent population estimate was
26 4,000 -- or, excuse me, 46,509 animals. The most
27 recent herd composition surveys in 2008 show a decrease
28 in the bull/cow ratio, 37 bulls per 100 cows, and an
29 increase in the calf/cow ratio to 33 calves per 100
30 cows.

31
32 The White Mountain Caribou Herd is a
33 small herd of approximately 539 to 605 animals, and has
34 historically sustained a low annual harvest. Because
35 of the herd's size and location in timbered areas,
36 they're difficult to locate and harvest.

37
38 The majority of White Mountain caribou
39 are harvested by local resident hunters. Current
40 harvest levels fall far below the maximum allowable
41 levels.

42
43 The traditional hunt areas have been
44 reduced to accommodate the northwest expansion of the
45 Fortymile Caribou Herd. The hunt boundaries for the
46 Fortymile caribou hunt was moved northwest from the
47 Steese Highway to Preacher and American Creeks,
48 removing a portion of the eastern area for hunting the
49 White Mountain caribou.

50

1 The Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest
2 Management Coalition submitted a companion proposal to
3 this one to the Board of Game for consideration at its
4 March 2012 meeting with the intent of aligning State
5 and Federal regulations.
6

7 Presently the Fortymile Caribou Herd
8 Management Coalition is drafting a 2012 to 2018 herd
9 harvest plan which will be presented to the Board of
10 Game for approval during its March 2012 meeting.
11

12 If Proposal 67 were adopted, it would
13 add an additional nine days to the Unit 20E caribou
14 season. Although this would allow additional time for
15 Federally-qualified subsistence users to harvest
16 caribou, it would conflict with the Fortymile Caribou
17 Herd management recommended approach.
18

19 If Proposal 12-74 were adopted, it
20 would simplify the regulations by aligning the Federal
21 season dates across Units 20E, 20F east of the Dalton
22 Highway and south of the Yukon River, and Unit 25C.
23

24 Having both the White Mountain and
25 Fortymile Caribou Herd on the same permit will provide
26 the hunt managers more flexibility to manage the hunts
27 separately. Currently if the Fortymile caribou migrate
28 north of the Steese Highway into hunt area RC-879, the
29 hunt is closed by emergency order, because the hunt is
30 intended for harvest of the White Mountain caribou.
31

32 If this proposal is adopted, the joint
33 State/Federal hunt permit would cover on areas for both
34 the Fortymile and the White Mountain caribou,
35 simplifying regulations for the Federal subsistence
36 users.
37

38 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
39 take no action on Proposal 12-67 and support Proposal
40 12-74.
41

42 If there are any questions, I can try
43 to answer them for you.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
46 members, questions.
47

48 (No comments)
49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Moving along.

1 Fish and Game.

2

3 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 Jennifer Yuhas and Jeff Gross, Alaska Department of
5 Fish and Game. Jeff is here for any questions that you
6 may have regarding the specifics of the proposal.

7

8 The Department has already testified
9 that we support the planning efforts, participated in
10 the planning efforts for the Fortymile caribou. We
11 support the OSM preliminary conclusion, which would be
12 to adopt Proposal 74 as written.

13

14 I believe that this is forward
15 thinking. The herd is expanding and moving west.

16

17 **No official written comments
18 inserted/provided by State at this
19 time**

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
22 Chuck.

23

24 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. Jeff
25 Gross brought this up earlier. I just wanted to get it
26 on the record.

27

28 I believe where the proposal says 20F,
29 we want to make sure it's clear that we mean east of
30 the Dalton Highway and south of the Yukon River,
31 because there are several areas that just say 20F in
32 the proposal. I just think -- I think we're all on the
33 same page for that.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We all
36 agree.

37

38 (Council nods affirmatively)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
41 questions.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we
46 kind of answered some of these earlier. Okay.

47

48 Are there any other Federal agencies
49 that would like to make comments.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any Native,
4 tribal or village or other.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: InterAgency
9 Staff.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
14 Advisory groups. Other neighboring Councils, Fish and
15 Game.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Maybe not.
20 Interesting.
21
22 It's local to the Upper
23 Tanana/Fortymile. They took it up and they were all
24 supportive of this whole management plan.
25
26 And I don't think there's any SRCs.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
31 Summary of written comments.
32
33 MS. MUSHOVIC: None received, Madame
34 Chair.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That must
37 mean we're doing a good job.
38
39 Public testimony.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
44 ready to move into discussion.
45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposals
47 67 and 74.
48
49 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that one.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
2 Discussion.
3
4 MR. MATESI: Is it 74 only?
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hear it as
7 74 only.
8
9 REPORTER: Yes, he said both.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, I said 67 and 74.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I must not
16 have heard the 67. I thought we would have done one.
17 We should have just one. Could you please help me.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: I must have missed it also.
20 I'll withdraw my second on that.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're two
23 different ones, and.....
24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, let's do 74 then.
26
27 MR. GLANZ: And I'll second on that
28 one.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion on
31 74.
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. And I want to
34 defer comments to our two members that are on the
35 Fortymile committee.
36
37 MR. GLANZ: Well, we pretty much
38 covered it in all their -- and I'll speak on it here.
39
40 With the 74, this F area, the reason we
41 wanted to put that in, the herd is going to expand up
42 there.
43
44 But also if you look at the map, the
45 whole Steese Highway is going to be under this joint
46 permit, which is going to be a Federal/State permit.
47 But what happened last -- actually two years in a row
48 is zone 1 ended at the bottom of 12-Mile Summit. So
49 everybody's lining up on the highway shooting caribou
50 as they cross, even though we had Fortymile Herd

1 Caribou hunting shut down. And they were saying, oh,
2 no, no, these are the Steese/White Mountain Herd we're
3 hunting. So by combining the zone 1 all the way from
4 Circle to Fairbanks, that's going to put it on the same
5 harvest ticket. And we won't have the White Mountain
6 Herd, we won't have the Fortymile Herd. It's going to
7 be all considered Fortymile Herd eventually anyway the
8 way they're going back to their original rounds where
9 they used to run.

10

11 And there's five of us ACs -- actually
12 seven ACs that worked on this and got it all put
13 together with the help of the Feds and State, so I
14 really hope we can pass it to get this on its way for
15 the future of this herd.

16

17 Andy, do you anything.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Madame Chair.

20

21 I think what this proposal is
22 attempting to do is give us a better reporting of
23 harvest and also greater protection to the Fortymile
24 Herd as it begins to expand into the White Mountain
25 Herd in the future. That's the anticipation. So this
26 proposal gives managers more options in controlling the
27 harvest of the herd to protect it at times when we need
28 to protect it. And also it would also allow a greater
29 harvest at times when we wish to do that as well. So
30 it's giving more latitude to managers.

31

32 Madame Chair. Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it's
35 making it simple for the user.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Anyone
40 else. Andrew.

41

42 MR. FIRMIN: I just have one question.
43 That 900 caribou quota, is that still going to be in
44 effect? It's addressing more the winter months,
45 because I see it's stricken out of there, and then they
46 only have the harvest.....

47

48 MR. GLANZ: That's going to be in a
49 variable. As the herd increases, the harvest will
50 increase, if you follow me there.

1 The first season there we're allowed
2 100 caribou under Federal statute right there. I'm
3 sure that will go up, too, along with the general
4 harvest as they start getting more and more.

5
6 And I have to say one thing also. The
7 Yukon Territory is part of this group with us. The
8 Canadian government. And the Yukon are allowed 600 I
9 believe, and they just say put theirs right back in the
10 herd. They have not harvested a caribou out of -- of
11 course, they've got other herds they harvest, but they
12 have not harvested one Fortymile Caribou Herd in, geez,
13 I don't know. Maybe Jeff's going to help me on that.
14 Ten years or more. So they're really helping us grow
15 the herd also.

16
17 MR. FIRMIN: So I that 900 quota will
18 be stricken from it, and it will be variable season to
19 season as management sees fit?

20
21 MR. GLANZ: Like that will get to the
22 management, Jeff there and them. When it gets to
23 60,000, it's a key area, 70,000. As it goes up the
24 scale.

25
26 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Just for
27 clarification.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
32 discussion.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MR. MATESI: Question.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wish mine
39 was that easy. I heard you call for the question
40 there, Joe.

41
42 The question has been called for. All
43 in favor.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
48 opposed.

49
50 (No opposing votes)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion
2 passes. 74.
3
4 Yeah, good job. I have to say there's
5 a tremendous amount of work has gone into this through
6 both the State, all the State -- or Federal agencies
7 and the State people, and I commend you guys for going
8 to all those meetings. And I know it's a lot. I know
9 Donna went for us, too.
10
11 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. Excuse me. On this
12 WP12-67, we just vote to table that, or do we want to
13 make a recommendation and we pass it and then we.....
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Take no
16 action.
17
18 MR. BASSICH: Take no action.
19
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.
21
22 MR. GLANZ: Take no action?
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep.
25
26 MR. GLANZ: Okay.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We could have
29 done nothing, but you're going to vote to take no
30 action.
31
32 MR. GLANZ: Okay. All right.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's been
35 a motion and a second. I'm not sure if it was you
36 or.....
37
38 MR. GLANZ: Okay. I'll make a motion
39 we.....
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It was.....
42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Andy made the motion,
44 and I seconded it. You call the question.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's your
47 job.
48
49 MR. GLANZ: Question. Okay
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

10 Now we can move on. 75 I believe it is.

11

12 I don't feel like you guys trusted me.

13 Jokes.

14

15 It looks like Donald will be giving the
16 analysis.

17

18 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.

19 Don Rivard, Office of Subsistence Management.

20

21 The analysis for WP12-75 starts on Page
22 209 in your book. And I'd like to refer you to begin
23 with to your maps again, that package of six stapled
24 together. The way mine is stapled, it's the last one.
25 So it's -- it says WP12-75 map. It's showing all of --
26 well, most of Unit 20. Everybody got it? Okay.

27

28 Proposal WP12-75, submitted by the
29 Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Committee,
30 requests that the fall moose harvest season be changed
31 from August 24th to September 25th, those are the
32 current dates, to August 20th to September 20th in a
33 portion of 20E, which is that section in your map
34 that's just below the Yukon-Charley Rivers National
35 Preserve, to match the existing season in another
36 portion of the Unit, which is the Yukon-Charley, and
37 that the end date of the season in the remainder
38 portion of the unit be extended to September 30th.

39

40 The proponent is requesting that the
41 dates of Federal fall moose season for Bureau of Land
42 Management administered lands in Unit 20E drained by
43 the middle fork of the Fortymile River upstream from
44 and including the Joseph Creek drainage, be changed to
45 August 20th to September 20th to match the season dates
46 in the portion of Unit 20 within the Yukon-Charley
47 Rivers National Preserve. The proponent states that
48 adoption of this proposal would benefit Federally-
49 qualified users by providing an additional nine days to
50 hunt moose in the affected area. It would also align

1 fall season dates in the portions of Unit 20E off the
2 road system on Federal lands.

3

4 The bull/cow ratio has been
5 consistently above the management objective of 40 bulls
6 per 100 cows between 1998 and 2009.

7

8 And for the harvest history, between
9 1998 and 2009, the reported numbers of hunters in Unit
10 20E has averaged 647 per year. The reported harvest
11 has averages 144 moose per year.

12

13 Now if the proposal is adopted, or were
14 adopted, the fall season dates in portions of Unit 20E
15 would be would be changed to August 20 to September 30.
16 And this aligns Federal regulations in those portions
17 of 20E off the road systems on Federal lands.

18

19 Also if adopted, this proposal would
20 provide an additional nine days of harvest opportunity
21 for Federally-qualified subsistence users in the
22 portion of 20E drained by the middle fork of the
23 Fortymile River upstream from and including the Joseph
24 Creek drainage, more days to hunt without competition
25 from non-subsistence users. Federally-qualified
26 subsistence users would also be provided an additional
27 five days of harvest opportunity in Unit 20E remainder.
28 And there would likely be an increase in the number of
29 moose harvested due to extending the season.

30

31 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
32 support Proposal WP12-75.

33

34 Again, the fall season dates would
35 become uniform for Federally-qualified users in those
36 portions of the Unit 20E off the road systems. And
37 they would -- Federally-qualified users would be
38 provided additional days of harvest opportunity. And
39 the population appears healthy enough to allow for a
40 few more bulls to be harvested.

41

42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
45 questions.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
50 is Fish and Game comments.

1 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

3
4 If the Council would look at Page 208
5 where the synopsis is that's provided by OSM, you'll
6 see that there are two separate changes that are being
7 asked to be made. The Department supports a
8 modification of the overall proposal, and would support
9 that first change that you see for 20E, the portion
10 drained by the middle fork of the Fortymile upstream
11 and including the Joseph Creek draining. We have no
12 conservation concern here.

13
14 For the second change right underneath
15 that, for the remainder, we would have a conservation
16 concern moving to the 30th. We would like to see that
17 remain at the 25th because of the road system access.

18
19 And Jeff Gross is here if you have any
20 specific questions as to the conservation concern.

21
22 **No official written comments
23 inserted/provided by State at this
24 time**

25
26 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

29
30 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you.

31
32 Yeah. Jeff, can you maybe very briefly
33 elaborate on what the harvest has been along the road
34 system there towards the end of the season. I know it
35 really varies from year to year, but are you seeing a
36 pattern of increased harvest along the road.

37
38 MR. GROSS: The first year -- this is
39 the second year we've had this longer Federal season in
40 place. Last year during those last -- once the State
41 season closed on the 17th to the 25th of September, we
42 only had -- in this area that we do have a concern, we
43 only had harvest of two animals.

44
45 But the reason there's now a concern is
46 we had actually kind of a spike in the number of
47 hunters that showed up to participate in the normal
48 fall hunt this year. And during that 18th to the 25th
49 period this year, we saw a considerable number of
50 people, or we had a considerable number of people that

1 seem to have discovered the late hunt that were coming
2 into Fish and Game. And so really since I talked to
3 Don, this concern has developed since then. That's why
4 Don had that information, I mean, literally in the last
5 couple weeks this came to light.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good job
8 doing briefly.

9
10 Any other questions.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving
15 on. Other Federal agencies.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
20 put this together, other Federal agencies and
21 InterAgency Staff.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then go
26 to Native, tribal, village, or other.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And advisory
31 groups. Regional Councils and.....

32
33 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you, Madame Chair.
34 The Southcentral Regional Advisory Council unanimously
35 supported Wildlife Proposal 12-75.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I will say
38 that -- I'm sorry. In attending that -- the proposer
39 was the Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee, and
40 they had a meeting Monday a week ago, and they voted to
41 agree with Jeff to move the 30th to the 25th on the
42 remainder. Okay.

43
44 I don't think there are any SRCs there.

45
46
47 Written comments.

48
49 MS. MUSHOVIC: None received, Madame
50 Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Public
2 testimony.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Into
7 deliberation. Be careful with your motion. Maybe we
8 can make it once. Okay.
9
10 MR. BASSICH: I'll do my best attempt
11 to try and redeem myself, Madame Chair.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
14 would be great.
15
16 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to propose that
17 we support WP12-75 with the modification that under
18 Unit 20E remainder, one bull by joint Federal/State
19 registration permit only. The harvest dates would be
20 August 24th to September 25th, striking the 30th from
21 the proposal that's written before us.
22
23 Madame Chair.
24
25 MR. FIRMIN: Second.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
28 motion before you, the only change from what's in the
29 book is that September 30th would be back to September
30 25th.
31
32 MR. BASSICH: And, Madame Chair, if I
33 can speak to it.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: yes
36
37 MR. BASSICH: I think basically what
38 this is trying to do is align more of the hunts
39 together, give more consistency. I think it will
40 achieve that by doing this. I do agree with the
41 modification that I've proposed and that has been
42 supported by the Department.
43
44 Just a really brief history. We used
45 to have a much longer moose hunt in that area, and we
46 found that there was tremendous pressure coming in from
47 the outside. At that time we didn't -- we had caribou
48 and moose opened at the same time, and people could
49 carry dual permits. Eagle Advisory Committee had put
50 in some requests and some actions were taken through

1 regulation to reduce the moose season in the area and
2 to set it up so that you couldn't carry a caribou and a
3 moose permit at the same time, to dissuade people from
4 coming in and having an extended long period of time to
5 hunt for multiple species.

6

7 It succeeded very successfully in
8 achieving it's goal. And I think by keeping this at
9 the 25th as Jeff just stated to us, that it would not
10 encourage people to come in and put that increased
11 harvest pressure in the area. So I think this would
12 accomplish what it's intended to without interfering
13 with previous attempts at reducing some of the harvest
14 in the area.

15

16 Thank you, Madame Chair.

17

18 MR. GLANZ: I need to ask you, Andy,
19 are you talking -- we're not going to reduce the Yukon-
20 Charley by five days are we?

21

22 MR. BASSICH: No.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is the
25 remainder.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Right. This is the last
28 -- sorry. Madame Chair. Yeah, just the last part
29 under 20E remainder.

30

31 MR. GLANZ: Okay. Okay.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
34 other discussion.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MR. GLANZ: Call for the question.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
41 is called for. All in favor of the motion, which is to
42 support with a modification of the remainder of 20E
43 being 25th September closure. All in favor.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
48 opposed.

49

50 (No opposing votes)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
2 you, guys. Next. What number am I on. I think it's
3 the wolf proposals.

4
5 MR. GLANZ: This shouldn't take long at
6 all.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. GLANZ: Not long at all.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
15 Chuck.

16
17 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. These
18 analyses can be found on Page 234 of your book. This
19 proposal is WP12-77 through 81.

20
21 The proposals were submitted and seek
22 to shorten wolf seasons and/or limits for Units 12,
23 20A, and 25A. These same proposals were submitted in
24 2009, were opposed by your Council and rejected by the
25 Federal Subsistence Board.

26
27 The wolf populations in Unit 12, 20A
28 and 25 are thought to be healthy. It appears that
29 these populations of wolves are regulated more by
30 natural factors than by harvest.

31
32 These proposals would reduce
33 subsistence opportunity.

34
35 Even if these proposals were adopted by
36 the Federal Subsistence Board, hunters and trappers
37 would still be able to take wolves under State
38 regulations on Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, and
39 Preserve lands in Units 12 and 20A. As such, adoption
40 of these proposals would not have the effects sought by
41 the proponent.

42
43 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
44 oppose the proposals.

45
46 Any questions.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
49 questions.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
4 Fish and Game.

5

6 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

8

9 The Department also opposes these
10 proposals. We find them unnecessary. They would
11 create enforcement issues. We have no conservation
12 concern. And we believe that the hides are best -- the
13 use of the hide's best determined by the person that
14 wants to use them rather than the commercial value.

15

16

17

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STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

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

Wildlife Proposal WP12-77:

Shorten the federal subsistence wolf
trapping season in that portion of Unit 12 not part of
the state's predator control program from October 1
through April 30 to November 1 through March 31.

Introduction:

This proponent assumes federal
subsistence wolf trapping season opening date of
October 1 is too early in the season for obtaining
prime hides, generally will not allow access to trap
lines due to snow and ice conditions, and will not
allow for trappers to target multiple species. Hide
value depends on what the wolf will be used for. The
proponent indicates the early spring portion of the
federal subsistence trapping season could potentially
reduce pup survival. Additionally, the proponent
incorrectly assumes the Federal Subsistence Board
adopted the current season dates to benefit prey
species.

Impact on Subsistence Users:

Adoption of this proposal would
unnecessarily restrict the federal subsistence wolf
trapper opportunity by 60 days. If adopted, federal

1 subsidence user opportunity in Unit 12 to take a wolf
2 while trapping other species in the spring would be
3 reduced.

4

5 Opportunity Provided by State:

6

7 The State provides an October 15
8 through April 30 trapping season with no bag limit in
9 Unit 12.

10

11 Conservation Issues:

12

13 The current season for wolf trapping in
14 Unit 12 has virtually no impact on wolf numbers. Since
15 2001, an average of 36 wolves per year were taken by
16 all trappers combined in Unit 12. Wolf numbers and
17 total harvests have been relatively stable in Unit 12
18 for many years, and there are no current conservation
19 concerns.

20

21 The current fall wolf population
22 estimate in Unit 12 is 179 192 wolves (7 7.5
23 wolves/1,000 km²). Despite active wolf reduction
24 efforts in a portion of northern Unit 12 and in
25 neighboring units, the minimum fall population of
26 wolves residing entirely within Unit 12 has changed
27 little since 1998. Harvest rates in Unit 12 have been
28 <24% since 1998, well within the range of
29 sustainability. Wolf numbers in Unit 12 have also
30 benefited from higher numbers of Fortymile caribou
31 since 1997, increasing migrating Nelchina caribou, and
32 highs in snowshoe hare cycles in 1998 2001 and 2007
33 2009.

34

35 It is very important to note the
36 difference between fall and spring wolf estimates when
37 discussing wolf population dynamics and comparing
38 areas. Wolf populations decline over the course of a
39 winter due to human take, natural mortality, and
40 dispersal; spring estimates do not yet include new
41 pups. Wolf control areas are evaluated based on spring
42 estimates.

43

44 Although Unit 20E has active wolf
45 management program, the wolf population dynamics are
46 not significantly affected by this activity.
47 Shortening the wolf hunting or trapping seasons at this
48 time would have no effect on the wolf population.

49

50 Enforcement Issues:

1 Significant differences in federal and
2 state regulations resulting from adoption of this
3 proposal would create enforcement issues in areas with
4 mixed land ownership, as well as lands such as the
5 Tetlin Refuge and the Wrangell-St. Elias Preserve where
6 both state and federal regulations apply.

7

8 Other Comments:

9

10 It is unlikely that all adults would be
11 taken out of a pack by the trapping addressed in this
12 proposal. Adults have learned to avoid man through
13 experience and are the most difficult pack members to
14 take, while pups are the most vulnerable pack members
15 to harvest. Pup starvation is unlikely even if some
16 adults are taken. Wolves have evolved and thrived
17 under natural conditions where adult mortality occurs
18 regularly through intraspecific competition. Also,
19 older adults kill large prey, thus are subject to
20 injury and death. In cases of natural adult mortality,
21 the pack social structure provides a continuation of
22 normal pack behavior and support to pups.

23

24 Recommendation: Oppose.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Very good.

27 Any questions.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Moving on.

32 Federal agencies, InterAgency Staff comments. There is
33 one. The Park Service is here.

34

35 MR. RABINOWITCH: I had to show up here
36 eventually. I'll keep my comments short. There's just
37 two things I'll point out.

38

39 The first is from the NPS perspective,
40 we would rather have the beginning of the seasons be
41 November 1st, so that's the only comment we have on the
42 specifics. That's Proposal 77, because I realize
43 there's several of them here. And I'm looking at Page
44 235 of your book. So again our two cents is that we'd
45 prefer November 1st as a starting date.

46

47 The other thing, and the last thing
48 I'll point out, if I'm not mistaken, that the existing
49 State regulation for Unit 12 is October 15th. So I'm
50 just pointing that out. Same page, 235. It's about in

1 the middle of the page.

2

3 And that's all I have to offer.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions of
6 Mr. Rabinowitch. That's a mouthful. Sorry.

7

8 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy's okay.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sandy's
11 better. Thank you. Any questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the
16 official Park Service position.

17

18 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes, ma'am.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How come.
21 Two weeks. I mean, it's only -- that's October 1st,
22 even though the State's the 15th, just gives somebody
23 that lives there a chance to go a little earlier.

24

25 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, I think there's
26 probably really two reasons that we make the comment we
27 do.

28

29 The first is we just simply think that
30 November 1st, November 10th, either, it's the same
31 difference to us, we think that's a more logical start
32 of a trapping season. Okay.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You mean
35 October 1st, right?

36

37 MR. RABINOWITCH: No, November.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Compared to
40 the 15th or the 10th? Where did the 10th come from?

41

42 MR. RABINOWITCH: No, I'm looking at
43 the top of Page 235, and I'm looking at November 1st
44 proposed start date. Okay. And our comment is simply
45 that that's the one that we would favor.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

48

49 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. So it's really
50 just plain and simple. We think that's a more logical

1 beginning date for a trapping season, period.

2

3 The other comment about the existing
4 State date is simply a comment. I'm just pointing it
5 out, nothing more, nothing less.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
8 questions.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
13 Sandy.

14

15 Advisory groups comments. Any from our
16 neighboring.

17

18 MS. MUSHOVIC: None.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I have
21 written down here the Upper Tanana met and they were
22 against; the Wrangell-St. Elias took up 77 and they
23 were against. And I also have AHTNA adamantly opposed.
24 Is that not in your stuff?

25

26 MS. MUSHOVIC: (Nods affirmatively)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.
29 I'm sorry. We've got to continue. I'm sorry.

30

31 Next would be the -- is the Park
32 Service going to speak to that or is what I said
33 enough. The Wrangell-St. Elias took 77 up. I see that
34 Barbara's not here, but the Wrangell-St. Elias took up
35 No. 77, and they were opposed. Okay.

36

37 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Written
40 comments.

41

42 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you, Madame Chair.

43

44 Andrew Firmin wrote that putting a
45 harvest limit on wolves in this area is unnecessary and
46 it would only be a handful of hunters and trappers
47 affected. Putting a limit on the amount of fur a
48 person living off the land can take is like me telling
49 you how much food you can buy at the grocery store. He
50 also had comments during the tribal consultation

1 teleconference, noting that harvest limits are not
2 needed and would unnecessarily restrict subsistence
3 users when population levels are not a concern. Both
4 of these were speaking towards Wildlife Proposal 12-81.

5
6 The AHTNA 'Tene Nene' Customary and
7 Traditional Use Committee adamantly opposes Wildlife
8 Proposals 12-77 and 12-78, and 12-79 they adamantly
9 oppose. Oh. Well, they adamantly oppose all of them.
10 Okay.

11
12 So that completes the public comments.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
15 testimony.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
20 Hearing none, let's move on to deliberations.
21 Discussions. Need a motion.

22
23 MR. GLANZ: I'll make a motion we
24 support 77, 78, 79 and 81.

25
26 MR. BASSICH: Second.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
29 Discussion.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MR. GLANZ: I'll call the question.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I heard
36 Andrew's statement. That was a good one to add for the
37 Council. Any others.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: question

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Question's
44 been called for. All in favor.

45
46 MR. BASSICH: Aye. Sorry.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I knew you'd
49 mess that up.

50

1 (Laughter.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: Sorry. Sorry.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was going
6 to say, I'm taking away some of your wolf trapping.
7 All opposed.
8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
12 up -- we are now finished with 12 and 20E. Are you
13 ready to take up 91 on GMU 25.
14
15 (Off record comments)
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have two
18 to finish, don't we. What was our time certain, help
19 me out.
20
21 (Off record comments)
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are we ready
24 to take up the proposal that -- help me out, guys,
25 didn't we have two that we sat down on. Or was it just
26 the one.
27
28 MR. BASSICH: Just the one. I think we
29 resolved the other one.
30
31 MR. GLANZ: Yes, we other one. We
32 took a little break and we resolved it.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
35 Gotcha. So we're going to move on to 91. And it's
36 going to be Chuck. Thank you.
37
38 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, deferred
39 Proposal 10-91 begins on Page 70 of your meeting book.
40 The proposal requests that the annual harvest limit for
41 brown bear increase from one to three bears.
42
43 The proposal was deferred by the
44 Federal Subsistence Board until the Yukon Flats Moose
45 Management Planning Committee was able to address the
46 issue. But this issue was not addressed at the
47 committee's meeting in October 2010.
48
49 The proponent believes that this change
50 would provide additional opportunity to harvest brown

1 bears in Unit 25 as there are a high number of bears in
2 the area, and would help compensate for low moose and
3 salmon numbers.

4
5 The brown bear population in Unit 25A,
6 B, C and D is based on a 1993 estimate of approximately
7 1200 brown bears. Density estimates vary between units
8 with 2.8 bears per 100 square miles in Unit 25A, 2.2
9 bears per 100 square miles in 25B and D, and 1.3 to 2.6
10 per 100 square miles in Unit 25C.

11
12 Brown bear harvest is currently set at
13 30 bears for 25A, 29 bears in 25B and D, and 6 bears in
14 25C. The most recent harvest data indicates that
15 harvest levels are below, but close to the management
16 objectives for each unit.

17
18 The preliminary OSM conclusion is to
19 oppose this proposal due to the following.

20
21 OSM believes that if the harvest limit
22 were increased from one to three bears per regulatory
23 year in Unit 25, overall harvest would likely increase
24 and such may lead to exceeding ADF&G's allowable
25 harvest objectives.

26
27 In addition, more than 60 percent of
28 the brown bears harvested by non-Federally-qualified
29 hunters in 25E -- excuse me, in 25A have been female
30 since 1996. While household surveys in 25B and D show
31 a disparity between reported harvest, indicating that
32 local harvest of brown bears has increased since 2004,
33 2005.

34
35 The low productive rate -- excuse me,
36 low reproductive rate for the species, coupled with the
37 high proportion of female harvest in recent years makes
38 increasing the harvest limit unwarranted at this time.

39
40 In addition, an increase in allowable
41 harvest also creates management and regulatory issues
42 for managers. It is unlikely that the State will
43 increase the harvest limit from one to three bears in
44 Unit 25 as the State has only authorized an increase to
45 two bears in areas that are intensely managed. Unit 25
46 is not intensely managed. Without a companion State
47 regulation authorizing three brown bear harvest on
48 State lands, local hunters will risk violation with
49 hunting on State lands, and enforcement will become
50 more complicated.

1 If there's any questions, I'll try to
2 answer them.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
5 questions.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
10 the State.

11
12 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

14
15 The Department's neutral on this
16 proposal. We don't have a conservation concern, but
17 the change would create enforcement issues. We can't
18 guarantee that the Board would act to mirror -- the
19 State Board of Game would act to mirror this Board's
20 actions. We could advocate for aligned regulations,
21 but we couldn't promise anything.

22
23 But we don't have a conservation
24 concern in this area.

25
26 *****
27 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
28 *****

29
30 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
31 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

32
33 Wildlife Proposal WP10-91 (Deferred):

34
35 Increase the bag limit for grizzly
36 bears in Unit 25 from 1 bear to 2 3 bears.

37
38 Introduction:

39
40 The proponent requests the harvest
41 limit for grizzly bear be raised because the current
42 federal subsistence harvest limit of one bear per year
43 does not meet the traditional subsistence uses and user
44 needs. Residents of Unit 25D have previously requested
45 higher grizzly bear bag limits in state proposals for 2
46 reasons: 1) to help reduce predation on moose and 2)
47 some hunters would take and utilize more than 1 bear
48 annually.

49
50 Impact on Subsistence Users:

1 Adoption of this proposal will provide
2 the opportunity for federal subsistence grizzly bear
3 hunters to harvest more animals per year. Communities
4 in Unit 25 engage in primary hunter practices, where
5 specific community hunters often harvest for multiple
6 families.

7

8 Opportunity Provided by State:

9

10 The current state bag limit Unit 25 is
11 1 grizzly bear every regulatory year, and no resident
12 tag fee is required.

13

14 Conservation Issues:

15

16 None.

17

18 The additional harvest would be low
19 because only federally qualified users would be able to
20 take more than 1 grizzly bear per year and only on
21 federal public land. In Unit 25D, grizzly bears are
22 abundant and their population and distribution has
23 increased in the last 30 years, judging from
24 traditional knowledge and observations by department
25 biologists. One to 5 bears are reported harvested in
26 Unit 25D annually. Harvest by local residents is not
27 reported, and they may take an estimated additional 5 8
28 bears annually. Increasing harvest of bears on the
29 Yukon Flats to improve moose calf survival is
30 consistent with the Yukon Flats Cooperative Moose
31 Management Plan.

32

33 Enforcement Issues:

34

35 This regulation could cause enforcement
36 issues because of land ownership patterns. Hunters
37 would need to know that they are on federal land if
38 they intend to take more than 1 grizzly bear annually.
39 Unit 25 has a complicated patchwork of land ownership
40 making it difficult for hunters to know when they are
41 on federal public lands or on non-federal lands. If
42 the Federal Subsistence Board approves this regulation,
43 the department will recommend to the Alaska Board of
44 Game to adopt the increased bag limit for Game
45 Management Unit 25D at a future board meeting to
46 alleviate enforcement problems.

47

48 Recommendation: Neutral.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council

1 members, any questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

6 Federal agencies or InterAgency Staff comments.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Native,

11 tribal, village or other.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Advisory

16 groups.

17

18 MS. MUSHOVIC: None.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Local fish

21 and game advisory.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any

26 SRCs to this. Probably not.

27

28 Okay. Written comments.

29

30 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you, Madame Chair.

31

32

33 Andrew Firmin for Council of Athabasca

34 Tribal Governments would like to see the harvest limit

35 for brown bears increased to two bears per regulatory

36 year, and adopt Wildlife Proposal 12-62. And then

37 again during the tribal consultation teleconference, he

38 noted that the black bear community harvest program is

39 working well, and the passage of Wildlife Proposal 12-

40 62 would create a workable community harvest program

41 for brown bears. Passage of this proposal, Wildlife

42 Proposal 10-91, could bring an infusion of hunters from

43 outside the area and additional competition.

44

45 Also during the tribal consultation

46 teleconference Shirley Fields of the Fort Yukon Tribal

47 Council spoke out to oppose Wildlife Proposal 10-91.

48

49 MR. GLANZ: Excuse me. Did you say

50 Shirley Fields opposed that or.....

1 MS. MUSHOVIC: Yes, opposes it. Yes.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Public
4 testimony.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
9 down to the proposal.
10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal.
12 91
13
14 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
17 Discussion. Andrew.
18
19 MR. FIRMIN: I spoke with Federal
20 biologists and Staff earlier and yesterday, and part of
21 this, it can be supported biologically, but the reason
22 we opposed it, the tribe in CATG was in support of 12-
23 62, which is a community harvest program, so it would
24 only be available to the communities in the Flats to
25 harvest those bears and not any Federally-qualified
26 user. That's we opposed this in favor of that
27 proposal.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I have
30 a question. Is there a companion proposal into the
31 Federal -- or the Board of Game right now.
32
33 MR. FIRMIN: I don't think so.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe, you have
36 a question.
37
38 MR. MATEESI: No. I have a comment, not
39 a question.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
42
43 MR. MATEESI: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44
45 I oppose this proposal. Of concern is
46 the misalignment of the State and Federal regulations,
47 and I'm not convinced that there is not a potential for
48 over-harvest, because these numbers that we get here
49 are all based on reported harvest. And I know that a
50 lot of people, most people in that part of the country,

1 shoot every brown bear they see whenever they see it.
2 So there's a large unreported harvest as well that
3 needs to be taken into account.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you still
6 have your reporting system at CATG?

7
8 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, but they're a
9 volunteer survey and we're not required to seal brown
10 bears, so there's no accurate harvest data.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I was
13 under the understanding that people do report to CATG,
14 so you have a little bit more information.

15
16 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, we do, and that's I
17 think we're at like our 2009 report right now, so we're
18 behind.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.
21 How many was on that; do you remember.

22
23 MR. FIRMIN: I don't recall.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
26 other discussion. Joe.

27
28 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair. It's my
29 understanding that there is no harvest data because no
30 harvest ticket is required and no sealing is required.
31 Am I correct in that? Yeah. So, you know, I'm allowed
32 to kill.....

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I understand
35 that.

36
37 MR. MATESI:one bear a year and
38 there's no way I could report it if I wanted to. Well,
39 I suppose I could voluntarily report it to CATG. Yeah.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. That
42 was brought up to the Council in the past, that they're
43 trying to at least get some harvest information to go
44 by. And he says they're behind.

45
46 MR. GLANZ: Andrew, I have one
47 question. You opposed this one and which one were you
48 guys going to support there out of the Fort Yukon area?

49
50 MR. FIRMIN: 12-62, which is the

1 community harvest permit.
2
3 MR. GLANZ: Okay.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
6 discussion.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Call the question.
11 Question.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
14 question's been called for. All in favor of a three-
15 bear harvest, aye.
16
17 (No aye votes)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed.
20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
24 right. Next is 92.
25
26 MR. ARDIZZONE: Proposal 10-92 begins
27 on Page 80 of your meeting books and requests that the
28 harvest limit for black bears be increased from three
29 to five bears in Unit 25.
30
31 The proponent states that there are
32 enough black bears to support increasing the harvest
33 limit and that the increased harvest would compensate
34 for low moose and salmon numbers.
35
36 This proposal was also deferred by the
37 Federal Subsistence Board until the Yukon Flats Moose
38 Management Committee was able to address the issue in
39 order to align hunting seasons and harvest limits for
40 both State and Federally-managed lands. However, this
41 was not addressed at their last meeting.
42
43 In 2002, the Alaska Board of Game
44 established a community harvest permit program for
45 black bears in Unit 25. This program allows people in
46 local communities to pool their individual harvest
47 limits of three bears so one hunter may harvest more
48 than three bears each year for use by the community.
49
50 Preliminary data collected by the State

1 in 2010 indicate that the black bear density in Unit
2 25D of one bear per two square miles. Assuming a
3 density range of one black bear per two -- to five
4 square miles across all of Unit 25D, the estimated
5 black bear population would be between 3500 and 8,750
6 black bears in the unit. There are no recent density
7 estimates for Units 25A, B or C.

8
9 Also, survey data indicates that black
10 bear harvest for the Yukon Flats area, which is in Unit
11 25D, has been between 32 and 68 bears between the years
12 2003 and 2008, representing one to two percent of the
13 harvestable population. Current harvests are lower
14 than estimated annual recruitment of 175 to 350 bears
15 per year.

16
17 Unit 25D could sustain a higher annual
18 harvest approaching five percent, which could range
19 from 175 to 437 black bears.

20
21 However, the OSM preliminary conclusion
22 is to opposed to the proposal due to the following.

23
24 There is currently ample opportunity
25 for Federally-qualified users to harvest black bears in
26 Unit 25 as current regulations allow an annual harvest
27 limit of three bears.

28
29 Managers currently lack density
30 estimates for Units 25A, B, and C.

31
32 Community harvest permits under State
33 regulations provide additional harvest opportunities in
34 the Unit. However, local users have yet to fully
35 utilize the community harvest permits for this species.

36
37 Adoption of this proposal would cause
38 State and Federal regulations to become misalignment.
39 Local hunters will be at risk of violation when hunting
40 on State lands, and enforcement will become more
41 complicated.

42
43 If there's any questions, I'll try to
44 answer them.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
47 questions.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
2 Hearing none, the State.

3
4 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

6
7 The Department doesn't have any
8 conservation concerns. As with the previous proposal,
9 it creates enforcement issues if the regulations are
10 misaligned, but no conservation concerns with this.

11
12 **No official written comments
13 inserted/provided by State at this
14 time**

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
17 questions.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
22 Federal agencies or InterAgency Staff comments. I see
23 something coming up. Federal agencies.

24
25 MR. BERTRAM: Madame Chair. Mark
26 Bertram, Yukon Flats Refuge.

27
28 Just a couple of bits of information to
29 help you in your deliberations on this one.

30
31 First of all, the Refuge's perspective
32 is that in 25D, which is part of this proposal, the
33 proposal is for Unit 25, and in 25D we don't have any
34 conservation concerns. There was a black bear
35 estimation study conducted in 2010, and, you know,
36 there's a high density of black bears in Unit 25D. So
37 the Refuge is supportive of this proposal if it were
38 amended to only include 25D.

39
40 We don't really know, we're assuming,
41 that these high density black bear numbers are more
42 germane to the lowlands. It's very good black bear
43 habitat. When you outside of 25D, you get into more
44 into upland country. We're assuming the black bear
45 densities are lower up there. So we can't speak for
46 those other subunits, but as far as 25D goes, we are in
47 support of it.

48
49 The other thing I'd like to point out
50 is that keeping the regulations aligned is of concern

1 to us. We do not have any productive -- we did not
2 address these issues at the last Yukon Flats Moose
3 Management meeting, but keeping the regulations in
4 alignment are important to us.

5
6 And I just wanted to point out that the
7 State does have a proposal coming up, State Proposal
8 182, which proposes a black bear bag limit increase to
9 five on in 25D. So that's part of the reason why the
10 Refuge is wanting to limit this to 25D so that, you
11 know, if and when the Board of Game passes -- you know,
12 deliberates and decides to pass that proposal, we end
13 up with the same regulations within 25D for black bear
14 harvest.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions. I
17 have a question. None of you have a question.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Mine
22 is why didn't the Moose Manage -- or the management
23 plan continue?

24
25 MR. BERTRAM: It's still active. I
26 mean, the process is still active. We have.....

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, why
29 didn't they take this up at their last meeting?

30
31 MR. BERTRAM: Well, part of it was that
32 the State and Federal partners did not participate. A
33 decision was made to, instead of rescheduling the
34 meeting, which was like in early June, which is kind of
35 a really business for our Refuge and for the State
36 biologists, we just could not change our schedules, so
37 we weren't able to participate. And instead of
38 deferring the meeting and rescheduling it, the decision
39 was made by CATG primarily to go ahead and have the
40 meeting. It was a more inclusive meeting with just
41 village participants.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then the
44 other question is what if this didn't pass and the
45 State did, would the subsistence be more restrictive
46 than the State. I'm not sure I understand your
47 question.

48
49 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. Our
50 regulations would be more restrictive; however, State

1 regulations do apply on refuges.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did
4 you have a question.

5

6 MR. GLANZ: No, I just had a comment.
7 I'm glad to see that Fish and Wildlife is getting
8 involved in the predator control out there a little bit,
9 like getting five of them out there if it's possible.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that an
12 assumption.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. GLANZ: Well, I just hope they do
17 it. Like I say, I hope they do it.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. GLANZ: I know we're going to have
22 a hard time getting it through this Board.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
25 other questions.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MR. BERTRAM: I have a comment that
30 relates to the community harvest discussion that you
31 had earlier about Proposal 62. Should I make that
32 comment when you're directly on Proposal 62?

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Probably, if
35 it's not directed to this.

36

37 MR. BERTRAM: Okay. I'll wait then.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
40 other questions.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
45 Any other advisory groups meet.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or SRCs.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

4 Written comments.

5

6 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 We have written comments from Andy
9 Firmin of the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments
10 supporting the need for proposals like this to allow
11 super hunter phenomenons to be able to harvest
12 excessive black bear population. And it may also
13 encourage non-local hunters to travel into the area to
14 have the potential opportunity to harvest.

15

16 And he also commented during the tribal
17 consultation teleconference on Wildlife Proposal 10-92
18 that he was opposed and that there is a community
19 harvest program in place that is working well, and this
20 proposal could bring in more non-local hunters to the
21 area and additional competition.

22

23 Is one of those wrong, Andrew?

24

25 MR. FIRMIN: No. After coming and
26 speaking with Refuge Staff, I would like to reiterate
27 those and basically adopt this proposal with
28 modification to change it from Unit 25 black bear to
29 Unit 25D black bear.

30

31 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you for that
32 clarification.

33

34 And there was one more comment from the
35 tribal consultation teleconference from Shirley Field
36 opposing Wildlife Proposal 10-92.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
41 testimony.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving
46 on to the proposal. Do you want to make a motion.

47

48 MR. FIRMIN: I'll make a motion to move
49 to adopt Wildlife Proposal 10-92 with modification.
50 Instead of Unit 25 black bear, just make it Unit 25D

1 black bear.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
4 second.

5

6 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that one.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

9 Discussion. The motion is modified to 25D.

10 Discussion. Go ahead, Andrew.

11

12 MR. FIRMIN: Previously the last 10-91
13 and 10-92, part of the opposition to those, increasing
14 the bag limits, was because people, tribal members were
15 thinking that there would be an influx of people coming
16 to moose hunt and they would think that would be great
17 if they could bag eight bears along the way, too. And
18 the thought of, you know, what are you going to do with
19 eight bears when people are moose hunting, you know.
20 There's going to be some waste going on there.
21 However, that was why we supported the community
22 harvest permit, the community harvest plan.

23

24 But after speaking with Refuge Staff
25 and with upcoming Board of Game proposal, I'd like to
26 see this one go through as modified.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
29 discussion. Andy.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I guess the only
32 question I have is I heard some comments, and are they
33 -- would they still be relevant that the issue of them
34 not -- that State and Federal not being aligned and
35 then also enforcement of it. Is there any real
36 concerns there with that still.

37

38 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. They
39 wouldn't be aligned if this passed through the Federal
40 Board, unless is adopted by the State Board in March of
41 2012. I mean, I don't know what -- I can't speak for
42 law enforcement, but.....

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But it's
45 likely it would, and then it wouldn't matter, because
46 they'd be aligned, correct?

47

48 MR. ARDIZZONE: I would assume so, but
49 I can't speak for the Boards.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
2 Andrew.
3
4 MR. FIRMIN: Just a quick comment to
5 that is if you've ever looked at the moose hunting regs
6 around there, if you can figure those out, then I'm
7 pretty sure you could figure out the bear hunting regs.
8 And that's kind of it.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That sounds
13 like Unit 12.
14
15 MR. FIRMIN: And I think this would
16 just -- it would be in line and it would help the Board
17 of Game make a decision on their motion, on their part.
18
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe.
21
22 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23
24 When I went through these and notes I
25 left to myself, I was prepared to oppose this proposal.
26 Primarily the fact that it would increase regulatory
27 complexity. Also there's a fairly large harvest. I
28 don't think that we need to actually increase the legal
29 limit on harvest.
30
31 However, with the modification that
32 Andy has proposed, I think I'm willing to change my
33 support and vote yes for this, especially if it's
34 likely that the State -- you know, if we can
35 anticipate. That's kind of a risky thing to do, but if
36 we can anticipate the State falling in line on this,
37 it's worth a gamble.
38
39 Thank you.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well,
42 whenever they say they support it, then I have a more
43 positive feeling about it.
44
45 Did you have anything else.
46
47 MR. GLANZ: I was going to say years I
48 was working out of Fort Yukon there. We had a
49 heli-base there. And they tagged a bunch of newborn
50 moose calves. Once they stopped moving, the alarm

1 would come in. And I think -- I can't recall the exact
2 number, 23 out of 25. When we got the alarm, we'd fly
3 into them, and there'd be a black bear on the moose
4 calf, eating it. So I think this is a real detriment
5 to the moose population in those flats by Andrew's
6 neighborhood.

7

8 I highly endorse this policy.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And black
11 bear is good to eat.

12 MR. GLANZ: yep

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
15 bring you some black bear sausage tomorrow that I made.
16 Okay.

17

18 Anything else. Andy or Andrew.

19

20 MR. FIRMIN: Just one more thing to
21 point out is the Unit 25D black bear population
22 estimate is from 3500 to 8700 and our moose is maybe
23 around a thousand for that area, so that's 9 to 1.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Poor calves.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Question.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
30 question's been called for. All in favor.....

31

32 MR. MATESI: Is this with the
33 amendment.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: With the
36 amend -- with the modification that it's only 25D.
37 Okay. All in favor say aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
42 opposed.

43

44 (No opposing votes)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
47 Do you want to continue with 52. Ready for another
48 one.

49

50 MR. BASSICH: Yep.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. 52.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: We're on a roll.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 MR. BASSICH: We've got momentum.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next time I'm
12 going to have them take up bear proposals first.
13
14 DR. JENKINS: Madame Chair, did I hear
15 you were on a roll?
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, someone
18 said we were.
19
20 DR. JENKINS: David Jenkins, OSM.
21
22 You have in front of you now, it's on
23 Page 124, WP12-52, which requests a change in
24 regulations to ban hunting by non-Federally-qualified
25 subsistence users along the Yukon River and on into
26 Canada.
27
28 The proponent states that subsistence
29 practices need to have priority over sport hunting in
30 order to preserve wildlife for future generations, and
31 that banning sport hunters will result in increased
32 wildlife populations.
33
34 Now, I should point out that Title VIII
35 of the 1980 ANILCA specifically prioritizes subsistence
36 uses over any other consumptive uses such as commercial
37 or sport hunting on Federal public lands; and that when
38 a conservation concern exists, commercial and sport
39 uses are restricted before subsistence uses are
40 restricted.
41
42 If adopted, the proposal would ban
43 hunting by non-Federally-qualified users along the
44 Yukon and, as I said, into Canada for both Federal
45 public lands and other lands. It would affect non-
46 Federally-qualified users by not allowing harvest in
47 places where there may not be any conservation uses.
48 The result could be an increase in wildlife populations
49 which would otherwise be taken by non-Federally-
50 qualified users.

1 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
2 oppose this proposal, because the proponents concerns
3 are addressed in Federal subsistence management
4 regulations already and the proposed regulatory changes
5 are unnecessary.

6
7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a
10 short one. Thank you.

11
12 Any questions.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The State.

17
18 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
19 Jennifer Yuhas.

20
21 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
22 also opposes this regulation as unnecessary.

23
24 *****
25 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
26 *****

27
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
29 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

30
31 Wildlife Proposal WP12-52:

32
33 Close all moose hunting on federal
34 public lands along the Yukon River to non-subsistence
35 users.

36
37 Introduction:

38
39 This proposal seeks to close all sport
40 hunting on federal public lands boarding the Alaska
41 portion of the Yukon River. The department's comments
42 are limited to addressing this proposal as it applies
43 to federal public lands along the Yukon River within
44 Alaska as the Federal Subsistence Board does not have
45 authority on non-federal public lands or outside of the
46 United States.

47
48 Impact on Subsistence Users:

49
50 If adopted, federally qualified users

1 would be prohibited from participating in state moose
2 sport hunting seasons on federal public lands along the
3 Yukon River. If adopted, federal subsistence users
4 moose hunting on federal public lands along the Yukon
5 River may have higher success rates due to less
6 competition with sport hunters. Federally qualified
7 users may experience lower success rates while hunting
8 non-federal public lands because a shift in effort will
9 likely take place by displaced hunters. Displaced
10 hunters will shift to those lands open to them which
11 include all lands surrounding communities along the
12 Yukon River.

13

14 Opportunity Provided by State:

15

16 The Yukon River flows through a number
17 of Game Management Units and state moose hunting
18 regulations allow a variety of sport hunting
19 opportunities. Opportunity varies by Game Management
20 Units and will not be included in these comments for
21 brevity sake.

22

23 Conservation Issues:

24

25 Moose population conservation issues
26 vary along the Yukon River depending upon which
27 population is being addressed. The State of Alaska
28 manages each moose hunt to ensure the sustainability of
29 each population is ensured.

30

31 Enforcement Issues:

32

33 If adopted, this proposal would result
34 in confusion for all member of the public. Differences
35 in federal and state regulations resulting from
36 adoption of this proposal create enforcement problems
37 in areas with mixed land ownership. The boundaries
38 between federal and state lands are not marked and
39 often difficult to locate on the ground.

40

41 Other Comments:

42

43 The Department opposes this proposal
44 due to lack of substantive evidence that a Yukon River
45 drainage wide conservation concern exists and no
46 evidence that the closure is necessary for continued
47 subsistence use by federally-qualified rural residents
48 for the entire Yukon River Drainage.

49

50 Recommendation: Oppose.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
2 questions.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Going down my
7 list. Federal agencies, InterAgency Staff comments.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Native,
12 tribal, village or other.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Neighboring
17 Regional Councils.
18
19 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you, Madame Chair.
20 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council took no
21 action. The Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
22 deferred to the home regions. The Seward Peninsula
23 Regional Advisory Council took no action and deferred
24 to the Yukon-Kuskokwim. And that's all that weighed in
25 so far.
26
27 Thank you.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Interesting.
30 All right.
31 Any other advisory groups testify -- or comments.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Written
36 comments.
37
38 MS. MUSHOVIC: The tribal
39 teleconference received comments on this proposal from
40 Andrew Firmin for the Council of Athabaskan Tribal
41 Governments, where he understands that there's
42 frustration. However, he feels that the proposal could
43 be resubmitted at a future date with more specific
44 recommendations that may help to create the problems
45 mentioned.
46
47 And Shirley Fields of the Fort Yukon
48 Tribal Council also weighed in with support of this
49 proposal to close sport hunting along the Yukon River.
50

1 Thank you.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
4 questions.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Public
9 testimony.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
14 Deliberation.
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
17 12-52.
18
19 MR. BASSICH: Second.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
22 Discussion.
23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. The proposal is
25 unnecessary. It's actually absurd. So I'll be voting
26 against it.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
29
30 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I just wanted to
31 make a comment that refers back to back to a lot of
32 other meetings; and that is I think maybe some of the
33 impetus behind this proposal being submitted goes back
34 to some of the discussion we've had on some of the
35 pressures felt by people in rural areas by non-rural
36 people, and the competition issue, and food security
37 issues that are beginning to be felt in the remote
38 areas. And although I don't agree with this, and I
39 will not be supporting this, I think it was an attempt
40 to try and address some of those feelings and concerns
41 by some of the people that live out in remote areas
42 that they're being encroached upon, that their food
43 sources are being threatened, the security of their
44 food sources.
45
46 And so I just wanted to make that
47 comment, because I think it's really relevant, and it's
48 something that we've addressed at this Council in the
49 past, and I hope to continue, although we're not going
50 to be addressing it probably at this meeting, but I

1 hope to address it more in the future.

2

3 Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Larry.

6

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

8

9 For myself, I agree with the spirit of
10 the proposal. But at this time there's not enough
11 information for me to vote for it, I'm going to be
12 opposing this proposal until such time as more
13 information is forthcoming. The proponent of this
14 proposal can resubmit it in the future.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

19

20 MR. GLANZ: It would be a nightmare to
21 enforce anyway, because there's a patchwork of
22 landowners along the whole Yukon River, and that's what
23 people don't realize. There's the Federal and the
24 State and all tribal lands are governed by the State at
25 least technically, and all in-holdings are governed by
26 the State. Yukon-Charley and Yukon Flats and whatever
27 is up and downstream from there would be the only thing
28 affected.

29

30 I totally oppose it also.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else,
33 discussion.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Question.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
40 question's been called for. All those in favor.

41

42 (No aye votes)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All those
45 opposed.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Are we
50 okay to move on.

1 (No comments)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 62. One
4 more.
5
6 MR. BASSICH: Move on.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
9 David.
10
11 MR. BASSICH: We're rocking and rolling
12 now.
13
14 DR. JENKINS: Proposal WP12-62 starts
15 at Page 127 in your Council books, was submitted by the
16 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council. And what
17 it does, it requests a community harvest permit for
18 brown bear hunting in Unit 25D.
19
20 The proponent notes that the proposal
21 will have two effects. It will decrease predator
22 populations that prey on calf moose, and it will keep
23 -- it will help the moose population grow to allow for
24 more local harvest, and a potential to expand non-local
25 participation.
26
27 I should point out that the Federal
28 Subsistence Board does not support predator control
29 proposals. And you can see on Page 127 the Board's
30 policy which was adopted in 2004. It's a paragraph
31 there outlining that policy.
32
33 The customary and traditional use
34 determinations for brown bear in Unit 25D is for all
35 rural residents of 25D.
36
37 At present there are two community
38 harvest -- let me just talk about community harvest for
39 a minute. Two community harvests are currently allowed
40 under Federal regulations for the community of Lime
41 Village in Unit 19. And these regulations allow no
42 individual harvest limit, but a village harvest quota
43 of 200 caribou; and no individual harvest limit, but a
44 village harvest quota of 28 bull moose. And a
45 community harvest is also allowed under Federal
46 regulations for residents of Anaktuvuk Pass in Units
47 26A and 26B for 60 sheep, no more than 10 of which may
48 be ewes.
49
50 So these are the community harvests

1 that are currently allowed under Federal regulation.
2 These three.

3
4 You can see the brown bear harvest
5 history for 25D summarized in tables 1 and 2 in your
6 books. And these data indicate that 37 brown bears
7 were harvested in Units 25B and D, they're not --
8 they're aggregated, in 2006 and 7, and 17 brown bear in
9 2007 and 8, and 22 in 2008 and 9.

10
11 Now, the biological effects of the
12 proposal are difficult to gauge absent specification of
13 community or community harvest limits, which were not
14 provided by the proponent. Presumably, however, a
15 community harvest permit would decrease brown bear
16 populations in Unit 25D, and possibly assist in moose
17 population increases.

18
19 Now, OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
20 oppose this proposal, because the Federal Subsistence
21 Board does not support predator control proposals.
22 And, in addition, if the proposal resulted in an
23 increase in the allowable harvest, it would misalign
24 Federal and State regulations and perhaps complicate
25 current planning actions that are underway with the
26 Yukon Flats Moose Management Planning Committee.

27
28 Thank you, Madame Chair.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I have
31 addition to.....

32
33 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Madame Chair.

34
35 I think we need to provide a
36 clarification in that my Staff probably should have
37 chose different words as far as the Federal Subsistence
38 Board. It's very important as it pertains to predator
39 management. If you read the sentence, does not
40 support, it may imply that the Federal Board doesn't
41 support any type of predator management. It's actually
42 the policy that we need to focus on, in that the
43 Federal Subsistence Board in its policies pertaining to
44 predator management goes to the agencies and their
45 lands perspective to those agencies. So in other
46 words, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, not the Federal
47 Board would deal with any proposals on predator
48 management. The same with BLM and the other agencies
49 as well. So I just want to clarify that on the record.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
2 questions. Andrew.

3
4 MR. FIRMIN: I think when we submitted
5 this, we didn't word it properly. The whole point of
6 this proposal wasn't to support or promote predator
7 control or predator management. The point of it was to
8 have people that are out there that live in the woods
9 year around like Joe, if he shoots one bear this
10 spring, then he has to wait until the next one chews
11 its way through his house before he can legally shoot
12 it in defense of life and property. This would only
13 allow people that are out there in the wilderness more
14 often, would give them the opportunity to harvest more
15 than one bear a year for the other 600 people, 700
16 people that live in the Flats that prefer to work in
17 town rather than go out in the woods, and it would just
18 be implementing more of a community harvest problem.
19 And I don't think that -- predator management wasn't
20 the intent of this proposal, and I noticed that it got
21 skewed along the way.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe.

26
27 MR. MATESI: Would the Chair entertain
28 a little bit of discussion even though it's sort of out
29 of order? Out of sequence.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's stick
32 to questions, because.....

33
34 MR. MATESI: Okay.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that okay,
37 Joe?

38
39 MR. MATESI: What I'm trying to avoid
40 is wasting time, because I think that we're going to
41 waste a bunch of time on something that's not going to
42 go anywhere. We just simply need to rewrite it. It's
43 not only going to waste our time, if we pass it on to
44 the Board, it's going to waste their time.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I just
47 have a question here.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: I have a question, too.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Maybe I could
2 do this, if you don't mind, Andy.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Sure.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I pulled out
7 this, and I know that Andrew was given the job to write
8 the proposal, and then I thought, well, why did they
9 interpret it that way, because that wasn't the
10 intention.

11

12 And why was this proposal made? Due to
13 ongoing decreasing moose populations in the Yukon
14 Flats, the lowest in the state for years, the ADF&G
15 ethnological reports dubbed certain users super
16 hunters. This will allow these hunters to harvest more
17 than one brown bear.

18

19 And the impacts. It will decrease
20 predator populations that prey on calf moose.

21

22 And I guess, I don't think we interpret
23 it as wolf control or predator control. I'm sorry,
24 predator control the way that was written.

25

26 So I guess I'm a little bit confused
27 how it got this analogy that way. Am I hearing this
28 wrong?

29

30 MR. PROBASCO: I think, Madame Chair,
31 if you were to read your last sentence again, I think
32 that's where Staff was looking at, managing a predator
33 population in favor of increasing -- or decrease the
34 mortality on another ungulate population.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We must
37 better write our proposals then.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: A suggestion.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
42 that's why you didn't want to -- yeah.

43

44 Andy.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: No, that's fine.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Given that,
49 are we stuck with your analysis.

50

1 MR. PROBASCO: Madame Chair, I wouldn't
2 say you're stuck with your analysis. It's our
3 interpretation of the analysis and where it went. The
4 Council is free to address it and further make a
5 recommendation to the Board outlining your concerns.
6 It don't stop here.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Understood.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: A quick question.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now that
13 makes a question.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I'm just curious
16 how you would view this proposal if it was simply
17 asking for increase in the harvest limit to two bears
18 per regulatory year per person, because I think that
19 has some bearing on the analysis that you did, and I
20 think it goes back to what Sue and Andrew were saying.
21 And actually that was my interpretation is that they're
22 just basically trying to get the ability for more brown
23 bears to be harvested. So if you could maybe elaborate
24 a little bit on -- I know it's a little bit abstract,
25 but if we were asking for two instead of one per
26 regulatory year, how would your analysis then unfold.

27

28 DR. JENKINS: Yes. Mr. Bassich.
29 Because this proposal was absent specification of a
30 harvest limit or a community, it was difficult to
31 address. So if you could provide like two bears for a
32 community harvest and specify a community, then we
33 could have done a different kind of analysis. So those
34 two bits of information would have been necessary
35 proceed in that direction.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: If I may. Then if there
38 was not a conservation concern on grizzly bears in this
39 subunit, do you think you would have a finding of this
40 not being supported? I mean, it seems like there's
41 plenty of animals. I'm not seeing anything that's
42 saying that there's a conservation concern on brown
43 bear in the area. So I'm just curious if it would be
44 supported, and if it -- because there's no conservation
45 concern. It seems like the big issue is just the fact
46 that it may be deemed as a predator control issue as
47 opposed to just a harvest increase on the unit.

48

49 MR. PROBASCO: I think your evaluation
50 of the data as it relates to the proposal is accurate,

1 Andy. I think the Staff would look at it. I mean,
2 they'd want to look at a little bit more.

3
4 But I also want to counsel the Council
5 that this proposal puts the issue on the table. So the
6 council can provide further clarification. You can
7 provide what do you envision a community harvest to
8 look like, et cetera. So you're not confined just to
9 this. You can expand upon it as long as it's within
10 the issue before you.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
13 don't think that created any more questions.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving
18 on, next would be the State.

19
20 Thank you, Pete.

21
22 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

24
25 Again the State finds no conservation
26 concern for this area.

27
28 We should put on the record that all of
29 Game Management Unit 25 has a negative C&T finding
30 under the State provisions, and so the Board would have
31 to petitioned out of cycle to have a new resolve for
32 the community harvest for C&T for that area before
33 another three years go by. But other alternatives
34 could be simply increasing the bag limit.

35
36 **No official written comments
37 inserted/provided by State at this
38 time**

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
41 questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
46 you, Jennifer.

47
48 Federal agencies or InterAgency Staff
49 comments.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Native,
4 tribal, village or other.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Neighboring
9 Regional Councils. Any comments.
10
11 MS. MUSHOVIC: None.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: None. I
14 can't hear you.
15
16 MR. FIRMIN: I sort of remember Mr.
17 Bertram asking to make comment on this one.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who?
20
21 MR. FIRMIN: Mark Bertram.
22
23 MR. BERTRAM: Oh, I think Beth has got
24 -- she can address what I was going to talk to you
25 about.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So she was
28 waiting for something. Oh, actually Fish and -- I
29 mean, the Department already testified, but, Mark, you
30 requested to speak.
31
32 MR. BERTRAM: I could have Beth come
33 up.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And would --
36 Beth is fine, I'm sure. This is where we get our two
37 biologists working together. I like that.
38
39 MR. BERTRAM: I would -- this is Mark
40 Bertram. I'd like to have Beth Lenart explain a little
41 more background behind the community harvest proposal
42 that is in front of the State right now, and some
43 options associated with that.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
46 ahead, Beth.
47
48 MS. LENART: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49
50 First of all, I think just a little bit

1 of information on the background of how the community
2 harvest permit system worked in 25D for the State. And
3 the reason that we implemented it for moose and black
4 bear had to do with how local folks were hunting out
5 there, that there were, as Andrew said, there's a few
6 hunters that might provide the harvest for the whole
7 community, and so we were trying to find ways to
8 accommodate that harvest or hunting pattern. And
9 that's really what that community harvest permit hunt
10 is about. It wasn't necessarily to promote a higher
11 bear harvest or predator control. It was about
12 accommodating practices that were already occurring out
13 in those areas.

14
15 And so when Andrew wanted to think
16 about that for brown bear harvest or brown bear seasons
17 this summer and we talked about it, I didn't realize at
18 that time that the State had a negative C&T finding on
19 brown bear for Unit 25. And so he had recommended
20 submitting this proposal for a community brown bear
21 harvest hunt in 25D for the State side and also for the
22 Federal side, because just sort of like it says in the
23 proposal, it was to sort of help accommodate those
24 hunters that were out in the field and had the
25 opportunity to take more than one bear.

26
27 The State I don't think really sees
28 that there will be this big increase in brown bear
29 harvest. It's just an opportunity for the people that
30 are out there, and to try to everybody stay within
31 legal mean is what I think they were trying -- folks
32 out there were trying to accomplish.

33
34 But because the State doesn't have a
35 positive C&T finding right now for the community brown
36 bear harvest permit system, a proposal would have to be
37 submitted in the next cycle to change that C&T finding
38 for 25D, and then that could be revisited.

39
40 And then the other issue with the
41 community harvest permit system right now is it's in
42 litigation because of the Nelchina caribou hunt system
43 going on. And so the Board of Game is somewhat
44 reluctant to endorse any new community harvest permits
45 until that litigation's over.

46
47 So that was kind of where we stood on
48 the State side for the community harvest permit.

49
50 And we had talked about possibly using

1 that proposal to maybe see if we could amend it and
2 recommend a two-bear brown bear bag limit if we wanted
3 to go -- if the Federal system adopted that proposal.
4 And I can't guarantee that that would happen, because
5 the Board of Game will look at different testimony, but
6 that would be one possibility so that we could align
7 seasons and bag limits.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Our minds are
10 grinding.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: We're good.

13

14 MR. FIRMIN: We're good.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're good.

17 Okay. But I see Joe's was grinding.

18

19 MR. MATESI: Well, yeah. I'm just
20 disturbed by the lack of reporting or any harvest data.
21 Is the Department considering anything to address that.

22

23 MS. LENART: Well, we've been working
24 with CATG on some household surveys. And I'm not sure
25 where we're at on funding on that for the next year to
26 continue those. You know, the reported brown bear
27 harvest from non-local hunters is only about four a
28 year, so most of the harvest that's taking place is
29 taking place by probably local hunters.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have
32 any past, in your mind, what the local harvest was?

33

34 MR. BERTRAM: 25D.

35

36 MS. LENART: Yeah.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What the CATG
39 -- I mean, anything.

40

41 MR. BERTRAM: Yeah. This is Mark
42 Bertram.

43

44 I believe it's been provided already in
45 the description for Proposal 91. It should be in that
46 packet. It's ranged from the teens up to close to 30
47 or 33 annually, with 33 being the high. So it's
48 generally been around -- the mean was probably in the
49 low to mid 20s.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that data
2 is coming from voluntary CATG?

3
4 MR. BERTRAM: That data is coming from
5 a Refuge-funded contracted effort through CATG. It's
6 an annual funding agreement, and they've been
7 collecting data on that survey for the last five years.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: See, that's
10 what I was remembering, that something was going on.

11
12 MR. BERTRAM: Yeah. It's been an
13 intermittent effort. Currently we're hoping that
14 survey can continue. And we're negotiating with CATG
15 on it as we speak.

16
17 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair.

18
19 So does that system capture harvest by
20 residents other than communities located in the Yukon
21 Flats area, say hunters from Wasilla or Anchorage or
22 Fairbanks?

23
24 MR. BERTRAM: It does not. It only
25 pertains to Unit 25D.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But don't the
28 hunters from those places have to have it sealed?
29 Yeah.

30
31 MR. MATESI: Oh, they have it have it
32 sealed.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So
35 that data you have.

36
37 MR. MATESI: So it is captured.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Does
40 that help, Joe.

41
42 MR. MATESI: Yeah, it does.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
45 right. Moving on. Thank you, guys. Appreciate it.

46
47 I don't think I've missed anybody here.
48 Did I say Native, tribal, village or other.

49
50 (No comments)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
2 Advisory Regional Councils, other neighboring.
3
4 MS. MUSHOVIC: None.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fish and game
7 advisory committees or SRCs.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: None.
12 Written comments.
13
14 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you, Madame Chair.
15
16 Andrew Firmin of the Council of
17 Athabaskan Tribal Governments wrote in support of this
18 proposal, support of Proposal 12-62, supporting it
19 entirely. Implementing a community harvest permit hunt
20 would allow super hunter phenoms and other active bear
21 hunters to harvest more than one bear per regulatory
22 year, but would not allow any over-harvesting.
23
24 He also spoke to this proposal at the
25 tribal consultation teleconference in support, stating
26 that community harvest programs have worked well for
27 subsistence users in the area and would remove the
28 limitation of one bear per year per person.
29
30 Thank you.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
33 testimony.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Moving on to
38 discussion and deliberation. Need a motion. Andrew.
39
40 MR. FIRMIN: I'd like to move to adopt
41 Proposal 12-62 with modification to change the wording
42 to Unit 25D, two bears per every regulatory year.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
45 second.
46
47 MR. BASSICH: Second.
48
49 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that with the
50 modification.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're
2 seconding the motion with the modification. Okay.
3
4 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. I'm seconding.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.
7 Joe.
8
9 MR. MATESI: I don't understand then.
10 So that would be for all of Unit 25; it would increase
11 the harvest potentially by two bears for the whole or
12 for each community.
13
14 MR. BASSICH: 25D.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: D. 25D.
17
18 MR. MATESI: I don't know what I said,
19 but that's what I meant was 25D.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.
22 Yeah, it sounded like you went for the whole GMU, but
23 25D. What's your question again?
24
25 MR. MATESI: Yeah. Explain that, what
26 the modified proposal would actually do.
27
28 MR. FIRMIN: We would be striking
29 through community harvest permit and doing away with
30 that altogether, and changing it to two bears per
31 regulatory year for residents of Unit 25D. And there
32 would be no community harvest program.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. And
35 I have a question, too.
36
37 MR. MATESI: Okay. Got it.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other Council
40 members, do you have any questions.
41
42 MR. MATESI: No.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
45 suggesting.....
46
47 MR. MATESI: So this is.....
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry.
50

1 MR. MATESI: What you're saying is,
2 it's just going -- it would simply change it from one
3 bear to two years per person.

4
5 MR. BASSICH: Correct.

6
7 MR. MATESI: For residents of 25D or
8 for whom.

9
10 MR. FIRMIN: For residents of Unit 25D.

11
12 MR. MATESI: Thanks.

13
14 MR. FIRMIN: Part of the reason. I
15 remember when KJ and I went back through, when we were
16 wording this, and we were advised that anything that
17 said moose population or anything like that, to support
18 the low moose populations, that it would be considered
19 predator control and it will not pass. And at the same
20 time I remember saying that, well, let's leave it in
21 anyway, because anything that says that, it's like
22 they're ignoring the problem. There's a big problem
23 there. There's obviously no moose, and millions of
24 acres of habitat that are empty, and if they keep
25 saying there's no problem, then, you know, who's to
26 tell them otherwise. And that was part of the
27 reasoning of why I wanted to leave that in there, was
28 simply because that's like saying there's no wolves
29 eating the Fortymile Caribou Herd, and we all know
30 that's not true. So, I mean, it's like if they aren't
31 addressing the problem, or they don't support any kind
32 of side road, then that's -- I mean, I know that's not
33 their job, but that's also just kind of a way to leave
34 it out in the open. Why ignore a real problem.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I think
37 you should go on with your discussion, and speak to
38 your intent of this proposal and how it got.....

39
40 MR. FIRMIN: The intent is that there's
41 only a very few people that actively hunt brown bears.
42 There's a low harvest. And I think this would just
43 keep the people that are out there hunting, actively
44 hunting brown bears, that they would give them more
45 opportunity to hunt more. Some people like to eat
46 bears and some people don't even like to look at them
47 or see them, so I think would give the people an
48 opportunity to harvest their fair share.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy.

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. Yeah,
2 I think as we heard in some of the discussion and some
3 of the questioning, that a lot of the data received on
4 the bears comes from the data collected by CATG of
5 local hunters. The success rate is relatively low, and
6 it doesn't appear that there's a lot of non-resident
7 hunters coming up there to hunt. We're not seeing a
8 lot of success through sealing and that sort of thing.
9 So I don't believe that there's a conservation concern.
10

11 I'm not positive, but in talking with
12 Andrew over the years, it sounds like generally within
13 these communities there's just a very small amount of
14 people that are out harvesting brown bears, and so I
15 don't see that this is going to open it up to every
16 person in 25D going out and saying, hey, I can go shoot
17 two bears. I'm going to go shoot it. So I don't
18 expect to see a high increase. It's just not the way
19 people harvest brown bears. It's usually opportunistic
20 hunting.
21

22 So I'm going to support this. And I
23 think it would be very helpful to the people that live
24 within 25D.
25

26 Thank you.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
29 other questions.
30

31 (No comments)
32

33 MR. GLANZ: Question.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
36 question's been called for. All in favor of the
37 motion.
38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
42 opposed.
43

44 (No opposing votes)
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
47 we're talking for a break. Ten minutes. It will
48 always turn into 15, but I'm going to say 10.
49

50 (Off record)

1 (On record)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Larry asked
4 me -- do you want to ask me -- go ahead and ask me. Is
5 this Indian time or White Man time, these breaks.
6
7 (Laughter)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I said, which
10 one is longer? He said Indian time.
11
12 MR. FIRMIN: Government time.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Government
15 time Andrew says. That's the longest.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I just
20 want to make an announcement in case there's anybody on
21 the teleconference. We were asked and requested to
22 take teleconference -- residents from Arctic Village
23 wanted to teleconference in, and we gave them a time
24 certain at 4:00 p.m. So we're going to probably get a
25 number of how many people want to testify and take it
26 from there.
27
28 Okay. Now, 63.
29
30 DR. JENKINS: Madame Chair. Council
31 members. David Jenkins, OSM.
32
33 Proposal WP12-63 was submitted by the
34 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council. And what
35 this proposal does is require that all edible meat of
36 the front quarters, hind quarters and ribs of caribou
37 and moose harvested in Unit 25 remain on the bones
38 until the meat is removed from the field, or is
39 processed for human consumption. It's on Page 134, if
40 I didn't mention that.
41
42 Now, the Council's requesting this
43 action because it believes there's a need to reduce the
44 spoilage and waste of meat of caribou and moose
45 harvested in Unit 25, and leaving the hide and meat on
46 the bone promotes preservation of the meat.
47
48 And the Council submitted parallel
49 proposals to the Alaska Board of Game to consider at
50 its meeting during the November -- during November 2011

1 and March 2012 meetings. And four proposals were
2 submitted for each of Unit 25A, 25B, 25C, and 25D.

3
4 Now, this is the second time that the
5 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council has
6 requested this regulation change. The Council
7 submitted proposals to the Alaska Department of Fish
8 and Game to consider in February of 2010, and to the
9 Federal Subsistence Board to consider in May of 2010.
10 The State Board of Game did not adopt the proposed
11 regulatory change; and in May 2010, the Federal
12 Subsistence Board did not adopt the proposed change.

13
14 At its meeting in March 2011 the
15 Council again submitted the proposed regulation to both
16 the Federal Subsistence Board and the Alaska Board of
17 Game, but in contrast to the earlier proposal, the
18 Council included caribou as well as moose in its
19 proposal.

20
21 Now this proposed regulation would
22 affect only Federally-qualified subsistence users
23 harvesting moose and caribou on Federal public lands
24 under Federal wildlife regulations, and it would not
25 affect non-Federally-qualified users. The Federal
26 wildlife regulations would be more restrictive than
27 State regulations concerning a hunter's responsibility
28 to remove moose and caribou meat from the field.

29
30 When making its recommendation, the
31 Council indicated its intent was to address the problem
32 of spoilage of meat primarily by non-Federally-
33 qualified hunters, but this proposed regulatory change
34 would not affect non-Federally-qualified hunters.

35
36 And for this reason, OSM's preliminary
37 conclusion is to oppose WP12-63.

38
39 Thank you, Madame Chair.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
42 questions.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
47 Hearing none, the State.

48
49 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
50 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

1 The Department currently has no
2 recommendation for this proposal. We have a similar
3 proposal coming before the Board of Game, that would be
4 Proposal 173.

5
6 For moose in 25D we suspect we may be
7 supporting it, but we're currently forming our analysis
8 on those proposals. They aren't due before the Board
9 of Game for a little while here, and we intended to use
10 the RAC process to gather information through public
11 testimony.

12
13 **No official written comments
14 inserted/provided by State at this
15 time**

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So the onus
18 is on us. No.

19
20 Okay. Any questions. Joe.

21
22 MR. MATESI: So did the Department of
23 Fish and Game take note of the public testimony that
24 was made on this issue?

25
26 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. We
27 certainly did. I've been taking notes the whole time
28 I've been here, and will be reporting back to the folks
29 doing our analysis.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
32 Virgil.

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Do you have any idea
35 when the Department's comments on the proposals will be
36 available for the public?

37
38 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. At
39 least two weeks prior to the meeting.

40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Can you give us
46 any information, is the proposals before the State
47 strictly for 25D or will they be a statewide proposal.

48
49 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. It's my
50 understanding that Proposal 171 will deal with 25A; 172

1 will deal with 25B; and 173 will deal with 25D.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: These two
4 systems are making it tough.

5

6 Okay. Any other questions. It looks
7 like your hand's up, Larry; is it? No. Did you have
8 one?

9

10 MR. WILLIAMS: I'd like to make a
11 comment.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

16

17 In reading through this, I for one, if
18 you asked my personal feeling on that, is there's no
19 need for this proposal to even being on the books here
20 since it affects only the Federally-qualified
21 subsistence user.

22

23 In all my lifetime, and I've been
24 around, I won't mention any years, but quite a few
25 years anyway, every time we go hunting and we harvest a
26 moose or a caribou, we bring the whole thing back, hide
27 and all. And there's no deboning of the meat unless
28 absolutely necessary for maybe hauling it a long
29 distance. Sometimes we dry it to lessen the weight.
30 But if it's readily accessible to the boat or other
31 means of transportation, we leave the meat on the bone.
32 Of course, we utilize every bit of that harvested
33 animal.

34

35 And then this doesn't address the
36 outside hunter, the non-Federally-qualified hunter,
37 then I don't see the purpose of this proposal at all.
38 So that's my personal feeling.

39

40 Thank you very much.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Larry.
43 We're going to kick all those comments up when we
44 deliberate, because we're in questions right now, but
45 it's okay. I do it all the time myself, so no problem.

46

47 Okay. Next would be the Federal
48 agencies and InterAgency Staff, any comments.

49

50 (No comments)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Native,
2 tribal, village, or other.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Neighboring
7 Regional Advisory Councils.
8
9 MS. MUSHOVIC: None.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: None. Fish
12 and Game or SRCs.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Then
17 summary of written comments.
18
19 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you, Madame Chair.
20
21
22 For Wildlife Proposal 12-63, Andrew
23 Firmin wrote in support of the proposal, citing it is
24 necessary in reducing spoilage of meat and ensuring the
25 hunters are taking all the meat with them, and it would
26 maintain a common practice amongst all users.
27
28 Again at the tribal consultation
29 teleconference he spoke again in support of this
30 proposal, citing that it would be no hardship on
31 subsistence users and is a common practice, contrasted
32 with the practices of fly-in hunters that remove meat
33 from the bone.
34
35 Thank you.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
38 testimony.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
43 Into deliberation. Andrew.
44
45 MR. FIRMIN: I'd like to reiterate real
46 quick or at least refer back to Kirk Sweetsir's
47 comments from yesterday on this topic.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
50 he supports, and his reasons why. I have it written

1 down in my book. And he requires his customers when he
2 flies them out to have the meat on the bone. Okay.

3

4 Do I hear a motion.

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal

7 63.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Second.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

12 Discussions. Andy.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I am going to
15 support this. I think this needs to be done. I hope
16 this sets the lead for the State to follow. I believe
17 this really should be a statewide proposal, or at least
18 it should be in effect for all Interior Game Management
19 Units.

20

21 Take notes, Jennifer. I've referred to
22 this a number of times in previous meetings. I have a
23 friend here in Fairbanks who's a dog musher, and he
24 tells me he can feed his dog team of 20 dogs for two to
25 three months out of the dumps in Fairbanks every fall
26 from meat that's been wasted, spoiled, whatever.
27 That's a lot of meat. And I know there's a lot of
28 competition amongst a lot of dog mushers for that
29 resource that's in the dumps here..

30

31 Larry, to get back to what you were
32 saying, I don't see this as an undue hardship for the
33 non-rural or Federally-qualified users, because it's
34 pretty much standard practice for most people in the
35 rural areas. This is the way we take care of our meat
36 when we hunt. We hunt it, we hang the quarters, get it
37 cooled down and then we transport it, so I don't see
38 this as a real undue burden. I think it could be used
39 as an educational tool for people that don't have a lot
40 of experience in hunting and transporting their game.

41

42 So with that in mind, I'm going to
43 support this.

44

45 I don't think there's -- I do think
46 there's a conservation concern. I think it's very
47 offensive to people who live in remote areas to see
48 meat wasted, or as the testimony we were given
49 yesterday, to have meat donated to them and then have
50 it be spoiled. That's very offensive.

1 And I guess I'll leave it at that.
2 Madame Chair. Thank you.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have
5 Virgil, then Larry, and then Joe.

6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'm just going
8 to expand a little bit on what Andy said. We had quite
9 a lot of discussion on this with public testimony
10 yesterday on this proposal -- on this issue.

11
12 I know that this would make the Federal
13 regulation more restrictive than the State; however, it
14 would be setting an example for the State. We had this
15 proposal previously. And so I think if the State sees
16 that the Federal Board passes this proposal for the
17 Federally-qualified subsistence users who the majority
18 of them do this anyway, I don't think this would affect
19 very many Federally-qualified subsistence users, then
20 maybe it would prompt the State to take action to
21 address this issue, because this is an issue that has
22 been brought up in other parts of the State.

23
24 And there's many places in the State
25 where this is the regulation. It's this way in Koyukuk
26 Controlled Use Area. It's this way in parts of Bristol
27 Bay. And I don't know what other regions of the State,
28 but I know for sure it is where I guide. This is the
29 regulation.

30
31 I know we spent two and a half days,
32 three guys, packing one moose out this year, because
33 they shot it a long ways back in the woods. And I know
34 what we do when that happens. What we do is we take
35 that meat, after we've butchered it, that's all the
36 meat on the bone, and we actually make a meat rack
37 where we kill it, or close to where we kill it. We
38 hang the meat and we pack a tarp in with us, and we put
39 a tarp over the top of it to protect it from the sun
40 and the weather. And then we pack it out a piece at a
41 time however long it takes.

42
43 In my business here in Fairbanks where
44 we process moose, I was absolutely appalled this year
45 when I came back from hunting, and, of course, we get a
46 big gob of meat right at the end, right after the
47 season closes. People bring it in, and some people
48 bring in meat that actually the people should be
49 prosecuted for wanton waste, because by the time we
50 trim all the filth, the sand, the offal from puncturing

1 the stomachs and intestines when they're butchering the
2 animal, and all the other stuff that they get on it,
3 they lose a tremendous amount of meat. However, the
4 State doesn't prosecute people for that, because they
5 brought it in from the field. And then some of them
6 even have the nerve to try to accuse us of stealing
7 that rotten, nasty meat, because they didn't get much
8 back.

9

(Laughter)

10

11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: But anyway I think that
13 we should pass the proposal. And I hope we've put
14 enough on the record, and that the Federal Subsistence
15 Board, when they take this up, does take it seriously.
16 This is a problem that needs to be addressed. It's
17 done in some parts of the State and other parts of the
18 State it isn't. It should be done in all of the State.

19

20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
23 Virgil. Larry.

24

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

26

27

28 After hearing all these testimonies
29 from different Council members, I'm going to take back
30 what I said about this proposal not being in the books.

31

32

33 The only problem I have is that it's
34 not aimed at any of the non-Federally-qualified users.
35 You know, it's -- what Virgil was saying is true, that,
36 you know, there's a lot of spoilage.

37

38 And so all in all, we have to make a
39 start some place, so I'm going to be supporting this
40 proposal.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Really,
45 that's impressive.

46

47 Joe.

48

49 MR. MATESI: Thank you, Madame Chair.
50 Thank you, Mr. Williams.

1 Yeah, I'm going to go ahead and support
2 this, because I think that it does need to get passed
3 again, just to move the goal posts forward another few
4 more inches. It may take several plays before we make
5 a touchdown. And it will provide a beacon to the
6 State, hopefully, to move forward and target the
7 population that really needs to be targeted.

8
9 I don't see it as a hardship for local
10 users, because this is how people do it anyway, except
11 I want to talk about making dried meat, because I know
12 people do that. Just this fall my neighbors upriver,
13 they got their first moose. It was really warm. They
14 were going to be there a long time. And Andrew's
15 cousin said, well there's three women in camp; they'll
16 make dried meat. And, by golly, they did, and they had
17 a good time. They made dried meat out of the whole
18 entire moose.

19
20 So how do we account for that? I am
21 going to suggest that maybe we call that processing.
22 And so it's not the same thing as transporting meat out
23 of the field. It's been processed there in camp. And
24 almost every year I see that happening at one hunting
25 camp or other on the river. So I don't see that as an
26 issue as long as we can sneak by under rubric.

27
28 I think that's all I have to say.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just for
31 clarification, can we verify that with protection. Dry
32 meat. Is dry meat considered process meat? I mean,
33 logically sensible, you would think it is.

34
35 MR. NEELY: It would be considered home
36 processed meat or processed.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
39 got a verification, yes, it is considered processed.

40
41 Other Council members want to speak.
42 Bill and then Frank.

43
44 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. I've caught some
45 flack from some of the older people in the Circle and
46 one in Central about this. Is they're too old to pack
47 out very far and all that. I just told them, take a
48 salt shaker with them in camp, you know. But it just
49 has to be done, I mean, you know.

50

1 I'm for the measure. And that's what I
2 told them, too.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Frank.

5
6 MR. GURTLER: Yes. I'm in support of
7 this, too.

8
9 I remember in the early days when
10 you're alone out there, and you get a moose. And you
11 can't carry them, so we used to leave the hide on and
12 just take a rope and drag them through the grass.

13
14 MR. GLANZ: That's what I do, too,
15 Frank.

16
17 MR. GURTLER: You know, and you don't
18 need to pack them then. You just drag them, you know.
19 Made it a lot easier, and the meat is clean. And then
20 when you get ready to process it, you just skin it out
21 and it's all chilled out and it's all nice, clean meat,
22 no grass on it, no hair.

23
24 MR. GLANZ: The same way I do mine,
25 Frank. The same way.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Except the
28 places that are exposed.

29
30 MR. GURTLER: Pardon?

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Except the
33 places that are exposed?

34
35 MR. GURTLER: Yeah, but you can trim,
36 but it's just mostly grass. As long as there isn't any
37 sand and, you know, mud and stuff. And grass is
38 nothing; you could eat that if you had to.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. FIRMIN: And it floats; that's what
43 I like about it. It floats.

44
45 MR. GURTLER: Yeah. Yeah.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hollow hair
48 floats, Bill's saying. Man, I might have to try that
49 technique. My knees are killing me.

50

1 Anyone else.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just have a
6 question. I don't mean to take longer. So you guys
7 are -- you're going to police yourselves, and when
8 you're on the river or somewhere and you see, if this
9 didn't pass in the State, that you would see waste of
10 meat that was deboned, and you have to debone yours.
11 How are you going to feel? Because other users won't
12 have to do it.
13
14 MR. FIRMIN: If I saw other users doing
15 it, it would be in the State season, so that means I'd
16 be able to do it, too.
17
18 MR. GLANZ: Very good, Andy.
19
20 (Laughter)
21
22 MR. FIRMIN: I'd also just like to
23 point that in Unit 24, this is also a Federal
24 requirement in Unit 24 in the Koyukuk region.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's also
27 State there, too, right?
28
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
32
33 MR. FIRMIN: And also the last time we
34 put this towards the Board of Game, they said it would
35 be a burden on the subsistence user. And I don't know
36 any subsistence users that use that practice unless
37 they're -- I don't know. I couldn't think of a reason
38 why they would, unless they were by themselves and four
39 or five miles from their nearest camp or
40 transportation, but most of them probably wouldn't
41 shoot anything back there in the first place.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I
44 admire you for.....
45
46 MR. FIRMIN: So I think this is
47 necessary.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:wanting
50 to police yourselves, even though you're doing it that

1 way anyway. I admire you for this.

2

3 Andy.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I want to make an
6 attempt at answering the question you just posed. And
7 that is, for me, I try to be as responsible as I can
8 before I even go out in the field, and I plan for how
9 I'm going to transport that meat out of the field
10 before I even go out, and before I even plan where I'm
11 going to go hunt. And I think a lot of people that are
12 living in rural areas or remote areas, that's the way
13 they conduct their hunt. They have that pretty much
14 planned before they even go.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, that
17 wasn't my question.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Well, maybe I
20 misunderstood your question then.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How do you
23 feel if you ran into somebody that was -- you have to
24 -- you're doing it anyway, and then you're still.....

25

26 MR. BASSICH: How would I feel?

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:you
29 could run into somebody that wasn't doing it.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Okay. How I would feel
32 is I would feel the obligation to try and educate that
33 person a little bit in the field.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: And I have done that
38 before. I've stopped in and I've told people, you
39 know, you'll have much better success of getting that
40 meat home to where you can eat it if you do this. And
41 I've taken the time to do that. And I know other
42 people in our area that have done that as well.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have to say
45 I've done myself, yes. Okay.

46

47 MR. GLANZ: Question.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
50 question's been called. All in favor of the proposal.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
4 opposed.
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 MR. BASSICH: Can we use the word
9 adamantly aye in there.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everybody
14 agree.
15
16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Oh, yes, we do.
17
18 MR. BASSICH: Adamantly.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everybody
21 agrees adamantly.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now we are in
26 a position, let's see the time, 20 minutes to 4:00 I
27 have. We can get the presentation that we're -- the
28 people that want to testify. We're going to have this
29 proposal before us. So we'll go through all this,
30 we'll have it on the books.
31
32 I wonder, are there any of the people
33 present from Arctic Village now that have asked to
34 testify. Could you raise your hands. Are you here.
35
36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible,
37 mic not on)
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we
40 might want to make sure they're in here We're
41 actually.....
42
43 Yes, Andrew.
44
45 MR. FIRMIN: We have one more proposal
46 on.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yeah,
49 you might tell them that we're going to take -- Andrew
50 has a suggestion. Let's take up 80, and then have

1 these people come in that were going to be taking up
2 76, so they can hear the presentation.

3

4 And if there's any way, Vince, that you
5 can call Arctic Village and let them know what's
6 happening here, it would be really helpful that they're
7 aware that we're going to be taking this proposal up.

8

9 We're going to take up 80 in the
10 meantime.

11

12 (Off record comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we
15 really didn't take this one up the last time, even
16 though it said so in 71 through 81, the motion was
17 without 80.

18

19 MR. FIRMIN: And we need to support
20 this one.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
23 ahead, Chuck.

24

25 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. The
26 analysis for Proposal 12-80 begins on Page 244 of your
27 meeting book.

28

29 The proposer requests that the Unit 25
30 wolf trapping season start a month earlier. If
31 adopted, this proposal will increase opportunity for
32 Federally-qualified subsistence users who harvest
33 wolves in Unit 25. The harvest of wolves and the use,
34 barter and sale of pelts has long been very important
35 for subsistence uses.

36

37 The wolf population in Unit 25 is
38 considered healthy. The wolf population is thought to
39 be regulated more by natural factors than harvest by
40 hunters and trappers.

41

42 The proposed change will align the
43 start date for the Federal and State wolf trapping
44 seasons in Unit 25D. If this proposal was adopted,
45 wolf trapping seasons in 25A, B, and C would start a
46 month earlier than the current wolf trapping season.

47

48 This proposal has been submitted to the
49 Alaska Board of Game, requesting that the State wolf
50 trapping seasons in 25A and B, C start on October 1st.

1 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
2 support this proposal.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
5 questions.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fish and
10 Game.

11
12 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

14
15 This proposal finds us again in the
16 same position. We do not have a conservation concern,
17 but we're deferring to the Board of Game meeting.

18
19 *****
20 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
21 *****

22
23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
24 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

25
26 Wildlife Proposal WP12-80:

27
28 This proposal requests the federal
29 subsistence wolf trapping season dates for Unit 25 be
30 changed from November 1 through April 30 to October 1
31 through April 30.

32
33 Introduction:

34
35 The proponent requests the Federal
36 Subsistence Board change the Unit 25 federal
37 subsistence wolf hunting seasons by starting the
38 seasons in all subunits one month earlier beginning on
39 October 1. The proponent indicates adoption of this
40 proposal will align wolf trapping in Unit 25.
41 Currently the federal subsistence wolf trapping seasons
42 in all of Unit 25 are identical.

43
44 Impacts to Subsistence Users:

45
46 Adoption of this proposal will provide
47 an additional month of opportunity for federal
48 subsistence wolf trappers.

49
50 Opportunity Provided by State:

1 In Units 25A, B, and C, the state wolf
2 trapping season is from November 1 through April 30
3 with no annual limit. In Unit 25D, the state wolf
4 trapping season is from October 1 through April 30 with
5 no annual limit.

6
7 Conservation Issues:

8
9 None.

10
11 Wolves are widely distributed in Unit
12 25 and the number of wolves harvested is low relative
13 to population size. We estimate approximately 600 750
14 wolves inhabit Unit 25. The number of wolves sealed
15 during regulatory year 2000 2010 was 50 105 annually in
16 Unit 25.

17
18 Other Comments:

19
20 The department requests clarification
21 regarding the intent of this proposal. The proponent's
22 justification is confusing as all of the federal
23 subsistence trapping season start dates are November 1.
24 Adoption of this proposal will make federal and state
25 wolf trapping regulations further out of alignment
26 which does not match assumed the intent of the
27 proponent.

28
29 Enforcement Issues:

30
31 Differences in federal and state
32 regulations resulting from adoption of this proposal
33 create enforcement problems in areas with mixed land
34 ownership. The boundaries between federal and state
35 lands are not marked and often difficult to locate on
36 the ground.

37
38 Recommendation:

39
40 Support if the intent is to align state
41 and federal seasons with an opening date of October 1.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
44 questions.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Federal
49 agencies or InterAgency Staff. I was warned he'd be
50 back. Sandy.

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Madame
2 Chair. I'll keep it real short.
3
4 The same comment as before. In this
5 case we'd prefer the existing season start date of
6 November 1 for the same reasons I stated before.
7
8 Thank you.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
11 questions.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
16 Hearing none, we Native, tribal, village or other on
17 Proposal 80.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
22 Advisory groups, neighboring Regional Councils.
23
24 MS. MUSHOVIC: None.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fish and Game
27 or SRCs.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
32 Summary of written comments.
33
34 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35
36 Andrew Firmin wrote in that this
37 proposal would align with trapping seasons and make it
38 easier for subsistence users as they're setting out
39 trap lines twice in the same area. If it was the same,
40 there would be no problems.
41
42 He spoke to Wildlife Proposal 12-80
43 again at the tribal consultation teleconference in
44 support, referring to it as a housekeeping proposal.
45 And again that it will allow more opportunity for
46 subsistence trappers and especially for people that
47 live on the border between subunits, it would bring
48 regulations between areas into alignment.
49
50 Thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
2 testimony.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
7 Regional Advisory Council discussion. We need a
8 motion.
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
11 80.
12
13 MR. FIRMIN: Second.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been
16 moved and adopted -- or seconded. Discussion. Virgil.
17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm in favor of this
19 proposal. It will give more opportunity to the local
20 subsistence users to harvest wolves. And if you go by
21 how many -- you know, what the population estimate is,
22 and the total harvest, the harvest of wolves could
23 stand to be much, much higher and have no negative
24 impact on the population on the population of the
25 wolves as long as they have good -- when they have
26 plenty of food, what I've been told, is they average
27 seven pups a litter. And, well, the National Park
28 Service learned this when they reintroduced wolves into
29 Yellowstone National Park.
30
31 Madame Chair.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
34 discussion. Larry.
35
36 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37
38 Well, for myself, I'm going to support
39 this proposal with reservations. My reservations are
40 that in my culture, we don't usually take wolves in
41 October, but maybe some people do, you know, but I
42 hardly know of anybody that shoots or traps wolves in
43 October. And usually the season start in middle
44 November, and about that time. But I would support
45 this proposal.
46
47 Thank you.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
50 discussion. Andrew

1 MR. FIRMIN: Personally I know people
2 that are trapping wolves right now, and more than one
3 of them actually. And I'd use Joe for an example
4 again. He actually lives right where 25A, D and B come
5 to a point, so that right there is reason enough that
6 you've got the different regulation and time between
7 State an Federal and going which direction you walk out
8 of your house from. This is kind of -- will just even
9 out. And he's not the only one that lives on borders
10 or traps some places like that, and that would just
11 keep all -- align all the State's trapping and hunting
12 seasons -- or trapping seasons I should say. And that
13 was pointed out to us I believe in our Fort Yukon
14 meeting a few years ago by a few trappers there. And
15 that was where that kind of spurred this proposal
16 forward. And it essentially makes sense and it gives
17 those people more opportunity to hunt. And it just
18 keeps them in line so it keeps the confusion out of
19 there on what you can and can't do from one mile post
20 to the next.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that
23 was a result of the meeting. Yes. Uh-huh. And there
24 was people from all over at the meeting from the Yukon
25 Flats.

26
27 Any other discussion.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. BASSICH: Call the question.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would just
34 add that the State season is -- or the Federal season
35 is more restrictive than the State and this aligns it.
36 We might not have cleared -- had that on the record.

37
38 Okay. The question's been called for.
39 All in support of 80 say aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
44 opposed.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
49 We are 10 minutes till, and I would like to ask -- on
50 the teleconference, I would like to ask if anyone from

1 Arctic Village is on line now.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could I get a
6 feel for who's on the teleconference right now. Just
7 report in.
8
9 MR. FOX: Yeah. Trevor Fox with OSM.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
12 There's one. Is anyone else on line on the
13 teleconference.
14
15 MS. CARROLL: Dawn Young Carroll from
16 the Gwich'in Steering Committee.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's the
19 name again?
20
21 MS. CARROLL: Dawn Young Carroll from
22 the Gwich'in Steering Committee.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Dawn
25 Young Carroll. Are you from Arctic Village?
26
27 MS. CARROLL: No. I'm just -- I'm in
28 the office of the Gwich'in Steering Committee.
29
30 MR. MATESI: (Indiscernible)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I know,
33 but I'm just wondering what village are you -- where
34 are you calling from?
35
36 MS. CARROLL: Fairbanks.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
39 else.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it looks
44 like we have Dawn Young Carroll. Who was the other
45 one.
46
47 MS. MUSHOVIC: Trevor Fox.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Trevor
50 Fox.

1 MS. MUSHOVIC: OSM.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: OSM. So we
4 don't have anyone who called in from Arctic Village as
5 of yet. And I was given some information here. Yeah,
6 I guess we're expecting somebody from Arctic Village to
7 call in, and he's requested to speak first, a Trimble
8 Gilbert. And then we have -- right now we have seven
9 people signed up to testify. Seven to nine. We're not
10 sure yet.
11
12 Okay. Pete.
13
14 MR. PROBASCO: Madame Chair. Just to
15 provide a little counsel, you did make a time certain
16 call at 4:00 o'clock, and this is the opportunity for
17 public to testify before the Council. So you may want
18 to take that into consideration before you move too far
19 into this proposal.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was hoping
22 that it would be informational for them to hear the
23 analysis. Would you agree.
24
25 MR. PROBASCO: I would agree. That's
26 why I'm counseling that you might want to wait until
27 4:00 before you start anything.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay. Do
30 you know when -- then they're going to think that --
31 yeah, I see what you're saying. I was hoping that they
32 wouldn't be upset with us that we hear some analysis
33 before we go into public testimony, but I hope they'll
34 understand. Yeah.
35
36 Did you have a question, Joe.
37
38 MR. MATESE: No, I'm just wondering if
39 we should take a seven-minute recess.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Should we
42 take a seven-minute recess folks.
43
44 MR. BASSICH: I have one question.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Before we
47 answer that question. Andy.
48
49 MR. BASSICH: Well, yeah, I guess maybe
50 it might be. I'm just wondering if the Chair has set

1 up a time limit for testimony on any of this, or how
2 the Chair's going to conduct some of this public
3 testimony.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I was
6 told that there was going to be many, many people
7 wanting to testify, and that maybe we'd have to do a
8 time certain, and I wanted to get a feel for how many
9 so we would have an idea, and get a feel from you guys
10 what you suggest. So right now that's why I'm.....

11

12 MS. GEMMILL: Marjorie Gemmill, Arctic
13 Village Council.

14

15 CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Is now joining.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I just
18 heard someone join the teleconference. What was your
19 name again?

20

21 MS. GEMMILL: Marjorie Gemmill. I'm a
22 council member and tribal administrator.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You
25 just joined us, right?

26

27 MS. GEMMILL: Yeah.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. We're
30 just -- at 4:00 o'clock we're discussing, taking up the
31 analysis for the proposal that you guys are interested
32 in, and then we'll take your testimony.

33

34 MS. GEMMILL: Okay.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So now
37 we're -- and we're also trying to discuss how many
38 people are going to testify. And we have a huge
39 schedule here, and I'm assuming that everyone's
40 interested in Proposal 76 that is testifying. And we
41 want to give you all an opportunity to testify, but we
42 want to continue with our agenda as much as we can. So
43 we're talking about a time certain, I mean, for -- just
44 one minute here.

45

46 Okay. I'm going to ask Marjorie, are
47 you the only one that's going to testify from Arctic
48 Village or are other people there?

49

50 MS. GEMMILL: No, I think Chief

1 Jonathan John is coming down right now.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One other
4 person?
5
6 MS. GEMMILL: Yeah.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And what's
9 his name again?
10
11 MS. GEMMILL: Jonathan John.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We can
14 take a five-minute break. At 4:00 o'clock we're going
15 to start the analysis, and then we'll have an idea.
16
17 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. Are we
18 going to have a time limit on these. We've got 10 or
19 15 people.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Once we know
22 how many, let's discuss it as a Council. Okay. Does
23 that work.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 (Off record)
28
29 (On record)
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
32 coming back to order. That might have been a little
33 loud on their poor ears up there. Okay.
34
35 And we're going to start the meeting
36 with taking Staff analysis and then we'll go into the
37 public testimony. Okay. Chuck, go ahead.
38
39 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. Proposal
40 12-76 can be found on Page 217 of your meeting books.
41 It was submitted by your Council. It requests that the
42 Red Sheep and King Creek opening to non-Federally-
43 qualified users within the Arctic Village Sheep
44 Management Area be closed.
45
46 The Red Sheep and King Creek drainages
47 are important subsistence an cultural areas for
48 residents of Arctic Village, and the influx of non-
49 Federally-qualified hunters and others into these
50 drainages has interfered with traditional uses and

1 practices of local residents is the reasoning for this
2 proposal from your Council.

3

4 Overall densities in the area are --
5 although sheep densities in the area are low relative
6 to other areas in the State, this is probably a
7 reflection of poor habitat quality of the area. The
8 most recent population surveys in 2007/2008 show a
9 sheep density of .8 sheep per square mile, and a ratio
10 of 59 lambs per 100 ewes, suggesting good productivity.

11

12 Data on use in the Arctic Village Sheep
13 Management area by Federally-qualified users is
14 lacking. Therefore it is unclear of how many sheep are
15 harvested by local users. Six Federal permits for the
16 area were issued between 1991 and 2004, none were
17 returned. Twenty-seven permits were issued between
18 2005 and 2007, and of those, four sheep were known to
19 be harvested and 23 did not report hunting. No permits
20 were issued in 2008 or 2009, and no information is
21 currently available for 2010.

22

23 Harvest success for non-Federally-
24 qualified hunters has averaged 69 percent between the
25 years of 2006 and 2009 when the area was open. Since
26 the area was opened, a total of 18 rams have been
27 harvested by 9 Federally-qualified users, an average of
28 4.5 per year.

29

30 And at this point I'll turn it over to
31 Dr. Jenkins for some cultural considerations.

32

33 DR. JENKINS: Yeah. Madame Chair.

34

35 The issue of non-Federally-qualified
36 hunters in the area has been of long-standing concern
37 for Arctic Village residents. Sheep hunting's been a
38 tradition for a long time for these folks, and there's
39 a careful analysis of these issues in your Council
40 books.

41

42 But rather than hearing from me at this
43 point, because we have so many people, so many experts
44 here to testify, I think I'll just leave my remarks at
45 that level and allow them more time to speak for their
46 own purposes.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Rather

1 than going through our other process, we're going to
2 take public testimony.

3
4 Yes, Chuck. You have something to add.

5
6 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. Would
7 you like me to finish?

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I thought
10 you were finished. My apologies.

11
12 MR. ARDIZZONE: I need to give you our
13 preliminary conclusion and justification.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
16 ahead. Yes, please.

17
18 MR. ARDIZZONE: I can do that at this
19 time. Thank you, Madame Chair.

20
21 The OSM preliminary conclusion at this
22 time is to oppose the proposal.

23
24 Reinstating the Federal closure in Red
25 Sheep and King Creek is not supported by available
26 biological data. Although sheep populations in the
27 area are lower than in other areas of Alaska, the most
28 recent data indicates good production.

29
30 Information on sheep harvest by
31 Federally-qualified users is lacking for the two
32 drainages in question. There has been very little
33 reporting of hunting by local users since 1991 with
34 only four sheep reported harvested. Federally-
35 qualified users have a much larger segment of the
36 population available for harvest and than do non-
37 Federally-qualified subsistence users. The opportunity
38 to hunt under Federal regulations extends until April
39 30th, providing these users with more than seven months
40 of harvest opportunity beyond the State's fall hunting
41 season.

42
43 Now I'm done. Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. If you
46 guys have any questions, as far as the Council, I'd
47 appreciate if you write them down. It might come up
48 later.

49
50 But we're going to go straight into

1 public testimony. And I talked to a couple Council
2 members at break. We had actually hinted that it would
3 be a three-minute limit, because of the interest. And
4 this was communicated to the people.

5
6 So do you guys have any other ideas
7 that you'd like to add.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And I
12 apologize to the people.....

13
14 Oh, I'm sorry, Larry. I didn't see --
15 Larry.

16
17 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. I just wanted to
18 add that if the people that's going to testify feel
19 more comfortable speaking in their Native language, I'm
20 here to interpret, so, you know, to make that clear to
21 the people that's going to testify.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And I
24 hope people in the teleconference heard Larry say that,
25 that he's willing to interpret from your Native
26 language if you prefer.

27
28 And I'm trying to follow all the
29 requests that was given to me, so I'm going to start
30 with Trimble Gilbert on the teleconference; are you on
31 line.

32
33 MR. GILBERT: Yes, I'm on line.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
36 Trimble, go ahead. Do you understand the process we're
37 in right now.

38
39 MR. GILBERT: Yes, part of it, but I
40 know what's going on. My name is Trimble Gilbert and I
41 was born in 1935.

42
43 And I'm starting to get know that area
44 since 1954 and '56, and probably over 50 miles from
45 here I think. And then I heard a lot of stories about
46 that area, traditional use.

47
48 And then I have allotments there. And
49 I discover a lot of like sheep fence and the caribou
50 fence, you know, people, where they make their skin

1 boat. And I even saw the caves and everything. So
2 it's thousands of years we've been using that area.
3 That's one of the reasons I got allotment in Cane
4 Creek, and my wife got allotment, too.

5
6 So in 1959, somewhere, that I was there
7 and there's a lot of -- it's quite a change ever since.
8 There's a lot of sheep on that area in both Red Sheep
9 Creek and King Creek. So then later on it's more
10 hunting pressure so that it's getting less and less.

11
12 So that area is traditional use for
13 thousands of year, like I'm saying, and there's a lot
14 of historical site, and hen I walk all the way up, I
15 don't know how many time, I spent a lot of time up
16 there, that's one of the reasons I got allotment there.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Are
19 you finished.

20
21 MR. GILBERT: If there's any questions.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
24 questions of Trimble.

25
26 MR. GILBERT: Well, another thing is
27 where there's caribou during time of cold weather,
28 winter time, so the people hunt a lot in that area, and
29 so it's very important to us anyway.

30
31 So that's all I have to say. Thank
32 you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
35 questions.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. No
40 questions. Thank you, Trimble.

41
42 MR. GILBERT: Uh-huh.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
45 going to go to the next person. Marjorie Gemmill.

46
47 MS. GEMMILL: Hi. This is Marjorie
48 Gemmill. I'm a Council member of Arctic Village
49 Council. Thank you for taking the time today for this.
50

1 And I just wanted to say that we had a
2 meeting and it's been on our agenda for some time, our
3 Red Sheep Creek and how important that area is to our
4 people.

5
6 And our community opposes leaving it
7 open for sport hunters. They'd like to close it off
8 and just have subsistence hunting for that area.

9
10 And thank you for listening. That's
11 all I have.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
14 you, Marjorie.

15
16 Questions from the Council.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
21 you. Hearing none, we'll move on. I have Mark Hess,
22 Sr.

23
24 MR. HESS: Yeah. Can you hear me.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Very well,
27 thank you. Go ahead.

28
29 MR. HESS: Okay. Well, I have a
30 family, Davita Russell and Nina Russell is her
31 grandmother who had an allotment up there, and that
32 land belongs to all of us in the family now.

33
34 And they asked me to speak and mention
35 that there's certain minerals and plants and whatnot up
36 there that have medicinal values, that, you know, are
37 really not fully understood. They can't be found
38 anywhere else. And -- sorry, just me and the baby
39 here. They can't be found anywhere else, and that too
40 much disruption up there is going to start to mess with
41 the plants. And there's red rocks they use for
42 medicine for thousands of years, that they suck on them
43 to get the mineral out of it, and it cures different
44 ailments.

45
46 And I know those sheep up there are
47 special sheep, and they can't be found any where else.
48 And they have a traditional medicinal use for the
49 people around here. They can't be, you know, replaced
50 by anything else.

1 And that the wishes of Nina Russell
2 upon getting that allotment was that it not be
3 disturbed, and that that land be left alone, because,
4 you know, it's there for our grandchildren, not for us.
5 And so basically it's just for subsistence and when
6 it's truly needed. It's not a place to be used for
7 sport.

8
9 That's what I have to say. Thank you.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
12 you, Mark.

13
14 Any questions from the Council members.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MR. HESS: I'm sorry, one thing I'd
19 like to add is that I've read that there's different
20 plants and bugs and stuff been appearing up there since
21 people have been frequenting that place, and the hikers
22 and whatnot, that there's just various things that
23 don't belong that are starting to pop up here and there
24 in that area.

25
26 Thank you. Sorry.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
29 questions.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. No
34 questions.

35
36 Martha Russell.

37
38 MS. RUSSELL: Yeah.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
41 Martha.

42
43 MS. RUSSELL: Okay. My name is Martha
44 Russell. I'm an Arctic Village resident. I have an
45 allotment up there in that area.

46
47 And I would like that Red Sheep be
48 closed off from sports hunters. Our traditional land
49 was used area for very -- it's very important to us.
50 Because my grandchildren are getting older now, and I

1 want to keep it there for them and their children and
2 their children.

3

4 So it's been going on for years now and
5 it just needs to stop, you know what I mean? Everybody
6 should know that. They've been doing this for years.
7 It needs to stop. That's my land up there, I don't
8 want nobody to touch that land or go around it. It's
9 sacred to me. That's how I feel for my life and for my
10 grandchildren.

11

12 Thank you. That's all I have to say.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do we
15 have any questions from the Council members?

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I might say
20 this is your chance to ask lots of questions if you
21 want to learn more.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I
26 have another one. Chief Jonathan John.

27

28 CHIEF JOHN: Yeah, I'm here. I went up
29 in this area when I was pretty near about 13 years old.
30 Growing up here and here and Fort Yukon all my life and
31 up to this point.

32

33 And I got picked up from a plane, a
34 small plane and brought me here. I spent the night
35 here and then up there. Went, first time I ever see
36 Fairbanks and Anchorage, and stuff like that, was a big
37 city. And it was a big shock from living out in the
38 country and then going to city one day. And next day
39 you start learning how to fold up your bed and all that
40 stuff. And it's been quite a while since I've been.

41

42 But I make my attempt to go up there a
43 lot of times. We went with boat. It's too shallow, we
44 don't have the right equipment. And now I understand
45 there's -- I understand there was an airport there
46 before, a runway. Now they're counting there's three
47 on the ground and they're making another one in the
48 back going further and further in the back, meaning all
49 the sheeps that's near the river are gone and they're
50 moving way back in the back. And the whole area is

1 just right over the high mountain, and the other side
2 is a coastal plain. On this side is the arboreal
3 forest kind of thing setting. And it's all the river
4 and nice. But all the animals migrate when they
5 migrate north, they hit what spot and they stay right
6 on that spot. They explain that it's not only sheeps,
7 but there's caribou, moose, what you might say, it's
8 all up in there.

9
10 And that there's some proposal that
11 says that we can have 10 days lead time over the
12 general hunters. And that doesn't seem right anyway.
13 If I would start hunting on the 10 days ahead of them,
14 they'll be up there already. They'll set up their
15 camp. They'll spot their stop. They'll be there until
16 the midnight. They might be up on the mountain at
17 midnight waiting for as the stroke of midnight and they
18 start shooting. That's how good those technical stuff
19 are available and all the night scope and all these
20 stuff. And we're completing against lots. And we only
21 going to go with boat. We got to pack it in, just like
22 always, going to back in, we get dogs and get dog pack
23 and pack it in, pack it all the way out.

24
25 Why do they want another airport.
26 There's going to be another one, in two years they're
27 going to build another one, and further back and back
28 until there's 10 airports up there operating one shot.
29 That's not going to sustain anything. It's not.

30
31 And I never see a sheep without a bone.
32 I never seen nothing like that. Just meat, there's not
33 gut, too. We've got to bring back bones.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
38 members, any questions.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You guys need
43 to ask questions.

44
45 All right. Right now the only person
46 left on this teleconference that I have on my records
47 is Cari Stevens. And, Cari, I assume you're over in
48 Fort Yukon.

49
50 MS. STEVENS: Yes, I'm here.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is
2 there anyone else on the teleconference.....
3
4 MS. STEVENS: (Indiscernible -
5 simultaneous speech)
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry,
8 Cari.
9
10 MS. STEVENS: That's great. Did you
11 want me to testify now?
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just hang on
14 a second. I'm going to ask, Arctic Village, is there
15 anyone else there that I missed.
16
17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Could we add
18 Second Chief Ernie Peter.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's fine.
21 Yes. Is he there and ready to speak.
22
23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
26
27 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes. Thank you.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ernie Peter.
30
31 MR. PETER: Okay. Hello. Yeah, my
32 name's Ernie Peter. I'm just currently is second
33 chief.
34
35 Anyway, I don't really know what's
36 going on with this intervention, but I really support
37 that, you know, protect that area, because one thing
38 got centered around, my mom has her allotment up there
39 in Sheep Creek, so basically that's our heritage up
40 there. But airport and all that up there, and, you
41 know, this hunting, it's not good, you know, because we
42 have to protect the whole thing at all times, so
43 basically, you know, I think that the Council up in
44 Arctic Village, they want a moratorium, because it
45 needs to be protected.
46
47 So, yeah, everything is just kind of
48 last minute here, and so I just want to learn more
49 about it and the public know about it, and the free
50 people.

1 Thank you. That's all I have to say,
2 because I'm supporting this.
3
4 Thank you very much.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry,
7 what are you supporting?
8
9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The closing of
10 sport hunters.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Just
13 making sure.
14
15 Any questions of Ernie Peter from the
16 Council.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Cari,
21 did you want to speak now.
22
23 MS. STEVENS: That would be fine, thank
24 you.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. This
27 is taking care of everybody that's on the
28 teleconference.
29
30 MS. STEVENS: Okay. Thank you very
31 much. And thank you to the council.
32
33 MR. HESS: Mark Hess, Sr.
34
35 TELECONFERENCE OPERATOR: Is now
36 exiting.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
39 teleconference announces when you come in and when you
40 leave, so I'm sorry, Cari. Go ahead.
41
42 MS. STEVENS: That's okay. No problem.
43
44 I also wanted to testify in support in
45 support of Wildlife Proposal 12-76 to close Red Sheep
46 and King Creek drainages to outside hunters.
47
48 And I apologize, I could not hear the
49 gentleman who gave his data before the testimony, but
50 he did say he did not have adequate or accurate

1 biological and harvest data to make -- regarding local
2 subsistence priority use. And I think that that alone
3 justifies the support of this proposal, because we're
4 hearing clear testimony that this is a critical
5 subsistence area and refit (ph). And that it should be
6 closed to outside hunters. And that the Council should
7 seek to support this to the full Federal Subsistence
8 Board. And that the OSM preliminary conclusion to
9 oppose the proposal should not be supported, because of
10 the lack of data by users which was provided in
11 testimony here.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Cari.

16 Any questions.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Cari's in
21 Fort Yukon, right, and you're with CATG.

22

23 MS. STEVENS: Yes, resident of Fort
24 Yukon, and Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments.
25 I'm just an employee, but I'm a rural resident.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
28 Arctic Village is one of CATG's villages, right?

29

30 MS. STEVENS: Yes.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
33 questions, Council members.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You guys are
38 so quiet.

39

40 Okay. Anyone else in Arctic Village.
41 I heard two people leave the teleconference. Is there
42 anyone else there that wanted to testify.

43

44 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I don't think so.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
47 you. We're going to move to the people that are here.
48 I have a list of cards and a list of names. I'm going
49 to try to keep this as straight as I possibly can.

50

1 The first one is Gideon James.

2

3 MR. JAMES: My name is Gideon James.
4 I'm from Arctic Village. I live in Arctic.

5

6 And in addition to the report by the
7 wildlife people that presented today, and I also want
8 to thank the notation that was noted in that report by
9 different people like Mr. Caulfield and John Gustafson
10 and Dinero, and the people like that that were noted.
11 And I thank them for making those notes. That's on
12 behalf of Gwich'in Athabascan cultural.

13

14 What I wanted to say today was that one
15 of the things that we do as a tribal member is to
16 address the importance of and carry out the traditional
17 practice to our younger generation. This is our part
18 of doing it. And I tell you, sometimes getting into
19 various things is time consuming, but we make that
20 effort.

21

22 And the gentleman this morning
23 explained about expense of the fuel and other equipment
24 that's involved. When we're talking about shallow
25 water in that area, and every time we go hunt, we have
26 to have proper equipment to go there. And it's
27 expensive. Like legitimate cost, like 12, \$2,000 at a
28 time, you know. And gas is \$10 a gallon. And the last
29 time I went there, I have to buy oil. I had to have
30 four quarts, and they're \$15 a quart. So those things
31 don't come cheap.

32

33 You know, we're competing with people
34 with lots of money, you know, that they don't express
35 their expenditure as we do.

36

37 So I'm saying that we have younger
38 generation that are interested in doing this, and we
39 make the effort to make sure that they learn it, you
40 know. Like a gentleman, Elder Trimble Gilbert, was
41 saying, that they know this is tradition that's been
42 carried on for generations, and it's going to go on.
43 That's why we encourage the Board to support us in
44 closing that area to non-subsistence hunting.

45

46 Another thing, they're very important
47 and tied with our culture, is the allotments. There
48 are several allotments in that area that are being
49 trespassed right now, you know. I hear there's one
50 airport was located on that allotment, so you can hear

1 some of the testimony that's coming up is true.

2

3 And there's traffic that are not --
4 oversight is very limited in that area, because
5 aircraft that come in there and they fly different
6 places. They fly different area. Our hunters spots
7 some aircraft that are flying over a herd of caribou.
8 You know, once they spot our hunters, they would, you
9 know, fly away. So it's stuff like that happens every
10 summer, every year it happens like that. People land
11 on the lakes with a flat without nobody noticing. And
12 stuff like that is happening. Landing on the mountain
13 and stuff like that. There's things like that that are
14 happening, so it's -- that interferes with our
15 traditional practice of hunting to support our family
16 in Arctic Village.

17

18 And then again I'm going to tell you,
19 explain to you that we're talking about very narrow
20 valley. Very narrow. Both sides is just like this.
21 Both side. And when the aircrafts come in, they
22 actually have to come down into the lower, into the
23 valley, and those other animals are in that area, you
24 know. So we're talking about disturbance to the
25 different type of animal like moose.

26

27 In that area, that my experience in my
28 last four years, I went there two, three years in a
29 row. I only got -- I didn't get anything. I got one
30 lower, way down lower, but not in that area. We used
31 to. About four, five years ago there used to be plenty
32 up there. And it's a good area. We know that, because
33 that area has hills along there and along the river
34 where people, you know, can actually climb up on that
35 hill and look far, far in the distance with binoculars.
36 And our kids, you know, our younger, kids that do that
37 sometimes. You know, they come along with us and they
38 do that.

39

40 So we're talking about area where a lot
41 of limited trees area, and animals are not going to
42 expose themselves out there in the open while noises
43 are going on.

44

45 So I really respect other action that
46 the Board has taken in the past about closing this
47 area, and I wanted to thank them for that.

48

49 So again, with all the respect with
50 cultural value in that area, we need to really, you

1 know, close out that area.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: Sue.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you for that
10 testimony. I'm just curious. I'm trying to educate
11 myself on what's taking place and how the hunts are
12 conducted, and I'm wondering, is most of the problem
13 with airplane traffic or are there hunters that are
14 dropped off and then float down and hunt on the river
15 as well? Or is it primarily all hunters flying in and
16 then hunting sheep and flying out?

17

18 MR. JAMES: Yeah. You know, we can't
19 see the -- sometimes we can't see the aircraft. We can
20 hear it, but when they get down up to close to Red
21 Sheep, they come down like that. They had, you know.
22 They had to, because the valley is so narrow.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: If I can ask, are there
25 hunters that fly up in airplanes and then hunt floating
26 down the river at all?

27

28 MR. JAMES: No, not that I know of
29 that.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

32

33 MR. JAMES: And one other thing, one
34 other explanation is that allotments, 160 acres is a
35 pretty big piece of land. Very big. 160 acres. You
36 can have airport on it. You can have the whole village
37 on that area of land if you want. So keep it in mind,
38 you know, that a little valley like that, and you've
39 got allotment sitting there, and I guarantee you that
40 anybody that land before that walks across that, along
41 it up and down, you know, anybody that they're out
42 there hunting, you be out there for five days and
43 you're walking the same pattern, hello, you develop
44 actually a trail. So they're talking about there's a
45 trail across some Native allotments, you know. So
46 actually there's trespass going on.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MR. GLANZ: Hold on.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. We're
2 in questions. And I have a hand. Joe.

3

4 MR. MATESE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. James. I've been
7 wanting to ask you, I've been very curious about the
8 old caribou fence there in Red Sheep Creek. I'm very
9 concerned that with all that activity from outside
10 people, if there's a detrimental effect on the old
11 caribou fence which you might talk a little bit about
12 the cultural importance of that. I'd like to know a
13 little bit more about that.

14

15 MR. JAMES: I know the disturbance by
16 other hunters, other than us, because in the area that
17 we didn't, you know, there was -- I've been up there
18 this fall. And we didn't see any tracks in that area.

19

20 MR. MATESE: I guess my question is,
21 are they, the outside hunters, are they having an
22 effect on the old fence?

23

24 MR. JAMES; Yeah.

25

26 MR. MATESE: All right.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Have you ever hunted
31 sheep and taken a sheep up there?

32

33 MR. JAMES: (No audible response)

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: I said, have you ever
36 hunted sheep and actually a sheep in either creek.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince, you
39 were no help.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You
44 got it on there, good.

45

46 MR. JAMES: Yes. I went on a hunting
47 trip much later part of the year. See, our people,
48 when they go hunt, they hunt when the first snow come
49 down, like in November where there's no drift, you
50 know, and the animals are down lower like that. They

1 go hunt. I went hunting a couple of times in that area
2 like that with a snow machine.

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So the majority
5 of the hunting you've done in the past has been done in
6 the winter with either snow machines or longer ago with
7 dogteams. That's my question.

8

9 MR. JAMES: Can you repeat that
10 question again.

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I don't know how
13 old you are, but my question is, the oldtimers, when
14 did they harvest sheep? Did they hike up there, walk
15 up there, or take canoes in the fall, or did they wait
16 until wintertime when they could use dogs or snowshoes
17 to get there.

18

19 MR. JAMES: There's two different ways,
20 you know. Sometimes they take their whole family up
21 there, just like Trimble was saying, in the summertime,
22 in the falltime. I know we went up to Junjik, that's
23 different area, when I was 16 years old. And some of
24 our -- some of my brothers and sisters were with us
25 that time. So they -- when we went there, I know they
26 spotted a couple of rams and my dad went and got it,
27 and then we came back.

28

29 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. In recent
30 times, say the last 20 years or so, how have people --
31 when have people hunted sheep in that area, and how did
32 they get there?

33

34 MR. JAMES: There's -- sometimes
35 they'll go by aircraft if they make prior arrangement.
36 They be able to go over with aircraft, but it's very
37 expensive. They have to save like close to a thousand
38 dollars to do that. And sometimes when we drive the
39 boat, the jet boat all the way up to where we can --
40 they can just walk the rest of the way.

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Part of the -- in the
43 analysis, in the book we have in front of us, they have
44 different options of how to address this. And one of
45 the options would be to open the season for the local
46 people 10 days early, open it on the 1st of August, so
47 you could go hunting before anyone else could. And
48 that would be like if -- and that way you would have 10
49 days to hunt, no one else could be there hunting. Do
50 you think that would help solve a problem or do you

1 think people would participate in that? If people are
2 going to charter an airplane and go up there, or go up
3 there by jet boat, if they can go 10 days early, the
4 sheep are not going to -- I've hunted sheep lots and
5 guided sheep hunters. The sheep would not have been
6 disturbed, and so they would not be ran back away from
7 the river or farther to have to walk to get to them.
8 They would be totally unmolested at that point in time.
9 Would that be acceptable? That's something we've been
10 asked to consider, this Council.

11
12 MR. JAMES: If I could understand it
13 properly, if the local people are the ones that could
14 probably take the hunters up, there would be less
15 disturbance to that area, because there would be no
16 aircraft.

17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. That's not what
19 I meant. What I meant is, in our book that we have, we
20 have a list of things that could maybe address this
21 issue, the problem of the non-local hunters chasing the
22 sheep away from the river and making it further for the
23 local hunters to have to walk to get the sheep. So in
24 addressing -- one way to address that problem would be
25 to open the season earlier for the people that live in
26 Arctic Village or the Federally-qualified users. Would
27 that help?

28
29 MR. JAMES: No.

30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Why would it not help?

32
33 MR. JAMES: Because the practice of, or
34 traditional knowledge of that area is set by our elders
35 and we know what time -- when to go there and when not
36 to go there.

37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So when is the
39 best time to go there then?

40
41 MR. JAMES: First part of September
42 sometime.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: The first part of
45 September. But in recent times how many times has
46 someone from Arctic Village went up there -- the season
47 was closed, or it was closed to non-local people from I
48 believe '94 until 2006, that's 12 years. Do you know
49 how many people went up there and hunted the first of
50 September in that 12-year period?

1 MR. JAMES: If you are assuming that we
2 use much less than what we claim, I think there was a
3 misunderstanding about our position to protect the area
4 and cultural -- in the cultural manner. That's our job
5 to do. So are you inferring in your question about
6 attacking the practice that we have, which we pretty
7 clearer, we made it clearer today that, you know, we
8 wanted to protect that area by, you know, by having
9 less traffic into that area, which would, you know,
10 which would solve that problem. What are you saying is
11 that you're just questioning my cultural side, you
12 know, as I didn't do it.

13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm not trying to be
15 offensive. What I'm trying to do is figure out,
16 because I know what the Federal law says, and, in fact,
17 when this RAC went to Arctic Village, after that
18 meeting, Vince, sitting over there in the audience, and
19 I wrote a proposal to the State Board of Game to make
20 that a drawing permit hunt which would limit the number
21 of hunters that could even go there that don't live --
22 that are non-local hunters. The Office of Subsistence
23 -- or the Federal Subsistence Board voted against that
24 proposal. They will more than likely vote against this
25 proposal as well because of the way the Federal law is
26 written. But we did that, because we decided that that
27 was the best way to address this issue. That would put
28 -- would limit the number of hunters going there.

29

30 And so what I am trying to do is figure
31 out some solution that would be in the best interest of
32 the people that live in Arctic Village. I'm not trying
33 to pick on you or anything. But in order for me to try
34 to solve a problem, I have to understand the problem,
35 and that's why I've asked you some of these questions,
36 like if you could go hunting earlier before anyone else
37 could go, would that help, because I think that the --
38 that more than likely, even if this body here, this
39 RAC, if we vote to eliminate non-Federally-qualified
40 subsistence users there, I don't think that's going to
41 do any good. I don't think that's going to eliminate
42 them, because we're not the people that make the
43 decision. We just make a recommendation to the Board
44 that will make the decision. And so if there's
45 something other than that that could help, that's what
46 I'm trying to find out, because we can modify this
47 proposal.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: And it's something that
2 will be acceptable to you and your people, then maybe
3 that could -- maybe they would adopt that and we would
4 make some progress. But to just vote it up or down, I
5 don't think the Federal Board will pass it. And so
6 that's why I'm asking you these questions, because I
7 would really like to help you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We need to
14 stick to the questions so we can get more people up
15 here to testify.

16
17 I wanted to see you guys ask more
18 questions of the people on the teleconference, because
19 I think it would help, too. Those people have more
20 information that we might gain things.

21
22 But let's try to get everybody through,
23 and then -- one of the things that's happening to me
24 here is a lot of questions are coming to my head, and I
25 guess, Gideon, one of the things that I was wondering,
26 can you or somebody that's going to be testifying tell
27 us a little bit more who own -- I mean, how much land
28 is owned up there by these Native allotments. Is it
29 one allotment, two allotments, three allotments or
30 what's -- do you know what's up there? Or who's the
31 best person to talk to on that.

32
33 MR. JAMES: On that map that was
34 provide, I see three allotments, but there's more than
35 that.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
38 something that we need to look into.

39
40 Joe, does that lead to a question.

41
42 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair. It leads to
43 a request. At some point during this discussion, I
44 know that the Refuge has a map which, I believe they
45 should be able to show us that has the allotments and
46 the trespass airstrips on it. And I would really like
47 to have that available for the Council to see.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll have to
50 look at all that in our deliberation. And if you want

1 to ask questions regarding that to the public, that
2 would be great.

3

4 Any other questions of Gideon.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No more
9 questions of Gideon. Okay.

10

11 The next one on my list here is James
12 John. James John.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is James John
17 in the audience.

18

19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
22 next one on my list is Joel Tritt.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joel Tritt is
27 not in the audience. These were filled out earlier.

28

29 Julian Roberts. Julian's a familiar
30 face. Join us.

31

32 MR. ROBERTS: My name is Julian
33 Roberts. I'm with the tribal government, RIP. And I
34 want to support the testimony of the people in the
35 Arctic.

36

37 And when you do that recommendation to
38 the Board, and hopefully that we could be involved in
39 maybe knowing what's going to happen with the proposal
40 or whatever it was.

41

42 That's all.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Question,
45 Andy.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. In our analysis
48 there's quite a bit of emphasis put on the harvesting
49 patterns in the past, and a lot of the records didn't
50 show a heavy use of the resource. And my gut feeling

1 is that it's pretty much a paperless society up there,
2 that basically your cultural practice is you just go do
3 what you do to feed yourself, and you don't really
4 worry too much about filling out a form or a permit or
5 whatever. And I wondered if you could address that a
6 little bit more and get it on the record what your
7 practices have been in the past and what they are now
8 that might explain that lack of harvest of a resource
9 that you claim is very important to you.

10

Thank you.

11

12

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MR. ROBERTS: Yeah, I'll try to work on that.

MR. BASSICH: Is it possible for you to speak now a little bit about that and get that on the public record, please.

MR. ROBERTS: Yeah, we have a natural resource director of CATG, and they might be able to help us out to get more document on uses from that community. Instead of just talking about it, maybe we could write it down or something.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Larry, then Andrew.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, what Mr. Roberts, our first chief, is trying to say is that he's not prepared to answer Andy's question right now.

MR. BASSICH: I understand.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

MR. FIRMIN: I have an easy one that might be able to clarify. Julian, how many times have you ever obtained a hunting license i your life?

MR. BASSICH: There's no law enforcement in the room.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Right.

(Laughter)

MR. ROBERTS: I can't.....

MR. FIRMIN: I mean, just off the top

1 of your head, what's a good guess.
2
3 MR. ROBERTS: Maybe once.
4
5 MR. FIRMIN: And you're from Venetie
6 and there's a lot of people there, and Arctic Village
7 is the same way.
8
9 That would answer your question, Andy.
10
11 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.
12
13 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you, Julian.
14
15 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
18 questions. Is that Cari?
19
20 MS. GEMMILL: This is Marjorie Gemmill.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Marjorie.
23 Will you stay on line until we get through the
24 testimony, and then -- I don't know how else to do
25 this. I really apologize.
26
27 MS. GEMMILL: It's okay.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Was it
30 a quick response?
31
32 MS. GEMMILL: Yeah. It's a response to
33 that reporting. I'd like to suggest that maybe if we
34 work with Fish and Wildlife or CATG to do some surveys
35 with our hunters and see who is all hunting. Because I
36 know some people went up there and if we could just get
37 some numbers and, you know, we could make a report out
38 of that. And that way we can get it on paper.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
41 a good suggestion. We'll keep that in our heads here.
42
43 I guess I'm open to this, if the
44 Council members are, if somebody comes up with
45 something that is added.
46
47 MS. STEVENS: This is Cari. Could I
48 just add a quick comment.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I said I was

1 open to it, so I hope I'm not messing up this public
2 testimony. Go ahead, Cari.

3

4 MS. STEVENS: I just wanted to add to
5 Andrew's comment and the points they're getting to
6 this. There are published papers in our region by --
7 there's OSM and ADF&G on this exact issues that the
8 numbers provided by harvest tickets are inaccurate.
9 And I think there is more than enough published
10 documentation on that issue.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I
13 don't want to get too wild here about going crazy on
14 things, but did you have a question, Larry.

15

16 MR. WILLIAMS: No, I don't have a
17 question, I have a comment.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's stick
20 to -- save that, okay? Let's try to get the public
21 testimony here.

22

23 MR. WILLIAMS: It pertains to the
24 public testimony.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, go ahead.

27

28 MR. WILLIAMS: I just want to say that
29 with no disrespect to anybody that we keep with public
30 testimony, because all these people have been waiting
31 all day, and some of them are elders, and we should try
32 to keep it going as far as the public testimony goes.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I appreciate
35 that, Larry. Just I hate to see things missed and fall
36 through the cracks, so I get a little bent.

37

38 I'm sorry.

39

40 But let's go next. Is Mildred Allen.

41

42 MS. ALLEN: My name is Mildred Peter
43 Allen, and I'm a government employee, but today I'm
44 speaking on behalf of myself and my mother.

45

46 Theresa Peter's allotment is up that
47 way. And we took a trip back in 1976 to that area. It
48 was natural, it was clean and untouched. And a few
49 months ago I went back for a couple hours. And there
50 was a lot of traffic, trespassers that's been there.

1 And there's evidence of camp sites. Some trees were
2 cut down for poles. And a trail to the mountain is
3 downpacked. And there's some trash that's been
4 reported buried, mostly propane bottles. So my husband
5 and I would like to go back next year and maybe clean
6 up some of the areas.

7
8 And we want to keep this place natural
9 for respect for the devie (ph), the animal, sheep,
10 because it's been in that area and our people have
11 depended on devie, nalie (ph) forever. And the
12 Gwich'in name for November is Devishrie (ph), that
13 means month of the sheep. And sheep meat is a delicacy
14 to our people, and it's only taken in the fall when
15 it's needed, and only ate by elders. For the future
16 generation, we'd like to keep it clean and natural.
17 (In Gwich'in)

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 What I said was we're Gwich'in people
22 and we have respect for moose, caribou and sheep. And
23 sheep is very delicate to our people, and it's
24 respected. And our stories of sheep that hunters
25 hunted up that way in the old days, they left the old
26 and the young by the riverside while they go up in the
27 fall to harvest sheep. Whereas the sheep, three sheep
28 heads up that way that they used in the old days. They
29 hiked up there and took only what they needed.

30
31 So that's all I would like to say.
32 Thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions
35 of Mildred. Andrew.

36
37 MR. FIRMIN: Well, Mildred, I have a
38 question if you don't mind. It's how many times have
39 you bought or obtained a hunting license in your
40 lifetime.

41
42 MS. ALLEN: Well, as Gwich'in my
43 husband does all the hunting, but we subsist off the
44 land, and we're planning on staying up there, and maybe
45 we'll get a sheep permit in that.

46
47 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Do you know why --
48 do you know where the name Red Sheep Creek came from.

49
50 MS. ALLEN: Red Sheep Creek name in

1 Gwich'in is my mother's land, and that's where the
2 sheep has been forever, and our people are hunting
3 there. And my mother covered that.

4
5 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
8 questions.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
13 you, Mildred.

14
15 Josephine Peter.

16
17 MS. PETER: (In Gwich'in) Yeah. My
18 name is Josephine Peter.

19
20 (Off record comments)

21
22 MS. PETER: (In Gwich'in) My name is
23 Josephine Peter. I'm from Arctic Village.

24
25 And I really appreciate it. I'm from
26 -- originally I was born in Fort Yukon, but I'm married
27 to Kias Peter, Sr. in Arctic Village, and I've got
28 seven kids. And I raised all my kids in Arctic
29 Village. And we help community a lot.

30
31 My great, great grandfather, James
32 Gilbert, got me my land, got me that land. And when he
33 got me that land, he told me, this is for the you and
34 the kids and whoever. If my people wanted some meat or
35 things like that, they could hunt there. That's what
36 he told me.

37
38 And I really appreciated I was here for
39 the meeting. I'm here for my kids and other kids. In
40 the future, it's going to be hard time, and we've seen
41 it now.

42
43 So I hope whoever my people and kids
44 hunt up that way, I hope they clean it up. An airstrip
45 there, take all the trash out, and just for my people,
46 not for outsider people. And (In Gwich'in).

47
48 Thank you very much.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions of

1 Josephine. Anyone.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,

6 Josephine.

7

8 And next, Maggie Roberts.

9

10 MS. ROBERTS: Yes. This is Maggie
11 Roberts. I'm from Venetie, a tribal members. I'm an
12 elders. And all my parent -- my parents and my
13 brother, all my brother raised up in Arctic Village.
14 And my parents are from Arctic Village, and back in
15 1934 they moved down to Venetie. That's where I grew
16 up again.

17

18 It's still -- I'm still using it that
19 way, too, so, you know, where my parents are, up in
20 that Red Sheep. Red Sheep Creek was all that, and
21 people from up that way a long time ago, they've been
22 using that place all the time. The only place they
23 could get food when there's no -- when they got no
24 food, you know. So they just keep it clean. They
25 don't stay around there, no trash, nothing. They would
26 stay maybe three or four miles away, you know. They
27 don't stay where they go hunt.

28

29 So in the future we want to protect
30 that, because my grandkids and my kids are still
31 living. They're going to use it, too, you know.

32

33 And the fence they were talking about,
34 that was a long time ago when they had no guns. They
35 only use bow and arrow. That's how they get that, and
36 food sometime. That's how come they make a fence like
37 that.

38

39 So if they go hunt up that way, they
40 should just keep it clean, take all the trash out.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry,
43 Maggie, go ahead. This thing keeps talking to us as
44 people come and go.

45

46 MS. ROBERTS: Because those animals are
47 -- when there's human, there's pop cans around, they
48 smell it. It smell lots, you know. Because I know
49 that because I've been out in the woods, living out in
50 the woods a lot of times, ever since I was small. When

1 my parents, and we only ate meat and juice -- no juice,
2 but (In Gwich'in). That's all we drink, you know. But
3 when we come back, when my Dad go down to Fort Yukon
4 and brings some food, that food that he brought from
5 store, we could smell it. See, that's how it is when
6 there's pop can or anything that's on the ground, that
7 animals smelled it. It smelled lots the food.

8

9 And in the future probably that animal,
10 and I don't know, it won't -- so the plane up there
11 land up there in Sheep Creek. And I don't like it,
12 too, you know. I don't like that, because people need
13 that place, and there should be no airport or stuff
14 like this.

15

16 You know, I'm just worried about all
17 the kids and in the future it's going to be a hard time
18 they said, old people a long time ago even said that.
19 Even there's no whitmeres (ph) around, you know. They
20 talk about today. They're talking about it. That's
21 how we know. So we all try to keep the place where we
22 go hunt, and we keep it clean.

23

24 That's all I want to say.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
27 you, Maggie.

28

29 Any questions from the Council.

30

31 MR. MATESI: Thank you.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew, did
36 you have your question answered about how it got its
37 name, Red Sheep Creek.

38

39 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I missed it.
42 I thought she said someone else was going to answer it.
43 Who was going to answer it.

44

45 MR. FIRMIN: She answered it.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She did.
48 Okay. I missed it.

49

50 Sarah James.

1 MS. JAMES: Thank you for this Regional
2 Advisory Council for this proposal. I know it's a hard
3 one, but it's really good that this proposal is just in
4 front of us. I can't believe it.

5
6 And other proposal I would like to see
7 for my community is a community harvest like we do with
8 Anaktuvuk Pass.

9
10 Red Sheep Creek is sacred to Gwich'in.
11 Not only Arctic Village, but the whole Gwich'in highly
12 respect all animals, but they especially highly respect
13 an animal that came to grow to be adult, and it takes
14 many years to be a ram. And that's what sport hunter
15 is usually after, to get a ram.

16
17 And we respect it so much, before our
18 first visit to it, when we used to live in caribou skin
19 hut, the front door is to the east where the sun rises.
20 And that's how we go, and it will go clockwise and go
21 back up that way. There is a back door, but we don't
22 use the back door as just for an escape or something.
23 But other than that, the only time they use -- the only
24 other time they use this, when they have to bring in
25 sheep meat for to eat. You know, when they offer sheep
26 meat for meal, they bring it in from the back. That's
27 how much they respect it, because they don't over-
28 harvest it, just like we do with many fish. When
29 there's a lot of fish, we harvest lots for our dogs,
30 and we just smoke it and everything, but sheep is not
31 considered that way. It's sacred, because it takes a
32 long time to be a ram.

33
34 Another that's really sacred in our
35 life is naraqchik (ph). Naraqchik (ph) is a trout in
36 Old John Lake. It take four years to be an adult. We
37 don't over-harvest it. We only harvest when we can --
38 when they can bite. And the same they do with that
39 manner. They respect it and they bring it in from the
40 back door. And that's how it.

41
42 Another thing, that I try to cover
43 which is not covered, and when Red Sheep hunting -- I
44 grew up on sheep. We went up Junjik a couple of times.
45 Went up East Fork a couple times, my family. I'm the
46 last one in the family, and I can remember very well
47 from 1950, we stayed in Red Sheep Creek for one month
48 one time. My dad shot some sheep, and we smoked and
49 dry it so we can lighten our load, then we came back.
50 And then when we hit the river, as we go back to the

1 village, we subsist all the way back to the village.

2

3 That one trip we can only make, and
4 then we got a moose, caribou all along. Caribou. When
5 we get enough caribou, then we make skin boat and load
6 that up, and that's how we bring stuff back. And
7 sometime in the boat we can only go so far up East Fork
8 and we leave it there.

9

10 And sometime, like recent, when we went
11 sheep hunting, we have to ask people to come and meet
12 us to where they can make it with a boat, and then we
13 come down with raft, because another thing that we have
14 hardship with is that we can't put subsistence food
15 back on the plane. We could fly up there, but we can't
16 fly the meat back, so what we do is then we put a
17 rubber raft on that plane. And than maybe at the base
18 camp at the mouth and then we go into mountain, which
19 is 10 mile in and 10 mile out. So that's packing and
20 hiking and working. And we were up that way for 20
21 days. And there was a lot of people and then kind of
22 these things go, we can teach our younger people and
23 show them the land and show -- it's not only for sheep
24 that we -- that sheep.....

25

26 Somebody asked why they call it Red
27 Sheep, because where they suck on red clay, that clay
28 is red. In fact, there's a red streak in the back of
29 Red Sheep Creek, red sheep. And that's why we call it
30 Red Sheep Creek. And that clay that they suck on has
31 got mineral for them.

32

33 And another thing is that we don't find
34 that red clay anywhere else. And another thing is that
35 we have medicine rock that we use for medicine. It's a
36 rock that we use for medicine, is found in that place.
37 We find -- we have a lot of medicinal plant like the
38 person say that's sacred to us and medicine to us grew
39 around there. So all those reasons.

40

41 At one time when they were building the
42 church in Arctic Village, when they -- they were
43 starving, but they were building the church. And
44 pretty soon they spotted two sheep on the mountain.
45 They went and got it. That was a long time ago when
46 people were just having a hard time. And it turned out
47 it had a red cross on it from Red Sheep Creek. They
48 thought that was very wonderful. And then the story is
49 around for long time, and the church was built. And
50 the church is still there.

1 We do need, like we do need like -- we
2 do need help. We do need to help to monitor our own
3 activity, and respect our monitoring what we come up
4 with. Maybe we'll have better communication.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How you
7 doing, Sarah?

8
9 MS. JAMES: I notice that nobody
10 mentioned it, ever since I can remember, we're flying
11 from Fort Yukon to Fairbanks. I don't know how many
12 time I've -- from way back. There used to be a lot of
13 sheep there. Now I don't see no sheep. I don't see
14 their track. Maybe this is the only place. And
15 everywhere else is open to sporthunting. This is one
16 place we're trying to keep it closed to sporthunting.
17 And now it will be great if it get back in there. So I
18 know that it's been a lot of work.

19
20 And then Cane Creek. Cane Creek just
21 didn't just get its name. It came from way back, even
22 before my time, before my three grandma time. This
23 time, Towaqkin (ph) they call him, he live with the
24 sheep all his life and they said he even had sheep bit
25 on his forehead. And everybody said that when he leave
26 the mountainside, start going south and as soon as he
27 see tree, he get scared and run back into the mountain.
28 He thinks those are enemy.

29
30 Well, anyway, we have stories like that
31 about every mountain, every creek. And we do have
32 names and places and the story and place. We just have
33 -- we have to -- you know, maybe we might have to make
34 survey, our own survey, and come out with all these
35 wonderful things that need to be kept for our children
36 so they can be proud who they are.

37
38 And then how do you use -- another
39 thing is, didn't answer, is that what do we -- how do
40 we use sheep. I know one good thing about sheep,
41 there's a little sack between the big toe and the
42 other, there's a juicy little gel in there. We take
43 that little sack in there, leave it in our pouch, and
44 it's just like lip gloss. And if you're hungry, if you
45 get it a little taste of it will give you -- energize.

46
47 So, you know, and the best part of
48 sheep is the chest, it's just muktuk, and the one back
49 here, it's like muktuk, chewy. And the skin is the
50 warmest thing there is. And we eat every part of the

1 sheep. And we use every part of the sheep. So we
2 don't like to see any waste.

3

4 We see hunter come in with little
5 Safeway bag, because under what they call bag limit,
6 the only edible part is the hind quarter, and they
7 debone that, and that's what they put in that Safeway
8 little bag that size, and that's all we see them carry,
9 plus trophy. It's sad, but it's true.

10

11 And for that reason beside everything
12 else that everybody else said, I support keeping the
13 sporthunter out of Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek.

14

15 (In Gwich'in)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You have a
18 wealth of information. Yes. I'm going to use that lip
19 balm the next time I get a sheep. Okay. Yeah.

20

21 Any questions of Sarah. Virgil.

22

23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Sarah, you said, and I
24 believe it was 1950, I could be wrong, that your father
25 took your family up to Sheep Creek and you spent I
26 believe you said a month. And could you tell me about
27 when you got there and when you left?

28

29 MS. JAMES: Pardon me?

30

31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Could you tell me about
32 when you got there and when you left? Did he go up the
33 1st of September, the 1st of August or in July or.....

34

35 MS. JAMES: We didn't go up there right
36 away, because on the way we shot moose, and then we
37 shot caribou. We had to smoke dry it and make cache,
38 because we can't afford to carry it all the way up and
39 back, so we had to cache it on the way we can pick it
40 up on the way back down. All that plan had to be in
41 place, because we can only make one trip, we can only
42 afford one trip, we can only afford that time. So
43 that's how we usually hunt as a subsistence.

44

45 And so we went -- along the way my mom
46 told us which way to go and everything. I remember it
47 was a whole summer. It was -- because we had to go
48 when water is high, just when the -- you know, all that
49 snow melted. That's when to go up, because we have
50 outboard motor, and that can go only as far as wherever

1 we can't go further, because we have to go when water
2 is high. And then coming back, I know that we had to
3 come back before the school get started.

4

5 So a lot of times I want to be out
6 there. A lot of times these hunter want to be out
7 there, but right now we're colonizing to village life
8 and we can only -- our kids have to go to school.
9 We've got a job. And it's a long ways. It's costly.
10 Time. So we like to hunt. I want to go every year if
11 I have a choice. And it's good for you, and it's good
12 for your joint, going into rocky mountain. And it's
13 what the elders are saying. I mean, too many people
14 complain about their joint, go into Red Sheep Creek.
15 You'll come back out healthy.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don't say
20 that, everybody will be.....

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. That helps
23 me a lot. So you went up in the spring and came back
24 in the fall, is what you did basically.

25

26 MS. JAMES: Yes. Exactly.

27

28 MR. UMPHENOUR: And so let me ask you
29 the question I asked Gideon.

30

31 MS. JAMES: Well, it's been so long, I
32 must be, how old would I be. Let's see. Maybe 10. I
33 didn't know how to speak English, I didn't know how to
34 count. And so that's all I can tell you.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Let me
37 ask you this question. If the people at Arctic Village
38 could go hunting prior to the general hunt, would that
39 help, you know when the.....

40

41 MS. JAMES: Oh, no, that won't help,
42 because I'm a sheep hunter and I know sheep. You have
43 to know sheep in order to be a good sheep hunter.
44 Sheep, it top down. And when they eat, like everybody
45 else know, they eat down to the ground, so once they
46 eat that part, they have to go down further. And if we
47 go 10 days or whatever, they're going to be higher up.
48 And we want them to -- we want to get them lower. And
49 sheep, we hunt sheep from maybe August, maybe September
50 to November. After November, that's their mating time.

1 We call it davigi (ph). That means -- I mean, we don't
2 -- really respect when the animal kind of safe. Just
3 like November is sheep and then caribou's October, and
4 moose is September.

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
9 questions of Sarah.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
14 would be Bob, if I pronounce it wrong, I'm sorry,
15 Childers.

16

17 MR. CHILDERS: Yes.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yeah.
20 I really appreciate Sarah's testimony and I let her go
21 over. But if we can try to keep our time limit in here
22 at three minutes, and maybe some questions will be
23 asked, and you keep talking.

24

25 MR. CHILDERS: My name is Bob Childers.
26 I'm the executive director of the Gwich'in Steering
27 Committee. And I did some of the support work in
28 1991/92 when they were first applying for this.

29

30 I did get a chance to go on two
31 subsistence hunts in the last 90s. On one we took five
32 sheep; on the next one, I think it was two years later,
33 but my memory's a little soft, we took two sheep.

34

35 On that first trip, we also had a young
36 man who was sent up. He was having trouble in
37 Fairbanks, just kind of an anti-social hard kid to get
38 along with. I often had wondered how he had turned
39 out. They sent him up on this trip hoping that it
40 would, you know, kind of get him out of the city, but
41 also kind of reconnect him with his past and I think
42 they just hoped that it would be of some help to him.

43

44 I hadn't see him, it's been 12, 13
45 years. And I ran into him last week in Arctic Village.
46 And he's a fine, fine young man. He was going up sheep
47 hunting actually with Jimmy John who wasn't able to
48 join us today. Three of them went up. They did get
49 one large ram. They said they had to walk in so far
50 that that's really all they could only carry out.

1 There was several other sheep there, but they didn't
2 say they -- or didn't think they'd be able to take care
3 of more than the one.

4

5 And he took me aside one day, that
6 evening, this young man, and told me how kind of
7 important that was, that trip was to him, just how he
8 had thought about it for some years afterwards, and it
9 had really kind of changed his life. And now he was
10 one of the providers for the community, and someone
11 that people clearly respected for his efforts.

12

13 Pardon me. The Office of Subsistence
14 Management's conclusion, I noticed they mark it a
15 preliminary conclusion, and I hope they do go back and
16 take another look at their assessment after the
17 testimony here. I was -- there were two things that
18 struck me about it. I want to skip to the
19 justification first.

20

21 I don't mean to dwell on the obvious.
22 As you all know, ANILCA clearly did anticipate some
23 hunting closures not when there was a biological issue,
24 because they continue -- they serve the purpose of
25 allowing of people to continue their subsistence uses.
26 And I think that is directly the situation that you're
27 facing and that you've been told about here.

28

29 So I was particularly discomfited by
30 their dismissal of the cultural aspects of this, by the
31 fact that there has been relatively little hunting
32 reported in Red Sheep and Cane Creek by Arctic Village
33 and other qualified communities. I'm sure that is the
34 case.

35

36 We had asked in the early 90s and I
37 think Sarah just mentioned, if I understood her
38 correctly, that -- but we have asked repeatedly for a
39 community harvest system, and the feeling was that that
40 would be a less -- threatening's the wrong word, but a
41 less intimidating kind of regulatory system, and it
42 would allow people to report what they were actually
43 doing instead of, you know, only one person went up and
44 they only took two sheep and they were both males and
45 so forth.

46

47 So you all know I think by now there's
48 -- well, Sarah stated it, everybody I've run into
49 generally prefers older rams. Sometimes when there's
50 an elder who's ill or asks for sheep, they'll look for

1 a ewe, because the meat's softer, and it's really more
2 suitable to their situation.

3
4 I would really encourage you to, and
5 hope that you will forward this proposal to the
6 Subsistence Board. I think Sarah's idea of a community
7 harvest system would serve everybody's interest much
8 better than the current regulations. At very least I
9 would encourage you to be sure that this was open to
10 sheep of either sex, and really listen to the things
11 you've said here.

12
13 We did a number of interviews with all
14 the families that hunted in Red Sheep Creek and Cane
15 Creek in the early 90s when we were first putting this
16 together. And I was incredibly struck by the
17 similarity of what almost everyone said to me. And it
18 was really this kind of sense of discomfort, that they
19 were sort of displaced from a place that was always
20 there, and they didn't feel comfortable going back.

21
22 I see I'm running over my time it looks
23 like. I'll wrap up then, unless there's questions.

24
25 Thank you very much.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone want
28 to ask a question. Go ahead, Andrew.

29
30 MR. FIRMIN: Well, if you had another
31 two minutes to talk, what would you say?

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. CHILDERS: Well, I'm planning on
36 going back next summer if I get a chance, or next
37 September.

38
39 One thing I should perhaps mention,
40 because Virgil asked it, people are going up there. I
41 haven't been around every year, but almost every year I
42 know of folks who have been going to Red Sheep Creek
43 and Cane Creek. They don't go up in August. It's
44 usually -- well, there's other things going on. Many
45 of them are busy working, but it's really -- what I was
46 told, it was just too warm to take care of the meat,
47 that the chance of spoilage was too great, and they
48 liked to wait until the berries were about -- it was --
49 I can't tell you what berry it was. It was -- the name
50 was in Gwich'in; but they wait for a particular berry

1 to turn about half red, and then that's about the time
2 to head up there.

3

4 So I guess that's what I'd do in a
5 couple minutes. Thanks, Andrew.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I have a
8 question. Where I live, there's times where it takes a
9 couple days to get out with a sheep, but we've come to
10 ways of taking care of the meat.

11

12 MR. CHILDERS: Uh-huh. Well, it takes
13 about five or six days to get out of there, even with a
14 raft.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have areas
17 where we just -- we would bury the meat in the tundra
18 and it's -- I've kept meat for two weeks that way.

19

20 MR. CHILDERS: Really?

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. If
23 it's in a north side, and, you know, the sun doesn't
24 hit it. If you're around the willows and stuff, it
25 seems to work really well, because people living
26 with.....

27

28 MS. GEMMILL: Marjorie Gemmill, Arctic
29 Village Council.

30

31 CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Is now exiting.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's when
34 they leave.

35

36 Yeah, people, my neighbors didn't have
37 electric -- well, none of us had electricity, and that
38 was a means of keeping something really. I just -- no
39 one's probably considered that, or it's just a
40 practice?

41

42 MR. CHILDERS: I don't know. What I
43 have been told was when they -- in earlier days when
44 they were staying up there longer, they typically dried
45 it rather than trying to keep it fresh.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I
48 would assume, yes.

49

50 MR. CHILDERS: And it's also a lot

1 lighter, which apparently was a real consideration.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Absolutely.
4 Been there, done that, too. Okay.
5
6 Any other questions.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you start
11 to say something that you wanted to finish?
12
13 MR. CHILDERS: No. No, that's fine.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
16
17 MR. CHILDERS: Thank you very much.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you
20 very much. Uh-huh.
21
22 Paul Williams.
23
24 MR. P. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair.
25 Council members. Ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for
26 this opportunity. My name is Paul Williams. I'm from
27 Beaver, I'm not really representing anybody. People
28 asked me to testify on behalf of the Red Sheep Creek.
29
30 And first of all, I do support it. And
31 I also want to speak my language, but I think I don't
32 want to complicate the issue more than what it is.
33
34 I support it, you know, for outside
35 hunters to not hunt there, and just keep it to the
36 local hunters, not only that area, but there's a lot of
37 other areas that are handed down from generation to
38 generation, you know, how to hunt, how to conduct
39 yourself. You know, they didn't issue no license them
40 days, but, you know, why do you need license when you
41 go hunting on your own land under protection of your
42 people, you know. I'm not trying to give wise or
43 anything, this is just the way it is, you know. That's
44 the difference between being Native person and Indian
45 person and other men that come from some other places.
46 You know, we've been here for thousands and thousands
47 of years, and we kept the land good. You know, it's
48 productive, the water is clear, the air is clear. We
49 didn't dig up any ground for anything, you know.
50

1 And all of the land in the Yukon Flats
2 as far as I know, that's where I grew up, that when I
3 was young, you know, we never say this land belong to
4 somebody, you know. You know, there was, you know,
5 like my father is John Sidemore, he put handpewter
6 (ph), you know, across the river, you know, from the
7 cut they say, you know. And it means he's the
8 caretaker. It doesn't imply that he owns it, but, you
9 know, he's the man that's in charge over there. So he
10 make report to the chief once a year in Fort Yukon.

11
12 And all the land and the animal that's,
13 you know, that's why they have -- they do management.
14 All the different animals got different names. The
15 moose, the caribou, all the beaver, you know, they go
16 by different names according to sex and age, and what
17 they do in the family. And we know all that.

18
19 Because there I think, you know, I
20 can't cover everything, you know, but, you know, we've
21 just got a few more minutes.

22
23 So I know that you guys are going to
24 try your best to convince the top echelon people,
25 subsistence management people that are holding the
26 reigns to keep it open only to the subsistence hunters
27 from the Yukon Flats, you know, not only Arctic
28 Village, but the rest of the people who depend on them.

29
30 Sometime we do trading, and I get some
31 -- now I'm old enough to eat the sheep meat now, you
32 know. I never was old enough and I did a lot of
33 hunting. I made several trips up to Red Sheep Creek.
34 And they call it (in Gwich'in), Red Sheep Creek.

35
36 So every place got a name, and that's
37 all I have to say at this time.

38
39 Thank you very much. I depend on you
40 guys to make recommendation to the State Subsistence --
41 Federal Subsistence Board to keep this land in the
42 hands of the Native people, you know. We're are good
43 at it; we've done it for thousands of years.

44
45 Thank you very much.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions
48 of Paul

49
50 (No comments)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
2 you, Paul. Good to see you, guy.
3
4 I had two that I'm going to call on one
5 more time. James John.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Joel
10 Tritt.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're not
15 here. Okay.
16
17 Council members, how would you like to
18 proceed. Do you want to take a break and continue in
19 the morning.
20
21 MR. GLANZ: I'd as soon take it in the
22 morning myself.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's that?
25
26 MR. BASSICH: Are we going to get
27 through with it tomorrow.
28
29 MR. MATESI: I'd like to wrap this one
30 up.
31
32 MR. GLANZ: I've got a commitment at
33 six.
34
35 MR. MATESI: I'd like to wrap this one
36 up, but I'll defer to the majority opinion of the
37 Council obviously.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's the
40 opinion of the Council. How many want to finish up;
41 raise their hand.
42
43 (Majority raises hand)
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It looks like
46 the majority. Okay.
47
48 The next thing would be -- we took
49 OSM's analysis, and it would be the State. Go ahead,
50 Jennifer.

1 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

3
4 I really appreciate the sequence
5 change, being able to listen to all the public
6 testimony and have the benefit of that before giving
7 the State's position here. It's a real benefit, and
8 then it also puts me in a real tough spot, because you
9 see how important this proposal is to so many people,
10 and what's happening to them locally that's affecting
11 their lives.

12
13 Representing the State, and bound to
14 the wording in ANILCA that states that we can only make
15 this finding under .815(3) if there's a necessary for
16 conservation for healthy populations. And since we
17 don't have a conservation issue here, I'm unable to
18 support -- the State's unable to support this proposal
19 at this time the way that it's written.

20
21 It is a pretty tough spot to be in,
22 having to testify on this right after that, because I
23 hope there's a way that we can address these issues. I
24 just don't see from the State's perspective right now
25 this particular proposal being the vehicle with the
26 parameters that we have to make our decision on from
27 the State.

28
29 *****
30 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
31 *****

32
33 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
34 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

35
36 Wildlife Proposal WP12-76:

37
38 Reclose a portion of Unit 25A sheep
39 hunt to non-federally qualified users.

40
41 Introduction:

42
43 This proposal requests reclosing the
44 Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages to
45 non-federally qualified sheep hunters. The proponent
46 indicates recent non-federally qualified hunters have
47 interfered with traditional subsistence uses and
48 practices of Arctic Village residents. The proponent
49 also indicates if this proposal is adopted, trespass
50 issues will be eliminated and the sheep population will

1 retain more of its full-curl rams which contribute to
2 breeding.

3

4 Red Sheep and Cane creeks drainages
5 were reopened to non-federally qualified hunters by
6 emergency action (WSA 06-03) in July 2006. The Federal
7 Subsistence Board could not justify maintaining the
8 closure based upon their closure policy.

9

10 Impact on Subsistence Users:

11

12 Little or no effects. Harvest history
13 indicates few of any residents harvest sheep from the
14 Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages under state or
15 federal subsistence regulations. If adopted, the
16 Residents of Arctic Village will have sole access to
17 these populations of sheep.

18

19 Opportunity Provided by State:

20

21 State sheep hunting regulations for 25A
22 east of the Middle Fork of the Chandalar River follow:

23

24 Unit 25A - One ram with full curl horn
25 or larger with a harvest ticket between August 10 and
26 September 20. Nonresident hunters must be accompanied
27 by a registered guide. or Three sheep by permit RS595
28 available online or in person in Fairbanks and Kaktovik
29 beginning September 21 for season between October 1 and
30 April 30. The use of aircraft for access to hunt sheep
31 and transport harvested sheep is prohibited in this
32 hunt except into and out of Arctic Village and Kaktovik
33 airports. No motorized access from Dalton Highway.

34

35 Conservation Issues: None

36

37 Enforcement Issues:

38

39 If this proposal is adopted, federal
40 agencies will be responsible for enforcement of this
41 closure.

42

43 Other Comments:

44

45 Section 815(3) of ANILCA authorized a
46 restriction of taking of fish and fish and wildlife for
47 nonsubsistence uses on the public lands (other than
48 national parks and park monuments) unless necessary for
49 the conservation of healthy populations of fish and
50 wildlife, for the reason set forth in section 816, to

1 continue subsistence uses of such populations, or
2 pursuant to other applicable law. The sheep
3 populations in Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages
4 are healthy and can support harvest of both federally
5 qualified and non-federally qualified users. This
6 closure is not necessary for continuation of
7 subsistence users for the residents of Arctic Village.

8

9 Recommendation: Oppose.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Very good,
12 Jennifer. Any questions of the State. Andrew.

13

14 MR. FIRMIN: I have a question then.
15 Under the justification it says that closure is not
16 supported by available biological data. And the data
17 shows that it got worse from the time it closed to the
18 time it was reopened, and I just don't see how that's a
19 true statement.

20

21 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. Can you
22 help me with what page you're on.

23

24 MR. GLANZ: 127.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew, are
27 you reading the State's position or are you reading
28 OSM's?

29

30 MR. FIRMIN: Well, the State's position
31 isn't in the book I don't believe.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it is.

34

35 MS. YUHAS: Page 231.

36

37 MR. FIRMIN: 231. I think I was
38 reading out of OSM's biological data and their
39 justification I guess.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And OSM's
42 data is coming from this book.

43

44 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. I can
45 only speak to the State's position. I can't speak for
46 OSM. And so I would direct Member Firmin to Page 231.
47 The portion I'm referring to is that last paragraph in
48 bold, other comments. That's after consultation with
49 our law department.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
4
5 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I was
6 wondering if the State have any provisions in its
7 review process to take into account for effects of
8 cultural intrusions or cultural -- detrimental cultural
9 effects due to hunting pressure. I obviously see that
10 it's in a Federal review process, but does the State
11 take that into consideration, or did they strictly look
12 at numbers on animals numbers or availability.
13
14 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. The
15 Department has responsibility to manage the fish and
16 wildlife populations, and that's what we're bound to
17 addressing is population.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
20 questions.
21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have one.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.
25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's not really a
27 question; it's just a statement. The Board of Game and
28 Board of Fish can consider those type things and make
29 the decision regardless of the recommendation from the
30 Department. But I think the difference here is I don't
31 think the Federal Subsistence Board can do that. They
32 have to follow the strict -- the law strictly. They
33 can't allocate based on social ramifications like the
34 Board of Game and Board of Fish.
35
36 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, just Fish and Game by
37 our constitution is -- you know, the gain, we call it
38 sustainable gain of species, and it's in our
39 constitution. That's what they're bound by. The State
40 charter, not constitution. You know, shall be managed
41 versus, what do you call it, sustainable gain or
42 however that word comes about.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sustained
45 yield.
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Sustained yield.
48
49 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. Okay. That's what
50 they're laid out under their agenda.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil had
2 that accurate, right, OSM?
3
4 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. I can
5 read it directly if that would help everybody.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes/no is
8 fine.
9
10 MR. ARDIZZONE: Generally I think that
11 is correct.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. What.
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: The State manages for
16 sustained yield subject to -- I can't remember the
17 exact word, but anyway, subject to the preference of
18 beneficial users or words to that effect. In other
19 words, the Board of Fish and the Board of Game gets to
20 decide among the users the allocation. And they can
21 use social reasons for making those decisions, and they
22 do it all the time.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'm going
25 to let the State respond to that. Jennifer.
26
27 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. That's
28 generally correct, except the language speaks to uses
29 rather than users.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uses, yes. I
32 think that's been the difference all along. Yes.
33
34 Okay. Any other questions of the
35 State.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
40 Hearing none, we're moving along to other Federal
41 agencies or InterAgency Staff comments.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay Native,
46 tribal, village. I believe we've heard a lot. And is
47 there anything we missed.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Advisory
2 groups.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Neighboring
7 Councils.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nothing. Any
12 other advisory -- oh. Yes.
13
14 MR. MATESI: I'm not sure where in this
15 procedure, but I wouldn't -- I do have questions for
16 the land manager.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we can
19 go into that in deliberations.
20
21 MR. MATESI: Okay.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
24 Because these are the comments from all the entities
25 right now. Okay.
26
27 Next -- did I miss anything. It would
28 be written comments next.
29
30 MS. MUSHOVIC: ACs is where you left
31 off.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Was
34 there any ACs.
35
36 MS. MUSHOVIC: (Shakes head negatively)
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or SRCs.
39
40 MS. MUSHOVIC: (Shakes head negatively)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
43 Written comments.
44
45 MS. MUSHOVIC: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46
47
48 During the tribal consultation
49 teleconference, Andrew Firmin of the Council of
50 Athabaskan Tribal Governments commented in support of

1 Wildlife Proposal 12-76, noting that it is a very
2 important area for Arctic Village for subsistence uses
3 and other cultural activities, and that it should not
4 have been reopened after the closure, and it's a small
5 area that receives a lot of over-flights. And the
6 population of sheep had not changed since the original
7 closure in 1995.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

12

13 We have heard from public testimony.

14 So we can continue on to a motion.

15

16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
17 Number 76.

18

19 MR. GLANZ: And I second that motion.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

22 Deliberation -- I mean, discussion. Who's first.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: I'll go.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30 I think this is a classic example of
31 what we're going to begin to run up against in the next
32 5 to 10 years all over the State. I think this is
33 something we've been talking about at this RAC for
34 quite a long time, the impacts of non-rural user on
35 rural users, both culturally and also in their use of
36 fish and wildlife.

37

38 And I'm really struggling with this. I
39 really would love to see this passed, because I think
40 it will start to acknowledge that this is a problem
41 that needs to be addressed. We heard a lot of very
42 passionate testimony. And what really bothers me about
43 it is that, and I run into this with the fisheries
44 issues, too, it's not going to pass and it's not going
45 to be given the weight that it needs simply because it
46 doesn't have data supporting it. And I find that
47 really disturbing, and I wish there was a way that we
48 could get around that. And I would really hope that
49 all people that are involved in this process will take
50 that into account, because I think that is a travesty

1 to the people who are living out in the Bush, and I've
2 said it before and I'm going to say it again, people
3 living out in rural areas like these people that have
4 been testifying today are an endangered species. Their
5 livelihood is going away. And we've got to do
6 something about it.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Frank.

9

10 MR. GURTLER: Yes. I'd like to see
11 this passed.

12

13 And the other things is all these
14 trespass cases up there in that valley. I hope they
15 could do something that with this proposal, if there's
16 a way to get it involved with that, to close that. I
17 don't know if they're far enough up in there to do any
18 good, or if they have to go through that land to get to
19 the handing, whether they land on somebody's property
20 or how they go about that, but it seems pretty
21 important for them people up there to be able to have
22 this closed as far as I'm concerned.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
27 discussion. Larry, then Virgil.

28

29 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

30

31 I'm fully in favor of supporting this
32 proposal. Personally I lived forever in Arctic Village
33 so I know what these people are talking about and how
34 they feel about that particular place. I feel with Mr.
35 Firmin there that it shouldn't have been reopened in
36 the first place to non-Federal subsistence users.

37

38 It reminds me of a story. When the
39 government goes to a group of American Indians, they
40 said we'll give you this land as long as the grass will
41 grow in the fields and the streams will flow. And
42 about a year later they come back and say, wait, wait,
43 wait, wait, we made a mistake. We want this back, you
44 know. I think this thing is going along about the same
45 vein but in a slightly different way. They're more
46 sophisticated now, so, like I said, it shouldn't have
47 been reopened in the first place.

48

49 And that's my comments. I'm going to
50 support the proposal.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

4

5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Bill's first.

6

7 MR. GLANZ: Well, this is the third
8 time we've revisited this since I've been on the Board,
9 and not one time have I seen one person vote against
10 this thing here, so I still feel the same way. We've
11 got to keep this going, get it passed.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madame
16 Chair. As Bill said, we've been addressing this issue
17 for a long time. This is basically a social issue. I
18 can -- as far as the big picture of sheep hunting
19 opportunity for people, it's insignificant. If you
20 look at the number of people that hunt, it went --
21 well, in 2009, the latest data that we have in front of
22 us, four people went up there sheep hunting that were
23 not residents of the local areas and they took two
24 sheep. So that is insignificant if you consider all
25 the other places where people can actually go sheep
26 hunting.

27

28 However, I know what the law says. And
29 I know why it was reopened and why the Board has
30 rejected this proposal previously and then why the
31 Board's rejected the proposal to make it a drawing
32 permit and limit the number of people.

33

34 It's basically a social issue. I can
35 -- there's some things that I really can't say right
36 now that I, you know, think about, but one of the
37 things that I think about is that -- and I'm not saying
38 this is the people in Arctic Village, but I see this as
39 a business owner. We don't have the work ethic in
40 young people like we used to have. And I think this is
41 part of the problem here. The young people don't have
42 the ethic to go hunt sheep, because hunting sheep, I've
43 done it a lot, is extremely difficult. And I think
44 that is part of the problem. That's my personal
45 observation.

46

47 But I am going to vote in favor of
48 this.

49

50 But that's a problem we have I think

1 nationwide, the work ethic of the young people. It's
2 not like it was when I was young. And I think that's
3 part of the problem.

4
5 Madame Chair.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. I've
10 calmed down a little bit now, and now I want to do it
11 the right way.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's best.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: I feel there is a
16 conservation concern, and the conservation isn't of the
17 wildlife population, but it's of a social nature. And
18 I'm not sure if the definition before us would cover
19 that, but in my mind it does. There is a conservation
20 issue here, and that is the social way the people are
21 living, the practices of a Native culture in a very
22 remote and fairly isolated region. And they don't have
23 very many other options. So I think it does bear.

24
25 Is it supported by substantial
26 evidence. We had a lot of testimony today that I will
27 refer back to to support that.

28
29 Will this recommendation address
30 subsistence needs. Absolutely. That's what this issue
31 is all about, subsistence needs in an isolated area of
32 the state with very little options to work from if they
33 don't have these resources to meet their cultural needs
34 as well as sustenance needs.

35
36 And will this recommendation
37 unnecessarily restrict others. I don't think it does.
38 As it states in here, the amount of harvest that's
39 being done by those right now in the region is fairly
40 small, and there are a lot of other places in the state
41 that sheep hunters can fly into, walk into, or take
42 horses into. And there's plenty of guiding
43 opportunities around the state for other areas where
44 the impact is much less or there is no impact on local
45 people.

46
47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other Council
50 members, would you -- Andrew.

1 MR. FIRMIN: Would other Council member
2 entertain the idea of modifying this to close it to
3 commercial guiding as opposed to -- that would cut at
4 least the commercial guide people out of there. Would
5 that be a bit of a little leeway there.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If I may, I
8 would like add to this from our other discussion. I
9 think it came about that the problem would be more from
10 air taxis than it would be from guiding, because
11 there's isn't guiding going on there now. So it's.....

12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: They've got -- standing
14 there asking if a guide has a permit to take people
15 anyway.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We were told
18 that they weren't. There's no guiding in there and --
19 yeah.....

20
21 MR. WILLIAMS: There's no guides.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We were told
24 this originally I think somewhere along the line, I
25 can't remember where.

26
27 MR. MATESI: The -- Madame Chair.
28 Yeah. The Refuge has elected not to award that
29 particular guiding area, and that's been the case for a
30 while. And that's their intent, to continue.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I
33 remembered hearing it. Yeah. And he's shaking his
34 head in agreement. So, thank you for that.

35
36 Did you have any other ideas, Andrew?

37
38 MR. FIRMIN: Continuing to -- I guess
39 not necessarily other than to extend the closure of the
40 use of airplanes from October 1st, to roll that back a
41 month, to September 1st.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you're
44 open to that, I'm sure people would be open to
45 listening.

46
47 MR. FIRMIN: It's already in the books,
48 but it says after October 1st no planes are allowed in
49 and out of the area, except for Arctic Village, in and
50 out of Arctic Village.

1 MR. GLANZ: I can't imagine too many
2 planes being in there after October 1st unless you're
3 on skis, wheel skis.

4
5 MR. FIRMIN: Well, my intent was to
6 roll that date back a month.

7
8 MR. GLANZ: Oh, I misunderstood. Okay.
9 I thought you meant extend it from October 1st.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're in
12 discussion, so I'm open to any discussion here.

13
14 MR. MATESI: Yeah. Either that or we
15 could just stick with closing it, and just.....

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I would
18 kind of lean towards just keeping it as it is. I think
19 it sends a much stronger message that really -- I know
20 it may have a more difficult time with passing, but I
21 think, you know, this issue isn't dead, and it will
22 probably continue to come before us, and I think we can
23 just keep working at it, and -- but I think it sends
24 the proper message to keep it as the proposal is.

25
26 MR. GLANZ: I agree with Andy. I think
27 so. Want the question?

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, before
30 we call for the question, could I say couple of things
31 that I have observed.

32
33 Okay. I didn't number all the people
34 that testified, but I highlighted things that I thought
35 I was hearing. And to the people in Arctic Village, if
36 I've misrepresented you, I apologize. It's just
37 something that came up that I think is valuable.

38
39 I heard twice about community harvest.
40 And then I heard several times about talking to the
41 people in the village. And I think with my history of
42 working with Native people in my area, a lot of times
43 people become very disheartened if they don't feel like
44 their message is being heard. And more work done in
45 the villages with the people to understand the culture
46 more. There's probably been a lot of work been done,
47 but it sounds like there could be some more work done
48 in working with the people. And one person actually
49 suggested that the Refuge people, and someone else, I
50 forget what the other entity was, maybe it was Fish and

1 Game, just work together and talk about this social
2 aspect, and make sure the people feel more comfortable
3 about the whole process of that area.

4

5 And then we -- this is just stuff that
6 I would add comments, that just giving direction to the
7 managers, that somehow or another talk about the -- it
8 comes back to education, like you did about trespass,
9 and that's very important. That's very important to
10 the people is this trespass situation. So I would just
11 add that, you know, as things to direct managers to
12 consider.

13

14 Virgil.

15

16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Joe Smuck that
17 lives in Wasilla decides he wants to go up there and go
18 sheep hunting, so he hires an air taxi operator. The
19 air taxi operator, this guy doesn't know anything about
20 how many Native allotments are there or anything else.
21 He's just looking at a map of the Brooks Range and
22 says, well, that looks like a good place to go sheep
23 hunting. I think I'll go there. Hires someone. The
24 guy drops him off. He doesn't know what land is a
25 Native allotment, what land is not a Native allotment.
26 I'm positive it's probably not marked in any manner
27 whatsoever up there. There's probably someone in the
28 room that can answer that question, whether it's
29 posted, if there's signs that says, this is a Native
30 allotment, or anything like that. The guy just goes up
31 there, gets dropped off, and he goes sheep hunting is
32 what he does. You can't blame him from trespassing,
33 because the air taxi operator dropped him off. More
34 than likely it's not marked, and he has no idea.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR:he's on private
39 property.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil. The
42 motion before us is to adopt this proposal. Okay. And
43 I just said that I heard today that this is something
44 that managers can talk about and ways to deal with it.
45 I'm not suggesting that -- where your discussion is
46 going.

47

48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So what I'm
49 getting ready to point out is the Refuge has the
50 resources, they're the people that are the land manager

1 up there. They have the resources to post it if they
2 feel like it. And that would help some, these type of
3 things need to be thought out, and things done so maybe
4 it will be -- whatever happens is more palatable --
5 palatable to the people in case the Board does not pass
6 this proposal. That's why I brought that up. There's
7 things that could be done that might make it so that
8 people.....

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
11 why I brought my stuff up.

12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Because people probably
14 are trespassing, don't even know they're doing it.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

17
18 MR. FIRMIN: It's the hunter's
19 responsibility to know where he's at and what he's
20 doing and whose land he's walking on. Ignorance isn't
21 an excuse.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's true.
24 Would you like to introduce yourself for us.

25
26 MS. KE'IT: Madame Chair. Thank you.
27 My name is Kristen Holsinger Ke'it. I work for the
28 Bureau of Indian Affairs. I'm the deputy regional
29 director for Native services. I work in the Anchorage
30 office.

31
32 I am not directly responsible for
33 Native allotments, but I have some experience with
34 them, and it wouldn't necessarily be the responsibility
35 of the land manager, Fish and Wildlife Service, to post
36 those types of notices, but it would be the
37 responsibility of whichever tribal service provider is
38 doing real estate services for those landowners. So I
39 have a notice into our office, and I can provide that
40 information if there's someone that I can relay it to
41 that could then pass it on to Arctic Village or, you
42 know, we'll work through our channels to bring that
43 information forward. But oftentimes it is a resource
44 issue for the real estate service provider or the
45 landowner themselves of trying to post notices.

46
47 And also there can be, just on another
48 side note related to that, a cultural issue of people
49 may not necessarily want notices on their property.
50 We've had instances in the past where a Native

1 allotment has been marked as no trespassing, and that
2 actually made the situation worse, where there was more
3 dumping and there was more garbage left behind, and
4 there was actually quite a bit of vandalism to personal
5 property. So it's kind of six of one, half a dozen
6 issue.

7

8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I'd like
13 to call the question. I think we've debated this.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are we ready.

16

17 MR. GLANZ: Yes. Yes.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
20 has been called for. All in favor of this proposal.

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone

25 opposed.

26

27 (No opposing votes)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Add the word adamantly to
32 that.

33

34 REPORTER: Okay.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

37

38 MR. GLANZ: I have one question to ask
39 the lady that just was there. When the land is deemed
40 to a Native allotment, is it true the State has that
41 land then? That goes to State control or does.....

42

43 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE:

44

45 MR. GLANZ: That's what it is. Okay.
46 That's what I thought, yes.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

49

50 MR. GLANZ: So the State would be maybe

1 helping the Native.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
4 regulations for that is what you're asking.

5

6 MR. GLANZ: Yes. When the land is
7 approved as a Native allotment, like at Central we just
8 had 80 acres awarded to one man there. So who
9 administers that land and can force laws on that.

10

11 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You mean as
14 far as hunting regulations, right? You're just asking
15 about hunting regulations.

16

17 MR. GLANZ: Yes. Yes, hunting. Yes.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hunting and
20 fishing regulations.

21

22 MR. MATESI: Madame Chair. I can
23 answer that. It's the Federal government. It's still
24 Federal land. It's Federal land, the deed is held by
25 the Federal government in trust for the allottee. It's
26 not private land.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We need a
29 clarification. She's.....

30

31 MR. FIRMIN: It's private property.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're on.

34

35 MR. GLANZ: I thought it would belong
36 to the State according to what it says in this book
37 that I was reading.

38

39 MS. KE'IT: Right. Unfortunately it is
40 not trust land. In the legal, lawyer, bureaucratic
41 language, it's restricted private land, so it is
42 treated as private land, and it's under State
43 regulation.

44

45 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, that's my concern.
46 If there's crime committed, the State would come
47 investigate it and not the BLM we'll say.

48

49 MS. KE'IT: Right. And it's also on
50 the authority representing the landowner, so it may be

1 Bureau of Indian Affairs, it may be a tribal service
2 provider. Perhaps Arctic Village has their own realty
3 office.

4

5 MR. GLANZ: Well, my concern is last
6 meeting it was thought about making some river in the
7 Black River with this wilderness designation. And I
8 went and did my research and it says that if it's State
9 land at all, it can't be touched by our group here.
10 So, okay, that's what I thought was right.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: What time are we starting
13 in the morning, Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 8:30. Okay.
16 8:30 in the morning.

17

18 (Off record)

19

20 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

