

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8
9 Wedgewood Resort
10 Fairbanks, Alaska
11 November 19, 2013
12 9:00 a.m.

13
14
15
16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

17
18 Sue Entsminger, Chair
19 Lester Erhart
20 Andrew Firmin
21 William Glanz
22 James Roberts - (Telephonic)
23 Virgil Umphenour
24 Donald Woodruff
25
26 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 11/19/2013)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning.
Can we check in with who we have on line? Do we have anyone?

REPORTER: She just did. Trent's on line.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So just Trent on line? So what's happening is there's five of us present here, and we need one more for a quorum. And we were promised that James was going to call in from Tanana, and Lester's probably here.

MS. PATTON: He is here. He checked in last night.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we cannot continue until we have a quorum.

(Off record)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just had a short discussion with those of us who are present, and we thought we'd just look at that 14-minute video, so if Lester wants to see it, we can show it to him later.

(Off record)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:we can get started.

MS. PATTON: Great.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
Anyone else on line.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We are calling this meeting to order. Why don't you do the roll

1 call, Andrew? And I think it's on Page 4.
2
3 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. On the roll call. Sue
4 Entsminger.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.
7
8 MR. FIRMIN: Andrew Firmin. Here.
9
10 MR. FIRMIN: Larry Williams, not here.
11 He's excused.
12
13 Lester Erhart is in route.
14
15 Bill Glanz.
16
17 MR. GLANZ: Here.
18
19 MR. FIRMIN: Andrew Bassich is excused.
20
21 James Roberts.
22
23 MR. ROBERTS: Present.
24
25 MR. FIRMIN: And he is. William Koehler
26 is excused.
27
28 Donald Woodruff.
29
30 MR. WOODRUFF: Here.
31
32 MR. FIRMIN: Virgil Umphenour.
33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.
35
36 MR. FIRMIN: That's 6 out of 10. That is
37 our quorum.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We've got our
40 quorum. Okay. So calling the meeting to order.
41
42 The first thing we're going to do is show
43 a video that I was given honoring Katie John. It was
44 played at her funeral potlatch. And Eva has the ability
45 to make it happen. And I guess I need to move, right?
46
47 MS. PATTON: Yes. Sorry.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No problem.
50

1 MS. PATTON: The screen is going to be a
2 little challenging for those on the back (Indiscernible -
3 away from microphones)

4
5 (Video played)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
8 going to ask you all to stand for an invocation. Katie
9 was very special to me. I spent a lot of time around
10 here and went to church with her there in the village.

11
12 Father God, we lift up this meeting to
13 you in honor of Katie. I pray that we will make good
14 decisions and look at our own selves and really try to
15 look at other people and be more open to all cultures and
16 respect each other as we go through this meeting. In thy
17 Holy Name we pray, Amen.

18
19 Welcome, everyone. Let's see. We have
20 introductions. Can we just go around the room, if that
21 works, starting with Pippa.

22
23 MS. KENNER: Hi. My name is Pippa
24 Kenner, and I'm from Anchorage, and I work for the Office
25 of Subsistence Management.

26
27 MR. BUE: Good morning. My name is Fred
28 Bue with (indiscernible) Service (indiscernible)
29 information (indiscernible).

30
31 MR. LORD: Hello. Victor Lord, Nenana
32 Native Tribe.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Behind you.

35
36 MR. GLASPELL: Good morning. I'm Brian
37 Glaspell. I'm the manager at Arctic National Wildlife
38 Refuge.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: I'm Vince Mathews,
41 subsistence coordinator for Yukon Flats, Kanuti, and
42 Arctic.

43
44 MR. HAWKALUK: Good morning. Nathan
45 Hawkaluk, deputy manager at Yukon Flats Refuge.

46
47 MR. MEARS: Good morning, Jerry Means,
48 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Subsistence Fisheries.

49
50 MR. MCKENNA: Good morning. Brian

1 McKenna, Tanana Chiefs Conference, fisheries coordinator.
2
3 DR. JENKINS: Good morning. David
4 Jenkins. I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management.
5
6 MR. McKEE: Chris McKee. I'm the
7 wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence
8 Management.
9
10 MR. HOWARD: Good morning. I'm Frank
11 Howard. I'm a private citizen.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jen.
14
15 MS. YUHAS: Jennifer Yuhas with the
16 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the State's
17 Federal Subsistence Liaison Team leader.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
20
21 MS. OKADA: Good morning, Marcy Okada,
22 Yukon-Charlie National -- Yukon-Charley Rivers National
23 Preserve, subsistence coordinator.
24
25 MS. CELLARIUS: I'm Barbara Cellarius.
26 I'm the subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias
27 National Park and Preserve.
28
29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (indiscernible)
30 Dallas (ph) Jr., (indiscernible) Native Village.
31
32 MR. BURR: I'm John Burr, Alaska Fish and
33 Game, Sport Fisheries (indiscernible).
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. So
36 let's go around the table, starting with Donald and
37 introduce ourselves.
38
39 MR. WOODRUFF: Hello. Thank you for
40 coming. I'm Don Woodruff from Eagle.
41
42 MR. GLANZ: I'm Bill Glanz. I'm from
43 Central, Alaska.
44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm Virgil Umphenour from
46 North Pole.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Sue
49 Entsminger from Mentasta Pass.
50

1 MS. PATTON: Eva Patton, Council
2 coordinator, OSM.
3
4 MR. FIRMIN: And I'm Andrew Firmin, Fort
5 Yukon.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We do
8 have James Roberts on line. I already forgot James.
9 James, are you still there?
10
11 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah. James Roberts, still
12 in Tanana as we speak.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Welcome. Okay.
15 The next thing on the agenda is the review and adopt
16 agenda. I've had some requests to -- there's been a
17 funeral potlatch in Fairbanks for an elder from Fort
18 Yukon, and they asked me about 48 and 51 being taken up
19 tomorrow. The potlatch is here in Fairbanks today. I
20 think the funeral's at 10 and then a potlatch starts --
21 I mean 12, and then it starts after. So, Council, any
22 feelings on that Part of the agenda, and then from there
23 we'll go into any other additions or deletions to the
24 agenda. What's your feelings. Donald.
25
26 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Chairman. I'm
27 in agreement with this agenda change. I think its
28 beneficial. Thank you.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we'll
31 to through the agenda as is, and if we get to 48, we'll
32 hold it over until -- 48 and 51 until tomorrow morning.
33 Okay.
34
35 All right. I think there was people in
36 the audience that wanted to know that. I hope they
37 heard.
38
39 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, if I may. We
40 have some presentations prior to several of the proposals
41 to you, so at the request of the Council to have the
42 latest information, so there's a few sections.....
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's four.
45
46 MS. PATTON: Yeah. So we'll, for the
47 Council and the public for a brief presentation prior to
48 some of the wildlife proposals.
49
50 Thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And I'd
2 like Staff to be on the alert, that if there is
3 information that isn't coming before us at the proposal
4 time, at least talk to me, and we'll make sure that we
5 can get more reports ahead of that that might not come
6 until later. I know the reason the agenda's set up like
7 this a long time ago, all the reports took all the time,
8 and then these proposals. There wasn't enough time to go
9 through them, and so the proposals were put first, just
10 so everybody know, we want to be sure we have
11 information. Okay.

12
13 Anything else, you guys. Do you have
14 anything you want to change on the agenda or add.

15
16 MR. UMPENHOUR: I have nothing.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So then I need
19 a motion.

20
21 MS. PATTON: And Madame Chair, if I may,
22 We had discussed before to try to accommodate, we do have
23 Andy Bassich calling in for a portion of the meeting, and
24 interest for some of the other Council members that may
25 be able to call in for a bit, to have all of the
26 fisheries updates combined tomorrow morning, if that
27 works for the Council.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

30
31 MR. GLANZ: Make a motion to adopt the
32 agenda.

33
34 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Passes.
41 Okay. The minutes. Has everyone read the minutes, and
42 are there any changes. Virgil.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Where it says
45 tribal organizations on Page 6, it says Gerald Nicholas,
46 it's Gerald Nicholi. And then on Page 7, it says, he
47 noted the conditions, right under my name, the second
48 line, he noted the community of, it says Tesla. It's
49 Teslin. And then down the next to the bottom line, it
50 says studying the stomach contents of salmon; it's

1 studying the stomach contents of gulls.
2
3 Other than that, I see no other
4 corrections that need to be made in the minutes. Madame
5 Chair.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
8 have any corrections.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 MR. GLANZ: I make a motion to adopt the
13 minutes.
14
15 MR. WOODRUFF: VOICE: Second.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
18 With.....
19
20 MR. GLANZ: With the changes.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
23 motion is with the changes brought forth with -- from
24 Virgil. And that would call for a vote.
25
26 All in favor.
27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Just for
31 the audience out there, those two proposals will be
32 tomorrow morning. They have been deferred. Okay.
33
34 All right. Next is reports. Council
35 members, do you have reports. Andrew, do you want to
36 start.
37
38 MR. FIRMIN: I don't have much of a
39 report, other than winter's been mild so far. Summer
40 was, excuse me, fairly productive, but for the most part
41 it's just wait and see what the weather does next I
42 suppose. Been a little bit strange this year for no snow,
43 and now we've finally got snow and it's starting to get
44 cold, so hopefully we'll see what happens next.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil.
47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't have anything to
49 report.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: About the only thing I have
4 to report is caribou problems we're having around our
5 area there with the over-harvest and so forth. And our
6 ACs wants to make a motion to the harvest board that we
7 only have the season open for the first day, then shut it
8 down, wait about a week until all the reports are in, and
9 then reopen it again, even if it has to only be for two
10 days. We had over 1200 harvest, so it's only a mere 600
11 more than we were allowing every year.

12

13 So that's about the only thing I have
14 concerns right now with.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

19

20 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame
21 Chairman. I have just a small comment about my report,
22 and that's about the Chinook. And I think that we can
23 work together to overcome this Chinook salmon decline,
24 and I think if we work as a cohesive unit, as all people,
25 that we can overcome this sort of disaster or crisis as
26 Fred called it.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning,
31 Lester.

32

33 MR. ERHART: Good morning.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good to see
36 you. Would you have anything to report from your part of
37 the world?

38

39 MR. ERHART: No, not right off hand.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But breakfast
42 was here and you're here.

43

44 MR. ERHART: Right.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. As
47 far as.....

48

49 MR. ERHART: I was lost. I couldn't find my way
50 over here.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's just too
2 big here.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I attend
7 a bunch of meetings throughout the year, and the SRC has
8 met before this meeting, so a lot of that stuff will come
9 up at the meeting that we took up. We took up a lot of
10 proposals, some that are in here and some that aren't,
11 because it takes in Unit 11 also.

12
13 Okay. Let's continue on. If I think of
14 things that I forgot about, I'll let you know.

15
16 So annual report reply from the Federal
17 Subsistence Board on Page 24. I guess that's for our
18 information. That was to our annual report, right.
19 Something we do every year. We show our concerns and
20 then they write back to us with a response. And that's
21 on Page 24 through -- you guys probably had gotten it in
22 the mail already, but it's also in the book.

23
24 So any questions about that, Council
25 members. Did you read anything you liked?

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry. Yeah,
32 lots of battles. Okay. No discussion on this.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving
37 rapidly along, is there any public or tribal comments on
38 non-agenda items. We give this opportunity every time.
39 Non-agenda items.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Old business.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I didn't see
49 any, so I'm moving on. Customary and traditional use
50 determinations.

1 David, I guess you have a report for is.
2
3 Yeah. As he's coming up, Eva's going to
4 check in on line to see who's there.
5
6 MS. PATTON: Hi. Greetings, everyone on
7 line. We just want to check in and see who is with us
8 here, and if there is any public that would like to
9 comment on any items that are not on the agenda at this
10 time, or to highlight things that you would like to
11 participate in.
12
13 Can we hear who's on line, please.
14
15 MS. MONCRIEFF: Catherine Moncrieff is.
16
17 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Catherine.
18
19 MR. SHARP: I'm Dan Sharp with Bureau of
20 Land Management in Anchorage. Good morning, Eva.
21
22 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Dan.
23
24 MR. NEWLAND: Eric Newland with the
25 Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage is on line.
26 I'll be listening in for the opening comments and then
27 probably -- I'll be there tomorrow morning for the
28 fisheries portion.
29
30 MS. PATTON: Great. And, I'm sorry,
31 again -- your name again?
32
33 MR. NEWLAND: Eric Newland with the
34 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the Yukon area
35 summer season manager.
36
37 MS. PATTON: Great. Thank you.
38
39 Anyone else.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 MS. PATTON: We had Paula Angles, Trent
44 and James Roberts before.
45
46 James, are you still there?
47
48 MR. ROBERTS: Yes, I'm still here.
49
50 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thanks, James, and

1 we'll probably keep checking back in with you to make
2 sure that you can hear okay and for action items.

3

4 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Thank you, Eva.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Anyone else on line.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. PATTON: And just I'd like to remind
11 the public, we have a sign-in sheet in the back. If you
12 could please sign in, and if you would like to provide
13 comment or testimony, there are cards to fill out, too,
14 and that helps alert the Council and the Chair if there's
15 items that you would like to speak to.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 DR. JENKINS: Good morning, Madame Chair,
20 Council members.

21

22 If you recall at your last meeting, we
23 talked about giving you a fuller briefing on customary
24 and traditional use determinations and the process
25 involved in that. And that starts on Page 31 of your
26 Council books.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hang on a
29 second. It sounds like we don't have.....

30

31 DR. JENKINS: Can they hear me?

32

33 MS. PATTON: It's not picking up.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Kiss it.

36

37 DR. JENKINS: Good morning, Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Something's
40 unplugged.

41

42 (Pause - working on microphone)

43

44 DR. JENKINS: Good morning. At your last
45 Council meeting you'll recall that we spoke about
46 providing a more thorough briefing on customary and
47 traditional use determinations and the process that was
48 adopted from the State. And that begins on Page 31. I'm
49 going to go through this fairly carefully. All of the
50 Councils are getting a similar briefing, and we're asking

1 for your response, and the Southeast Council's asking
2 for your response. And more importantly, the Federal
3 Subsistence Board would like your recommendations on the
4 current customary and traditional use determination
5 process.

6
7 The Board last asked the Councils a
8 similar question in 2011 as directed by the Secretary of
9 the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. And all
10 of the Councils, with the exception of the Southeast
11 Council at that time, indicated that the existing
12 customary and traditional use determination was working.
13 At the request of the Southeast Council, this additional
14 review is being conducted for your input.

15
16 So our focus is not on how customary and
17 traditional use determinations are made, but on why they
18 are made. And the Southeast Council would like you to
19 recommend as a Council to eliminate or amend or to make
20 no changes to the current customary and traditional use
21 determination process.

22
23 ANILCA does not require customary and
24 traditional use determinations. Customary and
25 traditional use regulations were adopted from the State
26 when the Federal Subsistence Program was established in
27 1990. In the 1992 record of decision, the Federal
28 Subsistence Board considered four customary and
29 traditional use options and recommended to the
30 Secretaries that the State customary and traditional use
31 determinations continue to be used.

32
33 The State's eight criteria for
34 determining customary and traditional use were
35 subsequently slightly modified for use in Federal
36 regulations. Now, since the establishment of the Federal
37 Subsistence Management Program, the Board has made some
38 300 customary and traditional use determinations.

39
40 In other words, there are two thresholds
41 that rural users have to cross. The first is a rural
42 determination. You need to be in a rural -- you need to
43 live in a rural area to get the Federal subsistence
44 priority. The second -- so that's a statutory hurdle.
45 And the second is a regulatory hurdle, and that's
46 customary and traditional use determination hurdle. And
47 that is in statute, and that was adopted from the State
48 initially in 1990 with some very minor modifications.

49
50 So the Board initially adopted the

1 State's C&T criteria, renamed them factors, because it
2 anticipated the resumption of State management of
3 subsistence on Federal public lands, and intend -- and it
4 was intending to minimize the disruption to traditional
5 State regulation and management of fish and wildlife. As
6 we know, the State has not resumed subsistence management
7 on Federal public lands, and it appears the Federal
8 Subsistence Program will be permanent.

9
10 I need to emphasize that the Board does
11 not use customary and traditional use determinations to
12 restrict amounts of harvest. The Board makes C&T use
13 determinations relative to particular fish stocks and
14 wildlife population in order to recognize a community or
15 area whose residents generally exhibit eight factors of
16 customary and traditional use.

17
18 The Southeast Council is concerned that
19 the effect is to exclude Federally-qualified rural
20 residents who do not generally exhibit these eight
21 factors from participating in subsistence harvests in
22 particular areas.

23
24 As you recall, in 2009 Secretary of
25 Interior Ken Salazar announced a review of the Federal
26 Subsistence Program, and part of the review focused on
27 customary and traditional use determinations. In 2010
28 the Secretary of the Interior, with the concurrence of
29 the Secretary of Agriculture, asked the Board to review,
30 with RAC input, the C&T determination process, and to
31 prevent -- present any recommendations for regulatory
32 changes.

33
34 All 10 Councils were asked for their
35 perspectives. Nine Councils did not suggest any changes.
36 The Southeast Council, however, suggested one
37 modification, which was included in its annual report.

38
39 And the regulation is on Page 32, at the
40 top of that page, and I'll read it for you.

41
42 The Board shall determine which fish and
43 wildlife have been customarily and traditionally used for
44 subsistence, and these determinations shall identify the
45 specific community's or area's use of all species of fish
46 and wildlife that have been traditionally used in their
47 past and present geographic area.

48
49 In other words, once a customary and
50 traditional use determination is made for an area,

1 residents in that area would have customary and
2 traditional use for all species. There would be no need
3 for customary and traditional use determinations for
4 specific stocks and wildlife populations, or on a
5 species-by-species basis.

6
7 After the Southeast Council proposed this
8 regulatory change in their annual report, they formed a
9 work group to analyze the C&T use determination process.
10 And this work group conducted an extensive review of all
11 Regional Advisory Council transcripts, and determined
12 that the Councils were not adequately briefed on the
13 Secretary's request for Council recommendations on the
14 process. So the Southeast Council drafted a letter and
15 a briefing document which were provided to all the
16 Regional Advisory Councils during the winter meeting
17 cycle. And these are included in your meeting materials
18 in your current book.

19
20 Now, pursuant to the work group findings,
21 the Southeast Council emphasized the following, and I'll
22 read this paragraph from them:

23
24 The current customary and traditional use
25 determination process is being used to allocate resources
26 between rural residents, often in times of abundance.
27 This is an inappropriate method of deciding which
28 residents can harvest fish or wildlife in an area, and
29 may result in unnecessarily restricting subsistence
30 users. The Southeast Council has a history of generally
31 recommending a broad geographic scale when reviewing
32 proposals for customary and traditional use
33 determinations. Subsistence users primarily harvest
34 resources near their community of residence, and there's
35 normally no management reason to restrict use by rural
36 residents from distant communities. If there is a
37 shortage of resources, Section .804 of ANILCA provides
38 direction in the correct method of allocating resources.

39
40 So the Southeast Council does not support
41 retaining the current C&T use determination process and
42 instead suggests Section .804 criteria should be used
43 when needed. And these are:

44
45 There are three of them:

46
47 Customary and direct dependence upon the
48 population as the mainstay of
49 livelihood;

50

1 Local residency;

2

3 And the availability of alternative
4 resources.

5

6 So at this point the Federal Subsistence
7 Board, and also the Southeast Council, would like your
8 recommendations on the current C&T process. And
9 specifically the Southeast Council would like you to
10 consider whether to eliminate C&T use determinations and
11 instead use when necessary ANILCA .804 criteria; or to
12 change the way such determinations are made by making
13 areawide customary and traditional use determination for
14 all species; or to make some other change if this Council
15 has some recommendations; or to make no changes.

16

17 Council input will provide the basis for
18 a briefing to the Federal Subsistence Board in response
19 to the Secretary's directive to review the C&T process,
20 and the Board could then recommend to the Secretaries to
21 eliminate, amend, or make some other change to the
22 current customary and traditional use determination
23 process.

24

25 Madame Chair. That's the end of this
26 briefing, and I can answer any questions you may have.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
29 David.

30

31 Questions. Any questions of David on
32 this request.

33

34 Donald.

35

36 MR. WOODRUFF: I just have a comment,
37 and, you know, we have a couple C&Ts coming up for our
38 district that OSM worked really on, and it's species-by-
39 species in this area. And I have a feeling after reading
40 through this again, that the Southeast Council has some
41 very valid points that they made. And, you know, I would
42 hate to go through 10 or 15 years of going species-by-
43 species. You're going to forget the marmot or the red
44 squirrel. And maybe people don't think those are
45 valuable resources, but, you know, for small children
46 trapping, they're going to get red squirrels all the
47 time, and they can use that for a few bucks and get by.

48

49 And as some people comment, you know,
50 that we don't want to forget the shrews and the mice.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
2 members. There is an action items here, but if you have
3 other questions, I'd like to hear them now. I have one,
4 but I'd like to hear from you guys first.

5
6 Do you have any questions.
7

8
9 (No comments)
10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So quiet this
12 morning.
13

14
15 (No comments)
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are we awake?
18

19 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
22

23 MR. WOODRUFF: David, I have a question
24 about when the Feds are managing a resource or managing
25 access to resource, when there's a sequester or shut
26 down, then how does that affect subsistence folks for
27 access to the resources? For example, on Yukon-Charley,
28 the upper Charley River has some airstrips that aren't
29 being maintained by the Park Service, because of
30 sequester funding or whatever. And they've shut the
31 airstrips down, so those -- that that access for the
32 resource is null and void, unless you just want to go in
33 there and trespass.

34
35 Thank you.
36

37 DR. JENKINS: My understanding is that
38 the access issues are relative to the landholding agency,
39 so National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
40 would make those particular decisions and not the Federal
41 Subsistence Board. It does have implications for
42 subsistence as you point out, but it's not clear to me
43 that the Board has authority to alter those land
44 management decisions.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
47 questions.
48

49 (No comments)
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm kind of --
2 after going through this at the SRC meeting, and just you
3 reading it to me, and making my brain absorb it better,
4 I know that the years I've been in this process, it is --
5 this species-by-species has been cumbersome, and just
6 having areawide C&T makes a lot of sense. And I think
7 this Council before me, I remember hearing that they
8 argued for that a long time ago, and it never happened.

9
10 I'm curious, with your information, you
11 know on this, if this was -- if they just eliminated the
12 C&T's, because the first, number 1, is eliminate
13 customary and traditional use and instead when necessary
14 do the .804's, do you foresee that being a lot of .804's?

15
16 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, if I may.
17 Just to remind the folks on line, if you can mute your
18 phones. Push star 6 and that will mute your phones. If
19 you wish to speak up again, you can just push star 6 and
20 that will unmute. But that helps everyone to not have
21 the background noise.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 DR. JENKINS: Madame Chair. Your
26 question is one that has been asked at all the Councils
27 that I've attended. And it's a practical question, what
28 happens if you eliminate C&T and you have to go into the
29 .804 process. In times of resource shortage, that would
30 be the process that we would have to go through, and the
31 question is how many of those, and what would be the
32 effect. We haven't worked that out entirely. We don't
33 know. Part of the briefing that we're going to give to
34 the Federal Subsistence Board I think will address that
35 issue after we gather all the comments from all of the
36 Regional Advisory Councils. But at this point we haven't
37 made any projections about what that would entail, what
38 that would result in.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: In just
41 watching how things have evolved since the Federal Board
42 has taken out, I would be afraid of that one I think a
43 bit, because the whole thing would turn into .804's. And
44 I wouldn't -- me, personally, I wouldn't be in favor of
45 that. I think it's really going to divide people big
46 time, because some communities will be out that think
47 they should be in, more so than where we're at today.

48
49 But as far as comments here, I'd like to
50 ask you guys. That species-by-species, that changed the

1 way determinations are made by making areawide customary
2 and traditional use determinations for all species. I
3 want you to be thinking about that as I ask this next
4 question.

5
6 What process would we go through for
7 that? The same eight-point criteria? Because they're
8 asking -- Southeast is asking to get rid of that.

9
10 DR. JENKINS: My understanding from the
11 Southeast Council is that if there is going to be a
12 customary and traditional regulatory hurdle in addition
13 to the rural hurdle for subsistence priority, that it
14 should be granted for all species that subsistence users
15 use in a region. So it wouldn't be moose.....

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's still the
18 same eight-point criteria?

19
20 DR. JENKINS: Well, it would still be
21 that, but it would be across all of the species.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. That's
24 what I was wondering. It would still -- the eight-point
25 criteria would still exist.

26
27 DR. JENKINS: That's my understanding how
28 the Southeast Council has framed this issue, yes.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. What's
31 your feeling about that, you guys? Because here's what
32 happens in a lot of these areas: because in 1990 when
33 the Federal Board took all these C&T's over, there's a
34 lot of places where it's all rural residents, because
35 they haven't done a C&T there yet. And then there's
36 places where people have a C&T for one animal and not
37 another. And it just -- if you're out there hunting, if
38 you're a subsistence user and you're out there hunting,
39 you know, black bear, and you see a sheep or see a moose
40 or whatever, why -- and there's a season, and you can't
41 shoot it. You can shoot one animal, but you can't shoot
42 the other. And then you see the animal out there. It
43 just doesn't make sense to me. And actually I can see it
44 taking a lot less time of people, of Staff, doing
45 individual C&T's.

46
47 MR. ROBERTS: Madame Chair. This is
48 James in Tanana, and I had a question that I wanted to
49 ask.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, James.
2 You be sure and speak up. Go ahead.
3
4 MR. ROBERTS: What species of animals in
5 the Eastern Interior will fall under .804? Would Chinook
6 salmon fall under this also?
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm certain of
9 it, yes.
10
11 MR. ROBERTS: I mean, then why aren't we
12 sort of working this out?
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can you --
15 David.
16
17 DR. JENKINS: Yes, Chinook salmon would
18 fall under an .804 criteria, and that would be a
19 particularly difficult one to sort out. In times of
20 shortage, how do you begin to apportion the amount of
21 fish that are available across all of the communities.
22 In your instance I would think (indiscernible).....
23
24 MR. ROBERTS: And another question, is
25 there any other species besides the Chinook salmon that
26 are falling into this category?
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. As far as
29 fish or game also?
30
31 MR. ROBERTS: Anything.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, there is,
34 but go ahead, David.
35
36 DR. JENKINS: Yeah. The .804 criteria
37 are intended to go into effect when there are shortages,
38 when there have been closures to, you know, other non-
39 Federally-qualified users. And the question is, how to
40 apportion the remaining resources on Federal public lands
41 among Federally-qualified users. So sport hunters would
42 have been eliminated. Any commercial activity would have
43 been eliminated. And in times of shortage then, these
44 .804 criteria apply to Federally-qualified rural
45 residents, Federal public lands, and the question is how
46 to apportion limited resources. And the three criteria
47 that I read to you earlier is the mechanism that we use.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. But I
50 think what he's asking, what is -- what are they? Can

1 you give us the ones in our region? I know that Chisana
2 caribou is on an .804. Are there any other ones in our
3 region that are .804? It's taxing my brain.
4
5 Pippa, she might have an answer to this.
6
7 DR. JENKINS: Okay. Go ahead.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Species in our
10 region that are on .804, what were.....
11
12 DR. JENKINS: Pippa's going to check and
13 see which in your area are .804.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And, James, I
16 think that's what you were getting, at right?
17
18 MR. ROBERTS: Right. Right. You know,
19 or -- in other words you're talking (indiscernible).....
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What species
22 are on .804 now.
23
24 MR. ROBERTS:by species.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead. I'm
27 sorry, I talked over you.
28
29 MR. ROBERTS: Well, we're talking about
30 species-by-species, but it sounds like it's only one or
31 two right now.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. And the
34 .804 would still exist if it was -- this is my
35 understanding. .804 would still -- could come into play
36 at any time of these shortages, even if we had -- someone
37 had C&T's by region?
38
39 DR. JENKINS: Exactly.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Okay.
42
43 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. What about if you've
44 got State regulations, State Boards, you're on State
45 land, and the State gives you absolute total rights to
46 everything on that property.
47
48 Where do the Feds stand on this.
49
50 MR. KESSLER: Our charge is to manage

1 subsistence on Federal public lands, and the State has
2 its own authorities on its own lands.

3

4 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. So if there's a
5 species in shortage though, and the State is letting
6 somebody hunt and hunt and hunt, and the people on the
7 Federal are restricted, then what do we do?

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm not sure I
10 understand your question.

11

12 DR. JENKINS: Maybe I can.....

13

14 MR. ROBERTS: Well, the State gives you
15 rights to all the, you know, game, if you're on State
16 land, but if the Feds are trying to save land, and
17 somebody over on State land is wiping out the resources,
18 then what do we do? I think the Feds got to trump the
19 State somehow and stand up to them and say, okay, we're
20 the boss. This is our land and this is what we're going
21 to do.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The State
24 manages State land and the Feds manage Federal land, and
25 what's going on on State, you have to work with this
26 Board of Game, and what's going on on Federal, you have
27 to work through the Federal Subsistence Board. And this
28 is the rules we're under right now.

29

30 And help me out, Staff, am I correct?

31

32 DR. JENKINS: That's right. And we do
33 try to coordinate fish and wildlife management with the
34 State. It's not like we're antagonistic. We really try
35 to work hard to maintain the species for all users.

36

37 Right now we're talking about customary
38 and traditional use and .804 criteria, and whether or not
39 this Council would like to maintain the current .804 --
40 customary and traditional use criteria, or amend them or
41 make -- take some other action in response to the
42 Secretary's directive, the Federal Subsistence Board's
43 request, and the Southeast Council's request.

44

45 So I'd like to keep us, if we can focused
46 on that issue.

47

48 Madame Chair.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. I

1 think I'm the one that needs more sleep.
2
3 Yes, we need to stick with what we're
4 discussing right now is, do we want to make changes to
5 C&T process. And his report.....
6
7 MR. ROBERTS: Madame Chairman. This
8 James again.
9
10 And I'm in favor of the process the way
11 it is right now. That's just where I stand.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're in
14 favor of going species-by-species instead of making.....
15
16 MR. ROBERTS: No. I'm in favor of when
17 it comes to shortages, we'll just work species-by-species
18 instead of, you know, try to work everything out at once.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
21
22 Council members, how do you want to
23 proceed.
24
25 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, if I may,
26 Andy Bassich is.....
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He set you some
29 comments?
30
31 MS. PATTON:is weathered in, but he
32 did send just before the meeting, sent written comments
33 for the Council's consideration.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we have it?
36
37 MS. PATTON: They are in your blue
38 folder. He provided.....
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can you
41 summarize it?
42
43 MS. PATTON: Sure. So Andy had written
44 in that -- he says, over the past decade he was
45 witnessing a struggle for rural people to compete for the
46 resources with increased non-rural users and displacement
47 of more distant rural users. It was well documented that
48 most subsistence harvest takes place within 25 miles of
49 the user's home, and that most rural users don't have
50 economic means to travel long distance, high fuel costs

1 and commodities. He goes on to say, what is happening in
2 many places is that rural communities located near to
3 non-rural centers are out-competed or overrun by lots of
4 folks coming in from the outside. This -- or non-rural
5 users. This is having the effect of then pushing those
6 rural users to go further afield to harvest. Increased
7 pressure is having an effect on wildlife population he
8 feels, and inability to maintain them as primary use by
9 local Federally-qualified users. He feels that should be
10 a priority for determining use in terms of in times of
11 low abundance.

12

13 Bottom line is population in non-rural
14 areas is increasing, and the rural users are feeling
15 pressures of that. And wildlife populations are under
16 more pressure from increased harvest, hunting and
17 fishing. And he feels for these reasons that the current
18 system of C&T is good and should not be liberalized by
19 including all species when a determination is given.

20

21 He goes on to say, I feel the process is
22 in place to give the greatest protection to the people
23 most dependant to the resource, and I feel streamlining
24 the granting of all species will not serve those people
25 well far into the future. It will only create a greater
26 pressure on the resources of which they completely depend
27 on.

28

29 His final statement is he feels it will
30 in the future create greater conflict over the resources.

31

32 He has a suggested motion on the back
33 page.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You have that
38 in your packet, guys. He has a suggested motion for
39 this.

40

41 I just would like to hear a little tiny
42 bit more discussion on this number 2 on Page 32 at the
43 bottom, change the way use determinations are made by
44 making areawide customary and traditional use for all
45 species, not species-by-species.

46

47 Having thought about this long and hard,
48 that is the one thing I personally would favor. If I
49 favored anything, that's the one thing I would favor.

50

1 Anyone have any other feelings.
2
3 MR. GLANZ: I myself, Madame Chair, feel
4 if it isn't broke, why are we going to try to fix it? I
5 mean, I agree also with you on us having to a CT for
6 every little animal. It's kind of ridiculous also. But
7 this is harder than Chinese arithmetic sometimes. I
8 mean.....
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I always
11 said I'm a KISS principle person, keep it simple, silly.
12
13
14 MR. GLANZ: Yep.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I think
17 C&T's by species is not keeping it very simple. And
18 things fall through the cracks and things don't happen,
19 so that's my discussion.
20
21 And if you guys want to do or not do
22 something about it, this is the time. I know it's
23 confusing. That's the hardest thing in all the things
24 I've ever been involved in in meetings, if there's a
25 change coming in place, people don't have a feel for how
26 that might affect them, and sometimes that makes you not
27 want to do anything, and sometimes you look at it down
28 the road and go, darn, I wish we would have done
29 something when we could have.
30
31 Virgil, did you have something.
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. I've been
34 involved in C&T's for over 20 years, and what Andy brings
35 up is valid. He thinks the way -- basically, if I'm
36 reading him right, he thinks that the way it is is
37 probably the best way to do it, where you do species-by-
38 species. And I can think of cases where things have been
39 all the way to the supreme court of the State, that's on
40 the State side of the house, and remanded back to the
41 Boards. And those have been cases where one species has
42 a positive C&T and another one doesn't. And so I believe
43 Andy's -- what he's saying, the way it is now actually
44 gives the best protection to the people in the rural
45 areas.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, I have
48 a question. Are you confusing.....
49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't think I'm

1 confused. I could be, but.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, here --
4 maybe I am.

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR:instead of doing the
7 whole works, all animals and fish in an area, a big broad
8 area, that it should be more precise and more
9 micromanaged so that don't just encompass a whole area.
10 Like the way I read what Southeast wants, they want to do
11 all of Southeast Alaska, you have a positive C&T for
12 everything basically, and I don't -- you know, you can't
13 manage that way. And they want to leave it up to the
14 .804 thing. But I think we're better off to just leave
15 it the way it is myself.

16

17 Even though it seems a pain to go -- you
18 know, because what we're supposed to do, if you follow
19 the regulations, is we're supposed to make a
20 determination on the fish stock or the wildlife
21 population. That's what we're supposed to do, the use of
22 that, not on the people. And that's hard to separate,
23 and sometimes you can't really. You've to intermingle
24 it, which makes it really confusing.

25

26 But I think we're better off to leave it
27 the way it is myself, and not try to do it for all
28 species in a broad geographic area, because animal
29 populations fluctuate so much, and in some places --
30 well, and fish populations. And in some places you might
31 need protection where other places you don't need
32 protection of the species for biological reasons, and so
33 that's why I don't think we should change it.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But what's
36 happened here is there's a lot of C&T's that aren't done,
37 and we come up with -- at any rate, just it's a long
38 hideous process sometimes.

39

40 But go ahead, Donald.

41

42 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame
43 Chairman.

44

45 If we have to go through the whole
46 process of C&T's for every species -- for example, now
47 that we're foregoing harvest or we're talking about
48 foregoing harvest on Chinooks, that's a big deal for us
49 since we live right on the river. And we don't have a
50 C&T for whitefish, and we're relying more and more on

1 whitefish. And as I understand it, Fish and Game wants
2 to open a commercial season on whitefish. There's an
3 unlimited demand for them on the East Coast. They could
4 take every whitefish on the Yukon, and they don't even
5 have a clue, not even any clue about the population
6 that's in the Yukon. So if they open a commercial
7 harvest on whitefish, the subsistence people that aren't
8 fishing for kings, and that was our food source, we're
9 going to have to do a C&T from here on whitefish. I can
10 just see it in the next little while.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

15

16 MR. UMPHENOUR: I hear your concerns,
17 Don. But we do have a process that will not -- you know,
18 in the past what you're saying has happened could happen,
19 has happened. But the process we have in place right
20 now, that's not going to happen, because even though the
21 commercial fishery in the Lower Yukon has wanted to have
22 this commercial fishery on whitefish, all they've been --
23 they've allowed them to do a little teeny bit of
24 experimentation, but that's about it. That's all they've
25 done. And I don't think -- maybe 20 years ago they could
26 have got by with doing that and hammering the heck out of
27 the whitefish population, but that's not going to happen
28 the way things are operating right now, although it's a
29 valid concern.

30

31 But I understand where you're coming
32 from, because it -- you know, the sheefish bothers me as
33 well. I'm worried about the sheefish population.

34

35 MR. WOODRUFF: It's the same family.

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Because it's the same
38 thing basically. But I see where you're coming from, but
39 I still don't think that's justification to change the
40 whole works.

41

42 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

45

46 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame
47 Chairman.

48

49 And I agree with Virgil. I'm just saying
50 that there isn't a real recognition that whitefish is a

1 subsistence resource, and that's what I'm getting at, is
2 that if not this meeting, the next meeting, I'm going to
3 put a C&T for whitefish and show that that's a critical
4 resource for the people on the Yukon. Those whitefish go
5 to the Yukon Flats, and they go all the way back to the
6 mouth. And it's a documented fact, and Randy Brown's
7 done research with radio transmitters, the whole thing.
8 And if we need him to come and testify, I think that
9 would be a good thing.

10

Thank you.

11

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
14 sticking to the subject here, and that is, do we want to
15 make a change to the system.

16

17

And I think it's rather new for everybody
18 to discuss. I know they brought it up before, and I know
19 I was concerned and I hear you guys' concerns now. If we
20 -- I'd probably be the Lone Ranger here, but I'm
21 interested in hearing by the area, because if you're out
22 there hunting, again, and you have a C&T for black bear,
23 but you don't have a C&T for the moose, and the moose is
24 readily easily to get, it just doesn't -- I mean,
25 there's stuff like that going on in our region where we
26 don't have C&T's for all species in one area, so it's --
27 I can see it being a problem, but sometimes the moose
28 aren't in places you want to get them out. But still
29 it's weird, because one day it might be that you wish you
30 would have had that C&T.

31

32

So, I don't know, that's where I'm coming
33 from, and if you guys don't want to do anything, I need
34 a motion. Unless -- I would like to -- I saw.....

35

36

Yeah, go ahead. If there's any public
37 who would like to speak to this, we could hear that also.

38

39

40

And, David, go ahead.

41

42

DR. JENKINS: Yeah. Madame Chair. Let
43 me remind the Council that the issue here is not one of
44 managing resources. The issue is how to figure out the
45 pool of resource users, and the first statutory threshold
46 is a rural priority. You have to be a rural resident.
47 We're talking about Federal public lands. So that's one
48 threshold you have to cross. And the second one, for the
49 pool of users is the current customary and traditional
50 use determination. So to be part of the pool of users of

1 caribou in a particular area, you have to have C&T for
2 caribou. To be part of the pool of users for sheep in a
3 particular area, you have to have C&T for sheep. And
4 it's not always been the case that you have C&T for, you
5 know, the same.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

8

9 DR. JENKINS: There can be some
10 contradictions involved, which is why we've had 300 C&T
11 use determinations across the State over the last 20
12 years.

13

14 The Southeast Council's question to all
15 the other Councils is, is this what was envisioned in
16 ANILCA? Is this how you think it should continue to
17 work? Has it worked for the last 20 years? Can you
18 imagine it changing in some fashion?

19

20 Remember, we're not talking about how to
21 manage harvests. We're talking about the pool of users
22 in an area and who those folks are.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
25 action.

26

27 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to make a motion
28 that we maintain it as is.

29

30 MR. ERHART: I'll second that.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any more
33 discussion.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question is
40 called for. All in favor say aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm the one
45 that would like to at least thing about things. Okay.
46 All right. So that would be one opposed. And you can
47 say why.

48

49 Okay. Thanks, David.

50

1 Is there anything else on that.
2
3 DR. JENKINS: I could inform the Council
4 a little bit about what the other Councils have done on
5 this, if that's of interest to you.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Maybe
8 you should have told us first.
9
10 But go ahead.
11
12 DR. JENKINS: Well, the Y-K Council voted
13 to move to the .804 criteria and to eliminate C&T. The
14 Southeast Council, of course, is pursuing it's own
15 proposals, although they had some extensive discussion
16 whether or not it should be all species or go to an .804.
17 Southcentral Council adopted a modified version of the
18 regulatory language that's on the top of Page 32 that you
19 have. Kodiak voted to maintain the current process just
20 as this Council did, thinking that it was working
21 perfectly well. North Slope hasn't made a determination;
22 they wanted more information. Western Interior didn't
23 have a Council, so they have not made a determination yet
24 either.
25
26 So these are some -- you know, we have a
27 broad range of opinions here on how to proceed.
28
29 Madame Chair.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
32 you.
33
34 Any other questions.
35
36 MR. GLANZ: I have one for Dave. By
37 reading this, David, we had a proposal there with the
38 caribou harvest in our area there, because it's only the
39 surrounding areas that could hunt the caribou. So by
40 reading that, that's illegal to do apparently? One
41 subsistence user telling somebody from Dillingham they
42 can't come hunt caribou in our neighborhood; that's
43 against the law then apparently?
44
45 DR. JENKINS: And you're going to have an
46 extensive discussion on customary and traditional use
47 determination for one of the proposals, so that will be
48 an issue that you can revisit relative to that proposal
49 later in the wildlife section.
50

1 MR. GLANZ: But by reading the law
2 though, right -- I mean, I don't know, is it even worth
3 wasting our time talking about it if it's illegal?
4
5 DR. JENKINS: Well, which portion do you
6 mean is illegal, Bill?
7
8 MR. GLANZ: That's okay.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Turn your mic
11 on.
12
13 MR. GLANZ: To restrict use by rural --
14 if.....
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill, turn your
17 mic on.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: Oh. I've got two -- which
20 one am I reading. Some use the primary harvest is near
21 the community of residence, and there is normally no
22 management reason to restrict use by rural residents from
23 distant communities.
24
25 DR. JENKINS: Well, that's right, unless
26 there is an .804 analysis conducted. If there's a
27 limitation on resources, then you end up restricting
28 those from more distant communities, because one of the
29 .804 criteria talks about local residency.
30
31 MR. GLANZ: Okay.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sounded like
34 you weren't ready to vote.
35
36 (Laughter)
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
39 right. How are we doing, guys? Keep motoring.
40
41 New business. We're already getting into
42 proposals. Statewide proposals. 14-01. Wildlife
43 Proposal 14-01.
44
45 People out on the teleconference, if you
46 could push star-6, it would eliminate the background
47 noise that we're hearing.
48
49 MS. PATTON: It starts on Page 48, 49.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you guys
2 want a break? I see you all left the table.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 10-minute
7 break. Sorry.

8
9 (Off record)

10
11 (On record)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

14
15 MR. McKEE: Thank you. Good morning,
16 Madame Chair. Members of the Regional Advisory Council.
17 For the record again, my name is Chris McKee, and I'm a
18 wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence
19 Management, and I will be discussing the wildlife
20 specific related proposals with you this morning. Pippa
21 Kenner and I will kind of be playing tag here off and on
22 depending on the proposals.

23
24 I tried to keep my discussion of the
25 proposals as brief as possible, just trying to condense
26 the analysis without having to just go verbatim over what
27 you have in front of you to try to be efficient with my
28 time.

29
30 So the first proposal I'm going to talk
31 to you about is Proposal WP14-01. It begins on Page 48
32 I believe of the booklet. It was submitted by Kevin Bopp
33 of Nome, and requests the establishment of new statewide
34 provisions for Federal trapping regulations that would
35 require trapper identification tags on all traps and
36 snares, establish a maximum allowable time limit for
37 checking traps, and establish a harvest trapping report
38 form to collect data on non-target species captures in
39 traps and snares.

40
41 The proposed requirements could lead to
42 more humane trapping methods under Federal regulations;
43 however, these regulatory provisions would not likely be
44 manageable on a statewide basis due to vast differences
45 in land ownership, population concentrations, and
46 habitats. Regulations of this nature would be better
47 suited in response to issues on an area-specific basis,
48 like similar restrictions currently in the State and
49 Federal trapping regulations. For instance, we have
50 something like that on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

1 special use permit requirements.

2

3 Alignment issues will require substantial
4 increase in law enforcement and public education efforts,
5 also requiring trappers to check traps during inclement
6 weather could lead to health and safety issues.

7

8 In many instances, Federally-qualified
9 subsistence users could simply trap under State
10 regulations to avoid the additional proposed Federal
11 restrictions.

12

13 While the information gathered from a
14 harvest report form of non-target species caught in traps
15 and snares could provide useful information, it would be
16 an unnecessary requirement for Federally-qualified
17 subsistence users. The report will require additional
18 time limits for subsistence users and Federal Staff,
19 which are currently unwarranted. Similar reports would
20 be more useful in areas with specific issues with the
21 capture of non-target species, such as areas with
22 threatened or endangered species or other significant
23 user conflict issues.

24

25 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
26 oppose WP14-01.

27

28 That's all I have.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
31 members, any questions.

32

33 Donald.

34

35 MR. WOODRUFF: I just have a comment. I
36 agree with OSM. I think that this is not a very well
37 thought out proposal. The statewide restrictions that
38 this guy's putting on this proposal, and I made a written
39 comment on it, so if you want to read my written comment
40 on it, it's in the back of this.

41

42 And, you know, if he has issues where he
43 lives in Nome or that, he could go to his, you know, AC
44 or he can go to the Advisory Council in the area, and
45 they can hash it out and work out something that's
46 amenable for him. But to make a statewide issue out of
47 it, I think like he says, it's a safety issue, and I
48 don't know how many people are going to, you know, check
49 their traps when we have it 60 below when the animals are
50 going to be dead or not moving anyway. And I've trapped

1 in that area -- the area I'm trapping in for like 32
2 years, and there's nothing happening at 60 below, and
3 you're just putting everybody in danger for enforcement
4 and trappers.

5
6 So I would greatly oppose this proposal.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald, I think
9 I'm looking at your -- trying to look at what you wrote,
10 but it doesn't look like it's all published in our Page
11 57. It looks like it stops.

12
13 Was that your comment?

14
15 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. There are
18 three public comments starting on Page 56. All opposing
19 this proposal. It does appear that the last comment lost
20 its last sentence and the author, which was Donald
21 Woodruff, as a public member.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Donald.
24 And I appreciate all that. You're trying the KISS
25 principle yourself here.

26
27 We just should have questions regarding
28 this presentation, and then we have to go down, in the
29 back of -- they have this also, right?

30
31 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have to go
34 through this agency comments and all of this.

35
36 If no one has any questions on the
37 presentation -- you have a question.

38
39 MR. ERHART: Yeah.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, let's
42 hear it.

43
44 MR. ERHART: Who's going to enforce it.
45 That's what I want to know.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We'll do
48 all that under discussion. Yeah, I'm with you.

49
50 Agency comments. ADF&G. We'll go

1 through all this process on the back of your name plate
2 and then we'll have discussion.

3

4 ** MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of
5 the RAC. For the record, my name is Jennifer Yuhas with
6 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

7

8 And the Department is also opposed to
9 this proposal, and finds it unnecessary on a statewide
10 basis.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. Any
13 questions of Jennifer.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
18 Jennifer.

19

20 Next is Federal agencies. Is there any
21 comments from Federal agencies.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Native, tribal,
26 village, other.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'm
31 supposed to add.....

32

33 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We do have
34 several comments in addition to what was in the book.
35 Regional Advisory Councils also took this up. All were
36 opposed to it, the ones that have met previously.

37

38 And then we do have a letter from the
39 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
40 Commission.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think Barbara
43 wants to -- we'll let Barbara give it.

44

45 MS. PATTON: So there was a formal letter
46 to the Chairman. And we do have a couple of public
47 comments as well.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

50

1 Barbara, to ahead.
2
3 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 I'm never quite sure where the advisory groups like the
5 SRC are on your list.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Probably C.
8
9 MS. CELLARIUS: I mean, do you have a
10 separate item for SRCs, or should we just do under.....
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, just come
13 in under -- let me look. Let me look. Yeah, under C.
14
15 MS. CELLARIUS: Different RACs actually
16 seem to have different lists.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Local Fish and
19 Game Advisory Committees and (C) National Park SRCs.
20
21 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. Okay.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we're
24 jumping. All right.
25
26 MS. CELLARIUS: The Wrangell-St. Elias
27 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission is an
28 advisory committee created under ANILCA that advises the
29 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park about subsistence, so it
30 operates somewhat similar to the RAC, but with some
31 slightly different -- some broader kinds of issues they
32 address.
33
34 And so they met in Chistochina on October
35 29th and 30th, and the SRC unanimously opposed WP14-01.
36 A statewide proposal that would make Federal trapping
37 regulations more restrictive than State regulations is
38 not needed.
39
40 Additionally, enforcing the requirements
41 that traps be checked every six days would be difficult.
42 If there are local problems with trappers, those problems
43 should be addressed locally, for example, by talking to
44 the protection officer for the area.
45
46 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's
47 annual trapping survey already collects considerable
48 information from trappers in Alaska, and an additional
49 reporting requirement is not needed.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
2 the meeting I attended. I'm one of nine that makes --
3 helps to give input to that.
4
5 All right. Thank you, Barbara.
6
7 Any questions.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving
12 on.
13
14 We were actually at 2.C., Native, tribal,
15 village or other people.
16
17 Did anyone want to speak to it.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then the
22 InterAgency Staff. Do we have any InterAgency Staff
23 here.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think
28 we do.
29
30 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Glenn Chen is
31 in town. He's also attending an LCC meeting. He may be
32 in.
33
34 Dan Sharp was on line earlier.
35
36 Are you on, Dan.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Dan, are you on
39 line.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. This is
44 what I'm challenged to do is go through this process, so
45 bear with me here.
46
47 And then we just talked about the
48 Advisory Councils. Yeah, so that.....
49
50 MR. SUMMERS: Madame Chair. Clarence

1 Summers. I'm on line, I'm listening. With National Park
2 Service.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good. Good to
5 hear your voice, Clarence. When did you join us?

6

7 MR. SUMMERS: Oh, I've been here since a
8 little after nine.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thanks
11 for.....

12

13 MR. SUMMERS: Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks for
16 letting us know.

17

18 I think -- now, did I miss any of these
19 guys. The local Fish and Game Advisory Committees. The
20 one in my area hasn't met yet.

21

22 All right. And the SRCs.

23

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Summary of
28 written comments. That's the time to go through that.

29

30 MS. PATTON: Yes, Madame Chair. Again we
31 had three formal written comments that were submitted.
32 All of them opposed this proposal.

33

34 One from Miki and Julie Collins in Lake
35 Minchumina who addressed the issue of the difficulties of
36 having to check a trap every six days, and cutting the
37 length of their line, and be forced to travel under
38 extremely cold conditions in order to meet the request of
39 this proposal. They feel the proponent is likely not a
40 trapper and understanding the needs and concerns of
41 safety.

42

43 We also have Ahtna, Incorporated,
44 Customary and Traditional Use Committee. They oppose
45 this proposal. They indicate it would create new
46 regulations for requiring identification tags on traps
47 and snares. And to be checked every six days would be
48 cumbersome and unnecessary, and burdensome for Federally-
49 qualified trappers. They also indicate the catch or non-
50 target species and reporting they feel is good and should

1 be done voluntarily. And that traps and snares only be
2 checked if weather conditions are safe. They note in
3 rural areas temperature conditions can be minus 40 to 50,
4 and it would be unsafe to have regulations forcing people
5 out.

6

7 And then the last that was submitted
8 formally was Donald Woodruff as a public member, as a
9 trapper. And I don't know if you want to speak to it
10 yourself.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He kind of did.

13

14 MR. WOODRUFF: I did, out of turn.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.

17

18 MS. PATTON: And that's it. We have no
19 other comments submitted to the Council on this proposal.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And is there
22 any public out there that would like to speak to this
23 proposal.

24

25 This is your chance.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see we lost
30 Mr. Lord.

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt proposal
33 14-01.

34

35 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
38 discussion. Virgil.

39

40 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll speak to my motion.
41 I concur with the Office of Subsistence Management's
42 recommendation and the justification for the
43 recommendation. This would not be enforceable. It's not
44 well thought out. It appears that it's just someone that
45 would like to stop all trapping. But there's no way that
46 it could work, especially in Alaska where weather's
47 entirely unpredictable and could cause great safety
48 concerns if people had to go check their traps every six
49 days.

50

1 Madame Chair.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
4 want to add to that.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MR. WOODRUFF: Call the question.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll just add
11 one thing, that it makes the State -- or the Federal regs
12 more restrictive than the State also.
13
14 Okay. The question's been called for.
15 All in favor.
16
17 (No affirmative votes)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everyone
20 opposed say aye.
21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed.
25 Thank you.
26
27 MS. PATTON: James, can we just check in
28 with you on line on your vote.
29
30 MR. ROBERTS: Is this on the trapping
31 proposal?
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, James.
34
35 MR. ROBERTS: I just got back on. I got
36 kicked off and then have been struggling to get back on.
37
38 MS. PATTON: Okay. This is on the
39 trapping proposal. We just voted, all opposed.
40
41 MR. ROBERTS: I'm opposed to it, so
42 that's right.
43
44 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don't hesitate
47 to speak up, because that's our only way to know that
48 you're there.
49
50 Next would be 14-42.

1 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 Good morning, Madame Chair. Members of the Council. I'm
3 Pippa Kenner, and I'm with OSM in Anchorage.

4
5 And the analysis for this proposal begins
6 on Page 59 of your Council books.

7
8 The Proposal was submitted by this
9 Council and requests the Board to recognize the customary
10 and traditional uses of sheep in Units 20E, 25B, and 25C.
11 The Council requests that the residents of Units 20E, 25B
12 and C be included in the customary and traditional use
13 determination for sheep in those units.

14
15 The maps of the units are on Pages 46 and
16 47 of your book if you'd like to look at those. So
17 that's 20E, 25B, and 25C.

18
19 The Board has never reviewed the
20 customary and traditional uses of sheep in these units.
21 Because of this, the analysis looks at the uses of sheep
22 by any rural resident or community of the State.
23 Additionally, Central, Chicken, Eagle City, and Eagle
24 Village, the only communities that are situated in the
25 units, and the analysis is the first review of their
26 customary and traditional uses of sheep.

27
28 The analysis has many sections. One on
29 Page 61 is the demographic history of the area, which
30 briefly describes the Athabascans and others moving in
31 and out of the area.

32
33 And the next, on Page 62 is the
34 ethnographic information which briefly describes that
35 Athabascans and others harvested and used sheep.

36
37 And then there are six sections that
38 describe people from many communities taking sheep in the
39 area based on available descriptions in print.

40
41 And then on Page 63 is reported the
42 harvest of sheep by residents of the State based on the
43 ADF&G and Fish and Wildlife Service reporting systems.
44 So that means hunters who are turning in harvest tags,
45 registration permits, and draw permits.

46
47 And then on Table 11 on Page 69 is a list
48 of the rural Interior communities for which an effort to
49 harvest sheep in the units has been documented through the
50 harvest reporting systems and/or described in written

1 descriptions, also known as ethnographic accounts.
2 Excuse me, that's on Page 70.

3
4 The conclusion on Page 71 is to include
5 most of the communities in Table 11 in the customary and
6 traditional use determination for sheep. And the
7 Council's request is supported. A modification is
8 recommended to include these additional communities, and
9 I'll read the justification.

10
11 The rural residents of Units 20E, 25B,
12 and 25C exemplify customary and traditional uses of sheep
13 in the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.
14 Documented evidence in the harvest reporting database
15 from 1983 to 2010 demonstrated this. And additional
16 documentation was presented in ethnographic information.

17
18 Documentation included descriptions of
19 Han, Gwich'in, Tanacross, and Upper Tanana Athabaskan
20 customary and traditional uses. The Gwich'in community
21 at Chalkyitsik has shown to rely -- was shown to rely on
22 the Black River drainage where they harvested sheep. The
23 area continues to be an important harvesting area for
24 wild resources.

25
26 The contemporary community of Circle that
27 was settled by Gwich'in was shown to hunt sheep at Kathul
28 Mountain historically. And Circle residents continue to
29 use the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve to harvest
30 sheep and other wild resources.

31
32 The contemporary communities of Dot Lake
33 Village, Healy Lake, Northway Village, Tanacross, and
34 Tetlin were settled by Tanacross and Upper Tanana
35 Athabascans who used the Fortymile River drainage to
36 harvest sheep and other resources historically, and
37 continue to use the area to harvest caribou and moose.

38
39 Additionally, some documentation existed
40 that residents not associated with established
41 communities, mostly living along the Yukon River, area
42 also eligible to be considered in the proposed C&T
43 determinations for sheep. They were known to rely
44 heavily on subsistence harvest that included harvest of
45 sheep in the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

46
47 All interior Alaska communities larger
48 than 500 residents were represented in the harvest
49 reporting database except Fort Yukon. They were Delta
50 Junction, Fort Greely, Nenana, and Tok. Except for Tok,

1 the reported use by them was minimal, one or two
2 unsuccessful attempts to harvest sheep since 1983.
3 Additionally, minimal use was demonstrated by the smaller
4 communities of Anderson, Rampart, and the Denali National
5 Park Headquarters. Ethnographic descriptions of their
6 subsistence use in the Yukon-Charley Rivers National
7 Preserve or on other Federal public lands in Units 20E,
8 25B, and 25C were not found, and the analysis conclusion
9 does not include them in the C&T determination for sheep.

10

11 Thank you, Madame Chair. That's the end
12 of my presentation.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is the
15 time for question of the analysis. Any questions.

16

17 MR. LORD: Could I ask a question, Madame
18 Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can't let it
21 get out of hand, I know that.

22

23 MR. LORD: Just a small question on what
24 she just said.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll let you
27 do it here, and if it gets out of hand, we'll not let you
28 do.

29

30 MR. LORD: (Indiscernible - away from
31 microphones) a village above 500. She said Fort Yukon
32 was a village above 500 and she mentioned about Nenana,
33 Greely, Delta. What's the 500 level part?

34

35 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 The question was why did I use a 500 level mark to
37 distinguish some communities from others. The reason why
38 I did that is by looking the population information in
39 Table 11, and when communities are over a certain
40 population, it's typical that they're going to show up in
41 the database almost anywhere, just because there's so
42 many people, there's so many more people than a very
43 small community. And not only that, in these instances,
44 except for Fort Yukon and Tok, what turned out was that
45 every one of those larger communities that showed up in
46 the reporting database, they had one or two attempts with
47 actually no harvest.

48

49 So I found that a place where the data
50 naturally broke off into a different pattern of use than

1 some of the smaller communities, and the larger
2 communities that showed more use.

3

4 MR. LORD: Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. I
7 have a question. Maybe it will be more questions by
8 others. Something happened with Chisana Caribou that
9 makes me think about the problem in naming communities.
10 What happens to the people in between or slightly north
11 or slightly south that aren't really part of that
12 community; they live out in the middle of nowhere? What
13 happens to them under these type of things.

14

15 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that question,
16 Madame Chair. What happens is that the -- they --
17 several methods are used to distinguish people who are
18 living in these small communities from people who are
19 living isolated along the road system. Sometimes we use
20 zip code, but more often it's based on the census
21 designated place. And that would be determined how to --
22 later how to determine who the -- who are in -- who the
23 residence of these specific communities are.

24

25 The Council does have several options
26 that I could identify right now. One is that if there
27 are communities in a certain management unit or subunit
28 where these communities are, the Council can request that
29 the entire unit or subunit, all the residents of the unit
30 or subunit be included.

31

32 There are other times I think when
33 Councils have specifically wanted to designate particular
34 communities and not people living scattered along the
35 road system or the river or places like that.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Because
38 it comes out that the people that live out in the middle
39 of nowhere probably have more connection than people
40 around a city or a town. But that was my question.

41

42 QQuestions, others. Donald.

43

44 MR. WOODRUFF: So do I understand you,
45 Pippa, that if they have a P.O. box or a zip code, which
46 everybody in the United States gets U.S. mail, then they
47 would be included, even though they may only be one
48 household along the river system.

49

50 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.

1 Mr. Woodruff.

2

3 I'm going to admit right now that my
4 experience of administering these types of hunts in
5 systems on the on the road system is limited. But my
6 understanding is this. These particular communities
7 probably have post offices, but in the Bush not all
8 communities do. I think a typical way of determining
9 residency is to have people bring ID or an electric bill
10 or something that indicates where their residency is.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But some people
13 don't have electric bills. That's a problem. And some
14 people use -- that live like in the case of people in
15 Chisana or -- yeah, or Will Koehler out at Horsfeld, I
16 don't know what he's using. Is he using Tok 99780?
17 They're a long ways from the zip code.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Right.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It doesn't even
22 relate to where they're at. So, yeah, it's -- and even
23 Mentasta. Their zip code is Tok's zip code. So, I don't
24 know. It's kind of -- I hate to see somebody be denied
25 a permit that's closer to it than, you know, the naming
26 of communities. I don't know how to fix that other than
27 what has been done in the past is just.....

28

29 MR. WOODRUFF: Include them in the game
30 management subunit.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, but 12's
33 a big -- where she's naming those communities, it's just
34 that tiny portion of northern Unit 12, which isn't a
35 subunit, so it's -- I don't know how to do it, guys. But
36 at any rate, we need to have discussion about that. I
37 just wanted to have an answer how they look at it, and
38 hope that common sense would come into play. Often times
39 it does not.

40

41 Sure, go ahead.

42

43 MS. GRONQUIST: Madame Chair. I was just
44 going to pass on to Pippa, but I'll go ahead and say it
45 on the record, that there are instances where there are
46 C&T determinations that have language for just part of a
47 unit, such as for caribou in 20E, which is Unit 12 north
48 of Wrangell-St. Elias, for example. Just to show you
49 that it doesn't have to be a whole subunit. I hope that
50 doesn't -- I hope that helps and doesn't actually muddy

1 things.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it helps.
4 We need to think about that when we discuss it, but I was
5 just curious here.

6

7 MS. GRONQUIST: For the record, I'm Ruth
8 Gronquist with the Bureau of Land Management.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
11 We're getting 'er done with all the help from others.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 Okay.

16

17 Any other questions of the presenter on
18 this.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Now
23 we're going into agency comments. ADF&G.

24

25 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 Jennifer Yuhas with the Department.

27

28 The Department has no recommendation for
29 you as you decide this proposal. We're neutral.

30

31 To follow along with Ruth's comments, you
32 could use a geographic description as you determine your
33 boundaries.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. Any
36 questions.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Hearing
41 none, moving on to Federal agencies. Are there any
42 Federal agencies that have any comments at this time.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is Native,
47 tribal, village or other.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: InterAgency
2 Staff.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If I move too
7 fast, raise your hand, please.
8
9 Advisory group comments.
10
11 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We have no AC
12 comments specifically for this proposal.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Neighboring
15 Regional Councils.
16
17 MS. PATTON: No comments from other
18 Councils either, ma'am.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And I
21 know there's no SRC for the Yukon-Charley, so I don't
22 think there's any there either, right?
23
24 Okay. Summary of written.
25
26 MS. PATTON: And we have just one written
27 comment, and that was also provided by Donald Woodruff as
28 a public member writing it.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we know
31 he's in favor.
32
33 Okay. Any public testimony.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
38 14-43 [sic].
39
40 MR. GLANZ: I will second that one.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been moved
43 and seconded to adopt.
44
45 Discussion.
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, Madame Chair, I
48 support our proposal. Thank you.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other

1 discussion.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, just to
4 clarify. This is 14-42, and 43 is a very similar
5 proposal.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You're
8 clarifying that 43 -- how do they differ. We might want
9 to get -- did we put in two proposals saying the same
10 thing?

11

12 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. They are --
13 based on.....

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought one
16 was C&T and one's a season. Am I right?

17

18 MS. PATTON: Yeah. So just to
19 clarify.....

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
22 just.....

23

24 MS. PATTON:we're voting on 42.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think you
27 guys understand that. We've been through this a lot.
28 Okay. We're speaking to 42, which is the C&T.

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chairman.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

33

34 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. In my written
35 comment I stated that this is a long-time use by the
36 locals. Some of the elders in the village I talked to,
37 they would often walk up Eagle Creek and spend the whole
38 fall during -- I mean spring, and float back out making
39 skin boats. And they would harvest any number of
40 animals, especially sheep.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, like I
45 said, I'm a little nervous, because a lot of times by
46 naming places, it's a good idea, but somehow or another,
47 I just want to be sure that we cover people in between
48 and north of. And I know on like the caribou C&T does
49 say in Unit 12 it's north of the Wrangell-St. Elias. But
50 then the other communities were Dot Lake, Healy Lake, but

1 not Delta, so that's another area.

2

3 OSM, do we ever use common sense in
4 allowing people to hunt somewhere whenever.....

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I'm dead
9 serious, because it has happened where, okay, somebody's
10 living up there in that northern portion north of the
11 Tanana River between say Healy Lake and Mount Harper, and
12 they're out there hunting and somebody looks at them and
13 says, huh, you've got a Delta Junction zip code, sorry,
14 you can't hunt there.

15

16 Pippa, you're welcome to come to the mic.

17

18 MS. KENNER: Thank you again, Madame
19 Chair. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM.

20

21 Different Councils take different
22 strategies when dealing with this question. In different
23 parts of the State and in your region, you have regions
24 that there's cultural differences. Some people live on
25 the road system, some people don't. And I know as an
26 analyst I would appreciate hearing your comments, and I
27 would then take your comments, look at all the
28 information again, and provide maybe some sort of
29 modification. It would not be unusual to request that if
30 a community in a unit or subunit either shows through
31 harvest or ethnographic accounts that they do customarily
32 and traditionally use sheep in these units, that that
33 entire unit or, in the case of Unit 12, which does not
34 have subunits, and therefore has been divided before as
35 north and the remainder, to include people in those
36 subunits. You can also do it by census designated place.

37

38 But you're right, it does get a little --
39 there are some questions to ask when we are talking about
40 the road system.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know. See,
43 this is an example of what we were talking about earlier
44 on the C&T process. So here's caribou on 20E. and it's
45 rural residents of 12 north of the Wrangell-St. Elias
46 Preserve, 20D and 20E. And when I look at that, the only
47 people that would be excluded by saying 20D would be
48 Delta. But that would be a different C&T description
49 than this one. Sheep would be different than this one,
50 caribou. And if I look at moose on 20E, rural residents

1 of 20E, 12 north of -- that includes 12 north of the
2 Wrangell-St. Elias. Then it starts naming communities
3 again, Circle, Central, Dot Lake, Healy Lake, and
4 Mentasta Lake.

5
6 You see how this stuff differs so much?
7 I mean, I'm probably going to be dead and gone when
8 something happens here, but it is stuff you have to think
9 about for the future.

10
11 Anyone want to amend or change or comment
12 to this differently than the way it's written. Donald.

13
14 MR. WOODRUFF: I agree with you that if
15 we support this proposal, if someone's got excluded, then
16 we can bring them forward and include them in the next
17 customary determination.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Others.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MR. WOODRUFF: Question.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hope it
28 doesn't turn out like Chisana caribou for the people that
29 live in there with the caribou don't get to hunt them.
30 Okay.

31
32 Any more discussion.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did I hear
37 someone call the question?

38
39 Question's been called for, okay. All in
40 favor of this proposal say aye.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And, James, are
49 you still on. If James is like me, he's multi-tasking
50 and a long ways from the mic, or he didn't press star-

1 six. James, are you there?

2

3 MR. ROBERTS: Sue, can you hear me now?

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. It was
6 star-six, wasn't it.

7

8 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah. Yeah, I'm in favor.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We got
11 it. Thank you.

12

13 Okay. Moving on to the next one would be
14 the season, 14-43.

15

16 MR. McKEE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 Members of the Council. Again for the record, my name is
18 Chris McKee. I'm a biologist with OSM.

19

20 The Proposal WP14-43 begins on Page 78 of
21 your meeting materials booklet. Proposal WP14-43 was
22 submitted by this Council and requests establishment of
23 hunting season and harvest limit for sheep in Units 20E,
24 25B, 25C, and 25D.

25

26 The proponent states that there is a need
27 to establish a season for sheep in these units as there
28 are currently no Federal open season, and establishing
29 one in these units will provide for a subsistence
30 priority over other uses on Federal public lands. The
31 proposed regulatory changes would align with the current
32 State seasons and harvest limits. And, of course, you
33 just heard the companion proposal for the C&T.

34

35 The Dall sheep population in Units 20B,
36 20D, and 20E is composed of several small discrete
37 subpopulations that are somewhat isolated from one
38 another by large areas of unsuitable habitat. Much of
39 the sheep in this area -- much of the sheep habitat in
40 this area is remote and difficult to access and there's
41 been little historical use of the sheep populations in
42 some areas. Subpopulations outside of Yukon-Charley
43 Rivers National Preserve are centered around Mount
44 Harper, Glacier Peak, and West Point.

45

46 Between 2003 and 2009 sheep surveys were
47 flown on the Mount Harper/Upper Goodpaster River portion
48 of Unit 20E. And during this time, between 78 and 100
49 sheep were counted with 6 to 10 legal rams, and between
50 11 and 35 lambs per 100 ewes. You can see that on Table

1 1 on Page 81 of your booklet.

2

3

4 The Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area
5 within 2E has a somewhat isolated sheep population.
6 Surveys have been flown in the area in 1981, '82, 1992
7 and '93, and then again between 1998 and 2005. An
8 average of 76 sheep were observed during the surveys with
9 an average of 4 legal rams. Twelve years of harvest data
10 collected between 1996 and 2012 show an average of two
11 legal rams being harvested from the area.

12

13 There's also a small population of sheep
14 that ranges between West Point and the upper Salcha River
15 drainage and the Big Windy Creek in the Steese National
16 Conservation Area. The West Point portions of this
17 population inhabit Unit 20B and the Steese Recreation
18 portions of Unit 25C. Movement occurs between the
19 subpopulations and those within Yukon-Charley Rivers
20 National Preserve to the east.

21

22 And then in Yukon-Charley Rivers National
23 Preserve, which covers a portion of Unit 20E, 25B and
24 25C, Dall sheep inhabit the mountains in the southwestern
25 portion of the preserve, and the bluffs and hills along
26 the Charley River, upper Seventymile River, and upper
27 Woodchopper Creek areas. Sheep also occur in the
28 northeast portion of the preserve in the Ogilvie
29 Mountains along the Alaska-Canada border.

30

31 Sheep surveys were flown in the
32 southwestern portion of the preserve between 1983 and
33 2009. However, due to extensive and frequent movement of
34 sheep between survey units, evaluating trends from these
35 surveys is difficult at best, especially for years in
36 which the entire survey area was not flown. So with this
37 in mind, the biologist in that area stated that
38 comparable years include 1997 through '99, 2001 to 2002,
39 and also 2009. So based on these comparable surveys, the
40 sheep population appears stable with good lamb survival
41 and yearly recruitment. That's Figure 1 on Page 82 of
42 your booklet.

43

44 Dall sheep populations in the White
45 Mountains, that is portions of 20B, 20F, 25C, and 25D,
46 are the largest involved in this proposal, with little
47 reported harvest until recent decades. However,
48 beginning in 1980, sheep harvest started to increase, and
49 peaking in the late 1990's and 2000's. Survey data
50 indicated that sheep populations increased from a low in
1977 to a peak in 1999. Population numbers have remained

1 in the upper portion of that range from 2000 through
2 2012. The mean ratio of lambs to ewes was 26 per 100
3 from 1970 to 2006. This increased to 44 per 100 and 34
4 per 100 in 2007 and 2008 respectively. The percentage of
5 legal rams has ranged from between three and seven
6 percent of the population since the 1970's. However,
7 caution should be used when interpretating this
8 compositional data since different areas were surveyed in
9 different years due to weather, precluding complete
10 coverage of the survey each year.

11
12 Just as kind of a recap for all these
13 areas in terms of harvest, the harvest of sheep in any of
14 the affected individual units in the proposal has not
15 exceeded 10 legal rams for at least the last 10 to 20
16 years, depending on the area. And you can see this in
17 Table 1 on Page 81 and Table 2 on Page 84 of your
18 booklet.

19
20 If this proposal is adopted, it will
21 establish a Federal season for sheep in 20E, 25B, 25C,
22 and 25D. No increase in harvest, no substantial increase
23 in harvest is anticipated, since there's already an
24 existing State season in the areas in question. Sheep
25 populations in the proposed area have been hunted under
26 State regulation for decades, and the populations in most
27 of the affected units appear to be stable. Federal and
28 State seasons would be aligned under this proposal,
29 thereby minimizing regulatory complexity for Federal
30 users.

31
32 Establishment of a Federal season could
33 provide more hunting opportunities to Federally-qualified
34 subsistence users should seasons or harvest limits be
35 liberalized in the future. Additionally Federally-
36 qualified users would not have to get a drawing permit to
37 hunt sheep in Unit 20E should this proposal be adopted.

38
39 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
40 support WP14-43.

41
42 And that's the end of my presentation for
43 this proposal.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions.
46 Anyone have any questions with the presentation.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okeydokey. I

1 have one. I'm trying to run a meeting and have my brain
2 concentrate here.

3

4 Is this last page 84, for the whole -- it
5 says Tanana Hills sheep harvest regulatory -- is that
6 just the Tanana Hills? Does that not include the Yukon-
7 Charley?

8

9 MR. McKEE: No, that excludes Yukon-
10 Charley.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So if I wanted
13 to see what's taken in this whole region, I'm not seeing
14 that here for harvest. Because you're doing it
15 separately, right? You have Mount Harper, then you have
16 Tanana Hills. And is there.....

17

18 MR. McKEE: I'm sorry. I think in my
19 proposal I kind of -- in my attempt to try to be brief,
20 I think I may have inadvertently excluded information on
21 Yukon-Charley, but I can tell you that on Page 83 I
22 mentioned that within the boundaries of Yukon-Charley an
23 average of four rams were harvested per year between 1983
24 and 2007. Excuse me, that was omitted from my talking
25 points.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Do you
28 know if they were by locals?

29

30 MR. McKEE: I don't know, I'm sorry. I
31 don't have that information with me.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because I know
34 there's some sporthunting done up there, and there's
35 actually a guide that has that area now.

36

37 Okay. That's what I was interested in.
38 There isn't a lot of harvest going on in the whole area.

39

40 Any other questions.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

45 Next, ADF&G.

46

47 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 Jennifer Yuhas with the Alaska Department of Fish and
49 Game.

50

1 And the Department is also neutral on
2 this proposal with no recommendation, citing no
3 conservation concerns due to the difficulty accessing the
4 terrain though, and also recognizing the benefit of
5 aligning the seasons for users and enforcement.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thanks,
8 Jennifer.

9
10 Any questions of Jennifer.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Federal
15 agencies, any comments.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Native, tribal,
20 village, other.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: InterAgency
25 Staff.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Advisory
30 groups. Neighboring Regional Advisory Councils and ACs
31 and SRCs.

32
33 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We have no
34 formal comments from ACs at this time.

35
36 There was one public comment from Donald
37 Woodruff as well in support.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
40 testimony.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there anyone
45 on line that would like to testify.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
50 14-43.

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
4
5 Discussion.
6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, we just passed the
8 positive C&T. That doesn't do any good without a season.
9
10 Madame Chair.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.
13
14 MR. WOODRUFF: I agree with Virgil, and
15 Fish and Game's synopsis that because of the difficult
16 access, there won't be a big impact on the sheep
17 population.
18
19 Thank you.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
22 else.
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 MR. GLANZ: Call the question,
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question's
29 been called for. All in favor say aye.
30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
34
35 (No opposing votes)
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
38
39 MS. PATTON: James Roberts, can we just
40 check in with you; are you on line?
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James, are you
43 out there?
44
45 MR. ROBERTS: Yes.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're in
48 favor?
49
50 MR. ROBERTS: Yes.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What time is
6 it. Okay. One more. Moving on to 14-44.

7

8 MR. McKEE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 Proposal WP14-44 begins on Page 87 of
11 your booklet. It was submitted by this Council and
12 requests a five-day extension of the new season in Unit
13 20F remainder from date September 1st to September 25th
14 to September 1st to September 30th.

15

16 The proponent states that the weather is
17 too warm in early September with temperatures in recent
18 years reaching into the 60's, and that hunters who
19 harvest a moose during this time were having difficulty
20 keeping the meet from spoiling under these conditions.
21 The proponent requests extension of the fall season to
22 compensate for lost hunting days during the early part of
23 the season due to the warm temperatures.

24

25 Moose densities in Unit 20F have been low
26 for many years with predation by wolves and bears, and
27 habitat limitations seen as likely reasons. Moose
28 densities are thought to fluctuate between 0.2 to 0.7
29 moose per square mile, and predators are thought to be
30 lightly harvested, which may be contributing to the low
31 moose densities observed in the unit.

32

33 Harvest of large bulls, that is those
34 with antlers larger than 50 inches in Unit 20F was
35 between 24 and 55 percent of the reported harvest,
36 suggesting that over-harvest of bulls is not a concern.

37

38 Management objectives for 20C and 20F are
39 to maintain -- excuse me. State management objectives
40 for 20C and 20F are to maintain bull/cow ratios at
41 greater than or equal to 30 bulls per 100 cows, and
42 greater than or equal to 20 percent of large bulls in the
43 harvest.

44

45 If adopted, this proposal would extend
46 the fall season hunt in Unit 25 -- in Unit 20F remainder
47 for five days. This would create a longer season,
48 providing additional opportunity for Federally-qualified
49 users to harvest moose during potentially cooler
50 temperatures later in the season, helping to minimize the

1 spoilage of meat in the field. Adding an additional five
2 days to the existing season should not have an effect on
3 the moose population since hunting pressure in this
4 subunit is already low relative to other areas of the
5 unit, with the harvest of the unit with the harvest of
6 bulls over the last several years not seen as a
7 conservation concern.

8

9 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
10 support WP14-44.

11

12 And that's the end of my presentation.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving
19 on. ADF&G. We are just clipping along today.

20

21 MS. YUHAS: Yeah.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: These are our
24 proposals; it makes it a little easier.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 Jennifer Yuhas with the Alaska Department of Fish and
30 Game.

31

32 The Department is also neutral on this
33 proposal, providing no recommendation. It states, no
34 conservation concerns, agreeing with the OSM analysis
35 regarding the low moose densities, and attributing that
36 to the high predator population with low harvest of
37 predators, and recognizes this proposal creates a further
38 divergence between the State and Federal regulations in
39 this instance. But we're still neutral.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I heard the
42 diversion though.

43

44 Any questions of Jennifer.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
49 you. Federal agencies.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Native, tribal,
4 village, other.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We do have
9 two comments submitted to the Council.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is this written
12 comments?
13
14 MS. PATTON: Written comments.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let me go
17 through this then. InterAgency Staff.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
22 we're to AC's. Any ACs.
23
24 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We have one
25 AC comment on this proposal from the Tanana-Rampart-
26 Manley Fish and Game Advisory Committee which met prior
27 to this meeting. And they voted 10 to 0, unanimously, to
28 support WP14-44, at their October 21st meeting. And they
29 state that the Tanana-Rampart AC believes that the
30 passing of this proposal will allow for much needed
31 additional hunting opportunity for Federal subsistence-
32 qualified residents in the area.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And then
35 any written other comments.
36
37 MS. PATTON: We have no comments from
38 other Councils. We do have two written comments in
39 support.
40
41 One is from Miki and Julie Collins of
42 Lake Minchumina who support the proposal. They stress
43 they have the same problems in their area of the seasons
44 coming earlier, and the meat not keeping due to warm
45 weather, and meat not keeping -- I'll repeat it again.
46 And a longer season has -- would help them to put up meat
47 -- harvest and put up meat during whether that's
48 conducive. The last half of September the moose are
49 easier to find, more active, the leaves are gone from the
50 trees, and the meat can usually be hung through freeze-

1 up. They say they'd like to see a longer season length
2 and starting later to keep the -- or rather the same
3 season length but starting five days later.

4

5 And then Donald Woodruff also as a public
6 member had written in support of the proposal, observing
7 10 years -- well, I'll let you speak to it, Donald.
8 Earlier September temps are too warm.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

11

12 MR. WOODRUFF: I wrote these public
13 comments in lots of these proposals. What?

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're good.
16 Somebody coughed.

17

18 MR. WOODRUFF: I beg your pardon?

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you hard of
21 hearing, too?

22

23 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You're
26 good. You're just hearing someone cough. Are you
27 finished?

28

29 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
32 right. Public testimony. Do I hear any public
33 testimony.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: None. Virgil.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
40 14-44.

41

42 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
45 Discussion. Do you want to do the discussion.

46

47 MR. ERHART: It would help the Tanana
48 people greatly, because it's so warm in the first of
49 September. And it's harder for them to get moose.

50

1 That's all I've got to say.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
4 else. Discussion.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MR. GLANZ: Call for the question.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
11 has been called for. All in favor of WP14-44, say aye.
12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
16
17 (No opposing votes)
18
19 MR. ROBERTS: Aye.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're in
22 favor. I got that. Thank you.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 MS. PATTON: Thank you, James.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. All
29 right. Do you guys want to keep going? Let's see we're
30 -- oh, we're moving very fast. We need more discussion.
31
32 Next is 14-15 and 45.
33
34 Am I on the right one?
35
36 MS. PATTON: Yeah, you're right.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. WP -- I
39 should say the WP part, but I understand that part. And
40 14-15-dash-45. Pippa is going to speak to that one.
41
42 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 Members of the Council. For the record my name is Pippa
44 Kenner with OSM in Anchorage.
45
46 And the analysis for this proposal begins
47 on Page 93 of your book.
48
49 In 2012 the Federal Subsistence Board
50 opened the Chisana.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Chisana.
2
3 MS. KENNER: Chisana.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: (Indiscernible
6 - mic not on) practicing it (indiscernible).
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MS. KENNER: Chisana.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
13
14 MS. KENNER: Chisana. Thank you, Madame
15 Chair. Okay.
16
17 In 2012 the Federal Subsistence Board
18 opened the Chisana Caribou Herd hunting season for the
19 first time since 1994. The management plan indicates a
20 surplus of 14 bulls, 7 of which can be taken on the U.S.
21 side of the border. In 2012 the number of permits was
22 limited to 14, and the reporting period requirement was
23 set at within three days of harvest. Nine permits were
24 issued, and two animals were harvested.
25
26 An associated proposal concerning the
27 Chisana Caribou Herd hunting season and harvest limit
28 will be presented in the analysis for Proposal WP14-49.
29
30 Because a limited number of permits were
31 available, a Section .804 analysis was necessary to
32 determine who would be eligible to receive a Chisana
33 caribou permit based on three criteria found in Section
34 .804 of ANILCA. The first was the customary and direct
35 dependance upon the populations as a mainstay of
36 livelihood. The second was local residency. And the
37 third was the availability of alternative resources.
38
39 OSM concluded that residents of only
40 Chisana, Chistochina, Mentasta Lake, Northway, Tetlin,
41 and Tok should be eligible to receive a permit. The
42 Southcentral Council recommended adopting the OSM
43 conclusion. The Eastern Interior Council also
44 recommended including residents of Nabesna and Tanacross
45 to the list of eligible rural residents to receive a
46 Chisana hunting permit.
47
48 Concerning Nabesna, at the time
49 information was not available to describe the caribou use
50 patterns of Nabesna and the Board indicated it would

1 consider further research and analysis when and if it
2 became available.

3

4 So you will be considering two related
5 proposals presented to you today, WP14-15 and 45. Both
6 proposals seek to add (1) the residents of Nabesna, and
7 (2) residents of the hunt area to the list of who is
8 eligible to receive a Chisana permit. The two proposals
9 are essentially the same. The proponents are the
10 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
11 Commission and the Eastern Interior Council, your
12 Council.

13

14 For the purposes of this analysis, the
15 community of Nabesna is called that part of the Nabesna
16 Road in Unit 12, which is Unit 12 along the Nabesna Road
17 which includes Milepost 25 to 46. And residents of the
18 hunt area, if you'll turn to Page 97, the residents --
19 the hunt area is the area in Unit 12 south of the winter
20 trail and east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna
21 Glacier.

22

23 Concerning the request to include the
24 people living in the hunt area not affiliated with a
25 community of Chisana, which already is included in the
26 .804 determination, they number probably less than five
27 people residing at Horsfeld and at Ptarmigan Lake, for
28 example. However an enumeration has not been done.

29

30 It should be noted that Daniel Hennick
31 and Jessica Bragga are residents of the hunt area who co-
32 wrote a proposal requesting that the residents of the
33 hunt area be eligible to receive a Chisana permit. The
34 proposal was written before the deadline and shared with
35 Staff, but did not make it into the electronic database
36 before the deadline.

37

38 Since the initial Section .804 analysis
39 was written, Staff have accessed additional information
40 describing the use of Chisana Caribou Herd by residents
41 of Nabesna. That's included in the analysis.

42

43 And so the OSM preliminary conclusion is
44 to take no action on Proposal 45, because of action on
45 Proposal 15, and to support Proposal 15 with the
46 recommendation to include residents of Nabesna, because
47 at this time no information is available describing
48 residents of the hunt area other than residents of
49 Chisana.

50

1 I should add that a resident of the hunt
2 area has been appointed to the Eastern Interior Council,
3 and I was hoping would be likely to provide information
4 regarding this proposal at this meeting.

5
6 Additionally, the residents of the hunt
7 area live in a remote area. Some use satellite phones,
8 some have email access, but there's no direct road access
9 and so I would not be surprised even if they wanted to we
10 did not hear from them at this meeting. It would be hard
11 for them to come in.

12
13 So since this analysis was published, I
14 now know of three people live in the hunt area. Both
15 Hennick and Bragga and also the member of this Council,
16 and I would like to get more information from the Council
17 regarding a justification for including those people in
18 the .804 determination.

19
20 Thank you, Mrs. Chair and the Council.

21
22 And I'll stop for questions if there any.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just for the
25 Council's information, the member from Horsfeld, he was
26 -- I'm looking at the map. He can either fly to Tok to
27 get out or fly to Nabesna, and he really trusts Cole
28 Ellis, the pilot from Nabesna, and then he has to drive
29 quite a long ways compared to Tok. But there's become a
30 big hassle of getting him out of there. He said that
31 there's just limited amount of snow, can't land on skis.
32 Or has to land -- people on skis can't land, and then
33 it's a shorter strip, so it's just a hassle. He was
34 really upset when he couldn't come in, but he couldn't
35 come in due to the weather situation out there.

36
37 And then the OSM has to go through all
38 this crap to -- I'm sorry.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All of these
43 regulations of who can fly and who can't fly out there.
44 So it makes it pretty tough. At any rate -- I can't
45 believe all these regulations, guys. It's no wonder I
46 said crap.

47
48 But I think he has a girlfriend.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So there might
2 be four people out there.

3
4 But my common sense approach says they
5 should have been included any. And I don't know, I'd
6 have to ask Will if he's using Tok as an address, you
7 know, 99780, or what he's using, how he's getting his
8 mail, or the people on Ptarmigan Lake. Are they using
9 99780? Did you find that out or not?

10
11 MS. KENNER: I did not.

12
13 Eva might be able to help us with that.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you know?
16 Those people, are they using -- or what is Will using; do
17 you know?

18
19 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. He was
20 spending some time attending university in Fairbanks, but
21 the family uses a Delta Junction P.O. box.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So
24 there's an example of somebody that lives out there. And
25 a lot of people that live in those situations, they're
26 hanging their hat wherever they end up. So it's kind of
27 different.

28
29 And then the Ptarmigan Lake people, I'll
30 bet you, because that's Irvin Rahois (ph) place that
31 they're using Tok, 99780. I would imagine. I'm just
32 guessing, so don't -- you can't be certain, because
33 they're -- he flies in and out of there all the time.
34 But again, too, they could be using Northway. It just
35 depends on -- I'm not even aware if there's a scheduled
36 flight to Chisana. But I know that Terry Overly is now
37 using Fortymile Air to get people in and out of there,
38 and he used to fly people himself from Northway.

39
40 So that's as much as I know. I wish we
41 could have -- I actually emailed Will and asked him if he
42 could just send some comments to me, and if that comes
43 up, I'm going to bring it to you guys.

44
45 You just need more information, that's
46 what you're saying, Pippa?

47
48 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that question,
49 Mrs. Chair -- Madame Chair. Yeah, if you have -- if
50 anyone on your Council has any knowledge, and I will

1 follow up with this, has any knowledge about the length
2 of time people have lived there. Have they lived there
3 since the Chisana season -- from before the Chisana
4 hunting season closed in '94. Are they guides. What do
5 they do there. If you have any information like that.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: People come and
8 go. Some people have been there a long time and some
9 people just came in, and I know that you guys look at
10 that closely. But as this whole subsistence thing moves
11 forward and our elders pass away, and new people come in,
12 there's going to be an influx -- or a change in how long
13 they've been there.

14
15 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair. So
16 does the Council have anything they'd like to tell us
17 about what you consider as eligible in an .804
18 determination. Is residency in a hunt area, regardless
19 of the history of being able to hunt those caribou, how
20 much weight do you put on that. Is residency in the hunt
21 area the justification for your proposal.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Why are you
24 looking straight at me, because I'm the closest to the
25 area, but I think that's a big question for the whole
26 question to think about of your whole area. When
27 somebody moves into an area like that already has a C&T,
28 they immediately qualify. So I'm having a little
29 difficulty understanding why you -- that means you would
30 go into an area and start differentiating, okay, you
31 haven't been here long enough. You're -- and then I look
32 at it as get rid of the whole process. As people die
33 off, you're getting rid of everybody if they had to be
34 there prior to.

35
36 I need some help here from the rest of
37 you guys. How do you feel about this.

38
39 Donald.

40
41 MR. WOODRUFF: I think that when we get
42 to the discussion session that we can wrap our minds
43 around this a little bit and we'll get some more opinions
44 from the Department and tribal and other agencies.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Thank
49 you, Donald. I know that Pippa was wanting to get more
50 information at her presentation. And you're right, we

1 need to move on.

2

3 ADF&G.

4

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

7

8 And Department supports both of these
9 proposals. Two years ago we had recommended a more
10 thorough evaluation of the area. It appeared at the time
11 that OSM was bound to the question before them. We've
12 been in the same boat ourselves before, be recommend
13 adoption of both of these proposals to include people
14 that we believe were unnecessarily excluded the last time
15 this was decided.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
22 Jennifer.

23

24 Okay. If I move too fast, you guys have
25 got to raise your hands.

26

27 Federal agencies. These are just your
28 comments from these entities.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Native, tribal,
33 village or other.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: InterAgency
38 Staff.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Advisory
43 groups. Our neighboring Councils, Fish and Game, and
44 SRC.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We do have
47 the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council met prior to
48 this meeting, and they support 15 and take no action on
49 45, since they are essentially the same proposal.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
2
3 MS. PATTON: And then we do have SRC
4 comments.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Barbara.
7
8 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
9 Barbara Cellarius from Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.
10
11 One thing I want to clarify, because I'm
12 involved in issuing our permits, when we issue Federal
13 subsistence hunting permits, where we care about is what
14 is the location of someone's physical address, not where
15 they get their mail. So, you know, if someone lives in
16 the hunt area and gets their mail in Tok or Delta
17 Junction, it's where they actually live that determines
18 eligibility for a Federal permit. At least that's how we
19 do it at Wrangell-St. Elias. So I just wanted to clarify
20 that, because I heard a lot of discussion about where
21 people were getting their mail. What really matters is
22 where they're living.
23
24 And the SRC did have a comment on this.
25 The Wrangell-St. Elias SRC unanimously supports WP14-15
26 as written. The SRC supported the inclusion of Nabesna
27 in the initial .804 analysis, and continues to support
28 it's inclusion in the list of communities most dependent
29 on this resource.
30
31 Adding residence of the hunt area outside
32 of Chisana is common sense. They live in a remote area
33 with limited access to other resources, and should be
34 able to harvest a resource in their own back yards.
35
36 The Commission took no action on WP14-45
37 based on its action on 14-15.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
40 you, Barbara.
41
42 Any questions of Barbara.
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
47 written comments.
48
49 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We have
50 several written comments. Ahtna, Incorporated had

1 submitted a written comment in support of WP14-15 and 45
2 to add residents along Nabesna Road, Milepost 25 to 46,
3 and residents of the hunt area to the list of communities
4 eligible to participate in Unit 12 caribou hunt that
5 takes place east of Nabesna River and Glacier and south
6 of the winter trail. The stress that residents of Unit
7 12 along Nabesna Road live close to the hunt area and
8 have hunted for and harvested caribou in this area.
9 Residents of the hunt area have harvested caribou and
10 thus should be eligible to hunt in Unit 12.

11
12 Donald also wrote in support as a public
13 member, as a housekeeping proposals that these people in
14 the hunt area were overlooked in the past regulation.
15 Oops, and they got duplicated there.

16
17 We also had one additional written
18 comment that was addressed to the Council, and similar to
19 some of the other residents, very difficult for people in
20 this area to participate. Unable to fly in or to call
21 in, not having access to satellite phone or good internet
22 satellite connection.

23
24 Adam Smitholum had presented comments
25 both to the Park Service and to the Council, and he
26 writes, my name is Adam Smitholum, and I'm writing in
27 regards to the proposed changes to the Chisana Caribou
28 Herd. I live in Chisana. I disagree with the proposal
29 to change the season dates August 10 to 12 for two
30 reasons.

31
32 MS. CELLARIUS: That's the wrong one.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a
35 different proposal.

36
37 MS. PATTON: No, no, I'm sorry. That's
38 49. My apologies.

39
40 And there was also a comment on this one
41 in -- no, on 14-15/45.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: See this says
44 49.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Yeah. No, I thought I had
47 that on the back there.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Specifically
50 49. We need 46 and -- which one is it? 15 or 45.

1 MS. PATTON: My apologies. That was his
2 comment on 49. He has one on 14-15 as well.

3
4 And again as a full-time resident of
5 Chisana, he agrees with the proposed change to Unit 12
6 hunt to include rural residents of the hunt area. He
7 states, he disagrees with the inclusion of residents on
8 the Nabesna Road to the communities eligible for this
9 hunt. He feels that the Chisana caribou hunt should be
10 for rural residents in the hunt area, including Chisana,
11 as we do not have access to roads and therefore grocery
12 stores or other subsistence hunting areas.

13
14 If a resident of Tok or one of the other
15 approved communities has to charter a plane and then rent
16 horses to hunt a caribou in this area, it is no longer a
17 subsistence hunt in his opinion, but is now a trophy
18 hunt.

19
20 In addition, if rural residents of the
21 hunt area and more communities become eligible to receive
22 a permit for this hunt, but no communities are removed
23 from eligibility, and the harvest quota does not change,
24 it will make it less likely for Chisana residents and
25 residents of the hunt area that completely rely on this
26 hunt to receive a permit.

27
28 As a Chisana resident, I do not have
29 ready access to the road system, and therefore cannot
30 easily hunt other areas of Alaska.

31
32 Thank you for your time in listening to
33 my statement.

34
35 And this is Adam Smitholum.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any
38 public testimony.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Council
43 members, I talked to Barbara before. Would you like to
44 hear the report of how this hunt has been run the last
45 two years? You can either do it right now or do it
46 during deliberation.

47
48 You'd prefer now?

49
50 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Barbara.
2 That's what I was trying to whisper to you.
3
4 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 Pippa -- or Eva, have you distributed my agency report?
6
7 MS. PATTON: (Nods affirmatively)
8
9 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay.
10
11 So this is actually from my agency
12 report, and I thought it might be useful for you to hear
13 kind of how this hunt runs to help you better understand
14 the hunt.
15
16 So as Pippa explained, this hunt was
17 established fairly recently. There's a management plan
18 for this herd, and that plan discusses what an allowable
19 harvest might be, and so that's how we get to the quota
20 of seen animals. And because the allowable harvest is so
21 small, the .804 analysis was done.
22
23 The Board delegated to the Wrangell-St.
24 Elias superintendent the authority to open the season,
25 the announce the harvest quota, the number of permits,
26 and the reporting period, and to close the season.
27
28 And I met with a bunch of stakeholder.
29 the Federally-recognized tribes, the ACs, the RACs, the
30 SRC and we came up with a plan where we get some permits
31 out to the villages and then make the remaining permits
32 available first come, first served to residents of Tok
33 and Chisana. And those two communities don't have
34 Federally-recognized tribal governments that would allow
35 us to work with to get the permits out, so I just go up
36 to Tok. And we had -- actually this year we had some
37 Staff go out who were out in Chisana and took a couple
38 permits with them.
39
40 So anyway we have a telephone hot line.
41 We have three-day reporting just because the harvest
42 quota is so small, and we're very concerned about the
43 potential for over-harvest. And so people can actually
44 call in or send me an email if they get a caribou, and
45 that satisfies the three-day reporting period.
46
47 And so in 2012 a total of nine permits
48 were issued. Eight permittees reported hunting, and two
49 caribou were harvested. That was last year.
50

1 This year a total of nine permits were
2 issued. Seven permittees reported hunting and three
3 caribou were harvested.

4
5 In both cases the season was opened the
6 full month of September, and the most commonly used means
7 of access were off-road vehicles and horses. And that's
8 kind of the last means of access before people start
9 walking is how the wording on the harvest report is
10 listed.

11
12 So anyway I just wanted to share that
13 with you in case it helps you. And certainly if you have
14 any other comments about how this hunt occurs, I'm happy
15 to answer them.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions,
18 Council members.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Barbara, where
23 are they using off-road vehicles?

24
25 MS. CELLARIUS: Keep in mind that
26 residents of Chisana are eligible for this hunt.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know, but
29 that's a long ride to the caribou from Chisana.

30
31 MS. CELLARIUS: That's what's reported on
32 their harvest report.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's almost
35 hard to believe. Okay. Moving on.

36
37 Thanks, Barbara.

38
39 I don't even think it's possible.

40
41 Actually, you know, it's almost noon. We
42 ought to break for lunch, and I can check my email and I
43 can see if Will has emailed me any information that he
44 would want to present here to the Council, if that's okay
45 with you guys. We'll just meet at 1:10. Okay. All
46 right.

47
48 (Off record)

49
50 (On record)

1 MR. BERG: Yeah, Eva, this is Jerry Berg
2 with Fish and Wildlife in Anchorage.
3
4 MS. PATTON: Hello, Jerry. Jerry is Fish
5 and Wildlife ISC.
6
7 Anyone else who's joined us this
8 afternoon.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 MS. PATTON: Any members of the public
13 joining us this afternoon on teleconference.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MS. PATTON: All right. Just to remind
18 folks, if you could please star-six your hones, that
19 mutes it, keeps the background noise out. And then just
20 star-6 when you want to speak. And please do just jump
21 in, because we can't see you raise your hand out there.
22
23 Just join in.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. This is
26 Sue bringing us back. I would like -- I saw a bunch of
27 new faces earlier and now they're not here, but we have
28 a new face, the new Pete Probasco.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That makes more
33 sense to some of us. Sorry. But he just got his
34 position. It's Jerry, right?
35
36 MR. PELTOLA: Gene.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Gene. Come up
39 and introduce yourself. I'll murder it I'm afraid.
40
41 MR. PELTOLA: Madame Chair. Members of
42 the Council. Hello. My name is Gene Peltola, Jr., and
43 I'm the new Assistant Regional Director for the Office of
44 Subsistence Management, i.e. the new Pete Probasco.
45
46 And I know some of you. I've met Virgil
47 before. I think I met Andrew up in Fort Yukon before.
48
49 And then I'm a 30-year Fish and Wildlife
50 Service -- I'm in my 30th year with the Fish and Wildlife

1 Service. I started off my career early on in the early
2 80's at Yukon Delta Refuge in Bethel. I'm a Tlingit
3 Indian/Yup'ik Eskimo, born and raised in Bethel. I've
4 worked throughout the State. I was a biotech, biologist,
5 assistant manager at Yukon Delta, a wildlife
6 biologist/pilot at Selawik Refuge, refuge manager at
7 Selawik, assistant manager at Yukon Flats. And most
8 recently up until the middle of August when I came into
9 this position, I was the refuge manager and Federal in-
10 season manager with regard to the Kuskokwim drainage at
11 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

12

13 I got my wildlife degree here at UAF, and
14 most recently completed Harvard JFK School of Executive
15 Education series.

16

17 So I look forward to meeting you all and
18 working with you closely in the near future. And I
19 appreciate the opportunity.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you very
22 much. Okay.

23

24 And anyone in the audience, when someone
25 new comes in and I've missed them, if you could just kind
26 of alert me some way, I'd appreciate it, because I'm not
27 multi-tasking like I used to.

28

29 MR. UMPHENOUR: Someone is back in the
30 back.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who? Yes.
33 Okay. A public member, Sandy Jameson, had come in
34 earlier. That's somebody I know, and he's so short, we
35 can't see him. No, sorry, Sandy.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There he is.
40 Okay. Alrighty.

41

42 Moving on, I did not get any messages
43 from Will, nor did he call. So we're going to continue
44 on with this proposal and I'm going to ask the Council to
45 agree to allow Will to give his comments to OSM, and we
46 could -- maybe someone can help me here on what's allowed
47 and what isn't allowed, but I think what information he
48 can provide to help Pippa is fine, but as far our
49 position, if he has comments to add, I don't see any
50 problem with that; do you guys?

1 (No comments)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
4 how we're going to look at this. Now, if he completely
5 180 away from us, we're probably going to be in trouble,
6 but I don't think he will be.
7
8 So let's continue on.
9
10 And did you have that motion on already?
11 I can't even remember that. Did we make a motion to put
12 it on the table yet.
13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think we did. I don't.
15 I'll make one.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did we?
18
19 MS. PATTON: No, we should.
20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move that -- in case we
22 didn't do it, I move to adopt Proposal 14-15/45.
23
24 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
27 Discussion. We've been through most of it. Now we have
28 to discuss it. This is on the -- let's refresh our
29 memories for one second here. Adding the people in the
30 hunt area.
31
32 And instead of -- the proposal was
33 changed -- let's see now. OSM -- you put the proposal as
34 written, right?
35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Uh-huh.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And if
39 we were to look at Staff, OSM's recommendation, is it
40 slightly different I thought.
41
42 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's different.
45 Yeah. So we put up 15 -- just to refresh your memory.
46 15 was put in by the Wrangell-St. Elias Park Subsistence
47 Resource Commission, and 45 was ours. So OSM is
48 recommending don't take any action on 45, and support 15
49 with a modification, and that modification was Unit 12
50 along Nabesna Road. And along the Nabesna Road is not a

1 very big area and not that many residents. Yes.

2

3 And I don't know, you know, without
4 talking to Will, I'm not sure where he's at on it, but I
5 don't have any problem with it, because those people are
6 so close to the resource.

7

8 And, Barbara, I have to be reminded
9 without the minutes in front of me what the SRC -- we
10 supported which one?

11

12 MS. CELLARIUS: You supported 15. And I
13 was just going to make one comment about the difference
14 between 14 [sic] and 45 -- of 15 and 45. 15 was
15 submitted by the SRC, 45 is submitted by the RAC. 15 is
16 very explicit about where Nabesna is. It says people who
17 live along the Nabesna Road between mile 25 and mile 46.
18 Your proposal just says Nabesna. It's a little less
19 clear who would be included. I think in my mind that's
20 the difference between the two proposals is the RACs
21 proposal says residents of Nabesna. And there's not a
22 clear definition elsewhere in regulation for what the
23 residents of Nabesna are, whereas the SRC proposal was
24 very specific about people to live in Unit 12 along the
25 Nabesna Road.

26

27 And the SRC supported their proposal 15
28 as written, both residents of that part of Unit 12 that's
29 on the Nabesna Road and residents of the hunt area.

30

31 But that's what I see as the difference
32 between 15 and 45. It's just how clearly Nabesna is
33 defined.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So OSM
36 is supporting 15, but then with modification, and that
37 modification was added to the proposal, right?

38

39 MS. CELLARIUS: The modification is
40 excluding residents of the hunt area. The OSM proposed
41 modification would make the change for Nabesna, but not
42 make the change for the hunt area. The SRC's
43 recommendation.....

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That sounds
46 like a mess.

47

48 MS. CELLARIUS: The SRC's recommendation
49 is to support the proposal as written to include both
50 residents of Nabesna with a definition of it being that

1 stretch of road and residents of the hunt area.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So if we want
4 to do both, we would go for 15. Well that's a no
5 brainer.
6
7 MR. WOODRUFF: We may have to amend
8 our.....
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, no. Turn
11 your mic on, please.
12
13 MR. WOODRUFF: Sorry. I think Virgil
14 made the motion to accept OSM's recommendation; is that
15 correct?
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, he said 15.
18 Didn't you say -- your motion was to support 14-15.
19 That's what I heard.
20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. What I think I
22 said, but I could be wrong, was to support 15/45, which
23 would be both of them, because the analysis was
24 addressing both of them at the same time, you know, in
25 the book, and that's why I made the motion in the manner
26 that I did. So if we want to change that, all we've got
27 to do is someone needs to make a motion to amend the
28 motion.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. My
31 memory tells me you just said 14-15. He did say 14-15
32 and 45?
33
34 REPORTER: He's right.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
37 what he said. Doggone it. I thought you were going to
38 make it easy on it.
39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Amend it.
41
42 MR. WOODRUFF: I'd like to make a
43 friendly amendment.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is it
46 going to be clear as mud?
47
48 MR. WOODRUFF: It's going to be very
49 clear. To include the resident hunters.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The residents
2 of the hunt area.
3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Right. That's what I
5 meant.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So it's
8 Nabesna -- and this is an amendment to the motion.
9 That's why I think it's not -- what you -- your intent is
10 clear, but our motion I don't think it's that clear.
11
12 Barbara.
13
14 MS. CELLARIUS: WP14-15 would add to the
15 .804 for the Chisana caribou hunt, this is the proposal
16 as written, residents of Nabesna defined as people who
17 live along the Nabesna Road between mile 25 and mile 46,
18 and the people who live in the hunt area. That is the
19 original proposal as written.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. 15 is
22 what our intention is. So it seems like we'd have been
23 better off to just vote for 15 or vote down 45. That's
24 our intention.
25
26 (Conversation on teleconference)
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're hearing
29 a lot of voices on line. I don't know who's talking, but
30 you need to push star-six, please. Thank you.
31
32 Just vote this one down and vote just for
33 15 is my recommendation. Are we okay with that.
34
35 (Council nods affirmatively)
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Call for the
38 question.
39
40 MR. GLANZ: The question.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question's
43 been called for on both the 15, 14. You didn't have a
44 second, okay, without the amendment. Everyone in favor
45 of that.
46
47 (No affirmative votes)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
50 just say no. All apposed.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No one was in
4 favor. So now a new motion, please.
5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Actually we needed to
7 vote on his amendment first procedurally.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, he didn't
10 get a second on it. Now I need a motion for what
11 our.....
12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I move to adopt
14 Proposal 14-15.
15
16 MR. GLANZ: I'll second it.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you
19 want to try to.....
20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I reference all
22 the further discussion.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Because
25 our intent was to include the people in the hunt area.
26 Okay. And if OSM needs more information, they're going
27 to have to grab it from the people. Yeah. The previous
28 discussion, I'm being reminded by Virgil. Okay.
29
30 Any other discussion.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 MR. GLANZ: I'll call the question.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question is
37 called for. All in favor.
38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you on
42 line, James. I heard it, star-six. Are you there,
43 James.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Was he on for that vote.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, he was
50 on. We didn't hear from you, James, but if you come on

1 and say yes to 15, I'd be happy to hear that.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 (No opposing votes)
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. So
8 it passes.
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Move to take no
11 action on Proposal 14-45.
12
13 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Due to the action taken
16 on the previous proposal, 15.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
19 discussion.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 MR. GLANZ: Call the question.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question's
26 been called for. All in favor of taking no action on 45
27 based on the action on 15 say aye.
28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James, are you
32 with us.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
37
38 (No opposing votes)
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Motion
41 passes. And now we're getting more paper.
42
43 MR. WOODRUFF: We're moving along.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we are.
46 We're doing good. We are now on WP14-46 and 47,
47 executive summary.
48
49 This will be a fun one, right, Pippa?
50

1 MS. KENNER: It will be very fun. I
2 actually have some of this information in a PowerPoint.
3 I don't want to give a PowerPoint, but there -- just
4 actually a picture reference to what this proposal is.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what are you
7 saying?
8
9 MS. KENNER: Should I.....
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You don't want
12 to give it or you do want to give it.
13
14 MS. KENNER: I just want to maybe put up
15 a reference. Can you run the -- Okay.
16
17 Hello again. For the record my name is
18 Pippa Kenner, and I work for OSM in Anchorage.
19
20 And thank you, Madame Chair. Members of
21 the Council. It's nice to see you after lunch.
22
23 We are going to be talking about two
24 proposals that are combined. The analysis begins on Page
25 107 of your Council books.
26
27 And Proposal 14-46 was submitted by
28 Steven Hamilton of Eagle, and it requests that he Board
29 recognize the customary and traditional uses of caribou
30 in Unit 25B by residents of Eagle. And Eagle is located
31 just across the Yukon River, adjacent to Unit 25B.
32
33 There's another request, WP14-47, and
34 that request is from your Council, and it is complex, so
35 I'm going to go over a couple of things and then I'm
36 going to represent it in a picture on the screen just to
37 make sure everybody knows what we're talking about.
38
39 The Council intends to change the
40 determination for caribou in Units 20D and E, and 25B and
41 C. The Council explained that if the customary and
42 traditional use determinations are expanded as
43 recommended in the proposal, rural residents that live
44 within or adjacent to the Fortymile Caribou Herd's range
45 will be eligible to hunt throughout the herd's range,
46 rather than being restricted to hunting in only a portion
47 of the herd's range. Caribou move throughout the hunting
48 season, and are not consistently or continuously
49 available to harvest in all areas of their range.
50

1 Currently there's a patchwork of
2 customary and traditional use determinations that
3 regulate who can participate and where in early Federal
4 fall and winter season. Currently there is an early
5 Federal fall hunt in Units 20E and 25C that opens 19 days
6 before the State season, and the early Federal winter
7 hunt in the entire range of the Fortymile Caribou Herd
8 opens 30 days before the State season.

9
10 The 28 communities to be added to
11 existing determinations are listed on Page 111 of your
12 Council book. They're in Table 1. So there's 28
13 communities that live in those Management units and that
14 are in the proposal to be included. So for new public
15 and maybe Council members who aren't familiar with the
16 area, one of the areas we're talking about are two
17 subunits of Unit 20.

18
19 MS. PATTON: (Indiscernible - away from
20 microphones)

21
22 MS. KENNER: You mean aim it?

23
24 MS. PATTON: Yeah. We need to
25 (Indiscernible - away from microphones) this wall.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MS. KENNER: This is to show you the
30 Units 20B and 20E.

31
32 Eva, could you back up one?

33
34 Thank you, Eva.

35
36 And so the Federal public lands in these
37 units are basically the Yukon-Charley Rivers National
38 Preserve, and there are pockets of BLM land which is the
39 gold or yellow that you see in 20D and 20E.

40
41 Go ahead, Eva. Thank you.

42
43 So those are the two units, 20D and 20E.

44
45 Next. And now we're going to look at 25,
46 so we're looking at 25B and C. So the pockets of Federal
47 land that we're going to be looking at are basically the
48 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coming into 20B, large
49 parcels of BLM land which would be the gold or the
50 yellow, and then the White Mountain National Recreation

1 Area in 20C, and the Steese National Conservation Area in
2 20C.

3

4 Next. Those units. Next.

5

6 So to demonstrate to you how this
7 proposal was put together, or what it means, on the left
8 I have a list of communities that are in the request.
9 And in the middle I have the existing C&T determinations.
10 So if that existing C&T determination includes either 20D
11 and E, or 25B and C, in the right column -- can you go
12 next -- the one that's not in the determination has been
13 added.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pippa, is this
16 also in our book what you're showing? If you could
17 reference the page in the book as you go, that would be
18 helpful I believe.

19

20 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
21 am referencing Page 121, Appendix A.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And those first
24 two slides were which ones?

25

26 MS. KENNER: They would have been the
27 maps that you would find either in the Federal book or
28 early in the meeting book when.....

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, no, no.
31 The slide before this.

32

33 MS. KENNER: They were simply the unit
34 maps that are in this.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, am I still
37 looking at the same slide? I thought you changed it to
38 another slide. Okay. Go on. It's Page.....

39

40 MR. WOODRUFF: 121.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
43 continue.

44

45 MS. KENNER: I'm a little bit concerned
46 because this was to clarify, but maybe I haven't been.
47 But I just simply wanted to show, if you read the
48 request, it looks -- it's very difficult to understand
49 it. If you look at it this way, you can see the logic of
50 why certain communities were included in the request.

1 So for Unit 12, Northway, Northway
2 Junction, Tanacross, Tetlin, and Tok, their C&T is at the
3 top of the page in the middle, and the request is to add
4 25B and C. Why not 20D and E? Because if you look in
5 the middle, 20D and E are already included.

6
7 Next. This next one's for the residents
8 of the Tok Cutoff Road, Milepost 79 to 110. Their
9 existing C&T and what's in the request.

10
11 Next. Eureka and Livengood C&T for
12 caribou is 20B, that area of 20B. The request is to add
13 20D and E and 25 B and C.

14
15 Next. So if you follow it, you go down
16 and that is the request, what you see there written in
17 table form.

18
19 And other way to show it is visually.
20 Next. This is a map, I handed it out to you. I set it
21 to you earlier, but it was not in color. So I've handed
22 out another one. I have additional copies that may be
23 handed out.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 In the middle in the blue square, I've
28 always indicated where Fairbanks is, so you can orient
29 yourself. So the first line in the table was exactly
30 this. It shows the communities, Tanacross, Tok, Tetlin,
31 Northway Junction, and Northway. The simple cross hatch
32 is the existing C&T and the blue double cross hatch is
33 the request.

34
35 Next. And it continues. There's Manley.

36
37 Next. Would the Council like me to
38 continue, or is that enough? You pretty much understand
39 what that handout is, and do you have any questions about
40 it.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MS. KENNER: Okay. Eva, thank you. I'm
47 done with the PowerPoint.

48
49 Okay. So the range of the Fortymile
50 Caribou Herd is on Map 2 on Page 114 of your Council

1 book. So this is the current range of the Fortymile
2 Caribou Herd, and the White Mountains and Fortymile
3 Caribou Herd. And it helps to understand the map if you
4 orient yourself looking at Fairbanks and Unit 20B on the
5 left side of the page.

6
7 The range of the Fortymile Caribou Herd
8 is on Map 2 on Page 114 of your Council Book, what we
9 just went over. Units 20D and E and 25B and C are
10 connected to the road system. The Alaska Highway crosses
11 20D. The Taylor Highway crosses 20E, ending at the Yukon
12 River across from Unit 25B. And the Steese Highway
13 crosses 25C. The roads in the units do not travel
14 through Federal public lands; however, they allow easier
15 access to Federal public lands.

16
17 For example, the Steese Highway in Unit
18 25C is near the Steese National Conservation Area. The
19 Taylor Highway terminus is at the Yukon River upriver
20 from the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

21
22 In analyzing customary and traditional
23 uses, I review much of the relevant literature. I
24 queried the harvest reporting data base; that includes
25 both State and Federal reports. And I read the results
26 of household harvest surveys, which are included in the
27 analysis.

28
29 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
30 support Proposal 14-46. This is to include Eagle in Unit
31 20B for Caribou. The Board should recognize the
32 customary and traditional uses of caribou in Unit 25B by
33 residents of Eagle. Eagle is immediately across the
34 Yukon River from Unit 25B. And based on the harvest
35 reporting system and ethnographic observations, residents
36 of Eagle have harvested or attempted to harvest caribou
37 in Unit 25B.

38
39 Further, the OSM preliminary conclusion
40 is to support Proposal 14-47. The Fortymile Caribou
41 Herd's population and migratory range has been growing.
42 Current customary and traditional use determinations
43 exclude some people from hunting areas they used
44 historically, and from hunting areas they can easily
45 access today using the road system.

46
47 Thank you, Madame Chair and Council,
48 that's the end of my presentation.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council

1 members. Questions.
2
3 That's a lot of information. Is that too
4 much information to ask a question right now.
5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have a question.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: On Page 115, it says,
11 over the past 20 years Fortymile Caribou Herd has
12 expanded its range in two areas south of the Yukon River.
13 Currently the herd has not crossed to the north side of
14 the Yukon River.
15
16 I think that's wrong. Bill knows.
17
18 Am I right or wrong?
19
20 MR. GLANZ: It's wrong. They said it was
21 the first time it's crossed there, but we've seen them
22 cross there before, but, you know, in limited numbers.
23 Nothing like they've seen in Eagle this year. They have
24 crossed.
25
26 At the -- like we've -- at harvest
27 management meetings, they're generally -- what they're
28 trying to do is get them back into their old range as
29 you've seen on the other map earlier. And they're
30 starting to go that way now. They're also way up in the
31 Whites, the Crazyies. They've moved all over the area
32 this year. So we're doing -- they're coming around real
33 well.
34
35 But they have crossed as Virgil says, and
36 Don can attest. He had to shoot one this year.
37
38 (Laughter)
39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, that was my
41 question. They had a paper in the -- or I mean a picture
42 in the Fairbanks paper of them crossing by the thousands
43 across the Yukon. Right, Don?
44
45 MR. WOODRUFF: That's correct. The herd
46 went to Dawson and cross (indiscernible).....
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mic. Mic.
49
50 MR. WOODRUFF: Sorry.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Your name's not
2 Mike.

3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: The herd cross just below
5 Eagle down to the Seventymile River, which is about 20
6 miles, and they crossed steadily, and now they're over in
7 Dawson area.

8
9 And, yes, we did harvest a few, mostly to
10 all bull harvest, thank goodness. And we're really
11 thankful. We were blessed with that crossing.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what does
16 that do to that statement.

17
18 MS. KENNER: At the time this book went
19 to press, that wasn't in the newspaper yet; however, I
20 had heard from a couple of people that they actually were
21 crossing, and I think I included their -- according to
22 the harvest management coalition, it hadn't gone to 20B,
23 but, however, an Eagle resident in a personal
24 communication said Fortymile caribou have been crossing
25 the Yukon River north into Unit 25B. That's continuing
26 on Page 115.

27
28 I will certainly update the information.

29
30 Thank you, Virgil. Through the Chair.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

33
34 Other questions.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I like things
39 kept simple, but at the same time -- I'm looking at --
40 this is to help you guys jar your memory.

41
42 This handout you handed us, so if I'm
43 looking at each one of these you have done, the first one
44 is Tanacross, Tok, Tetlin, Northway Junction, and
45 Northway. I'm seeing the existing C&T, and then I'm
46 seeing the proposed C&T. The proposed is to add to the
47 existing, correct? Okay. That needs to be clear.

48
49 So this proposal we put forth did all of
50 this. So if I look at each one of these pages, I'm

1 seeing Manley, for instance, next, where -- and this is
2 for just caribou. This has nothing to do with just the
3 Fortymile caribou; it's whatever caribou is in those
4 areas. So somebody from Manley can now hunt 20D, 20E,
5 20B, and 20C, which they weren't able to before?
6

7 MS. KENNER: Under the -- they weren't
8 able to participate in the Federal hunt. Of course, they
9 could participate under State regulations.
10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Well,
12 I'm kind of on he Federal in the mind here.
13

14 MS. KENNER: Uh-huh.
15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And this goes
17 on, the same for Livengood, Eureka -- now, see, to me,
18 where this would take an effect is when the State closes
19 their hunt, then the Federal hunt, they continue to be
20 able to hunt. So somebody under this Livengood/Eureka
21 one could then go to 20D, 20E, 20B, and 25C when it's
22 restricted to State hunters.
23

24 MS. KENNER: When it's restricted to only
25 the Federally-qualified and a Federal season is open.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.
28 Sometimes you have to go through this to completely
29 understand what's going on. And then you can look at
30 this, guys, as you go down, Minto, and all of them, where
31 their C&T was and where it's proposed.
32

33 So, I see your hand, Andrew. I got you
34 thinking.
35

36 MR. FIRMIN: Well, just for
37 clarification, when we first brought this up, I believe
38 Don did, and the reason we added those other communities
39 is like in 20F along the Dalton Highway and Elliot
40 Highway, those were historical migration areas, so this
41 herd is beginning to migrate back over there and become
42 its own herd again, like the White Mountain herd. Well,
43 why shouldn't those guys be able to hunt it like they did
44 30, 40 years ago, regardless if the, you know -- and the
45 same with Fort Yukon and Circle. People from Fort Yukon
46 historically have gone to Circle and shoot them right in
47 front of Circle when they cross the river right there in
48 front of town, which the oldtimers that tell me they used
49 to do when they were kids up there in Circle. And I see
50 some of their work cited in the back here where some of

1 the -- I did their harvest surveys for some of those
2 works, and that was why I know first hand talking to
3 people that that was -- they used to cross all along the
4 Yukon there between Circle and Eagle. And the White
5 Mountain herd used to cross or even go up in the Dalton
6 Highway and Elliot Highway area. So if those herds are
7 going back there like you said, why would you not be able
8 to hunt them Federally. And that was where I think we
9 ended up adding a larger and larger area, right? It was
10 thinking, done our part I guess.

11

12 If that makes sense to you all.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I know
15 why. When you look at it like this, and you look at each
16 community, it's pretty big.

17

18 MR. FIRMIN: Well, just it does seem odd
19 that somebody from Eureka or Livengood would want to go
20 clean to Eagle to hunt a caribou, but I think the
21 thinking of the area got so expanded was because it's
22 historical migration area used to be right there in
23 Livengood and Eureka.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I think
26 our intent was just for one -- I thought it was for the
27 Fortymile caribou, but I know how the Federal system
28 works when you do caribou. It doesn't matter which herd
29 it is.

30

31 Okay, guys. Any more questions. Hearing
32 none.....

33

34 MR. GLANZ: Excuse me, Madame Chair. Actually
35 the reason it's like this is I know that they was wanting
36 the game units that are surrounding the Fortymile herd,
37 the State was mentioning wanting to put that into this,
38 like we have it here, to prevent over-harvest and stuff
39 like that. That was the main reason. But that's why all
40 the -- it was the ACs that surround that harvest, what
41 the State had wanted. But I think Rita St. Louis could
42 probably clarify that.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well, we
45 can continue. This is the analysis.

46

47 Anyone have any other questions of the
48 analysis.

49

50 (No comments)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
2
3 So next would be the ADF&G agency
4 comments.
5
6 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 Jennifer Yuhas again with the Alaska Department of Fish
8 and Game.
9
10 And we have no recommendation for you on
11 these two complicated proposals. We're working very well
12 with the Federal managers and we're going to stick to
13 managing the critters. How you decide the humans does
14 not have any impact on the allowable harvest.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wish it was
17 all that easy. Okay. Thank you.
18
19 Federal agencies, any other comments.
20
21 BLM.
22
23 MS. GRONQUIST: I don't have any -- this
24 is Ruth Gronquist with BLM.
25
26 I don't have any specific comments to
27 this, but I just want to let you guys know that if you
28 have any questions, you can ask me to come forward. And
29 you've got people on this Council who have a lot of
30 background. There have been a couple of things that
31 you've brought up that if you bring them up again in your
32 discussion, I may jump up here.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Please
35 don't hesitate to do so. All of you have good input.
36
37 All right. Then it would be Native,
38 tribal, village or other. Anyone for comments.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: InterAgency
43 Staff. And now that I know we do have an InterAgency --
44 they usually don't say anything, but it's on my list of
45 things to do.
46
47 (No opposing votes)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Advisory
50 groups. Our neighboring RACs and ACs.

1 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. No comments
2 from neighboring RACs or the ACs at this time. Not all
3 ACs have met at this time. Some are meeting in the
4 coming weeks here.
5
6 We do have just a couple public comments.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. And
9 no SRC.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
14 would be your written comments next.
15
16 MS. PATTON: For public written comments
17 that were submitted, we have one again from public member
18 Donald Woodruff, and mayor of Eagle, in support of C&T.
19 If you wanted to speak to Eagle's traditional use of
20 caribou or bring that up as a Council member.
21
22 And then Miki and Julie Collins of Lake
23 Minchumina are outside of the way, but they say they
24 support this proposal. Not having personal knowledge of
25 it, but if the statements are accurate, those that
26 haven't experienced subsistence lifestyles tend to
27 underestimate the importance of a wide variety of local
28 traditionally-used natural resources, including access to
29 them.
30
31 And that's it for public comments.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Any
34 public testimony.
35
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Out in
40 teleconference land.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So next would
45 be a motion.
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Move to adopt 46
48 and 47.
49
50 MR. GLANZ: I'd be happy to second that.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So
2 clarification, that's as written, right?
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
7 Discussion.
8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'd defer to Bill.
10
11 MR. GLANZ: It's been a big problem
12 around our areas there, and our ACs, they were always
13 questioning why we had no C&T designation for that. And
14 this kind of alleviates that problem. And the people in
15 Circle have been asking me about that, and they already
16 had one, do they -- they didn't understand how that
17 works, so we tried to explain it to some of them. And,
18 anyway, this is going to simplify the matters real well
19 is about all I can say.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hope they
22 understand it. They might need an attorney.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.
27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Bill, you're on
29 this Caribou Coalition, correct?
30
31 MR. GLANZ: Correct.
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So my question is,
34 has the Caribou Coalition discussed this, and, if so,
35 could you kind of give us a briefing on that.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, are you
38 asking for the short version?
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just had to
43 say that.
44
45 (Laughter)
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.
48
49 MR. GLANZ: Well, everybody on that
50 coalition is not subsistence qualified.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, tell him
2 who all's on it. It's five rural ones.
3
4 MR. GLANZ: Yes. We have Delta,
5 Fairbanks, Central, Circle, and Eagle. And then we have.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Upper
8 Tanana.
9
10 MR. GLANZ: What's that?
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you say
13 Upper Tanana? Upper Tanana/Fortymile.
14
15 MR. GLANZ: Well, that's Fortymile, yes,
16 what's his name, Lief, he's on that.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lief. Okay.
19 Everybody says Lief, but it's Lief.
20
21 MR. GLANZ: It's Lief? Really.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lief, yeah.
24
25 MR. GLANZ: I'm going to have to ask him
26 if he's Norwegian if that's right. But anyway -- and
27 Donny's on it, Woodruff here, he's on it representing
28 with the Board. And we have two other people. We have
29 -- what is it, Palmer and Anchorage.
30
31 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Palmer and
34 Anchorage ACs. Okay.
35
36 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, they came on that.
37
38 MR. WOODRUFF: And we also have a
39 coalition of the indigenous Natives in Canada, Canadian
40 government, and a bunch of other resource people in
41 Canada that come to these Coalition meetings, and
42 everyone, including -- especially the Canadians, are into
43 building the herd.
44
45 Does that answer your question, Virgil?
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But he --
48 Virgil, my understanding of your question to Bill was
49 just have they talked about this proposal.
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.
2
3 MR. GLANZ: If you can answer that, I
4 missed that last call-in, Donald. I'll refer to Donald.
5 The last call-in we had major ice storms, we didn't have
6 any telephones or anything.
7
8 MR. WOODRUFF: The last teleconference,
9 which this would have come up on, did not deal with this
10 proposal. The last teleconference dealt with should we
11 have a winter hunt, and that was no as we've over-
12 harvested a little bit.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But didn't the
15 Coalition one time talk about this before the proposal
16 was brought up? I thought they did. I thought that's
17 why we put it through, because you guys were talking
18 about it.
19
20 MR. GLANZ: No, that was -- I'm going to
21 defer to Ruth; let her talk about it.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You want to
24 defer to Ruth? Yeah. Oh, Ruth or Pippa, who wants to go
25 first.
26
27 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa with OSM.
28
29 I was just going to say really briefly
30 that one of the goals set by the management plan is to
31 allow for more traditional and local harvest. And the
32 regulatory system has been trying to respond.
33
34 From a statewide perspective what happens
35 is that when an early Federal hunt is opened and the
36 State hunt is closed, people who have been hunting the
37 State hunt for years all of a sudden find themselves left
38 out, because they're not in the C&T. And that's what the
39 situation is. I think they're trying to expand the
40 ability for local people to harvest, but because of these
41 restricted C&T's, to expand the harvest can't happen, and
42 those people can actually participate.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I
45 understand that, but Virgil's question, and what I just
46 asked was, we thought that this idea was floated around
47 the coalition prior to the proposal. Was it not?
48
49 MS. GRONQUIST: Madame Chair. My
50 recollection is the origins of this proposal had come

1 from the community of Central, and those involved in the
2 AC in the region.

3
4 MR. GLANZ: It was mainly brought forth
5 to -- with some State people talking to me. And I never
6 heard anybody at any of the meetings, Mike Tinker, he
7 never said anything about it. He was just afraid that we
8 -- when we first started this that we would harvest --
9 you know, we'd just take all the caribou. And I don't
10 even.....

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The Federal
13 hunt?

14
15 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. The Federal hunt. And
16 that's the only thing I ever heard that anybody had any
17 contention or problems with, you know. But then we
18 alleviated that problem, so there is no problem that I've
19 had anybody -- well, have you heard anything in your AC
20 up there in Fairbanks, Virgil?

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, we haven't really
23 discussed this issue here. And so we meet tonight -- or
24 tomorrow night, but we'll be done meeting here when we
25 meet tomorrow night. No, we hadn't discussed this. We
26 did discuss whether or not to, you know, before they
27 decided to go ahead and have -- or what to do about the
28 winter hunt, we discussed that in October I believe it
29 was when we had our first meeting. We discussed,
30 because, you know, because they had over-harvested, went
31 I don't know how many over what the goal was to get to
32 harvest, and whether or not to have a winter hunt.

33
34 We did discuss that.

35
36 MR. GLANZ: I had numerous people on my
37 AC concerned with just the same thing that Ruth had just
38 stated, which when I said that over there about being
39 left out when -- not Tier I or whatever that is, but
40 being left out because there's no C&T. You could sit
41 there and watch somebody from, I don't know, Manley out
42 there. I mean, I don't know if they're in it. We've
43 just seen a list of people that's in it, but somebody got
44 to come in the area and shoot them, and the locals can't
45 harvest them. Anyway, this has been a big thorn in the
46 side of a lot of people around that area, so I'm glad we
47 can rectify it if it passes.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any more
50 discussion. Just whatever you can put on the record is

1 real helpful.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: May I ask another
4 question.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.
7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I don't know if
9 there's anyone in the room that can answer this question,
10 but what my question is, because I feel a little bit
11 uncomfortable, I think -- well, I'd like the Coalition to
12 have looked at this, and so when is the next Coalition
13 meeting.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Rita.
16
17 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you. This is Rita
18 St. Louis. I work for Fish and Game.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're the lead
21 person for the Coalition?
22
23 MS. ST. LOUIS: I'm not. I just am a
24 coordinator.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A coordinator.
27 Okay.
28
29 MS. ST. LOUIS: Yeah. Uh-huh. A meeting
30 has not been scheduled yet for the Coalition. If it
31 happens, it would be in the spring.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the Federal
34 Board meets?
35
36 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. The Federal
37 Board for the wildlife cycle will be meeting in March.
38 So there is an opportunity for this Council to meet again
39 as a Council and take up discussions or additional
40 feedback.
41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madame Chair.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
45 Virgil.
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Well, that leads
48 me to the next question then. I would feel more
49 comfortable if we -- because a couple of our people are
50 in the Coalition on our RAC, and if the Coalition

1 addressed this proposal, and if I knew what their
2 thoughts and there actions were on it, I would feel
3 better. So that leads me to this question. You say that
4 the Coalition will meet in the spring, but the Federal
5 Board's going to meet in March, and we're going to meet
6 again in February, and so is it possible the Coalition
7 might meet before our RAC meets again by teleconference
8 or some manner or another.

9

10 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair. I
11 don't think so, because we'll be preparing for the Board
12 of Game. I don't think so. At least it's not scheduled.

13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

15

16 MS. GRONQUIST: Madame Chair, if I might.

17

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

20

21 MS. GRONQUIST: This is Ruth Gronquist
22 with BLM.

23

24 And I was on that last call of the
25 Coalition. Typically the Coalition is dealing with
26 harvest management, and with the joint permit. I think
27 that, I don't want to speak out of turn, but it doesn't
28 appear that this is going to have any impact on harvest
29 in the long term. If it did, they may, the Council may
30 -- or rather, excuse me, the Coalition may have wanted to
31 take it up. I don't know if it was on their radar. But
32 we do have several members of subsistence communities.
33 Basically all of the AC heads are from rural communities
34 except for Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Matanuska Valley.
35 So I don't know that the Coalition would really weigh in
36 on this, or feel left out if they didn't weigh in. But
37 again they primarily are dealing with again not the pool
38 of humans, but the management of the harvest.

39

40 MR. GLANZ: And there's not -- just to go
41 along with Ruth there, I doubt, Virgil, if anybody on
42 there, except maybe Mike, who's not going to be in the
43 C&T, would even object to this. I mean, you know,
44 there's -- I can't imagine.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or Anchorage or
47 Mat-Su.

48

49 MR. GLANZ: No, they have no vote.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, they have
2 no vote?
3
4 MR. GLANZ: No.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They have of
7 say, but they can't vote?
8
9 MR. GLANZ: No, that was part of the
10 deal. We all made that motion there that we should be
11 the only ones that are -- the voting members are the five
12 original, or six, whatever.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that true?
15 I see Rita disagreeing with you.
16
17 MR. GLANZ: What was that, what was the
18 vote on that; do you remember?
19
20 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair. Mr.
21 Glanz. I'm not aware of they're not being able to vote.
22
23 MR. GLANZ: I thought Will Caulder made
24 a motion. We voted on that that -- because what our
25 concern was on that.....
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry to
30 laugh.
31
32 MR. GLANZ: No, no. The concern we have
33 on that is it would be just like if we had 30 people here
34 at this meeting. WE couldn't agree on nothing. You
35 know, the people that has nothing to do with the caribou
36 -- well, I'll put it this way here, if we wanted to make
37 a different season and watch the caribou, but the
38 Matanuska and Susitna and Anchorage, so they're -- this
39 is what they say in our meetings: We don't care if it's
40 a half-day season, we just want to go shoot a caribou.
41 There ain't no quality hunt, no nothing. And so, I mean,
42 they still think they're bogus, we won't let more in.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.
45
46 MR. WOODRUFF: I think I can clarify what
47 Bill was saying is that they do have a vote, but it was
48 decided that because of their population density. or
49 their maybe undue influence politically, that the herd
50 communities would always, because there's so many of us,

1 but always trump their vote. So what Bill is indirectly
2 correct, but not that they don't have a voice.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They lost by
5 numbers.

6

7 MR. WOODRUFF: That's true.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Not by
10 numbers of them, as who they represent, but on the
11 Coalition.

12

13 Rita.

14

15 MS. ST. LOUIS: Madame Chair. This is in
16 the plan, which I don't have with me I'm sorry to say,
17 but everybody's kind of correct in that the core five
18 members of the Coalition will always have a majority, but
19 the other people can still vote. Yeah.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And one
22 of those.....

23

24 MR. GLANZ: And that's called communist
25 rules.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. One of
30 them's from Fairbanks, so the urban Alaska is represented
31 as one of the five.

32

33 Yeah. You know what I understand the
34 intent of the proposal, and I guess to me once I see all
35 these graphs, it's looks a little bit more broader than
36 I thought it was originally, but 20D doesn't really have
37 much, if any, Federal land in it. I'm looking at that.

38

39 But any rate, I'm okay. You guys wanted
40 to do this, and I know what BLM, or Ruth is saying, too,
41 because as long as it's a Federal hunt, what's the
42 likelihood of somebody way up on the Yukon coming way
43 down around and doing something. But if it -- if you
44 guys think this proposal meets your intention, just say
45 so.

46

47 MR. FIRMIN: One of the things that I
48 think the original intent for me was like if the herd was
49 crossing, like if this was in 25B, it wouldn't be against
50 the law to harvest them on that side of the river. If I

1 saw them between Fort Yukon and Circle, and I can't shoot
2 any of the, because I don't have the C&T, but I could
3 drive 300 miles up the river to the Canadian border and
4 go shoot them up there. That just doesn't make sense.
5 If the herd is migrating through there, let the people
6 that have historically harvested them harvest them. I
7 doubt I'm going to go to Eagle and shoot any caribou
8 anytime soon, but if they're down by Circle, I probably
9 will. You know what I mean? So it would just -- and I
10 doubt people from Manley or Livengood are going to go
11 travel that far, or even from Tanana or Stevens, but if
12 the herd does get big enough that they're actually in
13 Stevens Village, why not let those people have a chance
14 to harvest the caribou.

15

16 And that was kind of my reasoning behind,
17 you know, liking the whole idea of it. I don't think
18 people are going to start running all over the country to
19 harvest caribou, but it's been known to happen in the
20 past. That's how I thought of it all.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Well,
23 what could happen is the Federal hunt is all that's
24 opened, and somebody in Rampart is in Fairbanks and they
25 found out, ah, there's caribou over on the Taylor. I'm
26 going to go over there and hunt them, because I can go on
27 the road system. And it makes it a little bit broader,
28 but if you guys are all okay with it.

29

30 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I don't think that was
31 the original thing.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know. That's
34 what kind of weird to me.

35

36 MR. FIRMIN: That's kind of why we lost
37 it in the analysis a little bit. It was only -- like I
38 said, my whole thing again was if there's caribou by
39 Rampart in 20F and they're on Federal land, well, give
40 those guys a chance to shoot them. If they're not there,
41 then I really doubt they're going to go four or five game
42 units a way to shoot at them.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lester.

45

46 MR. ERHART: Yeah. There was quite a few
47 of them. I mean, there were little bands of them, like
48 six, seven, between Rampart and town, and across the
49 river in late fall here.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that State
2 land or Federal there.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madame Chair.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.
7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, but that's a
9 different caribou herd there than the one we're
10 addressing, and that's a very small one.
11
12 MR. ERHART: It was on this side though,
13 going that way.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This proposal
16 is for caribou. It's not for Fortymile caribou. This is
17 for all caribou.
18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: I know that, but
20 Fortymile caribou is what caused the proposal to come
21 forward. The caribou that Lester's talking about are the
22 -- well, I can't even think of the name of the caribou.
23 Anyway, the ones that are there at the rapids, those
24 caribou.
25
26 MR. ERHART: No, those weren't the ones,
27 Virgil. They were coming from this side going that way.
28
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: I can remember in '92
30 when a whole bunch -- when there wasn't really that many
31 caribou over here in the Alaska Range. They came all the
32 way from the Alaska Range over on the Wood River and Dry
33 Creek area and crossed up by Manley, went all the way up
34 by Manley and crossed the river up there then. For some
35 reason they decided to take a big hike.
36
37 And I can remember Dall sheep above the
38 graveyard in Nenana when I was down there buying fish
39 about 15 hears ago, a half a dozen or so. So these
40 animals do crazy things some times.
41
42 But anyway I think I'll support the
43 proposal, because I put my faith in my two members
44 sitting over here to the next of me. But I can see where
45 this could have some problems in the future, and the
46 Coalition will have to work them out. But I understand
47 why they put the proposal in.
48
49 When I first came up here in '71, I went
50 and bought a caribou tag. I was a non-resident because

1 I'd just got here, just come back from Vietnam. And I
2 went up past Chicken, but I was smarter than most guys
3 that were here, because I put.....

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We know that.
6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR:10 bags of sand in
8 the back of the truck. And when I got to an icy hill,
9 because it was the first part of October, I got out and
10 made me two little trails of sand and drove over the
11 hill.

12
13 I saw about 200 caribou in an opening,
14 and so I got out and I thought I'd sneak around and try
15 to find one to shoot. And I knew the bulls were in rut
16 and wouldn't be good to eat, so I wanted to shoot a young
17 bull. I got over there, and all these guys came up over
18 the hill, followed my trail of sand, started shooting
19 from the road at 5 to 600 yards into the herd of caribou,
20 and it was just like one of those old Western movies of
21 a stampede on a cattle drive. And I had to hide down
22 behind a little bitty tree about this big around while
23 all the caribou ran past me and people are shooting at
24 them.

25
26 So I've seen that happen.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is the
29 long version?

30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, I'm serious.
32

33 (Laughter)
34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: But anyway there can be
36 problems.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It sounds like
39 it.
40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm done. Madame Chair.
42

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Hey, I
45 don't have two buttons no more. Okay.
46

47 You're supporting them, and I'm
48 supporting the concept of being reasonable where people
49 can hunt, and realize that it looks a little more
50 complicated than I thought.

1 MR. ERHART: Yes, we do.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. We do.
4 As written.
5
6 Just one question for Pippa. In that
7 25B, residents of 25 and adding Eagle, that has to be
8 voted on also, right? Where it says and Eagle.
9
10 MS. KENNER: Thank you for asking that
11 question, Madame Chair. I don't know what you have to
12 do. I suggest that you do that.
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Read my mind.
17
18 MS. KENNER: One of these proposals is
19 very small and one of these proposals is very big.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But what I'm
22 asking you is, is Eagle included in 47 or if we want
23 Eagle included, would it -- you would have to vote for 46
24 also?
25
26 MS. KENNER: For the record, this is
27 Pippa Kenner of OSM.
28
29 Yes. 46 is included in 47. If you
30 choose to vote on and support 47, you would be including
31 the request in 46.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see. So
34 we're voting on it twice. The motion is for both. So I
35 was just clarifying why Eagle -- just making sure we know
36 what we're doing here. Is that clear.
37
38 (Council nods affirmatively)
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thanks
41 for all the input on the record. That helps a lot.
42 Someone didn't say it.
43
44 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll call the question.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question's
47 been called for. All in favor.
48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I need to call
6 on you, James. Are you still with us or not?
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Star-6. He
11 might have took off here this afternoon.
12
13 MS. PATTON: James, do we still have you
14 on line with us? We're taking a motion on.....
15
16 MR. ROBERTS: Can you hear me now?
17
18 MS. PATTON: Yeah, we got you now. Thank
19 you. Were you able to hear the discussion, and the
20 motion on the floor is to adopt WP14-46 and 47.
21
22 MR. ROBERTS: And what did the Board say?
23 The RAC.
24
25 MS. PATTON: The Council is moving to
26 adopt the proposal.
27
28 MR. ROBERTS: I'll move to adopt it also.
29 I didn't hear the vote. I'm sorry.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.
32 You're in favor of it; is that correct?
33
34 MR. ROBERTS: Yes.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We've
37 gotcha. Thank you.
38
39 I have had a request for a 15-minute
40 break, and then we'll go into the next proposal.
41
42 MR. WOODRUFF: Which is 48 we're jumping,
43 right?
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it isn't
46 going to be 48, because we're jumping 49.
47
48 (Off record)
49
50 (On record)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, gang.
2 I'm ready to bring you back.

3
4 (Off record conversation)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. As
7 you're all coming back to your seats, Virgil had a family
8 emergency. Not really, but somebody locked their keys
9 out the car, mom and dad of his children and their little
10 first grader is at school with no way home, so he had to
11 go rescue this little guy and take him home before he can
12 get back. It will be about 30 minutes he said, so we're
13 at least 10 into it.

14
15 But we have James on line. He's already
16 verified he's there, which gives us a quorum. My other
17 two members are in the audience somewhere.

18
19 MS. PATTON: I see Andrew and then we're
20 just waiting on Lester.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is Lester
23 there? I guess I lied. Lester's not here.

24
25 (Off record conversation)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. The
28 next proposal is 49. Go ahead, Chris.

29
30 MR. MCKEE: Good afternoon. Chris McKee,
31 OSM.

32
33 Proposal WP14-49 begins on Page 146 of
34 your meeting booklet. It was submitted by Gillam Joe,
35 and requests modification of the fall season dates for
36 the Unit 12 caribou hunt that takes place east of the
37 Nabesna River and Nabesna Glacier and south of the winter
38 trail, and also requests the establishment of a winter
39 hunt and a meat on the bone requirement.

40
41 The proposal requests that the fall
42 season be changed from the dates of September 1st to
43 September 30th to August 10th to September 20th, and a
44 February 1 to March 31st winter season be established.

45
46 The proponent states that the fall season
47 dates should be adjusted to provide Federally-qualified
48 users an opportunity to harvest caribou before the rut.
49 As the rut approaches in late September, meat quality
50 declines significantly. Additionally the proponent

1 states that establishing a winter hunt would give
2 subsistence users more opportunity and easier access to
3 the Chisana Caribou Herd since the affected area is
4 remote and difficult to access without the aid of a
5 snowmachine.

6
7 The proponent also states the meat on the
8 bone requirement will ensure that all edible meat is
9 removed from the field.

10
11 And you've already taken up Proposal
12 WP14-45, which was the C&T companion component of this.

13
14 A five-year management plan for the
15 Chisana Caribou Herd has been developed through a
16 cooperative effort between the Government of the Yukon,
17 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, White River First
18 Nation, Kluane First Nation, National Park Service, and
19 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The plan was
20 finalized in October of 2012 and provides a framework for
21 monitoring the Chisana population, and criteria for
22 implementing a hunt through 2015.

23
24 In addition to a stable or increasing
25 population trend, the plan also requires the observed
26 bull/cow ratio to be no less than 35 bulls per 100 cows,
27 with a 3-year calf/cow ratio above 15 calves per 100
28 cows. If the population falls below these guidelines, no
29 harvest will be allowed. If population goals indicate a
30 harvest is sustainable, the plan calls for an annual
31 bulls-only harvest not to exceed two percent of the
32 estimated population with the harvest being equally
33 distributed among the Yukon and Alaska.

34
35 The herd increased through the 1980's and
36 reached a peak of 1900 caribou in 1988. However,
37 beginning in 1990 the herd experienced a decline in
38 population size and concern over the decline led to
39 implementation of an intensive captive rearing program in
40 Canada conducted between 2003 to 2006 by USGS and the
41 Canadian Wildlife Service.

42
43 Past declines were attributed to poor
44 calf recruitment and high adult mortality associated with
45 adverse weather conditions, poor habitat, and predation.

46
47 Results from the 2010 census showed the
48 caribou herd population was stable with an estimated herd
49 size of 682 animals. And that is on -- the estimate
50 table is on Table 1 on Page 151 of the booklet.

1 The 3-year average bull/cow ratio of 43
2 per 100 is above the minimum 35 per 100 ratio stated in
3 the plan. And the number of calves in the herd increased
4 in 2010, but decreased again in 2011. However, the 3-
5 year average calf/cow ratio of 18 per 100 is above the
6 management minimums.

7
8 However, no surveys or composition counts
9 were conducted in 2011 due to adverse weather conditions,
10 so use of three-year old data to make management
11 decisions must be done with caution given the tenuous
12 nature of the herd.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you say
15 2011 no survey? (Indiscernible - mic not on) 2012?

16
17 MR. McKEE: 2011 and 2012, excuse me.
18 And I should also say that in 2011 there was a
19 composition survey, but the population estimate was not
20 conducted. So there was one that was conducted recently,
21 but that information is not yet complete. So the
22 population estimate we have, we're going on now three-
23 year old data, but we hope to have that estimate for your
24 winter RAC meeting, so that we'll add that information in
25 at that time.

26
27 From 1990 to '94, 43 percent of the
28 hunters participating in the hunt for this herd were non-
29 residents. They took 58 percent of the harvest. And the
30 local subsistence users accounted for nine percent of the
31 harvest during the same time period.

32
33 At it's January 2012 meeting, the Federal
34 Subsistence Board authorized a limited harvest of the
35 Chisana herd consistent with the herd's management plan.
36 The Board delegated authority to the Wrangell-St. Elias
37 National Park and Preserve superintendent to open the
38 season, announce the harvest quota, the number of permits
39 to be issued and the reporting period, and to close the
40 season.

41
42 Based on the estimated population size
43 and the guidance in the management plan, the harvest
44 quota for the 2012 hunt was set at seven animals. The
45 number of permits was limited to 14, and the reporting
46 period requirement was set at within three days of
47 harvest. Nine permits were issued and two animals were
48 harvested.

49
50 And you heard earlier that this last

1 hunt, 2013, nine permits were issued and three animals
2 were harvested. That information was not included in
3 this analysis, because the analysis was written, finished
4 a couple months ago, so I'll add that after this meeting.

5
6 The current data on the Chisana Caribou
7 Herd indicate a population that is stable. In addition,
8 bull/cow and calf/cow ratios are above the minimum
9 thresholds established in the management plan for the
10 herd. However, the most recent survey data is three
11 years old, and management decisions should be
12 conservative in nature.

13
14 Moving the fall season dates to earlier
15 in the season should satisfy the proponents concern about
16 quality of meat so close to the rut. A winter hunt would
17 provide easier access to hunters and thus increase
18 hunting success. However, establishment of a winter
19 season is not advisable at this time due to the lack of
20 more recent population data.

21
22 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
23 support 14-49 with modification to change to the fall
24 season to the dates requested in the proposal, but not
25 establish a winter season. And the modified regulatory
26 language can be found on 152 of your booklet, but I need
27 to point out that there is an editing error in that
28 analysis, and that error is mine alone, because I'm the
29 one that wrote the analysis. So it should read as
30 follows: Support Proposal 14-49 with modification to
31 change the fall season to the dates requested in the
32 proposal, but not establish a winter season, period.
33 That last bit, and revise the current delegation of
34 authority doesn't make any sense given the fact that
35 we're not establishing a winter season. So that last
36 half needs to be excised.

37
38 And that's it for this proposal.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions,
41 anyone.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I might have
46 missed it with all the music playing. No. The meat on
47 the bone, what did you guys recommend?

48
49 MR. MCKEE: We have retained that
50 language for now. That was written in the original

1 proposal.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you left
4 that in there.

5

6 MR. MCKEE: We have left it in there,
7 yes.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
10 questions.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. No
15 questions of the analysis.

16

17 ADF&G. You're getting right in there,
18 Jennifer.

19

20 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
21 Jennifer Yuhas with the Alaska Department of Fish and
22 Game. And the Department supports the OSM analysis. We
23 support the longer fall season for increased opportunity,
24 but since we're trying to manage this herd
25 conservatively, I think there's too great a conservation
26 risk to the winter hunt. Our managers report that it's
27 too difficult to monitor, and there's too great a risk of
28 over-harvest for the winter hunt.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And what did
31 the State do on the meat on bone.

32

33 MS. YUHAS: We didn't address it. Just
34 supported the OSM analysis.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You did not.
37 Well, that looks like you supported the meat on bone
38 requirement. Very interesting.

39

40 That's a very important one to take up.

41

42 Okay.

43

44 Any other questions of Jennifer.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair. I would like
49 to say that we want new data as much as anybody else
50 does. Our last few attempts to get out there and try and

1 do surveys were weather dependant, and I think everybody
2 here understands what happens there. But it's not for a
3 lack of effort to obtain information. We just got
4 grounded last year when our guys were getting ready to go
5 out, so we're going to keep trying to get more
6 information so that we can bring it here.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. As I
9 understand it, they did get to fly the herd, so, yeah.
10 That's good news. But we don't have the data compiled.

11

12 MS. YUHAS: WE do not have compiled. Our
13 same biologists are in the field collaring caribou right
14 now, which is why they weren't in the office when I
15 called.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. So we
18 don't even have what they counted.

19

20 MS. YUHAS: (Shakes head negatively)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What a bummer.
23 Okay. Any other questions.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Federal
28 agencies.

29

30 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 I told Southcentral I need multiple hats so I can wear a
32 different hat when I'm giving you SRC comments and NPS
33 comments, but this is an NPS comment, or a Wrangell-St.
34 Elias comment.

35

36 And we share the State's concern about
37 the winter hunt and would not support a winter hunt. At
38 that time of year the caribou largely have lost their
39 antlers, and so it would be hard to tell a bull from a
40 cow, so there could be incidental harvest of cows which
41 we're very concerned about. You'd also have to get close
42 to the animals, closer than you might have to in another
43 time of year, which could cause some stress.

44

45 The other thing that's going on in the
46 winter is potential intermixing with Mentasta and
47 Nelchina caribou, and while the Nelchina caribou's in
48 pretty good -- the Nelchina herd is in better shape,
49 we're also very concerned about any incidental harvest of
50 Mentastas.

1 So, yeah, at this point we would not
2 support the winter hunt.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions
5 of Barbara.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
10 Barbara.
11
12 Native, tribal, village, or other. Any
13 input on this one.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: InterAgency
18 Staff, any comments.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: ACs, RACs and
24 SRCs. So we'll go with any from the neighboring RACs.
25
26 MS. PATTON: No comments from neighboring
27 RACs.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or the ACs.
30
31 MS. PATTON: Or the ACs, but we do
32 have.....
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But Barbara's
35 going to bring up.....
36
37 MS. PATTON: SRC with Barbara's SRC hat.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The SRC that we
40 talked -- of all the things we talk about or I have been
41 at meetings about, Chisana caribou, for seven caribou, we
42 send a lot of time. There's days I'm wondering why is it
43 so difficult.
44
45 But, yes, Barbara.
46
47 MS. CELLARIUS: Madame Chair. I do have
48 notes from the Southcentral meeting. I don't know if
49 there's anyone else who was there who has notes from.....
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you could
2 give the Southcentral, and then you can give us the SRC.
3
4 MS. CELLARIUS: And I don't know if
5 there's anything official, but I have some notes written.
6 And my notes say that that there was.....
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They met when?
9
10 MS. CELLARIUS: They met two weeks ago in
11 Anchorage. And my notes say motion to support with
12 modification by the SRC; motion passes.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: By the SRC. So
15 they supported.....
16
17 MS. CELLARIUS: So the SRC, and I will
18 read that to you next.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They adopted
21 what the SRC did.
22
23 MS. CELLARIUS: The SRC made a
24 recommendation for a modification and the Southcentral
25 RAC supported the proposal as modified by the SRC.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you're
28 going to give us that next.
29
30 MS. CELLARIUS: And now I'm going to give
31 you the SRC position, but I did have notes, because I
32 seemed to think, yeah.
33
34 MS. PATTON: Yeah, I've got the
35 resolutions from the Council but not those (indiscernible
36 - mic not on) details on the SRC motion. Thank you.
37
38 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, I mean, they --
39 yeah, their position on that proposal.
40
41 This is kind of long. Hopefully you have
42 a copy of it in your packet.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And before you
45 go on, it's in our blue folder, and it's a letter.
46
47 MS. CELLARIUS: So this is the letter
48 from the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC on Proposal WP14-49. And
49 before I read you this recommendation, let me tell you
50 that the proponent was at their meeting and the SRC had

1 a discussion with the proponent about his proposal so he
2 was aware of kind of what their concerns were. And they
3 had a chance to have a discussion I guess is what I would
4 like to say.

5
6 So the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
7 Resource Commission unanimously supports the proposal
8 with the following modifications.

9
10 First, the fall season would open on
11 August 10 and close on September 30. So this is
12 different than the proposal. It keeps the September 30
13 end date, but would open the season on August 10th.

14
15 Second, the winter season would not
16 adopted.

17
18 And, third, the meat on the bone
19 requirement would not adopted.

20
21 And they go on to explain their reasoning
22 for these amendments.

23
24 So expanding the fall season would
25 provide additional opportunity, additional subsistence
26 opportunity. Hunters who prefer to hunt during August,
27 well before the rut, would be able to do so. And hunters
28 for whom meat storage is easier later in the season when
29 the weather is cooler could hunt in late September.

30
31 Establishing a winter hunt is not
32 supported at this time due to the small harvest quota and
33 lack of good data about where the animals are during the
34 winter.

35
36 Regarding the meat on the bone
37 requirement, there is no evidence of a meat spoilage
38 problem. And SRC members agree that individual hunters
39 should be able to decide whether or not to keep the meat
40 on the bone. Hunters who make use of the bones or
41 otherwise prefer to keep the meat on the bone would have
42 the option of doing so, but hunters who harvest meat in
43 locations that require long distance packing would have
44 the option of leaving some of the bones behind.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm on

1 the SRC and we spent a lot of time on this. And we had
2 Gillam, not Gillium, Gillam Joe there, and he concurred
3 with us by the end of the meeting, so it was nice that
4 the proposer was part of it.

5
6 Okay.

7
8 A summary of the written comments.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We have three
11 formal written comments submitted by the public, and then
12 an additional written comment submitted to the Council
13 via email.

14
15 One comment was in support of Proposal
16 14-49. AHTNA, Incorporate, Customary and Traditional Use
17 Committee, supports 14-49 to modify the season dates for
18 the Unit 12 caribou hunt that takes place east of
19 Nabesna Road and Glacier, and south of the winter trail,
20 with a fall season from August 10th to September, and
21 adding a winter season from February 1st to March 31st.
22 Changing the Unit 12 caribou season dates in this area
23 will provide for subsistence needs. Federally-qualified
24 subsistence users will be able to access hunting areas to
25 harvest a caribou during the winter months. Snow
26 machines could be used to hut with during winter months
27 to harvest in Unit 12 in a remote and otherwise
28 inaccessible area.

29
30 We have one proposal [sic] that's neutral
31 from Jessie Braga of Ptarmigan Lake, and she requests
32 that if the proposal submitted by Gillam Joe recommending
33 an additional winter hunt period is adopted, that the
34 language similar for 14-45, which they had been in
35 support of, be added to include all qualified residents
36 of the hunt area in any future hunts.

37
38 And we have one submitted written
39 proposal [sic] opposed to 14-49, and this is from Jim
40 Hannah. He identifies himself as a retired Chitina
41 district ranger/pilot.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Chitina.

44
45 MS. PATTON: Chitina, I'm sorry. We've
46 got it spelled wrong there.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, it's
49 spelled properly; that's how you pronounce it.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Chitina, yep. Sorry.

2

3 And he identifies numerous points. He
4 says with -- there should not be a Chisana Caribou
5 Harvest for the following reasons.

6

7 With the limited biological data, being
8 three years old, the current caribou hunt in Unit 12
9 should not take place. The lack of a recent bull/cow or
10 cow/calf ratios does not appear to support harvest, let
11 alone a proposed winter hunt.

12

13 The past history of poor calf
14 populations, adverse weather conditions, limited winter
15 habitat and calf predation does not support this hunt
16 with the limited biological data.

17

18 The continued harvest of Chisana Caribou
19 Herd would reduce the current small population that
20 basically stays in a small habitat area.

21

22 There has not been any hunting since 1994
23 due to the declining population. To his knowledge,
24 knowledge of the yukon Territory Canada First Nation
25 members have stopped harvest of the Chisana caribou.

26

27 Harvest information indicates that most
28 of the past harvest was taken by non-residents and only
29 nine percent by subsistence users.

30

31 A proposed winter hunt is questionable
32 with only three-year-old data on a small herd.

33

34 A hunt will potentially displace the
35 caribou from their limited natural winter habitat and
36 cause more stress.

37

38 And if a hunt takes place, current survey
39 information is critical to the herd dynamics and future
40 growth.

41

42 Lastly, he points out if the proposed
43 hunt takes place Ahtna Native members should be given
44 priority for customary and traditional use of the caribou
45 resource similar to First Nation People in the Yukon
46 Territory.

47

48 And again that was from public Jim
49 Hannah.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are people
2 leaving us?

3
4 (Telephone beeping)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're either
7 leaving us or coming on.

8
9 MS. PATTON: And then we do have one
10 email that was directed to both the Council and to the
11 Park Service from Adam Smitholum. This is the one I
12 tried to read before. So he commented on 14-45 and 14-49.
13 This is for 49.

14
15 Adam Smitholum, and he's writing
16 regarding the proposed changes to the Chisana caribou
17 hunt. He says he lives in Chisana and disagrees with the
18 proposal to change the season dates to August 10th to
19 September 20th for two reasons.

20
21 First, it would be more difficult for
22 subsistence users to keep the meat, seeing that they do
23 not have a freezer, as well as in August it would not
24 keep in the meat shed for any length of time. And he
25 says he can -- they can preserve their meat and eat as
26 much as they can while it hangs fresh. If anything, a
27 later season would allow them to keep the meat in the
28 shed without having to can it.

29
30 Second, changing the dates to align with
31 sheep season, even if that was not the intent, would
32 encourage more trophy hunters and not subsistence hunters
33 to the herd.

34
35 He notes, as he has said in other
36 comments, if you have to charter a plane and rent horses,
37 you are a trophy hunter and not a subsistence user.

38
39 He also disagrees with the proposed idea
40 to split the season and create a second one from February
41 1st to March 31st. There are so few animals allowed to
42 be taken, he doesn't see how you could split up the
43 permits. Which season would come first. The fall quota
44 would be met. Would one season be canceled? And if it
45 was not met, would just the difference be allowed in the
46 next season? These are the questions that he has.

47
48 Thank you for taking the time. And
49 that's Adam Smitholum.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Council
2 members. I need a motion.
3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: I make a motion that we
5 adopt as.....
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the hard
8 part.
9
10 MR. WOODRUFF: As concluded by OSM with
11 modification to keep the meat on the bone, and the season
12 as prescribed in the proposal.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wonder if I
15 could twist your arm not to do that.
16
17 Go ahead.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
22 Unfortunately we don't have a lot of people from the
23 area. And I sat through a pretty long discussion about
24 this from the SRC, which that is their backyard. So for
25 me personally, I would go with what the SRC decided to
26 do.
27
28 MR. WOODRUFF: I've got a question.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
31
32 MR. WOODRUFF: I know that around Eagle,
33 which is a completely different geography, September 30th
34 you're getting right to the edge of rut. So I understand
35 about hanging meat, because I have meat hanging in yard,
36 I hope.
37
38 And the other question I had was with a
39 minimum threshold for these caribou, in other words,
40 they're at their minimum capabilities at this time, I
41 don't see where a winter hunt would be valuable.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, the SRC
44 didn't go with a winter hunt either. But the SRC did go
45 with the longer season, but it did not get rid of the
46 September 30. It was August 10th to September 30.
47
48 There's only 14 permits issued, and
49 they're not always all issued to my understand. And it
50 is pretty remote area, so the SRC did a lot of discussion

1 on this, and they didn't feel that meat on bone was
2 necessary. And by the end of the meeting, Gillam he was
3 okay after he heard all the discussion that it not have
4 a winter season, so the SRC voted not to have winter
5 season, and as I said before they voted for August
6 10/September 30, and they did not want the meat on the
7 bone requirement. So we're not going with what you just
8 put before us.

9

10 Discussion.

11

12 Discussion on your motion.

13

14 MR. WOODRUFF: Well, I personally think
15 that the meat on the bone requirement is an important
16 issue. And the fact that the hunt would go until
17 September 30th, I think would encourage the harvest of
18 rutting caribou since it's a bulls-only hunt. And I also
19 know that, you know, dry meat tastes fine, so if you get
20 in a situation where you can't keep your caribou, you can
21 can it or dry it.

22

23 I mean, that's good food.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, my
26 husband loves to hunt caribou, and I oftentimes am
27 hunting caribou with him, and he loves to hunt caribou
28 20th to the 30th. And he will tell you that you can see
29 a bull when it's rutting, and we just don't shoot them.
30 And the other ones, he shot them on the 29th and the
31 30th, and they are larger bulls, but they're not rutting
32 yet, and they're still fat and they're still good. And
33 that is the Fortymile, that's when we've hunted up in the
34 north country. And I hunted the Chisana caribou, but I
35 hunt it in August, or was it September? September.
36 Early September. And I would think that in Chisana their
37 opportunity to hunt the 20th to 30th would probably be
38 just the locals, because of access, because winter's
39 coming on, and it's high in the mountains.

40

41 And the herd, there is a lot of hiking
42 involved. There's a lot of -- I think the people that
43 did get them, some of them are using horses. to get in
44 there, to get to the caribou. But if you're backpacking,
45 it's nice to be able to debone the ribs and the neck.
46 Yeah. And that's the hunting I've done most of my life
47 is backpacking, so when I was younger, I brought the
48 bones out. To die to have the bones and pressure cook
49 them and can the meat on the bone. But to do it now? I
50 don't bring out as many bones as I used to. We're still

1 backpack hunting, and I don't bring out as many bones as
2 I used to.

3
4 So that is the input I'd like to give
5 you. I really support the SRC, because they're local and
6 that is their area, and I would kind of encourage you to
7 do so.

8
9 MR. FIRMIN: The meat on the bone
10 requirement only says the legs and the ribs, so you could
11 still debone the rump and the backbone and the neck.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right, but you
14 couldn't debone the ribs.

15
16 MR. FIRMIN: And the legs.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

19
20 MR. FIRMIN: So you stick the legs and
21 everything in the ribs and then drag it anyway.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So then I'd
24 have to ask somebody what their definition of the bone
25 is, because when I bring mine out, I debone that part
26 that I call hock meat, and then I leave the main bone in,
27 but I don't bring that big bone out that's to the hoof.
28 That's been the way I've always done it.

29
30 MR. FIRMIN: Well, that was one thing I
31 was thinking is what does that specifically, you know,
32 alter.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Doing?

35
36 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. There's no meat on
37 that part of the bone anyway.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

40
41 MR. FIRMIN: So that was what I was
42 looking at.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I see.
45 Yeah.

46
47 MR. FIRMIN: What is specifically
48 mentioned in there to keep the meat on the bone. Because
49 I mean, we're only talking caribou, and we're talking
50 about seven caribou.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what do you
2 favor.

3
4 MR. FIRMIN: I think if you've got some
5 people prefer the late hunt, I mean, you'd think if they
6 were hunting on August 10th, and there's only seven
7 permits, then those seven caribou would be gone by the
8 15th of August and it would be a null point in my mind,
9 but like I'm not.....

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's not
12 necessary. You don't think it's necessary to have the
13 meat on bone?

14
15 MR. FIRMIN: Oh, I do think that's
16 necessary, but I'm thinking like I like it as it's
17 written, if you feel that extra 10 days on the end is
18 needed. I mean, you basically just added 20 days to the
19 season, to a 30-day season, it became a 50-day season for
20 seven caribou.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't really
23 personally have any problem with that last 10 days, but
24 I think the meat on the bone I think in that area,
25 putting that requirement on it is a -- well, that could
26 be or probably is a burden to most people.

27
28 MR. FIRMIN: Eat them before you turn
29 (indiscernible, laughing).

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's
34 probably not going to be a protection officer out there
35 checking you, but people like to do things correctly.

36
37 So what we have in front of us right now
38 is OSM's conclusion, right?

39
40 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which was the
43 only thing that -- there's two things that the SRC went
44 with that is different. One is the meat on bone and the
45 other one is the 10 days later in September.

46
47 So let's take one at a time. I want to
48 ask the Council, can we -- and I'm assuming you're
49 listening in, James. The meat on the bone requirement.
50 Can we agree or disagree on that one?

1 MR. ROBERTS: Well, I probably won't be
2 hunting any time soon, so I'll agree with the meat on the
3 bone.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What did you
6 say, you're not going to be hunting anytime soon?
7
8 MR. ROBERTS: Not around there. I'd have
9 to really think about it. I don't plan on packing
10 caribou out of that area any time soon.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I see.
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what is.....
17
18 MR. ROBERTS: Give me a recommendation.
19 I'm looking to you for some leadership here, Sue.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, as I said
22 earlier, we have a Subsistence Resource Commission of
23 that area and they have already met and they spent a lot
24 of time talking about it, and they were opposed to, as
25 the reasons that Barbara read into the record. That's
26 where I'm at, and I don't have the young man, Will
27 Koehler, here to speak to it. But I want to go with the
28 SRC; that's where I'm at. Too much work's been done.
29 When I work hard on something, then I have to go with
30 them.
31
32 So that's where I'm at.
33
34 MR. FIRMIN: What if we just struck ribs
35 out of that meat on the bone requirement, then you'd only
36 be required to leave the meat on the four legs.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How much of the
39 leg are you going to leave.....
40
41 MR. WOODRUFF: We can entertain a
42 friendly amendment to that.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm all over
45 that. Who's doing it.
46
47 MR. WOODRUFF: Andrew.
48
49 MR. FIRMIN: I guess if you would
50 entertain a friendly amendment, I would leave it as -- I

1 would just strike ribs of the caribou from the meat on
2 the bone requirement. Would that be more agreeable.
3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: What about the dates?
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry?
7
8 MR. WOODRUFF: Are we going to take these
9 one at a time?
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. We're
12 just taking this one right now. We're going to agree on
13 that piece of it, and then we'll go to the next one.
14
15 So I didn't hear a second. That was a
16 motion.
17
18 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Second.
21 Discussion on the motion.
22
23 Again I'm going to ask, is there any
24 protection people around here that can tell me what is
25 your definition of bones on a front quarter and a hind
26 quarter.
27
28 MR. FIRMIN: That says right there,
29 edible meat on the bones. Is there anything edible on
30 the last six inches of a moose leg?
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, they're
33 going to pinch me, because I debone it down to the joint,
34 because it's the easiest way to do it than to carry a saw
35 to the mountains. So I just take it -- and the meat's
36 deboned, and then it's down to the last joint. So that
37 bone's gone. I don't take that bone out. So I would be
38 illegal. That's edible meat on that part of the bone.
39 I debone it down to the joint. That's why I think we get
40 wrapped around the axle on things like this. And that's
41 why when the SRC spoke of it, they said, let people
42 decide what they think they need to bring out and what
43 they don't as far as a bone.
44
45 MR. FIRMIN: It's only seven caribou.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know. So the
48 meat on the bone requirement is like -- anyway, you guys,
49 I have a motion before me, an amendment to strike the
50 ribs, but we didn't do anything about the front and hind

1 quarters. It says, you must leave all edible meat on the
2 bones of the front quarter and hind quarter. And I'm
3 telling you that I would be illegal, because I debone the
4 hock meat to that joint.

5
6 Everything I take, that's how I bring my
7 bones out.

8
9 Donald.

10
11 MR. WOODRUFF: I can perceive that this
12 hunt is going to be scrutinized, so maybe we should get
13 some professional guidance from the enforcement people,
14 if we can get it. Maybe a phone call or something.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there an
17 enforcement -- and then I'm thinking, too, we have an
18 enforcement person here I believe. And if I understand
19 this correctly, this Council is meeting 26th and 27th of
20 February, and the Federal Board doesn't meet until.....

21
22 MS. PATTON: April.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: In April.

25
26 MS. PATTON: Yeah, for the wildlife
27 proposals.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought it
30 was April, not March. April. April what? We could take
31 it up and we'd hopefully have more people here. It would
32 be great to have Will here.

33
34 So we have an amendment motion on the
35 floor. We could.....

36
37 MR. FIRMIN: Withdraw the motion.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, if you
40 want to. That would make it easy.

41
42 MR. FIRMIN: And table the whole thing
43 until.....

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll take it
46 up at the -- Yeah, we can table it until February. Is
47 that the right term? Parliamentarians. To bring it up
48 in February is to table? I have this little book that
49 I'm supposed to understand this stuff.

50

1 Because right now we have -- and did I
2 hear you say? Did you say you wanted to withdraw with
3 the concurrence of the second?
4
5 MR. FIRMIN: Why don't I just.....
6
7 REPORTER: Andrew.
8
9 MR. FIRMIN: I said we could just -- I
10 could just withdraw my amendment to the motion.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does the second
13 concur.
14
15 MR. GLANZ: Yes.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So now
18 we're up to the main motion. And the main motion, I
19 believe we can table until the next meeting, correct?
20
21 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. That's
22 correct. There would still be an opportunity to make a
23 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we want to
26 relax Robert's Rules for a minute, because I'm not sure
27 if I have to get rid of this motion or we can just table
28 when I have a motion on the floor. Can we just table a
29 motion on the floor? Okay.
30
31 That would be my recommendation,
32 gentlemen.
33
34 Who's making the tabling motion.
35
36 MR. WOODRUFF: Go ahead, Bill.
37
38 MR. GLANZ: I make a motion we table this
39 to our spring meeting when we have a full group.
40
41 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any more
44 discussion. I don't think there is discussion on table.
45 Okay. The motion is to table until spring meeting. All
46 in favor -- wait, there is no -- do we have to do that,
47 too? Yes. All in favor.
48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm losing it.
2 All right. I think we got it covered, gang.
3
4 Anyone opposed to tabling until the
5 spring.
6
7 (No opposing votes)
8
9 MS. PATTON: Are you still there, James.
10
11 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you hear my
14 direction?
15
16 MR. ROBERTS: I'm in favor of having it
17 in the springtime also.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
20 Great.
21
22 MS. PATTON: Thank you.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. All
25 right. Soon Virgil should be back.
26
27 That was 49, right.
28
29 Hey, before we move on, could someone
30 just give me a little information for the Council on this
31 whole thing about delegation of authority? Or can we
32 bring that up at one of -- is that coming up with any of
33 the other proposals, the delegation of authority. That
34 came up at the SRC meeting, and it's quite -- from now on
35 it's -- did I understand this correctly at the SRC
36 meeting that that they're just going to handle delegation
37 of authority a little different in the future, and vote
38 on it every -- I don't remember all the details. There
39 was something about it that was a little different.
40
41 MR. WOODRUFF: What does it pertain to?
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: When the
44 superintendent announces a season closed or open.
45
46 MS. CELLARIUS: Since I was at the SRC
47 meeting, let me ask, are you talking about the fact that
48 some delegations of authority in the past have been in
49 the regulation, and now OSM is putting them in letters
50 instead of in the regulation.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. I think
2 they should hear that -- how that happened.
3
4 MS. CELLARIUS: I don't know if you're
5 going to talk about the winter moose hunt in Unit 11.
6 Nobody in the Eastern Interior region would have C&T for
7 that hunt, but it is listed on your agenda. If it were
8 established, the proposal would have a delegation of
9 authority.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a C&T
12 for goat in Unit 11.
13
14 MS. CELLARIUS: You do. All right. No,
15 not goat, moose in the southern part of Unit 11.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay. No.
18
19 MS. CELLARIUS: It's south of the Chitina
20 River. I think you might have C&T north of the Sanford
21 River, but I don't think you have it south of the Chitina
22 River.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm one of them
25 people that have what they call an individual C&T for
26 mountain goat.
27
28 MS. CELLARIUS: But anyway that's where
29 we talked about it at the SRC meeting is in the context
30 -- we talked about delegation of authority at the SRC
31 meeting in the context of the winter moose hunt.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's how
34 it would be affected, but that would -- in you guys'
35 areas, if there's ever a manager that's going to open or
36 close a season, they were just going to do it
37 differently.
38
39 It's going to be by letter, right,
40 Barbara?
41
42 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I know
45 that's as clear as mud, too.
46
47 The next one is 50.
48
49 MR. McKEE: Okay. Proposal WP14-50
50 begins on Page 160 of your booklet. It was submitted by

1 this Council and requested that brown bears be allowed to
2 be hunted over bait in Unit 25D.

3

4 The proponent states that hunters should
5 be allowed to harvest brown bears that show up at black
6 bear bait stations, and that brown bears are at high
7 densities in the unit. Furthermore, the proponent states
8 that hunting of brown bears over bait has been done in
9 the area for generations in both the spring and fall
10 seasons.

11

12 The proponent has submitted a similar
13 proposal to the Board of Game for Unit 25D.

14

15 The current population estimates of brown
16 bears in Units 25A, 25B, and 25D are based on
17 extrapolations from studies done in the 1980's and 1990's
18 with an estimated 1200 brown bears. That's about just
19 under two and a half bears per 100 square miles. The
20 estimated densities and population size vary slightly
21 between the units. In the more mountainous portions of
22 Unit 25C, for instance, there were a median density
23 between 1.3 and 2.6 bears per 100 square miles, again
24 based on extrapolations from studies done in Unit 20 in
25 the 80's and 90's.

26

27 Brown bears in northern Alaska do not
28 successfully reproduce until they're around five years of
29 age. Small litter sizes, long intervals between
30 successful reproduction and low rates of successful
31 reproduction are the norm for the species. For these
32 reasons, brown bears are often managed conservatively.

33

34 According the Yukon Flats Cooperative
35 Moose Management Plan, there were an estimated 380
36 grizzly bears in Unit 25D or about one bear per 46 square
37 miles.

38

39 Based on a five percent sustainable
40 harvest rate, the estimated sustainable harvest is about
41 19 bears, assuming some harvest of female bears.

42

43 The State management objectives for Unit
44 25D are to manage for a temporary reduction in grizzly
45 bear numbers in predation of moose. After this reduction
46 is achieved, the bear harvest will be reduced to allow
47 the bear population to recover.

48

49 Brown bear mortality in Units 25B and 25D
50 has been low in most years. Between 2000 and 2012 an

1 average of four brown bears were reported harvested
2 annually in these units. You can see that on Table 1 in
3 the proposal, Page 164. However, unreporting of harvest
4 is suspected due to the difficulty in getting a bear
5 sealed in this remote area, and there is a discrepancy
6 between reported harvest and the harvest recorded during
7 household surveys. For example, annual harvest of brown
8 bears between 2006 and 2010 averaged 23 animals according
9 to these household surveys, that's on Table 2, while the
10 reported harvest during the same period averaged just six
11 animals. So the average annual harvest as reported by
12 these household surveys exceeds the sustainable harvest
13 for brown bears in 25D.

14

15 There are two registered guides on the
16 Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge that harvest bears
17 in Unit 25D, and currently guided harvest of brown bears
18 is just a few animals per year, but Refuge Staff have
19 been told that brown bear harvest would certainly
20 increase if baiting were allowed.

21

22 If the proposal's adopted, brown bears
23 will be allowed to be harvested using bait on Federal
24 lands by Federally-qualified users. This will be the
25 first regulation of its kind for brown bears on Federal
26 lands in Alaska. If adopted, it would provide increased
27 opportunities for Federally-qualified users to harvest
28 brown bears in the unit.

29

30 The effect of the proposal on brown bear
31 populations is difficult to predict given that the latest
32 population estimates for the species in 25D are now 20
33 years old and based on extrapolation from those studies
34 I mentioned done in the 1980's and 1990's.

35

36 There's some thought that hunting brown
37 bears over bait would most likely lead to an increase in
38 hunter success versus a spot and stalk hunt, because of
39 efficiencies in hunting method. And, indeed, on the
40 Kenai Peninsula recently they -- much of the talk on
41 harvest of bears at bait stations is that they couldn't
42 keep brown bears off of their black bear bait stations.

43

44 Additionally, the harvest limit for brown
45 bears in Unit 25D was changed from one to two bears every
46 regulatory year under Federal regulations in 2012. To
47 the best of my knowledge, that is the only unit in the
48 State under Federal regulations in which two brown bears
49 are allowed in a year.

50

1 There is a proposal before the State
2 Board of Game that would allow for brown bears baiting in
3 25D starting in 2014. There's a potential for a further
4 increase in brown bear harvest by non-local hunters if
5 both State and Federal proposals are approved. Opening
6 up brown bears to baiting, combined with a doubling of
7 the brown bear harvest limit in such a short period of
8 time could have an adverse impact on the species,
9 especially in northern portions of the State where brown
10 bears are known to have low reproductive rates.

11
12 A conservative approach to increase in
13 harvest for the species is warranted prior to the
14 initiation of baiting for the species.

15
16 Therefore, the OSM preliminary conclusion
17 is to oppose WP14-50.

18
19 And that's all I have for this proposal.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Chris, you're
22 pretty quick.

23
24 Any questions.

25
26 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

29
30 MR. WOODRUFF: Chris, do you know what
31 the average moose population is in that area?

32
33 MR. MCKEE: Off the top of my head I
34 don't, no.

35
36 MR. BERTRAM: Mark Bertram, Fish and
37 Wildlife Service, Yukon Flats.

38
39 The population for the east and the
40 western portions of 25D would be around 1,000 to 1,200
41 animals. And that's based on -- that's probably a little
42 high. Actually it's probably about 850 animals based on
43 the most previous estimates, which are three to four
44 years old.

45
46 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. So that would
47 be what ratio per se, you know, per square mile, is it .2
48 or lower, or how does that calculate out?

49
50 MR. BERTRAM: Yeah. As far as the number

1 of moose per square mile if you were to average both
2 sides of the Refuge, approximately .2 moose per square
3 mile.

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
8 question for you guys. The existing State regulation
9 allows, let's see now, it allows it in 12, 13D, 15, 16,
10 20C, 20E, and 21D, of which I'm certain there is Federal
11 land. Are you guys stopping people from doing it?

12

13 MR. BERTRAM: I am aware that -- the one
14 area I do know that there is brown bear hunting allowed
15 is the Innoko Refuge, just off the top of my head. They
16 have not done anything to prevent that. I don't know,
17 and I haven't heard of any active baiting for brown bears
18 in that area, but there certainly hasn't been a
19 prohibition by the Refuge.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, because
22 it's a State regulation now.

23

24 MR. BERTRAM: Yeah. Well, yeah, and, of
25 course, again on the Kenai where they do have brown --
26 they have passed brown bear baiting proposals, the Kenai
27 Refuge has -- is not allowing it on their lands.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But the Innoko
30 is.

31

32 MR. BERTRAM: Well, they -- yes, they
33 haven't stopped it.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
36 questions, Council members.

37

38 Andrew and then Virgil.

39

40 MR. FIRMIN: I just had one. On your
41 reported mortality in the household survey data, do you
42 think those differences might be that 25D doesn't have a
43 sealing requirement? They don't have to get their bears
44 sealed unless they're removing them from the area? And
45 if they're removing them, they're either getting them
46 sealed so they could sell them for handicrafts or they're
47 a non-resident hunter? And what you have to report
48 versus what's an anonymous report is two very different
49 things, as doing some of those surveys, you might tell
50 somebody what you actually harvested over somebody that

1 doesn't have to get it sealed or report anything because
2 I just shot it and took it home and split it with my dog
3 team, and, you know, got the hide tacked on the wall and
4 make bear claw necklaces in the winter, you know. So
5 there's not having that reporting requirement or getting
6 it sealed is something that I would think shows that
7 discrepancy between what's harvested and what's reported
8 and what's not.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want to
11 respond?

12

13 MR. McKEE: Well, that might certainly be
14 the case, but the major concern here is, assuming the
15 accuracy of these household surveys, the numbers that
16 we're seeing for harvest are exceeding what we consider
17 the sustainable harvest rate for the species. So that's
18 the major concern here. That combined -- I mean, that's
19 one of many things. That combined with the fact that,
20 you know, we just doubled the harvest limit for the
21 species in the last regulatory cycle. Really haven't had
22 a chance to see how that's working, whether more people
23 are -- you know, whether that's going to lead to
24 increased harvest where there's more opportunities, and
25 the fact that we're dealing with population estimates
26 that are old and based on other areas. So kind of the
27 combination of those things together kind of create this
28 kind of biological critical mass I guess would put it, so
29 it's the totality of those.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So could you
32 explain that reporting that you're talking to that sounds
33 like over-harvest? Is that what I'm hearing here?

34

35 MR. McKEE: The household survey data for
36 the species as reported exceeds the sustainable harvest
37 rate for the species in the unit.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The household
40 survey data. How is it collected?

41

42 MR. McKEE: I believe that is -- is that
43 State collection?

44

45 MR. FIRMIN: It's part of the door-to-
46 door on a percentage of.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that the
49 thing that happens every year with you guys?

50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Up until recently, yes.
2 But, see, even here we've only exceeded that number three
3 years out of -- since 1995 that harvest limit's been
4 exceeded three times. And most of the other years it's
5 not even come close, so I don't think the two bear a year
6 limit has really done much to effect anything in the
7 past.

8
9 And even if it's on the State side, all
10 the State land, or the majority of the State land in 25D
11 is private land, and it's owned by Doyon and the local
12 Native corporations, and they don't allow, you know, non-
13 tribal members even to be hunting in those areas. So
14 that's another thing to think of, that only bears that
15 are being harvested there are being harvested by local
16 people.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
19 something you wanted to bring into it?

20
21 MR. BERTRAM: No, I was just going to --
22 you were asking who collected the household survey data,
23 and Andrew answered that, CATG.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. And
26 you're pressure that's accurate, Andrew.

27
28 MR. FIRMIN: (Nods affirmative)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

31
32 Virgil.

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Do you know
35 what the population objective is for brown bears in this
36 area, or has one been made?

37
38 MR. BERTRAM: Well, there's probably --
39 there's no population objective. There's a harvest
40 objective, but based on five percent harvest of the 380
41 population estimate, which Chris said is about 20 years
42 old, that would be 19 bears per year.

43
44 And so the discussion has been that the
45 household survey data collected over those five years
46 averaged about 22 to 23 bears per year, which is above
47 the 19 per year. So that's -- I think that's what OSM
48 based part of their analysis on.

49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. But I thought

1 -- I missed part of the presentation, but you were asked
2 a question about how many bears were in the area, and I
3 thought I heard you say 850.

4

5 MR. BERTRAM: No, I was asked how many
6 moose are on 25D. How many moose. So there's about 850
7 moose within -- this is within the survey areas of 25D
8 east and 25D west, and, you know, I would broaden that
9 estimate to over 1,000 moose if you included the greater
10 Yukon Flats area, up in the foothills.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But you guys
13 are basing this on an estimate of bears, an estimate of
14 20 years ago, right?

15

16 MR. BERTRAM: Yeah. I can give you --
17 there were several brown bear estimates down in Interior
18 Alaska back about 20 years ago. None of them were from
19 the Yukon Flats, but they were from surrounding areas, so
20 Alaska Department of Fish and Game used those estimates
21 to basically extrapolate what the estimate might be for
22 Yukon Flats. So that's where the estimate in the moose
23 management plan came from of 380 brown bears in 25D.
24 That's where that came from.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is it
27 possible there's a lot more than that today?

28

29 MR. BERTRAM: There could be more, there
30 could be less. We really don't -- you know, I think the
31 anecdotal evidence is that brown bear are common, and
32 people are seeing brown and.....

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would think
35 that.

36

37 MR. BERTRAM: And based on discussions
38 that I've had with one of the guides at his black bear
39 camp, brown bears are very common there also. So, you
40 know, we don't know what the number is. We won't know
41 the number, because it's impossible to -- it's not
42 impossible, but it's very difficult to estimate brown
43 bear numbers in a forested area like the Yukon Flats.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
46 other questions.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And

1 we'll have a deliberation on this. Do you want to do
2 that -- you have a question now?

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes, I'm confused.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7

8 Let's not confuse Virgil.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'm confused. You
13 said that there were -- it was extrapolated for the area
14 from surveys done in other parts of the State by Fish and
15 Game. That's how you came up with the 380 bears in the
16 area. But then I heard you say 850 again. And I know a
17 while ago you said that was moose, but you just now said
18 that.....

19

20 MR. BERTRAM: I misspoke. If I said 850
21 bears, I misspoke. It would be 380 bears.

22

23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
26 questions.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We will
31 move on to the agency comments.

32

33 ADF&G.

34

35 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 Jennifer Yuhas with the Alaska Department of Fish and
37 Game again.

38

39 And we actually differ on this one, so
40 the Department supporting this proposal, is aware of a
41 companion proposal to the Alaska Board of Game, and is
42 likely to support that proposal as well.

43

44 A few comments. While bait stations are
45 efficient, they're also selective. And those of you who
46 live in the Interior and who have practiced baiting know
47 that while you might have multiple opportunities while
48 you're at your bait station, you only what to take care
49 of the number of animals you want to take care of that
50 year.

1 We've noticed in a lot of areas that
2 while there may be a slight increase, especially on
3 easily accessible road systems, it's been difficult to
4 incentivize increased brown bear harvest in the Interior,
5 Unit 13, Unit 25, over a number of years.
6

7 It appears that the opposition is
8 quibbling over a couple of possible numbers in the math,
9 kind of faulting extrapolations that might say 387 bears,
10 and then quibbling over the difference between a
11 household survey of 23 bears versus 19 bears. They are
12 difficult to estimate especially in wooded areas, but
13 it's very easy to see their effects. And because of
14 their effects, which are not always taken into account by
15 the land managers on the Federal side, and we understand
16 that, the State's current management objective is for a
17 temporary slight decrease of brown bear in this area to
18 assist with moose recovery. And since the management
19 objective is for a decrease, and since they're difficult
20 to incentivize, and since baiting is selective, we're
21 advocating that you adopt this proposal, because if we're
22 actually looking at the numbers and we see that the
23 numbers are going to show us that the population is in
24 trouble, we have emergency order authority. The Federal
25 program has special action authority. And you can easily
26 shut that harvest down if that's what we're seeing
27 whether it's through the household surveys or through the
28 sealing requirements, that that opportunity is there.
29

30 As we're quibbling over the minutia of
31 the numbers here, it's a method that has been long
32 utilized in the area by rural residents, and the
33 Department is supporting the proposal.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions of
36 the State.
37

38 (No comments)
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have one.
41 Does the State have any better estimate than what we just
42 heard of brown bears in the area?
43

44 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair. I have asked
45 the office if we have anything more updated than I have
46 in front of me, and we don't have an answer yet. Beth or
47 Jason could be on line and have called in in the last
48 five minutes, but I did not have an answer before I came
49 to the table.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would be nice
2 to know if the biologists have any more information on
3 that. Okay. We're just getting comment.....
4
5 MS. YUHAS: The information that we have
6 has caused us to make the management decision.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I know.
9 And it's tough to analyze. I mean, just based to not
10 doing something on an estimate. Okay.
11
12 We're moving on.
13
14 Unless anyone has any questions of
15 Jennifer.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Federal
20 agencies.
21
22 Do any of the Federal agencies have any
23 comment on this.
24
25 MR. BERG: Yeah. Madame Chair, this is
26 Jerry Berg with Fish and Wildlife Service.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ah, there is
29 somebody alive out there. Go ahead, Jerry.
30
31 MR. BERG: There are a few of us out
32 here.
33
34 Yeah. I was asked to comment on this
35 proposal. Yeah, Fish and Wildlife Service does have
36 concerns about allowing baiting of brown bears, because
37 brown bears have historically been managed very
38 conservatively, obviously very different than black
39 bears. They're not as prolific as black bears, and so we
40 do have concerns with allowing baiting of brown bears,
41 especially in areas where, you know, we don't have any
42 new information, and we just increased the harvest limit
43 to two bears in this area, and so we do support the
44 preliminary conclusion as put forward by OSM.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
47 Jerry. You're coming in loud and clear.
48
49 MR. BERG: Oh, good.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just about
2 booming my ears out right now.
3
4 Any other questions of Jerry? Or any
5 questions, I'm sorry.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thanks,
10 Jerry.
11
12 MR. BERG: Thank you.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Any
15 Native, tribal, village, or other comments.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: InterAgency
20 Staff comments.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The ACs,
25 neighboring RACs, ACs.
26
27 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. At this time
28 ACs that have met have not submitted any comments for
29 this proposals. We don't have any comments from other
30 Regional Advisory Councils on this proposal either. We
31 do have just one public comment.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
34 down to written comments, but no SRC either, right?
35
36 MS. PATTON: No SRC on this one.
37
38 And the one written public comment is
39 from yours truly.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald's been
42 busy.
43
44 MS. PATTON: Donald Woodruff, busy for
45 the community of Eagle, notes he supports taking of black
46 bear has been a traditional practice in the area of
47 Eagle. And this area has an exceptionally low moose
48 population and the locals are trying to get meat from
49 bears that is not available from moose. As an Eastern
50 Interior RAC member said, we could legalize a practice

1 that has been a traditional practice.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bear meat's
4 good eating. I like it. I'm eating grizzly right now.
5
6 Okay.
7
8 We are now to any public testimony on
9 this proposal.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
14 time for our discussion.
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move to adopt Proposal
17 14-50.
18
19 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.
22 Who's first.
23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'll speak to my
25 motion. I'm in favor of the motion for the reasons
26 stated by the State. Plus I have a lot of experience
27 hunting grizzly bears. These are grizzly bears. I
28 probably -- over the last 15 years I probably averaged a
29 minimum of 45 days a year in the field hunting grizzly
30 bears. When you're hunting them in this type of terrain,
31 it's extremely difficult.
32
33 I know that -- I understand what Fish and
34 Wildlife Service is saying and what the Office of
35 Subsistence Management is saying. But there was an old
36 -- well, he's passed away now, but Sam Snyder had worked
37 as a Federal trapper and hunter back prior to statehood.
38 He lived here in Fairbanks.
39
40 And, of course, I can remember when I was
41 a kid, one of my buddies, we were out hiking in the
42 mountains, this is down in Arizona, and he had his dog
43 with him, and, course, you get one of the coyote cyanide
44 things that were put out for coyotes.
45
46 But the Fish and Wildlife Service or BLM
47 or whoever it was that did this, these Federal trappers
48 and hunters, they did that extensively up here as well.
49 And Sam was one of the guys that did this. And he said,
50 you know, after statehood and when we quit doing this,

1 the bear population really increased, because we weren't
2 just killing the wolves, which is what they were
3 targeting around Fairbanks at the time, it also got the
4 bears.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You said
7 increased, but you meant decreased.

8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. It really
10 decreased the bear population. The bear population has
11 increased a lot since that happened. That's the point I
12 was, you know, bringing up. But the Board of Game two
13 years ago -- well, this will two years ago and a couple
14 of months, passed proposals to be able to bait grizzly
15 bear, brown bear, whatever you want to call them, in Unit
16 20C and Unit 21 D. Prior to that being in effect,
17 because I put out black bear baits, we had had some
18 really nice grizzlies come to our black bear bait station
19 at 21D down below Kaltag.

20
21 But anyway, this past year I was really
22 going to try to get some bears that have been keyed in on
23 the moose calves in the Koyukuk Refuge, and, of course,
24 we had a flood. Everyone knows about the flood. And, of
25 course, the bears aren't stupid. They all left the areas
26 that got flooded. So we had zero success. And I know two
27 guides that were going to do the same thing in Unit 20C,
28 but they had the same experience I had. Their areas that
29 they could access all ended up getting flooded so no one
30 got any bears over bait, or any grizzly bears. I did
31 finally get one black bear.

32
33 But anyway I am for this proposal, and
34 I'm for it for the reason that I would like to see the
35 moose calves survive. I know that the Department of Fish
36 and Game this year did a bear reduction in the Kuskokwim
37 drainage, and if my memory serves me right, their calf
38 survival rate was -- because they just did a survey, was
39 somewhere in the neighborhood of 60 percent. I could be
40 wrong, but it seemed -- if my memory serves me, it was
41 around 60 percent. And the previous calf survival rates,
42 that's moose calf, in this same area prior to this had
43 been less than 20 percent in the fall.

44
45 And so grizzly bears are still not going
46 to be easy to get. You might get the stupid ones, but
47 you're not going to get the smart ones even with bait.
48 They're not easy to get. They're the smartest animal we
49 hunt, the hardest one to get, these Interior grizzlies.
50 They're not dumb ass, fat brown bears used to eating fish

1 along the coast. They're easy to get. They're smart
2 grizzly bears in the Interior. And they're in terrain
3 where spot and stalk, sure, if you can find where one's
4 killed a moose or get one on a gut pile, you have a
5 chance to get one. And that's how the most of them are
6 taken in these heavily wooded areas. You get them off a
7 gut pile or you've got to get them up in the mountains,
8 just like hunting sheep, and we're not talking about
9 sheep terrain here. We're talking about flats with thick
10 timber and brush. And they are really hard to get like
11 that.

12

13 Thank you. Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,

16 Virgil.

17

18 Did I see your hand? Uh-huh. Andrew.

19

20 MR. FIRMIN: I just wanted to add one
21 thing that the Yukon Flats Cooperative Moose Management
22 Plan that is referenced throughout OSM's analysis, part
23 of it that they don't say is the management plan is also
24 in place to help reduce predation on moose by increasing
25 the harvest of bears and wolves, which is what the
26 proposal does, and that was why the plan was put
27 together, and information was in one spot like that. And
28 that was their analysis. And that was so we could
29 harvest more bears is why that information was compiled
30 to begin with. I just wanted to add that.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So was
33 that management plan done with -- joining hands with the
34 Feds?

35

36 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, it was.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it was
39 State and Federal. Uh-huh.

40

41 Okay. I think I need to remind us here.
42 Where we got in trouble once before on the brown
43 bear/grizzly bear stuff, subsistence, you're supposed to
44 eat it, so we're talking about -- I want to hear about,
45 are we eating brown bears or grizzly bear so we know --
46 I mean, you just got done saying stuff that probably
47 won't help us, other than more grizzly bears might be out
48 there, which I believe is true. I think your point is
49 well taken, that after the poisoning years ago, that
50 there wasn't that many bears, and you saw -- that was

1 every four bear, and no sows and cubs and all this stuff
2 was happening. And now we have all kinds of bears it
3 appears when you're out there, and now you're seeing more
4 liberal seasons.

5
6 But this is Federal subsistence, and we
7 are supposed to eat the bears, so let's talk about that
8 little bit.

9
10 Bill.

11
12 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. Okay. There was a
13 couple grizzly bears this spring in Central there, and we
14 had them at the miner's picnic, so, I mean, the whole
15 community. I don't know how many hungry people in
16 Fairbanks came out and helped eat them up.

17
18 So we got rid of some.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: At the miner's
23 picnic.

24
25 MR. GLANZ: And we can't beat the price.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I had hot dogs
28 made at Interior Fish. 40 or 50 pounds of them. It was
29 very, very good. And I had people eating them, and they
30 didn't know it was bear. It was brown bear, too.

31
32 MR. GLANZ: I'll tell you what got me
33 this summer. A fellow and my nephew come up to go
34 hunting with me, and he brought me a couple of bottles of
35 salmon vodka. They're actually brewing that stuff down
36 south in the Lower 48.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. GLANZ: I'm telling you.....

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now, what does
43 that have to do -- do you drink that while you eat the
44 bear meat?

45
46 MR. GLANZ: Evidently. It slides right
47 -- actually you dip it in.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What are you
2 trying to tell me, we're going to make bear vodka next?

3
4 MR. GLANZ: They probably will come up
5 with it (indiscernible - mic off)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yeah,
8 this is the kind of things we need to talk about. I mean
9 there's a concern, a conservation concern I'm hearing
10 from Fish and Wildlife Service. I want to hear more
11 about -- I mean, do you -- you guys, are you seeing more
12 bears up there? And the people that are baiting bears,
13 are they seeing grizzly bears on their bait?

14
15 MR. FIRMIN: Well, they're not seeing any
16 less bears anyway, let me put it that way. I mean,
17 there's only probably a half a dozen people in Fort Yukon
18 that would actively go look for bears before it's.....

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are they
21 baiting?

22
23 MR. FIRMIN: Not recently. No, I haven't
24 been actively doing it this summer or the past summer,
25 but for people that are, when they're getting them, there
26 are more people getting into eating them as well. And I
27 think if you were able to hunt them closer to town to
28 where they're easier to take care of than if you happen
29 across one 100 miles from nowhere, you know, how are you
30 going to -- what are you going to do, turn around and run
31 all the way back home when I was taking up a bear? I
32 mean, most people wouldn't, because you probably pass 10
33 of them on the there anyway. So, you know, a lot of
34 people don't mess with them, because there's no means or
35 encouragement for them to do anything with them. But I
36 do see more people eating them or making sausage, and
37 trying even jerky with them like that.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil,
40 I had something in my brain I just lost. I'll have to
41 remember.

42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Well, I have a lot
44 of experience in how to -- what they do with bears. In
45 fact, I'll be smoking well, hams, turkeys and all kinds
46 of stuff here all next week. And among all that stuff
47 I'll be smoking will be several bear hams. But when the
48 State did their thing last spring, they brought in --
49 well, let's see, they figured they gave away around 6,000
50 pounds of bear meat to the villagers, but they also

1 brought 4 or 500 pounds to Fairbanks, and then we made
2 then over at my place, we made jerky, we made Polish
3 sausage, summer sausage, pepperoni. I think that's all
4 we made out of them. But we made it out of both the
5 brown bear -- because these are brown bears down on the
6 Kuskokwim. We made it out of brown bear and grizzly bear
7 both -- or and black bear both.

8
9 But bear's just like any other meat. And
10 the bears in the spring, as a general rule, they have
11 like kind of a negative flavor to them, whereas a fall
12 bear is going to have a flavor more of what it's been
13 eating. You shoot them up in the mountains eating
14 blueberries, and that's the only thing they're eating,
15 they're going to -- when you gut them, they smell just
16 like a blueberry cobbler, is in an oven, when you cut
17 that bear open. That's what it smells like.

18
19 But, anyway, bear meat is good to eat,
20 and you can make anything out of it that you want. One
21 of my favorite ways to fix bear, especially in a hunting
22 camp is I have a great big pressure cooker. I cut off
23 the shoulder, the part with the blade in it, the scapula,
24 and I throw that bear shoulder in the pressure cooker and
25 I pressure cook it for an hour, and all the meat comes
26 off the bone. In the meantime, I've cut up onion,
27 celery, potatoes, and carrots. I throw those in it, and
28 a couple of cans of golden mushroom soup. Bring the
29 pressure up, turn it off. When the pressure goes down,
30 it's ready to eat. And you can't believe how good it is.
31 Bear meat is good.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. One of
34 the things I wanted to bring out -- did you raise your
35 hand? Bill, did you have something also? Oh, okay. And
36 then I had a -- I did remember, can I -- so I don't
37 forget.

38
39 There was -- this was open in the
40 Fortymile country. And people went out and put out their
41 bear baits in hopes to get a grizzly bear. And there
42 wasn't that many came in. So we could get that data, but
43 it was -- it just wasn't a lot of bears, so I don't see
44 the concern based on the information I have, but people
45 have these black bear baits out there, and how many
46 grizzly bears came in for all of that country that people
47 were baiting up in the Fortymile. It's just -- there was
48 like four in six years or something like that. So it
49 wasn't really a big harvest. So I'm having a little
50 trouble understanding why there's a huge concern.

1 Donald.
2
3 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame
4 Chairman. I have some bear meat in the freezer, and
5 there's at least two inches of fat on it. And we haven't
6 addressed that, but there's going to be some Thanksgiving
7 pies made out of that fat.
8
9 Thank you.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So did you
12 render it first?
13
14 MR. WOODRUFF: (Indiscernible - mic off)
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. It is
17 better if you freeze it, because it lasts a lot longer.
18 I actually had canned it also, bear fat that I rendered,
19 and canned it, because it doesn't -- it tends to turn
20 rancid after six to eight months, and it doesn't do that
21 if it's frozen or canned. But we might be getting off of
22 the subject just a little bit, but that's -- we need to
23 let them know that we do utilize the meat of these
24 animals. And it is good if it helps us to have something
25 else to eat when we don't have moose to eat. That
26 happens when there's less moose around.
27
28 Other discussion.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 MR. GLANZ: Call for the question.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
35 has been called for. And let's make sure we know what
36 we're voting on here, so we don't get messed up. It's our
37 own proposal. And OSM opposes. And we have the question
38 called for, as written for 20D, brown bear over bait on
39 the black bear bait. Okay.
40
41 All in favor.
42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
46
47 (No opposing votes)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
50 check on you, James. Did you hear all of that.

1 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah. I'm in favor of
2 shooting brown bears at the bait.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
5 It's unanimous.
6
7 Do we need a break. We need a short
8 break. Ten minutes.
9
10 (Off record)
11
12 (On record)
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Calling the
15 meeting back to order. And we did vote on 50, right?
16 Okay.
17
18 We have on our agenda Wrangell-St. Elias
19 proposals for Unit 11. We do not need to take them up,
20 but if you guys just want to go with what the SRC does,
21 I'm open for that. We really don't -- no one in our area
22 has a C&T for moose in 11, and as I told you, our family
23 got an individual C&T for goats in 11 south of the
24 Sanford River.
25
26 Do you want to take them up, or do you
27 just want to let them go.
28
29 MR. GLANZ: It's your (indiscernible -
30 mic off)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm okay. We
33 can move on. It's in Southcentral. So it's okay, we
34 don't need to take them up, unless you want to parrot or
35 just go with what the SRC did. Okay. We'll move on.
36
37 We're going to take up a couple reports.
38 And Ruth won't be here tomorrow, so she's going to give
39 the first one. BLM.
40
41 MS. GRONQUIST: Madame Chair. Council.
42 I'm Ruth Gronquist with the Bureau of Land Management,
43 and I think you pretty much all know that I'm a wildlife
44 biologist with the Eastern Interior Field Office.
45
46 As you also probably know, the State and
47 Federal winter hunts for Fortymile caribou were closed,
48 the Federal hunt on November 1st, where there's a one-
49 month Federal-only season, and then the State season,
50 which would have started December 1st. And that was due

1 to the entire harvest quota plus the 15 percent buffer
2 and more being taken in the fall harvest. Those
3 decisions were made in consultation with the harvest
4 coalition. I talked to a lot of the local subsistence
5 users.

6
7 And let me back up to say that for the
8 Federal portion of the Fortymile hunt, the field manager
9 for the Eastern Interior has the delegated authority to
10 make the decision.

11
12 (Electronic interference)

13
14 MS. GRONQUIST: Is it me?

15
16 REPORTER: No. I think it's the phone.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do we need
19 to have someone.....

20
21 REPORTER: It's somebody on line.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Somebody on
24 line, we're getting some background noise. Could you
25 please push star-6.

26
27 Thanks.

28
29 MS. GRONQUIST: The field office manager
30 in the Eastern Interior has been delegated the authority
31 by the Federal Subsistence Board to make the decisions to
32 close on Federal lands. So once we gathered all the
33 data, talked with the users, met with the Coalition, Fish
34 and Game, Park Service, and BLM puts their heads
35 together as the Board has asked us to do, and then a
36 recommendation is made to the manager whether or not to
37 close. And in this case the manager, of course,
38 concurred with the recommendation that came from all of
39 these folks rolled into one.

40
41 So this delegation is something that's
42 been on the books for a long time, and that actually came
43 -- that was actually back in the days where it came
44 through regulation.

45
46 There have been some pretty interesting
47 movements of the Fortymile Caribou Herd so far this
48 winter. As you know already from discussion, they moved
49 north of the Yukon River at Eagle and Seventymile River.
50 And then they made a trip into Canada, went as far east

1 -- far enough east that they were on both sides of the
2 Dempster Highway, kind of made a clockwise south and east
3 movement down into Hart River caribou territory,
4 continued around to the White River, getting pretty close
5 to the Alaska Highway, and I don't have -- the last
6 mapping I had of our satellite collars was a couple of
7 weeks ago. So I'm not sure at this point how many of
8 those collars are back in Alaska.

9
10 We've had a -- they're really happy with
11 the iridium collars, and the Canadians were able to get
12 11 more collars, iridium collars to put on caribou to the
13 east of the border. And those have been mostly hung on
14 the caribou now, so we're going -- we've got such good
15 cooperation going with managing the Fortymile Caribou
16 Herd.

17
18 And as Rita said, we're going to -- the
19 Coalition will get together later to discuss this past
20 regulatory year or the current regulatory year harvest,
21 and review whether or not there are some tweaks to do to
22 the harvest plan. The harvest plan that is currently in
23 place was developed for 2012 to 2018. So I don't know
24 what kind of -- whether or not it will be opened up to
25 significant changes, but there are still the issues of
26 how to deal with what's becoming very frequent and almost
27 the norm of these high numbers of Fortymile caribou
28 accessible from the highways.

29
30 BLM continues to work with Park Service
31 and Fish and Game to provide as much opportunity for the
32 Federal subsistence hunters with this Fortymile Caribou
33 Herd hunt as possible. And pretty much the Federal users
34 unanimously said, quota's been reached, exceeded, we want
35 the winter hunt closed.

36
37 So do you have any questions about
38 Fortymile caribou or management. Jeff Gross wasn't able
39 to be here. I might be able to answer some questions you
40 might have had for him.

41
42 They did not get to do a census this
43 year. I will turn the mic over to. Sitting in for Jeff
44 Gross.

45
46 MS. YUHAS: Just explaining as the
47 Council Coordinator knows, that Ruth might not have got
48 word that Jeff is scheduled time certain for tomorrow at
49 3:00 p.m., and we didn't expect your presentation to come
50 the previous day. But he will be on line at 3:00 p.m.

1 tomorrow.

2

3 MS. GRONQUIST: Okay.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. We found
6 out that Ruth wasn't going to be here tomorrow, so we're
7 taking her report now. Okay. And you were finished or
8 you had others?

9

10 MS. GRONQUIST: I was done with the
11 Fortymile. I was going to mention a couple of other
12 things if there's time.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF: Ruth, when do you think
17 they're going to be crossing back?

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MS. GRONQUIST: Well, Donald, let me see,
22 my eight-ball says uncertain.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Even the
27 caribou don't know.

28

29 MS. GRONQUIST: The one thing you can
30 predict about caribou is that they're likely to be
31 unpredictable.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. I
34 thought it was interesting, did you say they swung in on
35 the White? Close to the White?

36

37 MS. GRONQUIST: The White River, yes.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's kind of
40 close to the Chisana caribou. And that was around what
41 time of year?

42

43 MS. GRONQUIST: That was between the --
44 I've got -- the mapping is from a wide period of time.
45 It was between the -- mapped between the 6th and the 24th
46 of October.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that was after
49 the seasons. Yeah. Pretty close to the end of September
50 though.

1 MS. GRONQUIST: Yeah.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
4 other questions.
5
6 MR. GLANZ: I had a few, but I think I'm
7 going to do it with Jeff. Well, actually Ruth and Jeff.
8
9 And we're going to have to get our arms
10 around a harvest plan, I mean, a real harvest plan where
11 we don't have 1,000 people running around in the Raven
12 (ph) Woods looking for caribou. I mean, you know, it's
13 not even a quality hunt any more. Locals don't even
14 hunt. We wait until the Federal season. In the Central
15 area we didn't have to worry about it. We got a bunch of
16 cows in that the people had shot thinking they were
17 bulls. And so they brought them by and we just
18 distributed them around to anybody who wanted them. So
19 we got rid of them. There was no meat -- the meat was
20 taken care of real well, too, I'll say that. Whoever
21 shot them, they couldn't tell a bull from a cow, but when
22 they shot them, they took care of the meat.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're
25 saying Fish and Game give it to you guys to give away?
26
27 MR. GLANZ: Yep.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or the hunters
30 did it on their own?
31
32 MR. GLANZ: No, no, the Fish and Game
33 brought it to us. They were handing them.....
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You had me
36 worried for minute.
37
38 MR. GLANZ:their little go to jail
39 cards.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
42 Virgil.
43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Has the BLM done any work
45 on the Ray Mountain Caribou Herd?
46
47 MS. GRONQUIST: Boy, I'm going back
48 through my mind trying to remember what's been done with
49 the Ray Mountains. It's been a long time, but, yes. I
50 mean, a long time as in 20 years, 15, 16, 20 years, but

1 there was some data from BLM work on the Ray Mountains.
2 I'm not familiar with it.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The Ray
7 Mountains. I'm wondering how your mind thinks, Virgil,
8 but that's okay.
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's Lester's caribou.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. Okay.
13
14 Do we have any other questions.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
19 ahead, Ruth.
20
21 Did you have something, Eva?
22
23 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. I was just
24 going to add Ruth had offered to provide a very brief
25 update or overview on the Eastern Interior Management
26 Plan, and then the Central Yukon Management Plan.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She wasn't done
29 yet.
30
31 MS. PATTON: Oh, I'm sorry.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right?
34
35 MS. GRONQUIST: Madame Chair. Council.
36 I haven't actually said anything on the record about our
37 planning efforts right now. And I think that there will
38 be somebody available to come over tomorrow and talk
39 about the Central Yukon plan. And since that is outside
40 of my area, we do blur the boundaries, but I'm not part
41 of that planning process. I think I will just defer to
42 them, or at least try to defer to them. It's tempting to
43 talk about it.
44
45 I wanted to say a couple of things about
46 our Eastern Interior plan, which you've been hearing
47 about since 2008. We're in the review of comments. The
48 public comment period having been closed for quite a
49 while now. And our manager is actually in Washington,
50 D.C. talking with our Washington office Staff of BLM to

1 go through some of the possible changes based on public
2 input from the public comment period. Our schedule has
3 us with the optimistic signing of a decision record -- or
4 record of decision as it's call for an environmental
5 impact statement, in December of 2014. I might have that
6 date wrong. Whoever comes to talk about the Central
7 Yukon Field Office plan can also talk about the timeline
8 on the Eastern Interior. We expect when Lenore gets
9 back, the field office manager, Lenore Hepler, gets back
10 from Washington that we'll work in earnest on analyzing
11 our new direction for the Eastern Interior plan.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No more to
14 report.

15

16 MS. GRONQUIST: (Shakes head negatively)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any more
19 questions of Ruth.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Ruth.

24

25 MS. GRONQUIST: Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. All
28 right. Now, looking at this agenda, we're not going to
29 take up these Board of Game things now.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there anyone
32 else of the reports that would come up tomorrow that want
33 to report today.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know, you
38 like us so much, you want to stay.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Then I
43 guess we're ready to -- we do have Katherine here as
44 well. Did you want to, Barbara?

45

46 MS. CELLARIUS: It doesn't matter to me.
47 Whatever (indiscernible - away from microphones)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you staying
50 tomorrow?

1 MS. CELLARIUS: I am going to be here.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you
4 want to just do it as normal then?
5
6 MS. CELLARIUS: Whatever you prefer.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
9 Well, we're talking about this rural thing that was in
10 the book, it was scheduled at 7:00 tonight, but that
11 didn't happen, because this was for our other meeting
12 date. So in the correspondence Eva has said that it
13 would come up today, tonight if our schedule was too
14 tight. So do you guys want to start that now?
15
16 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Because
19 as far as from what Eva has told me is the public is --
20 they have been -- all these people have been noticed that
21 it could come up today, that we would have a report.
22
23 MS. PATTON: Yes. Yes. Madame Chair.
24 All of the correspondence via email and the news releases
25 after the meeting change was that rural determination
26 would come up today as part of the Council business, and
27 the public was welcome to attend, but we weren't having
28 a separate time-certain public hearing. So it was
29 anticipated it would be in the evening today.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it seems
32 like most people know that. So if it's all right with
33 the Council, we will start that now. You're on, David.
34
35 DR. JENKINS: Okay. We're going to put
36 up a PowerPoint, and so, Virgil, you might want to switch
37 around so you can watch it.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
40
41 DR. JENKINS: Thank you, Eva. Okay.
42
43 MS. PATTON: (Indiscernible - away from
44 microphone)
45
46 DR. JENKINS: All right. We're going to
47 talk about the rural determination process. And what the
48 Secretaries have suggested to the Federal Subsistence
49 Board as the appropriate course of action at this point.
50 And this is the PowerPoint that we have given the public,

1 and we've given to all of the Regional Advisory Councils.
2 So the Councils who attend the public hearings also see
3 this, so they see this twice, and you all will get to see
4 it once rather than twice.

5
6 And for the benefit of the public who are
7 on line, you can actually see the PowerPoint if you go
8 onto our website, and if you just Google Office of
9 Subsistence Management, and then look for the rural
10 determination, and click on the 2013 PowerPoint, you can
11 follow this PowerPoint as I speak for the next few
12 minutes.

13
14 I'm going to be a little redundant.
15 You're going to hear stuff as you already, because this
16 is intended for the public who doesn't know a little bit
17 of this information.

18
19 So as you know, the Federal Subsistence
20 Management Program includes the Fish and Wildlife
21 Service, the Forest Service, the National Park Service,
22 the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Bureau of Land
23 Management. And the Federal Subsistence Program is
24 responsible for managing subsistence on Federal public
25 lands.

26
27 Okay, Eva.

28
29 so I want to talk about why we're here.
30 I want to give you a little bit of background on the
31 framework for rural determination. I'm going to talk
32 about the current process, the kinds of questions that
33 the Board has asked the public and the Regional Advisory
34 Councils to address, the resources that are available to
35 you on this process, and then finally how you all can
36 provide comments, both the public who are here to speak
37 to the RACs, and the RACs themselves.

38
39 Okay. So we're here because in December
40 of 2010 the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture
41 directed the Federal Subsistence Board to conduct a
42 review of the rural determination process. And that
43 review included discussions with Regional Advisory
44 Councils; it included public input; and it included
45 tribal consultations, and we've been conducting those;
46 and ANCSA corporation consultations, and we've also been
47 conducting those. And the intention is to develop
48 recommendations to improve the process of making rural
49 determinations.

50

1 Okay. So the framework. There are two
2 basic components to the framework. Title VII of ANILCA,
3 as you know, provides a subsistence for rural residents.
4 And you can see - on Federal public lands, and you can
5 see on the map in green there, that's the extent of
6 Federal public lands in Alaska. It's quite extensive.

7
8 The problem was that Congress did not
9 define rural. There's a Senate report that gave us a
10 definition of rural, and this is a Senate report that
11 people frequently cite when they talk about how Congress
12 intended to think about rural. And the Senate report
13 simply says this. It provides of examples excluded from
14 rural status, and those cities are Ketchikan, Juneau,
15 Anchorage and Fairbanks. And the Senate report provided
16 examples of communities that are rural, such as
17 Dillingham, Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, Barrow, and other
18 Native and non-Native villages scattered throughout the
19 State.

20
21 Okay.

22
23 So this is part of the framework, ANILCA.

24
25 Okay, Eva.

26
27 And the other part of the framework is
28 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision for 1988.
29 And that as the Kenaitze decision in which the Ninth
30 Circuit Court said that what Congress intended for rural
31 was pointing towards sparsely populated areas, and this
32 was the primary indicator of what a rural community was
33 or a rural area was, and that hunting and fishing,
34 resource use, or what we call subsistence was only one
35 indicator of rural.

36
37 And I want to read you something from the
38 Court's opinion that I think is pretty important and that
39 people don't understand about this particular opinion.
40 The Court noted that Congress, and I'm going to quote
41 here, did not limit the benefits of the statute, that is
42 ANILCA, to residents of areas dominated by a subsistence
43 economy. Instead, it wrote broadly, giving the statutory
44 priority to all subsistence users residing in rural area.

45
46 Okay. So on this map you can see in
47 black the non-rural areas, Fairbanks, Wasilla, Kenai
48 area, Homer, and so on. And most of Alaska under this
49 definition then is rural.

50

1 Okay. And these are figures from the
2 population census. Remember, recall what the Senate
3 report said. Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau were excluded
4 from rural status. And you can see from 2000 the
5 Anchorage area had a population of -- it's at the top
6 there. And Fairbanks. And you can see Bethel in 2000
7 was just around 5500, Sitka was just over 8,000, Kodiak
8 around 12,000, or closer to 13,000. Ketchikan around
9 13,000. And so on. Kotzebue 3,000.

10

11 Okay. So right now the current process
12 is to group communities together, or aggregate them
13 together, and we'll talk about that in some detail. And
14 the grouping of communities is a way of developing
15 population thresholds. And once those are developed,
16 then the Board looks at rural characteristics, and I'll
17 go through each of those. And finally I'll talk about
18 the Board's timelines for making these determinations
19 and the kinds of information that the Board uses.

20

21 Okay. So the current process groups
22 communities together or aggregates them together. And it
23 looks at economic, social and communal integration of
24 communities. And it asks -- the Board asks three
25 questions. Do 30 percent or more of working people
26 commute from one community to another? Do they share a
27 common high school attendance area? And are the
28 communities in proximity and road accessible to one
29 another. And based on these three criteria, the Board
30 then groups communities together.

31

32 Okay. And so the question that the Board
33 would like the RACs to address and the public to address:
34 Are these grouping or aggregation criteria useful for
35 determining rural and non-rural status. If they're not,
36 the Board would like to know how -- ideas of how to
37 better indicate rural -- how communities are integrated
38 for rural and non-rural status. Are these useful
39 criteria for thinking about rural in Alaska.

40

41 Okay. So once communities are grouped
42 together, then the Board develops population figures for
43 those groupings of communities. And right now, below
44 2,500, communities or areas are presumed to be rural.
45 Between 2,500 and 7,00 there's no presumption of rural or
46 non-rural. Instead, rural characteristics are used to
47 analyze the rural status of communities between these two
48 figures. And then above 7,000 there's a presumption of
49 non-rural.

50

1 And let me pause for a second and tell
2 you where these figures come from. The 2,500 figure
3 comes from the U.S. census, and the U.S. Census uses that
4 figure for determining a community that's rural. And I
5 should point out to you that that figure first appeared
6 in the U.S. census in 1910, so it's a 100-year old
7 figure, and the Federal Subsistence Board appears to have
8 simply adopted it because the U.S. Census used this
9 figure for rural status.

10
11 The 7,000 figure, above which is presumed
12 to be non-rural, comes from that Senate report, and
13 remember Ketchikan was one of the communities that was
14 excluded from rural status, and in 1980 when ANILCA was
15 passed, Ketchikan had a population of about 7,000. So
16 the Board reasoned that this was the figure above which
17 the Board figured there were cities that didn't meet the
18 rural status.

19
20 I should also point out that there's been
21 a suggestion to the Federal Subsistence Board, which the
22 Board agreed to, by the Southeast Council, and by Sitka
23 and others in the Southeast to raise the 7,000 figure to
24 11,000. And the Board as passed on that suggestion to
25 the Secretaries a few years ago, and the Secretaries have
26 not acted on that suggestion from the Board, awaiting the
27 outcome of the review process for rural status.

28
29 Okay. So the Board wants to know, are
30 these population thresholds useful for determining
31 whether a specific area of Alaska is rural. And if
32 they're not useful, the Board would like your opinion on
33 population sizes that would distinguish between rural and
34 non-rural areas, and the reasons that you have for making
35 those suggestions.

36
37 Okay. The rural characteristics.
38 Between 2,500 and 7,000, or even above 7,000, because as
39 you saw, Kodiak had 12,000. That could be -- is a rural
40 community. The population figures are guidelines;
41 they're not hard and fast thresholds. So above 2,500,
42 the Board looks at rural characteristics, and it looks at
43 the use of fish and wildlife, economic development and
44 diversity, infrastructure, transportation, and at
45 educational institutions within communities.

46
47 Okay. And the Board would like to know,
48 are these characteristics useful for determining rural
49 status in Alaska. And if they're not, are there other
50 characteristics that better reflect rural status in

1 Alaska.

2

3 Okay. And finally timelines and
4 information sources. At the moment the Board makes rural
5 determinations on a 10-year cycle based on the U.S.
6 Census. So every 10 years the Board engages in reviewing
7 the rural status of communities throughout Alaska, and it
8 does so as well out of cycle in special circumstances.

9

10 The information sources that the Board
11 uses are the recent census population data augmented by
12 Alaska Department of Labor statistics.

13

14 Okay. So should the Board determine
15 rural status or make a review of rural status every 10
16 years? And if not, why not?

17

18 And are the information sources adequate?
19 The U.S. Census I should point out no longer uses the
20 long form, and it was the long form that provided
21 information that the Board used on commuting data, for
22 example. So now the Board has to use what's called the
23 American Communities survey, and that survey is conducted
24 every five or three or every year, depending on the size
25 of the community, and it has different kinds of
26 information that it is using.

27

28 So the Board would like to know, are
29 there other kinds of more locally, communally oriented
30 information sources that would be more useful than the
31 U.S. Census or the Alaska Department of Labor data that
32 the Board is using at present.

33

34 Okay. And then finally the Board would
35 like to know if you have any other additional comments
36 about how to make the rural determination process more
37 effective and useful.

38

39 Okay, Eva.

40

41 So we have a lot of resources available.
42 You can look up Office of Subsistence Management and get
43 information on the rural determination process. You can
44 email us at subsistence@fws.gov. We have an 800 phone
45 number, 800-478-1456 for those of you who are on line.
46 And as I say, you can look at our website, and there's
47 information at the back of the room.

48

49 Okay. So you can provide testimony in a
50 number of ways. At these RAC meetings, so if there's

1 public here who would like to testify on this, they can
2 present their testimony to the RAC. We've held a number
3 of public hearings, and I think we'll hold a total of 10
4 public hearings by the time we're done. You can provide
5 comments electronically by email, subsistence@fws.gov.
6 You can mail them. Or you can hand-deliver them here at
7 this RAC meeting if anyone in the public has written
8 testimony they would like to submit.

9

10 The deadline's been extended to December
11 2nd. It was November 1st, but the Federal Government
12 shut-down, which caused all kinds of havoc, has also
13 caused us to extend the deadline for comment to December
14 2nd.

15

16 Okay. So thank you very much.

17

18 And the last slide, Eva, put that up
19 there. And these are the questions that we've just gone
20 through. And I can answer questions from the RAC, and if
21 you have public here that would like to testify, too, we
22 would like to hear them.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry. You
25 don't have a handout?

26

27 DR. JENKINS: The PowerPoint is in your
28 Council packets.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, it's in our
31 book.

32

33 DR. JENKINS: It is.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Doggone it, I
36 didn't have it with me. I wonder if that's me. What
37 page is it. I know, I should know better. 262. Okay.

38

39 Okay. So has any of you guys seen this
40 yet. You have seen it before? I mean, you know.....

41

42 MR. WOODRUFF: No, I read it.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you read
45 it. Yes.

46

47 The SRC took this up, and that letter's
48 in our packet.

49

50 MS. PATTON: Yes.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I think
2 we should.....
3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: I have a couple questions.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, then you
7 should ask them.
8
9 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
10
11 David, grouping of aggregate communities.
12 Is that by proximity? In other words, they're within the
13 same geographic area or -- I know you said that they
14 might use the same high school. So what is the threshold
15 for their proximity to each other for aggregation?
16
17 DR. JENKINS: Well, one of the thresholds
18 was do 30 percent or more of the people commute from one
19 community to another for work, so that was one criteria
20 that the Board looked at to make rural determinations --
21 to make the aggregation of these communities. The
22 others, as I mentioned, do they share a common high
23 school attendance area? You know, do these communities,
24 are they grouped together in that way? And finally are
25 they road accessible and proximate to one another.
26
27 So on the Kenai, for example, there are
28 road accessible communities that ended up getting grouped
29 together because they are road accessible, because they
30 share a common high school area, and because people
31 commute from one to another to work. So that has caused
32 communities on the Kenai to be grouped together..
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
35 questions.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
40 reason I started talking about the SRC is we made some
41 comments, and that's in your packet. One of the main
42 ones was the rural -- under rural characteristics, the --
43 ever since ANILCA, there was a long process of creating
44 resident zone communities around the national parks, and
45 we added that. Our recommendation, and I would like us
46 to look at that, would be to add it as a characteristic
47 of the community to determine rural.
48
49 I was wondering if you -- I think we had
50 a nice handy-dandy little paper that kind of outlined

1 what we're looking at, and I guess I didn't highlight
2 that on here. Was it the last slide?

3

4 MS. PATTON: The press release.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, it was in
7 the press release. Yeah. I mean, it was really clear
8 what we should take up. Which slide is that.

9

10 David, help me out. How should we
11 proceed? Where should we start?

12

13 DR. JENKINS: Well, the Board is
14 interested in your recommendations to he questions that
15 the Board has posed. And the Board posed them in a
16 Federal Register notice and then the Board has posed them
17 over and over again in these public meetings. So you can
18 start with the RAC discussing these, but you can also
19 ask, Madame Chair, if anybody from the public is on line
20 that would like to testify, or anybody in the public here
21 that would like to testify to the RAC on this.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you know
24 what page this news release is in our book?

25

26 DR. JENKINS: Not only do I not know what
27 page, I can't even see it from here.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Really?
32 Goodness, gracious. What kind of a guy are you?

33

34 MS. CELLARIUS: We can see where it is in
35 the packet.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's the press
38 release. I just want to know where it is, because it
39 really helped me. Here it is. It's right there.

40

41 MS. CELLARIUS: Here you go.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Page 268. It
44 was really -- this tells us the -- what we should be
45 giving the Board, the information. Yours was a nice
46 slide production. And I'm trying to get us to where we
47 can wrap our heads around it.

48

49 So where do we want to start, guys. We
50 have population thresholds, rural characteristics,

1 aggregation of communities, timelines, all to talk about.

2

3

4 MR. WOODRUFF: Population thresholds.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll start
7 with population thresholds. Okay. Speak to me. You
8 want to start. Who wanted to start? You, Andrew?

9

10 MR. FIRMIN: I was just going to ask a
11 question. What are some other suggestions you've gotten
12 besides the ones listed here, or anything that jumped out
13 at you or anything significant, like, I don't know, the
14 price of fuel or, you know, like what does it cost to get
15 there, or like be on the road system like -- I mean,
16 would do you consider Deadhorse's population a rural
17 community or is that an industrial community? I was just
18 -- what other suggestions or ideas that you've gotten
19 from other places or other sources.

20

21 DR. JENKINS: Today we've received about
22 50 written comments and, as I've mentioned, we've had
23 many public hearings, and we've talked to many RACs. And
24 we've gotten a range of comments from doing away with
25 timelines entirely. For example, once its rural status
26 is made, it's permanent until there is a significant
27 change in the community that warrants changing the status
28 to non-rural.

29

30 We've had many discussions of altering
31 the rural characteristics that are there, the four or
32 five characteristics that the Board considers. We've had
33 lots of testimony about significance of subsistence in
34 local rural communities, and how that should be a
35 defining characteristic. And that's one of the reasons
36 I cited the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision,
37 because that decision said that can't be the only or the
38 major characteristic. People in a market economy who
39 live in rural areas can participate in subsistence under
40 ANILCA in other words.

41

42 We've gotten -- so we've gotten a whole
43 range of responses from very legal kinds of responses
44 from lawyers who work for various corporations to, as I
45 say, local folks saying that you should -- the Board
46 should really focus on subsistence issues primarily.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that sums it
49 up? Probably not.

50

1 DR. JENKINS: Well, it doesn't sum up 50
2 comments over several hundreds of pages.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I didn't think
5 so.

6
7 DR. JENKINS: And probably 15 hours of
8 public testimony. No, it doesn't. Madame Chair.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So on the top
11 of your head, to help Andrew out there, on the population
12 threshold, was there any significant change from a lot of
13 these 50 comments onto what's in the books now.

14
15 DR. JENKINS: Well, I can tell you that
16 some people have commented that it should be much higher
17 than it is, that it should be 15,000 or 18,000. I mean,
18 there are a range of comments on population thresholds.
19 Some think that there shouldn't be three-tiered system,
20 that it should just be, you know, once you reach a
21 threshold, say 15,000, above that, you're non-rural and
22 below that you're rural, and you don't need this three-
23 tiered system. So we've had those kinds of comments
24 interspersed with these written comments that we've
25 gotten. I haven't reviewed them all. I've read most of
26 them, and I've been to half the public hearings.

27
28 So does that help spark your responses a
29 little bit?

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
32 questions. Don.

33
34 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

35
36 Well, I have a little difficulty with the
37 1910 data, population threshold information, and I think
38 it should be higher, because it's very difficult for us
39 to make common sense decisions about something like this,
40 since we're not professionals, on data that's over 100
41 years old. That's on population threshold.

42
43 The other thing, I think that one of the
44 primary rural characteristics I believe is the use of
45 fish and wildlife. And I wouldn't say that's the only
46 one, I think that's a critical component of determining
47 rural is that a majority of the population is getting
48 their food and their resources from the land.

49
50 Thank you, Madame Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
2 going to go through this one at a time. And I'm hearing
3 from Donald, higher thresholds and then use of fish and
4 game. Okay. Do you have a suggestion? Higher
5 thresholds. What?
6
7 MR. WOODRUFF: I like the 11,000.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mic.
10
11 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm entertaining the
12 11,000 number.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is that the
15 one-tier, or the two-tier, or the three-tier, your
16 11,000? Where is it going? What are you suggesting?
17
18 MR. WOODRUFF: It's the bottom figure
19 that he gave us for -- it was 7,000, or that's what
20 they've been using.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The first
23 figure was 2500, the second figure was 25 to 7,000. And
24 then over 7,000 was the one that was you're out.
25
26 DR. JENKINS: Remember, these are
27 guidelines. They're not hard and fast thresholds.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So I'm
30 asking you, where did you want to put that 11? Where are
31 you suggesting?
32
33 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm suggesting that we
34 move from 7 to 11.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. As the
37 higher threshold. And what do you think about the 2500.
38
39 MR. WOODRUFF: I can't make a judgment on
40 that, since.....
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the 1910
43 data.
44
45 MR. WOODRUFF: Right. That's what I
46 cited before.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I mean,
49 I thought that's what you wanted to be higher; that's why
50 I'm asking.

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Well, I'd just throw a
2 figure out there, you know, 4,000 or something.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: To discuss.
5 Okay. That's what -- let's call this a roundtable
6 discussion for the moment so we can kind of throw ideas
7 out and see where we're at.

8
9 MR. FIRMIN: I kind of like the numbers
10 the way they are. The only one thing that I kind of
11 almost feel bad for is Bethel is right on the threshold
12 of going to be see you guys later, you're no longer a
13 rural community. And that's just an example of, you know
14 -- but it's kind of hard to get my mind around how would
15 you be able to tell those people you're no longer a rural
16 community, you know. That would be a tough call to make,
17 but at the same time why would you change this number for
18 one village. You know what I mean?

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. So what
21 you're saying is you're.....

22
23 MR. FIRMIN: I mean, if it's worked for
24 100 years, why change it now. But I cannot agree with
25 those numbers as they are, but what I'm also saying is I
26 have a reservation is looking at like Bethel's population
27 size and what they have here, they're kind of on the
28 borderline of not being a rural community any more. And
29 these figures were probably based on a population density
30 of, you know, the east coast in 1910 more than likely if
31 it came from the U.S. Census. And I'm thinking that
32 might make me even want to think they're a little high.
33 But maybe they're normal, they're just right for Alaska
34 now 100 years later, we've finally caught up with the
35 rest of society.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm trying to
38 follow you. Now I am. Uh-huh. Yes. So what you're --
39 you're torn, right, Andrew.

40
41 MR. FIRMIN: I just think I don't want to
42 be a part of telling everybody in Bethel, you no longer
43 live in a rural community, but then again you have to
44 draw the line somewhere. Well, I mean, would you want to
45 change this specifically for that one village? Or would
46 you even consider them a village? They're probably more
47 like a first class city.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.
50

1 MR. FIRMIN: I mean, 737's land there.
2 They have stores the size of Fred Meyer's and taxi cabs
3 there.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Boy, things
6 have changed since I was there. Really?
7
8 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, there's 10 different
9 -- I don't know.
10
11 MR. ERHART: It's a small Anchorage.
12
13 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Boy, it wasn't
16 like that whenever I was commercial fishing.
17
18 MR. FIRMIN: But that's what I'm saying
19 though, would you.....
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 80's. I see
22 what you're saying. In reading this, let's get him to
23 answer this question. It says presumed to be non-rural,
24 unless such communities possess significant
25 characteristics of a rural nature. Clearly not much of
26 a definition to that.
27
28 DR. JENKINS: Well, for example, Kodiak.
29 The Board has determined Kodiak to be rural, and it has
30 more than 7,000 people in it. Sitka's right close to
31 this figure. Bethel as Tim -- I mean, as Andrew has
32 mentioned, is right close to that figure. So it's a
33 guideline and if communities have characteristics that
34 are overwhelmingly rural, then the population threshold
35 can be ignored by the Board. It's a guideline, it's not
36 a hard and fast threshold.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. So if
39 you were looking at characteristics, that you would go to
40 that next thing that we're taking up, is rural
41 characteristics, and the Board would look at those?
42
43 DR. JENKINS: That's right. So right now
44 this is the process the Board uses to determine rural
45 status in Alaska. And the Board wants you to help it
46 figure out what it means to be rural.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil
49 has his hand up.
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: You know, this makes me
2 think a lot. When they did this in 1910, I don't know
3 what percent of the population lived in the country and
4 lived on farms and stuff like that.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Majority I'm
7 sure.

8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: My family was farmers.
10 And so they raised cows and pigs, chickens, ducks, and
11 grew corn, oats, fed that to the animals. Grew soybeans
12 and sold those. That's what they used to do.

13
14 I think about Kodiak and Sitka, and I
15 think about, say, some of the smaller towns, say 7,000
16 population back in Illinois back then in the 50's when I
17 was a kid. They had a shoe factory, slaughterhouse,
18 stuff like that. So those people worked in town jobs,
19 slaughtering animals, making shoes. Of course, that's
20 all done in Indonesia or some place, Bangladesh now. No
21 more Americans build shoes, make shoes.

22
23 So we're thinking about this stuff. And
24 then I think about when I was on the Board of Fisheries
25 and we made a positive C&T for Sitka for subsistence,
26 because they were a non-subsistence area. And I think
27 about, well, what do these people do? Well, they do two
28 things primarily. They used to work in the pulp mills
29 and sawmills, but that all went down the tube, so they
30 work in tourism, and they work in commercial fishing.
31 And that's the same thing with Kodiak. So that makes me
32 wonder, well, these people really aren't depending on
33 fish and wildlife. They're not living off the land.
34 They're working in the fish processing industry, the
35 tourist industry. That's what they're doing. Sitka,
36 Kodiak both.

37
38 So it's a big confusagram to me is what
39 it is, because I don't really know -- you know, I -- but
40 I have friends that live here in Fairbanks that are more
41 down to the earth. They have a garden, I'm setting next
42 to one with a garden. But she truly does live in the
43 woods. But there's people here in Fairbanks that do the
44 same thing. They don't buy hardly any meat at the store.
45 They don't buy any fish at the store, and they grow their
46 own vegetables. They can them, and they freeze them,
47 they do all this other stuff. They do the same things
48 that the people that live like Sue does.

49
50 And so to me it's a hard question to

1 answer. And I know there's like we have the 25
2 horsepower rule over on the Holitna River. Hoholitna
3 River. That's because the people up there were sick and
4 tired of the commercial fishermen, and the dentists, and
5 the Fish and Wildlife Service people, and et cetera, that
6 had regular jobs and made good money from Bethel going up
7 the river in their big, fast boats and shooting all the
8 moose. And so they finally got the Board of Game to pass
9 a 20 or 40 horsepower, I think it's 40 horsepower rule.

10

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

11

12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: So they got them to pass
14 the 40 horsepower rule. No boats over 40 horsepower.
15 That got rid of the doctors and dentists, the Fish and
16 Wildlife Service employees, and the commercial fishermen,
17 because none of them have a 40 horsepower boat. They've
18 got 115 or 150 or something.

19

20 So anyway, you know, you think about all
21 these different things, and it makes it -- it's a touch
22 decision to.....

23

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, it is.

24

25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR:try to really flesh
27 this out on exactly you should do it, because no
28 community -- hardly any community is -- I guess you have
29 to try to look at it where what does the majority of the
30 people in the community do, because you're going to have
31 people in a community that do all these things, no matter
32 how big the community is practically, you know.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that would
35 come under characteristics.

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. That comes under
38 characteristics, and that's what we're looking at, rural
39 characteristics.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, right now
42 we're talking about thresholds first, and then we'll go
43 to characteristics.

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. We're talking
46 about the size, but we also got mixed into the
47 characteristics while we were talking about the size.

48

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I didn't.

49

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: So what I was saying on
2 the size, you know, you're going to have people, no
3 matter how big the town is, that are going to meet all
4 these characteristics. And then you're going to have --
5 but I think maybe the reason, when I kind of started on
6 this, was the 2500. If a town had over 2500 people back
7 in 1910, then they probably had a shoe factory, a
8 slaughterhouse, or something else in that town, and those
9 people, the majority of them, worked at whatever those
10 factories there were. You know, grain elevators, all
11 this kind of stuff. Worked at the sawmills or something.
12 Worked in those places, instead of being out in the
13 countryside. And so I think that's where that 2500
14 number probably came from back then.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, you do
17 bring up some interesting points, Virgil, about -- and it
18 makes me think, too, about things are a lot different
19 than they were in 1910. A lot of our kids are just
20 sitting with one of them little things doing this all the
21 time. They're not even out hunting like they used to.
22 Probably not even weeding the garden either. It's not my
23 fault. My kid does it. He'd get his butt beat. But
24 I'll agree, it would be the parents' fault if they're not
25 teaching. When the kids come to my house, I don't like
26 them to be on those dang things. I like them to be
27 outside doing something. But our culture has changed a
28 great deal.

29
30 But to keep on this, where we're at is
31 we're looking at rural determinations, and we're looking
32 at what the Board is looking at now is 2500 -- there's
33 three steps. And what I've heard so far is -- I haven't
34 heard anyone talk about the steps other than one said
35 increase the top end, and you don't know how you feel,
36 you think -- you don't know what.....

37
38 MR. FIRMIN: I think it's fine the way it
39 is, the population threshold. And I believe more in the
40 rural characteristics front of it. But the other thing
41 about the population threshold is if you're below 2,500,
42 and maybe you have something else going on there that --
43 I don't know, what would you have in a population less
44 than 2500 that would deem it not rural.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it's
47 automatically rural at 2500, right, is my understanding
48 of this.

49
50 DR. JENKINS: In the legal parlance, it

1 is presumed rural, yes.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rural. Okay.

4

5 DR. JENKINS: Not automatically, but it
6 is presumed so.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's presumed.
9 That's why we have attorneys.

10

11 Okay, gang. This is our chance to give
12 input to the Board. And does anyone want to see the
13 thresholds change. We're speaking on the thresholds and
14 then we're going to move on to characteristics. Now, if
15 you don't want to take it up, you can tell me that, too,
16 but this is what we're up against.

17

18 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: My opinion is just they all
23 look good to me, the figures, 2500 to 7 and over 7, or
24 whatever. And I don't see how we can tweak that any much
25 better. And to raise the population levels only
26 increases more problems. I mean, let's make a community
27 of 10,000 or under could subsistence. Well, that would
28 kill the whole system, I mean, you know. So, myself,
29 keep it small and keep it simple.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sure people
32 would like to do that some.

33

34 MR. GLANZ: I know.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what you're
37 saying is, don't tweak it.

38

39 MR. GLANZ: Correct. My opinion.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Where
42 are you at it, Lester.

43

44 MR. ERHART: The same thing as him.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'm going
47 to report to you that that's exactly what the SRC came up
48 with after going through this. Let me read what they
49 said. The existing population thresholds do no need to
50 be changed; however, population should be measured using

1 a five-year running average to ensure that a
2 determination is not based on extreme highs and low, or
3 boom and bust cycles. Do you guys like that?

4

5 SEVERAL: Yes.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did you
8 hear it? This is what the SRC come up with, because the
9 pipeline did it to some of the communities around the
10 park. The existing population thresholds do no need to
11 be changed; however, population should be measured using
12 a five-year running average to ensure that a
13 determination is not based on extreme high and low point
14 of a boom/bust cycle. And I heard a bunch of nodding
15 heads here.

16

17 I read it for you, because I know you had
18 a lot on your mind, Andrew. What do you think?

19

20 MR. FIRMIN: That sounds interesting. If
21 you have a trend going on, that that could be like a
22 special action, because, you know, the gasline might go
23 through. Okay. Well, let's check out all these
24 communities before, or, you know, maybe there's a new
25 highway going into Tanana. Maybe we should review them
26 before the highway opens it up, you know, or those
27 communities -- maybe there might not be anybody in Tanana
28 in five years for all you know. You know what I'm
29 saying. So maybe I could see that. If there's something
30 significant going on in that area, like a new mine or the
31 gasline or something like that.

32

33 But my whole other thing was can the
34 available subsistence resources of that area sustain that
35 community as a rural area? Should you still have the
36 same regulations and rules for those people if
37 they're.....

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Seasons and bag
40 limits would take care of it.

41

42 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, but is 10 years later
43 going to be too late. You know what I mean?

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know what
46 you're saying, but.....

47

48 MR. FIRMIN: That was my thought.

49

50 MR. WOODRUFF: I have a question. Did

1 the SRC.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald, mic.
4 You don't like pushing that button, do you?

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: Did the SRC address the
7 timeline for review?

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A five-year
10 running average, that was it. Not 10-year, it was five-
11 year running average.

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. So we
16 can do nothing or -- Barbara, it seems like am I not
17 doing a good job? What did I miss.

18

19 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, there's a specific
20 category of timeline, and what the SRC said under the
21 category of timeline, I'm not sure whether Donald's
22 question concerned the category of timeline or just that
23 -- I mean, in some ways it helps to hear the whole SRC
24 recommendation.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Because
27 what they did -- they didn't address the timeline there.
28 They just were talking about thresholds being a five-year
29 running. So if it went above the cycle in one year, it
30 didn't dump them out. That was all.

31

32 MS. CELLARIUS: But they also had a
33 recommendation in general on the timeline.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

36

37 MS. CELLARIUS: Which was not to do the
38 review.....

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Every 10 years.

41

42 MS. CELLARIUS: Every 10 years. It was
43 to make the original determination and then if there was
44 some kind of extraordinary event, that, for example, you
45 had this spike in population.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: To bring it up
48 again.

49

50 MS. CELLARIUS: Then you would revisit

1 the determination, but once a determination was made, you
2 wouldn't do it again every 10 years.

3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Extraordinary event is a
5 little bit fuzzy.

6
7 MS. CELLARIUS: Actually what the
8 language says is -- the SRC recommendation recommends
9 that once rural determinations are made, they only be
10 reviewed extraordinary or extenuating circumstances, such
11 as a long-term permanent population changes up or down,
12 measured using the five-year running average mentioned
13 earlier in this letter.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So they did go
16 hand-in-hand.

17
18 Okay. How do you guys want to -- do you
19 want to do nothing or do you want to agree with that.
20 Virgil.

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think just leave that
23 part of it the same, because what's happened in the past,
24 like in the case of Sitka and Kodiak, there are more
25 people in that there, and the people that were advocating
26 for it to be rural, they presented their case and the
27 Board agreed with their case, and so they're considered
28 rural, because they had enough people, you know, that get
29 out and try to harvest their food from the wild, that
30 they convinced the Board that they should have a rural
31 determination. So I think we should just leave it the
32 same, because if the population is more than the 7,000,
33 it says here in the book, possesses significant
34 characteristics of a rural nature. And so that happens
35 anyway. So I think we just leave it like it is, that
36 part, the thresholds.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I lost again.

39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Oh, let me -- I've got to
41 add something. Okay. And the Joint Boards of Fish and
42 Game for the State just addressed this exact issue last
43 month and decided to leave it the same is what they did.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The Joint
46 Boards addressed the State side, right?

47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. On the State side
49 they addressed whether.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Not the Federal
2 side.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, they addressed
5 whether Bethel and Kodiak met subsistence threshold and
6 criteria, characteristics and the whole works, and they
7 decided, yes, they did, because some people put in
8 proposals to say.....
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Additional
11 information from Virgil.
12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. Right.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
16 Virgil.
17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: So that is what the State
19 Boards at the Joint Board meeting did last month. Madame
20 Chair.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But again it
23 doesn't -- it's not our system.
24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: But this is a different
26 -- correct.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's not the
29 Federal system.
30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is a different
32 system, but I'm just pointing out what the sister system
33 or dual system, whatever you want to call the State
34 system, just did.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we're
37 looking at 2500 you are presumed rural; 25 to 7,000,
38 you're considered rural or non-rural based on community
39 characteristics and criteria used to group communities
40 together, is what this says; and 7,000 will be considered
41 non-rural unless such characteristics possess significant
42 characteristics of rural nature.
43
44 So now I'm -- is everyone happy with
45 that.
46
47 (Council nods affirmatively)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we have
50 a consensus, except I would go with the SRC. We are the

1 people that live in those communities. All right. So we
2 have a consensus on the thresholds. And listening to all
3 that discussion I think might help.

4
5 Rural characteristics. Are these
6 characteristics useful for determining whether a specific
7 area of Alaska is rural. Okay. The Board recognized the
8 population along is not the only indicator of rural or
9 non-rural status. Other characteristics the Board
10 considers, but are not limited to, the following: use of
11 fish and wildlife, development and diversity of the
12 economy, community infrastructure, transportation, and
13 educational institutions.

14
15 Just for the purpose of discussion, I'm
16 going to read this to you, what we discussed as an SRC.

17
18
19 Transportation and educational
20 institutions are not useful characteristics for
21 determining rural or non-rural status, and should not be
22 used in rural determination process. The SRC recommends
23 instead adding sharing patterns and status as a national
24 park or national monument resident zone community as the
25 list of rural characteristics. The designation as a
26 resident zone community is based on the presence of
27 significant concentration of rural residents who have
28 customarily engaged in subsistence uses within a national
29 park or monument, and occurs in the Federal Register, 36
30 Code CFR 13.43.

31
32 But they're being specific to add the
33 subsistence resident zone communities that are already
34 listed in the Federal Register as a characteristic.

35
36 Donald.

37
38 MR. WOODRUFF: I think that that's sound
39 reasoning, and the reason for that is that educational
40 institutions for the most part are transitory
41 populations.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what do you
44 want to do. Are we getting too tired to do this? Lester
45 closed his book, that's a bad sign. How do you feel
46 about continuing and answering these questions for input
47 from this RAC to the Federal Board on rural
48 determinations. What do you want to do. Help me out.

49
50 MR. FIRMIN: We could finish with this

1 one at least.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The rural
4 characteristics.

5

6 MR. FIRMIN: Well, our agenda says we
7 were going to address it on the next day.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want to
10 do it the next day?

11

12 MR. FIRMIN: No, we can finish this one
13 anyway. I think like what Donald said with striking
14 educational institutions out of there could be -- I'm not
15 sure, because I was thinking of like Galena or Nenana,
16 you know, because they have boarding schools there, or
17 Sitka, you know. And even if there's university or
18 something that those people are just there for winter or
19 a semester, or maybe a couple years, but that should fall
20 under like the economy or something, or the
21 infrastructure associated with it.

22

23 And I think that some of those
24 transportation and the infrastructure available and stuff
25 was what -- is what would make you separate from rural
26 and non-rural. I mean, can you actually leave the town
27 easily? It doesn't matter if there's animals running
28 around outside for you to eat or not, is there still a
29 grocery store to go to? Can you actually live a life in
30 that place without having to go hunting or fishing. You
31 know, when it becomes more of a recreational or sport
32 activity and not something that's necessity, then you
33 shouldn't really be considered a rural, subsistence user,
34 unless that's just a lifestyle you choose. I mean, you
35 could probably live in Central Park, New York, and live
36 a subsistence lifestyle, but it doesn't mean it's a rural
37 area. You know, I mean, that's just the way somebody may
38 choose to live. Excuse me. That just might be the way
39 people choose to live, and if they want to live that way,
40 well, maybe you aren't living far enough out in the
41 country yet. But if you live next door to an airport
42 that, you know, has large jets coming and going on a 24-
43 hour basis, then you're probably not a rural community,
44 because you have everything else involved with that, all
45 the goodies that go along with that kind of stuff. The
46 same thing if you're a big shipping port or something.
47 Just my thoughts anyway.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So those two
50 things you don't agree -- you would agree to take out,

1 institutions and transportation?
2
3 MR. FIRMIN: no, leave them in there,
4 that's what.....
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, leave them
7 in there.
8
9 MR. FIRMIN:I didn't agree with
10 that.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm sorry.
13
14 MR. FIRMIN: If you've got a shipping
15 port and you've got 737's landing on a 24-hour basis, and
16 Fred Meyer's down the street, I'm pretty you're not a
17 rural community. You know what I mean?
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. I do
20 know.
21
22 MR. WOODRUFF: I've got a question.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.
25
26 MR. WOODRUFF: Andrew, in the past when
27 you guys had that DEW station in Fort Yukon, did that
28 impact the population very much? Or that would be
29 considered infrastructure, correct?
30
31 MR. FIRMIN: But none of that
32 infrastructure did anything for the community. That was
33 all for the base and the base personnel. I mean, what
34 did we get out of it? 1500 extra people and a bar at
35 least to go party with, you know, on the weekends, and
36 that was about it. And now it's non-existent, and the
37 100 extra people that are with it are gone, and so is all
38 the infrastructure. But, I mean, maybe if that was
39 permanent or expanding, I could see that different. But,
40 see, then again that's back to a transient population.
41 A lot of those people aren't out there to use the
42 resource. They're not -- they're just there for a job
43 for six weeks and then they're gone, or however long
44 they're there.
45
46 MR. WOODRUFF: I would almost put that in
47 the same area as like an educational institution, but I
48 do see your point on that.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What do you

1 want to do.

2

3 MR. FIRMIN: I don't think we're the ones
4 to make up a list saying you need to have this much stuff
5 or this much cargo coming through your port, or this
6 large of an airplane. That's not our job to come up with
7 those kind of specifics.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, it isn't.
10 But, you know, but, you know, we're just looking at this.
11 Do we want to leave it the way it is or change it.

12

13 MR. FIRMIN: I think the educational
14 institution is one thing that would have to be defined.
15 The size of the school and how much economy it might add
16 to a place or not. But for the most part it's just
17 transient people. It's kind of useless unless it's a
18 large place.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Others.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I have to agree with
23 Andrew on that there. Like in the summer we have a big
24 influx, a big influx of people. He has a big influx in
25 the winter over there in Galena. I used to work out of
26 that area. But they're all gone come summer. Well,
27 they're all gone come winter for us.

28

29 And education system probably should be
30 struck from that myself.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm not sure
33 you guys agree on that. You said it should stay in there
34 as a characteristic?

35

36 MR. FIRMIN: We are agreeing that's it's
37 all good to go. It's not up to us to -- I don't know.
38 Maybe if it's a large institution it could have an
39 affect, but for the most part the ones in this State are
40 not big enough to affect a real community.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Educational institutions.
45 When I look at this, I think, well, the University has
46 annexes in Nome, Sitka, Kodiak, Bethel. These all have
47 positive C&T's. And then someone brought up the boarding
48 school in Nenana. You know, that's a high school, you
49 know.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sitka.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: I know people that sent
4 their boarding school in Nenana.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And there's
7 another one in Galena, and then Mt. Edgecumbe's in Sitka.
8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: That goes all the way
10 back to Hudson stock though in the 20's and the teens,
11 the boarding school at Nenana. But anyway, so if I look
12 at this, you know, I don't think the educational
13 institutions -- from looking at the way it's done now,
14 would that eliminate them allegedly or not, you know,
15 like Sitka, Kodiak, all those places. It didn't. And so
16 you can't, just because a person lives in a rural area,
17 deny them the opportunity for higher education. So I
18 think we should leave it in there, not take it out.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do we have
21 a consensus.
22
23 MR. FIRMIN: That's what we all just said
24 in a different way I think.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think so,
29 too. Because I'm getting a little confused actually the
30 way you're saying it.
31
32 So anyone opposed to taking educational
33 out.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It sounds like
38 we have a consensus there.
39
40 So reread this thing. Is there anything
41 in there that you would add or delete. Use of fish and
42 wildlife, development and diversity of the economy,
43 community infrastructure, transportation. So it sounds
44 like you guys are all okay with this rural
45 characteristic.
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Sue.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: We could add in there
2 gardening, raising your own food and putting it away. A
3 lot of people do that in the villages, different places.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Boy, I do a lot
6 of that.
7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's a rural
9 characteristic.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What do you
12 think? Should we add it.
13
14 MR. FIRMIN: Good idea.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's
17 add it. Gardening and canning. That's a good one.
18 There's days I think I should quit. I work pretty hard
19 at that.
20
21 Okay. So does anyone have anything else
22 you would add to it.
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Resident zone
27 communities I would add as a characteristic. If the
28 park's already got resident zone communities listed for
29 their area, that could be a characteristic. Could we
30 agree on that, because there's seven parks that have
31 resident zone communities across the State, to a national
32 park. And that's a place where no one else can hunt,
33 just them. So if that community got dumped out, then
34 there would be less of them being able to go there. So
35 could we add that?
36
37 MR. GLANZ: I can live with that.
38
39 MR. ERHART: Sounds good.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does that sound
42 okay with everyone.
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. As a
47 rural characteristic, resident zone communities to the
48 parks.
49
50 Anything else.

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we
4 covered it then, unless you have something.

5

6 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair. Are we
7 sticking with the 10-year cycle or the 5-year as you
8 guys.....

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, that's
11 the last thing. Aggregation of communities is the next
12 subject. Do you want to talk about aggregation of
13 communities.

14

15 And didn't -- wasn't there something that
16 people were against on that, that they commented on?
17 Someone told me on the teleconference there was some of
18 that.

19

20 DR. JENKINS: There's been a range of
21 opinions on that. The commuting criteria, many people
22 objected to. Do 30 percent or more commute from one
23 community to another. What happens if it's 29 percent.
24 What should happen if it's 31 percent. It struck many
25 people as an arbitrary criteria.

26

27 The road proximity was an issue for some,
28 which is part of the grouping criteria. And the sharing
29 of a high school attendance area was problematic for
30 others.

31

32 So we've received a range of opinions on
33 the aggregation criteria, too, Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And what
36 it says right now is, you're asking us, right, this
37 question here. Right now is 30 percent of working people
38 commute from one community to another. And (2) do they
39 share a common high school attendance area. And (3), are
40 communities in proximity and road accessible to one
41 another. For aggregating communities.

42

43 And does that mean that if you aggregated
44 three communities, that that would be the 2500?

45

46 DR. JENKINS: Exactly. That's what
47 happened -- in fact, this is the first step. The first
48 step is to aggregate communities, and then you come up
49 with a population figure.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what do you
2 think of that. Anyone have a point, an opinion. I'm
3 sure that Saxman doesn't want to be aggregated with
4 Ketchikan.
5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: They're not.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They were, and
9 they were determined part of Ketchikan, and they were no
10 more allowed to hunt with subsistence.
11
12 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah. That was in the
13 public testimony.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So how do you
16 feel about that, gang. If your little community was next
17 to Bethel, would you want to be aggregated? Do you feel
18 like that should happen or not.
19
20 MR. GLANZ: Myself, feel, no, you know,
21 they should not be. I mean, let's say they built a big
22 mine out by Fort Yukon, and 7,000 people were working out
23 of it, and living around Fort Yukon in tents and crap for
24 two, three years. So, you know, it's -- you look what
25 happened to Pogo Mine, how many thousands of people work
26 there. I mean, you never know, you know, so I that
27 aggregate needs to be thrown out.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you think we
30 need any more discussion on that? Would you guys agree
31 that it might should be thrown out.
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, we're against
34 aggregation.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anybody
37 disagree with that.
38
39 (No opposing)
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's another
42 consensus. Okay.
43
44 MR. GLANZ: Oh, I thought you said
45 segregation. I'm sorry.
46
47 (Laughter)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're against
50 that, too. All right. And then the timelines. The 10-

1 year cycle. Do you want to comment on that, having a
2 timeline of 10 years, bring it up every 10 years.

3

4 MR. WOODRUFF: I like what the SRC did.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don says he
7 likes what the SRC did, because he didn't turn on his
8 mic.

9

10 MR. FIRMIN: I think just from reading
11 it, it's probably because they do the census every 10
12 years. However, they'd have to go do, you know, a
13 separate review, because they use a 10-year. It's just
14 that's why they do it on a 10-year cycle. Like I said,
15 unless there was something special going on in that area,
16 there really wouldn't be a need.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would everyone
19 agree to that.

20

21 (No opposing)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Quiet's good.

24

25

26 MR. GLANZ: Sounds good to me.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that the
29 consensus?

30

31 (No opposing)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
34 Information sources. Is that our last one that we can
35 comment on and give information to.

36

37 Current regulations state that population
38 data from the most recent census conducted by the U.S.
39 Census Bureau, as updated by the Department of Labor,
40 shall be utilized in the rural determination process.
41 The information collected and the reports generated
42 during the -- what is that word -- decennial census vary
43 between each census. As such, data used during the
44 Board's rural determination may vary. These information
45 sources are stated in regulation, will continue to be the
46 foundation of the data used for rural determination.

47

48 Do you think any of these sources -- do
49 you have any additional sources you think would be
50 beneficial. Anyone.

1 Go ahead, Virgil.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Unless it's something
4 like what Bill talked about. You decide you're going to
5 build a big mine or something, and all of a sudden 4 or
6 5,000 people show up that are basically transients. So
7 if you know that's happened, then.....
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You mean that's
10 a source of information?
11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, that's a source of
13 information.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: But they might be, you
18 know, or going to be -- say when they do the census they
19 have all these people there and then all these people
20 have left. So it works the opposite way, too.
21
22 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, it does.
23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: You've got to use common
25 sense when you're looking at the census.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Remember that
28 question I asked yesterday. Does OSM have common sense?
29 No one answered that.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
34 answer it. They're not answering it. All right.
35
36 Well, from what 'm hearing here, we're
37 just asked -- they're asking us, is there any other
38 sources of information. And you're saying that there is
39 a source of information as when you have additional.....
40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, there could be
42 other sources like local government would ideas, you
43 know. There's other sources, like when I say local
44 government, there's, say, the school system, they know
45 how many kids are there. The tax assessor, they know how
46 many people are paying taxes. There's other sources of
47 what the population is.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, permanent
50 fund.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. There's all kinds
2 of other sources, but that's the easiest one, to go by
3 the census.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So are we okay
6 with that. Do we have additional or not.
7
8 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah. I think what Virgil
9 -- yes, I think that the point that Virgil made was
10 valid, and that a tax assessment in our community
11 dictates exactly how many people, not necessarily live
12 there, but own property there.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have no
15 taxes where I live.
16
17 MR. WOODRUFF: We have no tax. We have
18 a zero tax. It's a tax.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's a tax, but
21 a zero tax?
22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We don't have
26 a mayor, nothing. I kind of like it that way, because
27 there's no money or no volunteer. Or, actually
28 everything is volunteer. The fire department and all
29 that stuff.
30
31 What was yours?
32
33 MR. FIRMIN: Harvest data collection
34 would be another. Does anybody even hunt and fish there.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. We
37 had two ideas. do you agree with both of them. Want to
38 add them both.
39
40 (Council nods affirmatively)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nodding of
43 heads.
44
45 MR. FIRMIN: I'm still trying to think of
46 where would be the data source for what Virgil brought
47 up, but I agree with them mostly.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm
50 thinking the same thing.

1 MR. FIRMIN: Google I guess
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Google? I
4 doubt they'll have it. I can see OSM going to Google to
5 get information. It's probably there though.
6
7 All right. That covers it all. If you
8 guys are happy with all of these things that we agreed on
9 a consensus to just give information to the Board, that's
10 what we will do. I probably need a motion on the
11 consensus points.
12
13 MR. FIRMIN: I'd also just on the
14 timeline thing, maybe we should make sure there's a
15 comment added, if there's known, you know, development in
16 an area, that possibly that cycle should be reviewed.
17 You know, maybe there's a big mine going in, maybe
18 there's a big mine shutting down. Maybe there's a
19 gasline going through. Maybe we should, you know,
20 eyeball those communities real quick. Make sure that's
21 stated in there, that that would be a concern if
22 there's.....
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If things
25 change, then it's taken.....
26
27 MR. FIRMIN: If there's a known
28 development in that area, then.....
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Take it up.
31
32 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, go check it. Don't
33 wait 10 years for it to go by, you know.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. But
36 didn't we -- we just got rid of -- our recommendation was
37 not worry about the 10-year unless they hear of something
38 like that.
39
40 MR. FIRMIN: That's what I meant. So
41 let's make sure that's stated in there. If you know that
42 there's going to be a big mine in Delta, or it's opening
43 or closing, then maybe we should pay attention there,
44 because 10,000 people might move away.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Right.
47 I'm relying heavily on Staff to help.
48
49 MR. FIRMIN: I would just suggest put a
50 sentence in there that that's a concern.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Make sure --
2 you hear what he's saying. Just make sure that's in
3 there.
4
5 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Okay.
8
9
10 MR. GLANZ: I agree with that, too.
11 That's the way to do it.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Pretty
14 much what the SRC had written, but we'll have our own
15 language. All right. Yeah. Uh-huh.
16
17 Anything else.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we did
22 a hell of a lot right there.
23
24 DR. JENKINS: Madame Chair. I'd
25 encourage you to ask if anyone is on line that would like
26 to testify from the public or is in the audience that
27 would like to give this RAC.....
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You mean we
30 aren't a dictatorship?
31
32 I am really suffering from can't remember
33 anything, so I apologize for everyone on line. And I've
34 got Mr. Lord here raising his hand.
35
36 So anyone on line, would you speak up if
37 anyone has anything they'd like to add to this. You've
38 heard what this RAC is saying, and we'd be happy to hear
39 from you.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go. Yes.
44 First we're going to bring Mr. Lord forward.
45
46 MR. LORD: Thank you.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead and
49 sit to the mic. We're going to make you turn on the mic
50 and introduce yourself.

1 MR. LORD: Yeah. I was interested in
2 just what this fellow was having to say. He seems to
3 know a lot about the rural determination.

4
5 And like Andy said, you know, I've been
6 on my Native council since I was 18. That's quite a
7 while. And I've buried a lot of people. I sing and
8 dance. I've hunted moose for my village.

9
10 And in 1989 I came right off the trap
11 line, and I fished that year, and I came right off the
12 trap line, and Tanana Chiefs and the State of Alaska drug
13 me off to Washington, D.C. to stick up for Nenana to
14 fight against being urbanized, because we're on the
15 highway and stuff. And like I told those Senators and
16 Congressmen out there, I said, you guys urbanize Nenana,
17 I'm going to go just live in the boxes down here with
18 your homeless down there, because I won't have no home to
19 go to. That's how serious it would be to me.

20
21 But anyway, as far as the
22 characteristics, as you were talking about, aggregating
23 the towns together. I know our numbers aren't that big
24 around there, but the characteristics of Nenana is so big
25 -- Minto and Nenana are pretty close together now, but
26 they're -- you know, 50 miles, but Anderson, Healy, the
27 characteristics are so different, big time. I can't even
28 imagine combining them together, because the
29 characteristics are so different. To me, the highway's
30 the river. The river is where my fishwheel is, where my
31 fish camp is, where I meet everybody, where we socialize.

32
33 And it's just -- and the food. The food.
34 You know, it's a big thing, you know, to eat fish and
35 we've got a great moose population, one of the strongest
36 in the State of Alaska right there behind Nenana. And we
37 live off of that. We just had a potluck, we just buried
38 a kid. And lights went off, and still the little kids
39 were running around in the candle light, and they're
40 singing, Indian dances, and singing their songs. And just
41 living their life. It's 60 miles from here, but we're
42 happy and content, and we live a subsistence lifestyle.
43 In my opinion, there might be other different opinions,
44 but just as much as any other village out there. And
45 Nenana is in our language a good place to camp. And it's
46 also called (In Native language), which is the Floating
47 Hill.

48
49 So it's a tough one. I came up just for
50 this rural determination, and also the customary and

1 traditional. I'm trying to understand the politics.
2 It's pretty political. You almost got to regroup myself.
3 I'm used to working with the State, and I'm learning a
4 lot from you guys, just today I've learned a lot.

5
6 Thank you, and thank you for this moment
7 and for this time.

8
9 Thank you very much.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hang on. Does
12 anyone have any questions.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I didn't
17 need to make you hang.

18
19 MR. LORD: Thank you, Bill. I like your
20 comments. They're pretty much right on.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Actually I
23 think you would say that to be sure and not -- that the
24 road system is not a characteristic for non-rural.

25
26 MR. LORD: Right.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're against
29 aggregation, what I hear. The two communities, don't
30 aggregate them, because one's different than the other,
31 which you would agree with what we just did, but you also
32 are saying something new that we didn't talk about, and
33 that is that the road system shouldn't be urban.

34
35 MR. LORD: In my opinion, no.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. I have to
38 agree, because we have the same situation in our area.

39
40 MR. LORD: You know, my grandfather was
41 Lord. He was a big Swede. My other grandpa on the other
42 side was Chief Thomas, a big Indian. So I come from two
43 different cultures, but still I was raised on the Indian
44 side, and that's how we are down there.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you live on
47 the road system. And the last -- yeah.

48
49 MR. LORD: And I live on the road system.
50 But like old Malcolm X, you know -- Malcolm X said the

1 Parks Highway landed on us. We didn't land on the Parks
2 Highway.
3
4 Thank you.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sure
9 there's a lot of - I'm sure Katie would say the same
10 thing if she were here. Katie John, because she's on the
11 road system. Yeah.
12
13 Out there in the teleconference world, is
14 there any public that would like to speak to this.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And if you're
19 talking and thinking you're talking to us, we don't hear
20 you, you have to push your star-6 back again.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James, are you
25 still there.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MR. GLANZ: Phone ran out of battery
30 probably, like mine does.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Not one
33 of them plug-ins.
34
35 MR. GLANZ: No.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Actually, guys,
38 what he brought up, Mr. Lord brought up, I think is a
39 valid thing to add to this, a characteristic -- how can
40 we word it that it's positive and not negative.
41
42 MR. LORD: That's kind of a tough one.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. That the
45 road system can be rural. The road system still has
46 rural characteristics. Does that work, you guys?
47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: No.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil's an

1 attorney, so he could probably help us out. What works,
2 Virgil.

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: We should maybe say
5 something like even though a community is on the road
6 system, the road -- being connected to the road should
7 not be considered in the characteristics. Something on
8 the order of that.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does that do
11 it?

12

13 MS. PATTON: I think if I may, Madame
14 Chair. If I can try to help on a rephrase. The stories
15 that Victor was telling was that the community is unique
16 and has its own rural characteristics based around their
17 activities on the land. And because the road goes
18 through there, it does not make them non-rural.

19

20 MR. LORD: And the river is right there,
21 you know. We live off the river.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you've
24 got to jump to the mic.

25

26 MR. LORD: Yes. And like I was trying to
27 say, you know, the river is right there, and Virgil
28 knows, we've all got our boats and a lot of people I know
29 that's all they do is they just have a boat and a
30 snowmachine. They don't even have a vehicle. That's
31 more important for them to have their boat and their
32 snowmachine so they could fill their freezers, so they
33 could fill their smokehouse. A lot of my younger
34 friends, and some of my older ones, and some of them are
35 not -- you know, they can't do it no more, but they're
36 training their younger ones to do it for them. And their
37 importance is that snowmachine and that boat, so they can
38 fill their freezers yet. It's just right down the river
39 here, but we can't get off living the way we do, you
40 know. And especially for me, I try to push -- I am kind
41 of like a chief down there. But I push them, I push
42 them, I push them. I say, you've got to stay and eat
43 your food. You've got to eat your food. Don't get off
44 that. You've got the diabetes, you've got the high blood
45 pressure. Stick to your food, it will come back. Your
46 health will come back.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we just

1 want to word that, that.....

2

3 DR. JENKINS: Madame Chair, can I just
4 interrupt briefly. You've already as a Council, as I
5 understand you, have suggested doing away with the
6 grouping criteria, with the aggregation criteria. You've
7 done that. And one of the criteria was road
8 accessibility and proximity. I don't know that you need
9 to address it again. You've already addressed it.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. One of the
12 criteria was road accessibility.

13

14 MR. LORD: Yeah, I agree with David.
15 Exactly. I was happy when you guys said that. You guys
16 dealt with that earlier. I was content to walk home.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But it was
21 great that you'd come to talk to us. Thank you.

22

23 All right. If you say we've got it
24 covered, I have to trust you then.

25

26 DR. JENKINS: And that's your use of
27 common sense.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My use of
30 common sense.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wouldn't say
35 that though.

36

37 MR. LORD: And if you guys need a
38 parliamentarian, I'm pretty good at that.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay. All
41 right. Do we have anything else we want to cover on
42 this.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And did I hear
47 a motion or not. I need a motion.

48

49 MR. GLANZ: A motion to adjourn or a
50 motion to that.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: To this.
2
3 MR. GLANZ: Oh, to that.
4
5 DR. JENKINS: If I may, Madame Chair.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We went down
8 and agreed to all these points.
9
10 DR. JENKINS: You can simply make a
11 motion to convey your discussion to the Federal
12 Subsistence Board, and then that will be.....
13
14 MR. GLANZ: All right. I'll make a
15 motion convey our thoughts and whatever we did here with
16 this to the Subsistence Board, and Dr. Dave will carry it
17 from there.
18
19 MR. LORD: I think you're recessed.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: I second.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any more
26 discussion on it.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 MR. ERHART: Question.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.
33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
37
38 (No opposing votes)
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
41
42 DR. JENKINS: I'm not opposed. If you
43 would like I could give you a sense of what happens at
44 this point with this discussion, and what will happen
45 with the Secretaries and the Board. Or we could save
46 that for the morning if you'd prefer.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council.
49
50 DR. JENKINS: Or not at all if you'd

1 prefer.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: Well, I'd say maybe, Dave,
4 give it (indiscernible - mic off) because he don't hang
5 around tomorrow.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
8 hearing hear it now.

9

10 DR. JENKINS: Okay. The process for
11 determining rural status is under the Secretariats'
12 control -- the Secretaries' control. I's in regulations
13 that the Board doesn't control. It's under regulations
14 that the Secretaries control.

15

16 The Board is gathering information to
17 make a recommendation to the Secretaries on these process
18 questions. If the Board makes a recommendation for
19 changing these processes, then it's up to the Secretaries
20 to actually make those changes, because it's under their
21 power.

22

23 If the Secretaries make those changes,
24 there will be further discussion over the next year and
25 a half about the consequences of those recommendations
26 that the Secretaries make. If the Secretaries change the
27 process, then we go through rulemaking. We get process
28 rules, and then the Board uses that new process to
29 actually go out and make rural determinations out in the
30 world. Nd so that will go through another set of
31 rulemaking processes.

32

33 So when we started this, we looked at a
34 five-year period of time. The Secretaries gave the Board
35 five years. We're well into a year and half or even
36 closer to two now. So it's a long process, and it will
37 continue on.

38

39 Madame Chair. Good luck to all of us.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I'm
46 glad you did that right there. We wouldn't have known
47 what you were talking about tomorrow morning.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. All
2 right.
3
4 We'll recess until 9:00 a.m.
5
6 (Off record)
7
8 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 195 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 19th day of November 2013, at Fairbanks, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 10th day of November 2013.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/14