

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME I

7  
8  
9 Pike's Landing  
10 Fairbanks, Alaska  
11 February 20, 2013  
12 9:30 a.m.

13  
14  
15  
16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

17  
18 Sue Entsminger, Chair  
19 Lester Erhart  
20 Andrew Firmin  
21 William Glanz  
22 Will Koehler  
23 James Roberts  
24 Virgil Umphenour  
25 Larry Williams  
26 Donald Woodruff  
27  
28 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 2/20/2013)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Call the meeting to order. We'll have roll call by the coordinator.

MS. PATTON: Sue Entsminger.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.

MS. PATTON: Virgil Umphenour.

MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.

MS. PATTON: Donald Woodruff.

MR. WOODRUFF: Here.

MS. PATTON: Larry Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Here.

MS. PATTON: Lester Erhart.

MR. ERHART: Here.

MS. PATTON: James Roberts.

MR. ROBERTS: Here.

MS. PATTON: Andrew Firmin. We are waiting on Andrew. Bill Glanz.

MR. GLANZ: Here.

MS. PATTON: Will Koehler.

MR. KOEHLER: Here.

MS. PATTON: And Andy Bassich was excused absence. He's attending another meeting. When Andrew is here, we'll let him join us when he comes down.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Just for the new members, welcome. It's nice to see these nice young people here. It's your turn to take over. Just

1 for your information, this is how this mic works. When  
2 you speak, you turn it on and then, when you're done, you  
3 turn it off. Sometimes if it's on when other people are  
4 speaking it's backfeed. So, okay.

5  
6 I've asked Larry Williams to give an  
7 invocation, so if we could all stand.

8  
9 (Invocation)

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
12 Larry. I would like to welcome everyone to the meeting  
13 and we'll go around the room if we can and introduce  
14 yourselves who are present and then we'll go around with  
15 the Council members. Go ahead, Jennifer. You can go  
16 first and I think she wants you to turn on a mic.

17  
18 REPORTER: I'll get it.

19  
20 MS. YUHAS: Good morning. I'm Jennifer  
21 Yuhas with the State of Alaska and work at Fish and Game  
22 and I am the State's Federal Subsistence Liaison Team  
23 leader.

24  
25 MR. MEARS: Jeremy Mears, Fish and  
26 Wildlife Service, Subsistence Fisheries in Fairbanks.

27  
28 DR. CHEN: Good morning, Council members.  
29 My name is Glenn Chen. I'm the Subsistence branch chief  
30 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

31  
32 DR. JENKINS: Good morning. David  
33 Jenkins, Office of Subsistence Management. At the  
34 moment, I'm the acting deputy assistant Regional Manager.

35  
36 MR. LORRIGAN: Good morning. My name is  
37 Jack Lorrigan with the Office of Subsistence Management.  
38 I'm the Native liaison.

39  
40 MS. OKADA: Good morning. Marcy Okada,  
41 subsistence coordinator, National Park Service, Yukon-  
42 Charley Rivers National Preserve.

43  
44 MR. RASIC: I'm Jeff Rasic, National Park  
45 Service. I'm the chief of resources for Yukon-Charley.

46  
47 MR. HARD: Good morning. Joel Hard,  
48 deputy regional director National Park Service.

49  
50 MR. BERENDZON: Steve Berendzon, Fish and

1 Wildlife Service, Yukon Flats Refuge manager.

2

3 MS. GRONQUIST: Good morning. Ruth  
4 Gronquist with BLM here in Fairbanks. That's the Bureau  
5 of Land Management.

6

7 MS. CELLARIUS: I'm Barbara Cellarius.  
8 I'm the subsistence coordinator and cultural  
9 anthropologist for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and  
10 Preserve and I'm based in Copper Center.

11

12 MR. MAUER: Good morning. I'm Fran  
13 Mauer. I'm a retired wildlife biologist. I worked at  
14 the Arctic Refuge for 21 years.

15

16 MS. CRAVER: Good morning. I'm Amy  
17 Craver and I'm with the Park Service and I work at Denali  
18 and I'm the cultural resources manager.

19

20 MS. SWANTON: Good morning. I'm Nancy  
21 Swanton. I'm with the National Park Service out of our  
22 Anchorage office and on the Interagency Staff Committee.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, Madame Chair,  
25 members of the Council. I'm Carl Johnson. I'm the  
26 Council Coordination Division chief at the Office of  
27 Subsistence Management.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
30 Donald, go ahead.

31

32 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm Don Woodruff. I  
33 represent the Upper Yukon.

34

35 MR. ROBERTS: My name is James Roberts  
36 and I'm a resident of Tanana.

37

38 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Larry Williams  
39 and I come from the village of Venetie.

40

41 MR. ERHART: Lester Erhart from Tanana.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sue Entsminger  
44 from Mentasta Pass area.

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Virgil Umphenour, North  
47 Pole.

48

49 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz, Circle, Central  
50 and Circle Hot Springs.

1 MR. KOEHLER: Will Koehler, Wrangell-St.  
2 Elias country.  
3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, no one  
5 knows where Horsfeld is, I'm thinking.  
6  
7 (Laughter)  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I do. I've  
10 been there. Okay. Now review and adoption of the  
11 agenda. Virgil, didn't you have one?  
12  
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. I have one thing  
14 we left off of the agenda and that's right after this,  
15 would be concerns of Council members. I'll speak to some  
16 other things when I do that.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All we need is  
19 agenda changes. Are you suggesting it come after the  
20 agenda, after the review and adoption of agenda?  
21  
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct.  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I guess  
25 we should have done that first, Virgil. Okay. We're  
26 reviewing and adopting the agenda. Virgil is asking that  
27 we add Council concerns after the adoption of the agenda.  
28 Do you guys have anything else that you would add to this  
29 agenda or change? Council members. I do know that the  
30 State Fish and Game biologist from the Tok area wants to  
31 be here when we discuss our area. I'm thinking that  
32 might come up when we start talking about proposals. I  
33 might want to let you guys know that we might be  
34 rearranging some things on the timing schedule if that  
35 happens. Virgil.  
36  
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: The Board of Fish meets  
38 to address the South Peninsula, that's the Area M  
39 fishery, on Tuesday and we may want to discuss that a  
40 little bit.  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Where do you  
43 want to put it on the agenda?  
44  
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I'm not sure where.  
46 I guess under new business, at the end of new business.  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone  
49 else? Donald.  
50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: In regards to your comment  
2 about the Fish and Game biologist from Tok, I talked to  
3 Jeff Gross and he said he wanted to talk to us a little  
4 bit about the Fortymile Herd and some of the issues that  
5 they're having. He said he would try to come today  
6 early, but he's got training this week.

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I talked to him  
9 this morning after my four hours of sleep and he said he  
10 probably wouldn't make it today, so we're looking at  
11 tomorrow. We'll just make sure he's on the agenda here  
12 tomorrow morning.

13  
14 Anything else?

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a  
19 motion.

20  
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt the agenda  
22 as amended.

23  
24 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any discussion.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.

31  
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

35  
36 (No opposing votes)

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It passes  
39 unanimous. All right. Election of officers. I'm going  
40 to turn it over to coordinators so I don't railroad you.

41  
42 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. For the new  
43 Council members, currently our Chair is Sue Entsminger  
44 and our Vice Chair Virgil Umphenour, Andrew Firmin is  
45 Secretary. This is the time of year where we nominate a  
46 new Chair, new Vice Chair, new Secretary. You can  
47 nominate those that are current or nominate new members  
48 and then we take a vote as a Council to nominate.

49  
50 Do I hear any nominations for Chair?

1 MR. WOODRUFF: I make the nomination for  
2 Sue for Chair.  
3  
4 MR. GLANZ: I will second that.  
5  
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move that nominations  
7 close.  
8  
9 MR. ERHART: I'll second that.  
10  
11 MS. PATTON: All right. We have a  
12 nomination for Sue Entsminger as Chair. I'll take a roll  
13 call vote, please.  
14  
15 Virgil Umphenour.  
16  
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.  
18  
19 MS. PATTON: Donald Woodruff.  
20  
21 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.  
22  
23 MS. PATTON: Larry Williams.  
24  
25 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.  
26  
27 MS. PATTON: Lester Erhart.  
28  
29 MR. ERHART: Yes.  
30  
31 MS. PATTON: James Roberts.  
32  
33 MR. ROBERTS: Yes.  
34  
35 MS. PATTON: Andrew Firmin is absent.  
36 Bill Glanz.  
37  
38 MR. GLANZ: Yes.  
39  
40 MS. PATTON: Will Koehler.  
41  
42 MR. KOEHLER: Yes.  
43  
44 MS. PATTON: And Andy Bassich is absent.  
45 That makes seven yeses and two absent. Sue is not  
46 voting. So Sue Entsminger is the new Chair. Do you  
47 accept?  
48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.  
50

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you. For Vice Chair,  
2 again Virgil Umphenour is currently Vice Chair. Do you  
3 have a nomination?  
4  
5 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to nominate Virgil  
6 as Vice Chair.  
7  
8 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second.  
9  
10 MS. PATTON: All right. We'll close for  
11 Virgil Umphenour as Vice Chair and take a roll call vote.  
12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You need to ask  
14 if there's any other nominations.  
15  
16 MS. PATTON: Pardon. Any other  
17 nominations for Vice Chair, please.  
18  
19 MR. ERHART: I make a motion to close the  
20 nominations.  
21  
22 MR. WILLIAMS: I'll second it.  
23  
24 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you.  
25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can take over  
27 now that I'm Chair.  
28  
29 MS. PATTON: Sue can take over now that  
30 she's Chair.  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Right  
33 now we currently have a motion on the floor to close  
34 nominations for Virgil as Vice Chair and a second. All  
35 in favor.  
36  
37 IN UNISON: Aye.  
38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.  
40  
41 (No opposing votes)  
42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For the  
44 Secretary the floor is open. Nominations. Do I hear any  
45 nominations.  
46  
47 MR. GLANZ: I'll nominate Andrew if he  
48 wishes to take it.  
49  
50 MR. ERHART: I'll second that.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We don't need  
2 seconds, but that's cool. Any other nominations.  
3  
4 MR. WILLIAMS: I'll move that nominations  
5 be closed.  
6  
7 MR. ERHART: I'll second that.  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in  
10 favor.  
11  
12 IN UNISON: Aye.  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.  
15  
16 (No opposing votes)  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. It  
19 looks like it's the same hats we're wearing.  
20  
21 MR. ERHART: He's not here. That's what  
22 he gets.  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: True story,  
25 huh. All right. Now we have review and approval of the  
26 minutes. I'm sure we've all read them.  
27  
28 MR. GLANZ: I'll like to make a motion we  
29 approve the minutes of the last meeting.  
30  
31 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. If I may,  
32 there was one correction that I did receive from the  
33 State regarding the presentation on 26C moose. The State  
34 biologist was present, but the Council had decided they  
35 didn't want to hear the full presentation at that time,  
36 so he had come prepared for presentation, but there was  
37 not a full presentation given. So I'll make that  
38 correction in the.....  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What page is  
41 that?  
42  
43 MS. PATTON: It is -- let me find that  
44 for you here. Pardon. I didn't have that written down  
45 in this book.  
46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now it was the  
48 minutes. It's a correction in the minutes, right?  
49  
50 MS. PATTON: It's a correction in the

1 minutes. I had listed -- it was a joint presentation  
2 between Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Eric Wald and the  
3 ADF&G wildlife biologist. Jennifer alerted me that there  
4 was not a full presentation given by the State. He was  
5 present and prepared.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It would be  
8 helpful if we knew exactly where that is in the minutes.

9

10 MS. PATTON: It's 18. It's under Arctic  
11 National Wildlife Refuge and at the bottom where it  
12 mentions Jason Caikoski, ADF&G wildlife biologist was  
13 introduced by Mr. Wald. They were there to give a  
14 partnered presentation. Eric gave his presentation. At  
15 the RAC's request, the State did not give their full  
16 presentation at that time.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we're adding  
19 a sentence the State did not give a full presentation at  
20 that time? Is that what we're doing for this correction?

21

22 MS. PATTON: Yes. The way it's worded,  
23 it sounded like a full presentation was given. And that  
24 was at the Council's request that they didn't want the  
25 full information at that time.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could I ask  
28 you, someone to put that in writing so somebody knows  
29 what they're voting on as a change. We can take that up  
30 later at a break. We'll bring these minutes up. I think  
31 it's helpful for all of us. We're volunteers here and  
32 you just want to see what you're changing. I remember us  
33 doing one in Fort Yukon one time and, oh, that's in the  
34 minutes and we didn't make the change. We didn't see it.  
35 Let's see what's going on there. We'll bring this up  
36 again with that change.

37

38 Does anyone else have any changes in the  
39 minutes?

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're  
44 going to bring that up later. Don't let me forget,  
45 please.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Okay, yes.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So if I sound  
50 a little crazy here this morning is probably because of

1 my lack of sleep because I didn't get to bed till 3:30  
2 this morning from flying all night. Virgil just noted to  
3 me, ha, our Council concerns are in there. So, next,  
4 reports. Council member reports and this is reports and  
5 concerns. We always get to tell concerns in our area  
6 when we start the meeting. I'm going to start with you,  
7 Donald, so new members can see what goes on there.

8

9 Go ahead, Donald.

10

11 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame  
12 Chairman. For a long time now we've not been able to  
13 make escapement of chinook to the spawning grounds and  
14 it's turning into more than just a species of concern at  
15 the Yukon Summit up in Canada in Whitehorse this fall.  
16 They had a salmon summit and they're talking about  
17 calling the salmon a species of risk and there's some  
18 discussion about a moratorium on the harvest of chinook  
19 for one life cycle and that unfortunately could be a  
20 solution for the chinook stock to rebuilt. It's not a  
21 pleasant solution, but it's something that we have to  
22 think about. What are we going to do? Are we going to  
23 tell the people that they were really great fish, but we  
24 were blinded and we had no reason and we caught the last  
25 one. That seems crazy. Our kids and our grandkids  
26 aren't going to have or even know what a chinook looks  
27 like except maybe when they come to Pike's and see a  
28 stuffed one. So that's an issue.

29

30 I think out of respect for the Canadians  
31 and the First Nation people we should really start  
32 talking about a village by village commitment to not  
33 harvest or to reduce our harvest on the chinook. It's  
34 time that we faced this issue. It's not just going to --  
35 you know, Fish and Wildlife and Fish and Game are doing  
36 the best they can, but it's not getting solved.

37

38 The other issues is the Fortymile Caribou  
39 herd. There's some discussion about the fact that they  
40 could be overgrazing the range right now and Jeff Gross  
41 is going to deal with that issue later when he comes.

42

43 Thank you, Madame Chairman.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
46 Donald. James, can you bring to light some issues that  
47 are concerns of your area.

48

49 MR. ROBERTS: One concern that I have  
50 that I notice is hurting the people where I'm from is the

1 early closure of the moose hunting season. I'd like to  
2 see it extended longer because it seems like the moose  
3 are running later and it's just harder and harder for us  
4 to get enough meat to make it through the winter.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anything  
7 else?

8  
9 MR. ROBERTS: That's the only issue that  
10 I'm concerned about right now.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 Larry.

16  
17 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
18 I'd like to echo Donald Woodruff's concerns about the  
19 chinook going up the Yukon. We're going to have to start  
20 seriously thinking about having a meeting between all the  
21 villages from the mouth of the Yukon all the way to the  
22 border to see if we can -- this thing will be solved only  
23 by the grassroots level, by the people in the villages.  
24 It will not be solved in a meeting, I guess, because the  
25 ones that lives right there on the river and it's a great  
26 concern to the elders and to the present generation. So  
27 I'd like to see some kind of summit between the villages  
28 set up by themselves to drastically reduce all together  
29 and I'd like to see that happen soon rather than later.  
30 That's all I have.

31  
32 Thank you very much.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
35 Larry.

36  
37 Lester.

38  
39 MR. ERHART: To the chinook salmon, I  
40 think the problem is in the ocean myself. And another  
41 thing too, all these seagulls come up here in the  
42 springtime before even the ice go out to catch all that  
43 fry that's floating down the river. I think this has a  
44 big impact on them too. I mean there's maybe 100  
45 seagulls in one eddy. That's a lot of little fry they're  
46 picking up. That's my concern too.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think I'm  
49 going to take my turn right now. What you brought up  
50 about seagulls it brings to my mind. I hunt on the

1 Copper River and I looked at all the V formations of  
2 birds going up the river and I thought they were ducks  
3 and geese and we looked at them through a spying scope  
4 and was watching them. They're all seagulls going north.  
5 It's amazing. People don't realize how many seagulls are  
6 in the country. They're bad on ducks and geese and bad  
7 on your fry.

8  
9 MR. ERHART: They're supposed to be on  
10 the ocean I thought.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, they come  
13 into the Interior. Yeah, they're all over. And they're  
14 protected, so it's -- I remember an old Eskimo lady that  
15 was born in 1902. I called her my Eskimo grandma. She  
16 told me we got rid of the birds of prey. We got rid of  
17 the auks and owls. That's how you have ducks, she said.

18  
19 Virgil.

20  
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
22 I've attended two meetings since our last RAC meeting.  
23 The first one was the Yukon River Panel meeting, which is  
24 part of the salmon treaty with Canada. At that meeting  
25 there were, I don't know, maybe a dozen. I'm not sure  
26 how many people came from Canada, from Teslin. Teslin is  
27 a village that's in Yukon Territory, but it's right on  
28 the border with British Columbia. There's several rivers  
29 that feed into Tesla Lake where king salmon originate and  
30 those people -- well, there was one proposal there.

31  
32 What the Panel does for the people that  
33 don't know what the Yukon River Panel does, they set the  
34 escapement objectives for the Canadian salmon stocks,  
35 that's fall chums and chinook or king salmon, and then  
36 they discuss management options and they are the people  
37 that authorize -- because we have a certain amount of  
38 money that we get from the Federal government to  
39 rehabilitate the salmon stocks that originate in Canada,  
40 so they are the people that authorize and approve the  
41 various projects for science to determine how to rebuild  
42 these salmon stocks.

43  
44 Anyway, so we had these people from Tesla  
45 in there, which is at the end of the line. There was one  
46 proposal -- I believe it was for the Wolf River, which  
47 used to be a major spawning river for the king salmon  
48 that come up the Yukon, but there's hardly any going up  
49 it anymore -- to count those fish. The representative on  
50 the panel, the Canadian representative that lives in

1 Tesla, said there's not enough fish to even spend any  
2 money counting them anymore coming back. So it's getting  
3 pretty grim in Canada. You have to remember those fish  
4 swim over 2,200 miles to get to their spawning grounds.  
5 They're right in back of Juneau is where they spawn.

6  
7 But anyway, so at that meeting we also  
8 discussed what Larry just brought up. There was a  
9 proposal to have an international meeting of the  
10 stakeholders between the Canadians and Alaska this --  
11 well, they wanted to have it in April. In order to have  
12 it in April we would have to violate our own rules, that  
13 is the Panel's rules, on when proposals have to be put in  
14 because there's a two stage process. There's a pre-  
15 approval and then a final approval.

16  
17 So it would have been basically too late,  
18 so we had a special meeting in January, a teleconference  
19 meeting, and discussed this and one thing about the panel  
20 is you have to have consensus. No vote on either -- by  
21 either country stops something, so we didn't get  
22 consensus, so they're going to have to go through the  
23 regular process. Maybe they'll be able to do it and have  
24 this international meeting potentially in May. I don't  
25 know whether that will happen or not. We'll find that  
26 out when we go to Whitehorse. Our next meeting is in  
27 Whitehorse, the last week of March, so we'll find that  
28 out then. I don't think I missed anything on that, did  
29 I, Caroline?

30  
31 MS. BROWN: (Shakes head negatively)

32  
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. That's the Panel  
34 meeting. Then I went to the Board of Fish meeting last  
35 month in Anchorage. We had several proposals that we  
36 were really concerned with. What happened is we didn't  
37 really get proposals and we got kind of behind the eight  
38 ball last year. I'm chairman of the Fairbanks Fish and  
39 Game Advisory Committee and so what I did was I just  
40 resubmitted the joint proposals that the  
41 Tanana/Rampart/Manley Advisory Committee, our RAC,  
42 Fairbanks Advisory Committee and Eagle Advisory Committee  
43 had co-sponsored three years ago. So I put all those  
44 proposals forward as the Fairbanks Advisory Committee  
45 proposals.

46  
47 So the ones that passed -- and the  
48 Department opposed these, the Department of Fish and Game  
49 did -- was a complete closure of the first pulse of king  
50 salmon. The Board passed that unanimously. The other

1 one that was important to us was when it's a directed  
2 chum salmon fishery that there can be no sale of king  
3 salmon. You know, incidently caught king salmon in the  
4 chum salmon fishery. The Department opposed that  
5 proposal, but we got the Board to unanimously pass that  
6 proposal as well.

7

8 The only people from the Upper Yukon that  
9 were actually at the meeting and participated was myself,  
10 Stan Zuray from Tanana and also Charlie Campbell from  
11 Tanana. We were the only ones there.

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: My wife was there.

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Say again?

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: My wife was there from  
18 YRDFA.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: And your wife was there,  
21 correct, and she was with YRDFA. But we were the only  
22 ones from Upper Yukon that were there. Don's wife and I  
23 are the only ones that stayed for the entire meeting.

24

25 We had another proposal and that was to  
26 leave the windows the way they were when the Board  
27 originally passed them in 2001. The primary concern  
28 there was that as soon as the commercial fishery takes  
29 place they have one commercial opening. Even if it's  
30 just for chum salmon, then they would throw the windows  
31 aside and not have windows anymore because there's this  
32 regulation in the Lower Yukon where the commercial and  
33 the subsistence could not fish concurrently.

34

35 The Department had put in a similar type  
36 proposal and so I agreed in the committee process that if  
37 they pass the Department proposal I would be okay because  
38 that's what I wanted to stop, was them having a closure  
39 before, during and after the commercial openings for  
40 subsistence, which was actually discriminatory towards  
41 subsistence users in favor of commercial users and so now  
42 they're going to have to do the way the Upper Yukon has  
43 always been and that is fish commercial and subsistence  
44 concurrently in the Lower Yukon.

45

46 Those were the most important proposals  
47 that got passed. There was also the proposal to allow  
48 the Department to conduct a commercial fishery for chum  
49 salmon with 5.5 inch mesh gillnets no more than 30 meshes  
50 deep and the Board also passed that proposal. That's the

1 main things that happened that concerned our RAC at the  
2 Board of Fish meeting.

3

4                   However, the Area M meeting is going to  
5 start on Tuesday. The Area M is the south side of --  
6 well, it's an Alaska Peninsula fishery. There's a North  
7 Peninsula fishery and a South Peninsula fishery and  
8 there's what they call a June fishery. In the June  
9 fishery, there's no local stocks in the South Peninsula.  
10 It's all migrating stocks. They're fish that are  
11 migrating from the Gulf of Alaska and they go around the  
12 Alaska Peninsula and most of them go through Unimak Pass.  
13 It's called the False Pass fishery or we commonly refer  
14 to it as that. There's been lots of controversy with that  
15 fishery over the year.

16

17                   Something I was kind of thinking about  
18 was when Dr. Kocan did the study on ichthyophonus in the  
19 Yukon, he was trying to determine where they were getting  
20 ichthyophonus from because normally salmon get  
21 ichthyophonus from their prey species herring. So he  
22 examined a number of herring caught in the Bering Sea and  
23 could find no ichthyophonus, so his conclusion was that  
24 some of the king salmon migrate into the gulf of Alaska  
25 and then migrate back when they're going on their -- you  
26 know, back to their natal stream. That's where they  
27 catch the herring.

28

29                   So I got the annual manager report for  
30 the Area M fishery and I see in it, because we've always  
31 fought Area M over the chum salmon that they catch there  
32 because some tagging study was shown that as many as 25  
33 percent of the chum salmon, that's before they got all  
34 these hatcheries, were of Yukon River origin that were  
35 harvested in the Area M fishery. But I see that last  
36 year in Area M they caught 6,371 king salmon that were  
37 reported, so there's a substantial amount of king salmon  
38 that probably maybe half of them or so are headed for the  
39 Yukon that are caught in that Area M fishery along with  
40 all the chum salmon headed up this way. So I wanted to  
41 point that out.

42

43                   I'm done with my reports on meetings I  
44 went to. Someone over here said something about the  
45 seagulls. I think it was Lester. Okay. That reminds me  
46 of Monty Millard who used to be in charge of research for  
47 Fish and Wildlife Service here in Fairbanks for years.  
48 Him and I were having a discussion on that issue once and  
49 he told me about when he used to run a trout hatchery in  
50 the Lower 48 and he had all these seagulls over there

1 eating his baby trout. So one day on a Sunday when no  
2 one was around but him he decided I'm going to find out  
3 how many seagulls are eating. So he shot a couple  
4 seagulls and then he cut them open to see how many trout  
5 they had in them. They averaged 32 trout per seagull,  
6 little trout.

7  
8 I know that in the old fur and fishery  
9 books -- if anyone wants to get those, that was -- when  
10 I say the fur and fishery reports, the Department of  
11 Commerce prior to Statehood managed the fisheries and the  
12 fur industries, so these reports go back to the 1800s.  
13 When you read those, you'll see where the Federal agents  
14 used to go up on the spawning grounds and shoot the hell  
15 out of the seagulls. That's what they used to do and for  
16 good reason because seagulls eat millions of baby salmon.

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a big  
19 concern.

20  
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, that is a big  
22 concern, the predation on -- you go to like the mouth of  
23 the Unalakleet River. There's at least 1,000 damn  
24 seagulls sitting there on the sandbar in the spring when  
25 the salmon smolt are out migrating.

26  
27 I think that covers just about  
28 everything. Oh, my -- one of my major concerns though  
29 still is the competition in the marine environment from  
30 the hatcheries. I was reading in our book we've got here  
31 for the meeting, our meeting book, where they address  
32 that concern in our annual report and say that it's --  
33 someone asked to take a step forward and I think it  
34 should be the Fish and Wildlife Service. They need to  
35 take a step forward because it's totally -- everyone  
36 knows that's involved in this issue knows that it's  
37 totally irresponsible to put all those hatchery fish out  
38 there and the United States needs to set the example.  
39 Alaska still dumps 1.6 billion salmon smolts into the  
40 ocean every year. They point the finger at Japan. Hell,  
41 they only do 7 or 8 billion. We're a substantial amount  
42 of that.

43  
44 They point to a number of -- I think they  
45 said 22 studies in our booklet we've got. Instead of  
46 saying in our annual report there's 22 studies out there,  
47 they should give -- and saying that three or four of  
48 those studies actually might apply, they should give our  
49 RAC a copy of those studies that do apply, not just  
50 reference them and then expect us to somehow snap our

1 finger and get them out of the -- find out where we have  
2 to go get them and get them, they need to give them to  
3 us.

4

5 I think that's the majority of my -- one  
6 more thing. Just a real quick one. That is the wood  
7 bison. Right now everyone here probably knows the Fish  
8 and Wildlife Service has got this out for comment, the  
9 proposed rule. What I would like to see them do is not  
10 -- it's a bureaucracy not to just drag on and on and on  
11 and on and kind of expedite this process a little bit.

12

13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think that  
16 was the short version.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
21 William.

22

23 MR. GLANZ: All right. I'll try not to  
24 be as long on it.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But it's okay.

29

30 MR. GLANZ: All right. Anyway, what Don  
31 Woodruff said about the over-grazing of the caribou  
32 range. Well, the intent was to bring them from  
33 Whitehorse all the way to Fairbanks and beyond, in Fort  
34 Yukon. Well, they're starting to go that way. It's just  
35 got to take its time here because flying, they're all  
36 over the Crazy's and White's. The Fortymile Herd are  
37 moving into those areas.

38

39 I was with Jeff during the August hunting  
40 season for the one day they hunted them and he was  
41 telling me about lack of feed, so I went out and I come  
42 back and said, Jeff, you've got to fly with me. Them  
43 mountains are covered with white. It's full of lichen.  
44 I mean if I go to a restaurant and it's closed, so hell,  
45 I can't eat today. I mean I'm going to go to another  
46 restaurant. The same thing is going to happen with them  
47 things. So we just need a little more time, I think, to  
48 get them moving around up there.

49

50 Another issue I had there in our area is

1 potlatch hunting. We had three deaths up in our area and  
2 so the -- I know the elders aren't doing a real good job  
3 with the young people because out of the three potlatches  
4 this one crew went past. There was a cow, a bull and the  
5 cow had a yearling calf or a calf born that spring.  
6 Well, they shot the cow. Okay, there's two moose.

7  
8                   There was three different parties out  
9 hunting in the last potlatch. Three different hunting  
10 parties, like three or four guys in each vehicle. Well,  
11 they drove past 80 mile. They probably went past 1,000  
12 caribou, shot a cow. Shit, damn. So I went there and I  
13 cut the guts. It had three embryos in it. There's three  
14 embryos right there that ain't going to hatch. I don't  
15 know how many moose that's going to be. And the other  
16 one they shot had two embryos in it. So for three  
17 potlatches we killed nine moose. So the people have got  
18 to regulate themselves. I know it's all State. It had  
19 nothing to do with the Feds, but it was really upsetting  
20 to me to go cut them bellies and the guts and find them  
21 embryos.

22  
23                   Another problem I had this last -- about  
24 a month or two ago,  
25 the troopers called me and they said what's this you're  
26 telling people they can hunt on Federal mining claims.  
27 I said, yes, I got a ruling from the solicitor general  
28 about seven or eight years ago. Through this  
29 organization we asked for it. And he said, well, we're  
30 going to arrest them if we catch them shooting the  
31 caribou on mining claims on Federal grounds that aren't  
32 like National Wildlife Scenic Rivers and that. I said,  
33 well, I'm going to ask you this little stupid question.  
34 Let's say a State mining inspector is on Federal ground  
35 and he sees a violation, can he write them up? Well, no,  
36 that's Federally administrated. I rest my case. So we  
37 may have to -- we're going to probably make a test case  
38 out of this one of these days here, which is the only way  
39 you can do things and put them in their place.

40  
41                   What else did I have going here. Okay,  
42 I guess that pretty much covers it. Like Larry was  
43 asking about, well, we need to get the villages together  
44 for the salmon and blah, blah. Well, that's what that  
45 tri-Council was that we went with. It was us, Western  
46 and the ocean people. We all got together, nine of us,  
47 and tried to -- everything we proposed went down. You  
48 know, the people have got to get their crap together.  
49 We're down to less than 45,000 fish going through the  
50 headwaters. I don't know how many hundred thousand --

1 we're probably down to about a fifth of the salmon that's  
2 supposed to be in these rivers, so keep fishing them.  
3 Just keep taking them out of the river and we'll see what  
4 happens. And like they were saying we'll show you a  
5 picture of one. This is what a king used to look like.

6  
7                   Anyway, guys, I rest my case until we go  
8 along with the rest.

9  
10                   Thank you, everybody.

11  
12                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Will.

13  
14                   MR. KOEHLER: The only thing that I have  
15 is management of the Fortymile and Chisana Caribou Herds,  
16 particularly also Mentasta and the Nelchina herds.  
17 Probably particularly harvest management and range  
18 control at this point.

19  
20                   Nothing more really beyond that.

21  
22                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thanks,  
23 guys. Yeah, I think we've all been at this long enough  
24 that you do get a little -- want to grit your teeth.

25  
26                   Moving on. I've got to give my report.  
27 That young man needs to give his report because he went  
28 to the Federal Subsistence Board for the fisheries  
29 meeting. I sent him down because I think it's good to  
30 have somebody that's really close to the area and knows  
31 the area like the people on the Yukon. I don't have a  
32 report for that other than what's in our book as to what  
33 decisions the Federal Board made.

34  
35                   I, myself, have been attending meetings.  
36 I'm on the SRC for the Wrangells and we had a meeting  
37 October 30th and we took up the compendium, NPS  
38 compendium, which I was happy to hear. I think I even  
39 reported on it. When was our meeting? It was after that  
40 or was it before?

41  
42                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Our meeting was before  
43 that.

44  
45                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, it was.  
46 Okay. I've got so many meetings in my head I can't  
47 remember when they are. At any rate one of the people  
48 from Copper Center said when they heard the discussion  
49 that the Park Service says, well, you know, we can't  
50 manage one species over the other and Gloria Stickwan

1 from Ahtna said, well, as far as we're concerned as a  
2 user, you're managing wolves, bears and coyotes over  
3 moose and caribou, which we eat. Our letter went out.  
4 You guys probably already sent a copy of it. I think the  
5 coordinator did a good job of meeting our concerns in  
6 that letter.

7  
8 I guess you guys know that the compendium  
9 comments were due the 15th of this month. You might have  
10 seen the copies of the letters that our Council put  
11 together on that regarding what was in the compendium  
12 there that we didn't agree with.

13  
14 Also I've been attending the Upper Tanana  
15 Fortymile Advisory Committee meetings. This is the first  
16 time I heard about the over-grazing of the Fortymile  
17 actually, but I've been gone for a month.

18  
19 I think that's it. Oh, yeah. I guess  
20 the Park Service came around our community and did some  
21 compendium meetings, the Wrangell-St. Elias people did,  
22 and they came up to Tok and Slana on January 8th. There  
23 gets to be so many meetings the attendance isn't as great  
24 as it could be. But all expressed the same things as  
25 what we expressed here because everybody is interested in  
26 the seasons and bag limits on the bears or the grizzly  
27 bears and the coyotes and wolves.

28  
29 Does anyone have any questions regarding  
30 these meetings? We'll have Andrew give us a chair report  
31 -- I mean his report from the Federal Subsistence Board  
32 when he arrives.

33  
34 Next is the .805 report/summary of  
35 Federal Subsistence Board action on fisheries proposals.  
36 So that's in our book.

37  
38 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. The .805  
39 report, the official letter, comes from Tim Towarak, the  
40 Chair of the Board. That is under his review right now,  
41 so we don't have the official letter. What we have for  
42 you is the actions of the Board and the Council's actions  
43 and justification and that copy is in your extra  
44 materials folder, in the manila folder on the top. This  
45 is what Andy was going to speak to, was the actions of  
46 the Federal Subsistence Board on each of the proposals  
47 that this Council took action on.

48  
49 In the materials I had sent you before  
50 the table of the actions that they did take, again the

1 consensus agenda was 13-02. Everyone agreed on that. All  
2 the Council and the Board concurred for marking of  
3 salmon. What's in your sheet here, again in your manila  
4 folders on the top, runs through each of the proposals  
5 that were not consensus agenda items between all three  
6 Councils.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can have  
9 Andrew give that.

10

11 MS. PATTON: Sure.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think that  
14 would be good because he was there. I know you were too,  
15 but if he doesn't, we'll bring this up again.

16

17 MS. PATTON: So if that would be all  
18 right to defer until Andy gets here.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you guys see  
21 that letter in your manila folder? Okay.

22

23 MS. PATTON: And Andy can speak to the  
24 actions at the Board.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'd like him to  
27 tell us about that meeting.

28

29 Public and tribal comment on non-agenda  
30 items.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Can we please  
33 check in with folks on teleconference and in the audience  
34 if anyone would like to speak to.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that would  
37 be non-agenda items. Items that are on this agenda for  
38 our book. Right?

39

40 MS. PATTON: Yes.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there anyone  
43 online that would like to speak to anything that's not on  
44 our agenda today.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none.  
49 Can I get a verification of who is online. Would you  
50 like to address who you are.

1 MS. KENNER: Hi. This is Pippa Kenner.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, Pippa.  
4 Anyone else online?  
5  
6 MR. RIVARD: This is Don Rivard. I'm  
7 also in Anchorage with OSM.  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, Don.  
10  
11 MR. MCKEE: Chris McKee with OSM in  
12 Anchorage as well.  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who was that?  
15  
16 MR. MCKEE: Chris McKee.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, Chris.  
19 Anyone else?  
20  
21 MS. HERNANDEZ: Melinda Hernandez,  
22 another Council coordinator here at OSM listening in for  
23 a bit.  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, that was  
26 loud enough. I couldn't understand who.  
27  
28 MR. JOHNSON: Melinda Hernandez.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, hi,  
31 Melinda.  
32  
33 MS. HERNANDEZ: Hey, Sue.  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You came in  
36 loud and clear except not so clear. Anyone else on?  
37  
38 (No comments)  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I  
41 don't hear anyone else online. We'll move on. Old  
42 business. Approval draft annual report. Now this is on  
43 the agenda and remember how we like to note things that  
44 we want to put on our annual report of concerns. As we  
45 go through the meeting, I hear concerns and then I like  
46 to note that and then we put it in at the end. So do I  
47 -- do you have any concerns that you guys want to bring  
48 up, like seagulls, for our annual report?  
49  
50 MR. KOEHLER: Is this additional concerns

1 to the annual report or.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

4

5 MR. KOEHLER: .....adding to what.....

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Adding to it.

8 It's a draft that's in front of us at this time.

9

10 MR. KOEHLER: Do you have anything --  
11 there's a couple of points here I'd like to add on some  
12 of the comments. I don't have anything new. Just adding  
13 to what you have.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, that's  
16 what we're looking for.

17

18 MR. KOEHLER: Oh, okay.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have  
21 something to add to?

22

23 MR. KOEHLER: Just on this item 3, the  
24 hunting guide concession and the Tetlin National Wildlife  
25 Refuge. I just would like to possibly add some kind of  
26 language that would maybe state that sometimes the line  
27 between commercial and subsistence is very grey and some  
28 of these hunting areas, these permits, they provide the  
29 livelihood for the people there in these subsistence  
30 areas. Just to note that so that their value for some of  
31 these people, like this individual mentioned here has had  
32 the area for almost 30 years. It has much more than just  
33 a monetary attachment to it. In this case, you know, his  
34 dad was there in the '50s. It's very much a -- not just  
35 part of their family business, it's part of their home.

36

37 To just note the importance of --  
38 sometimes we have these permits and we have these Federal  
39 hunting areas. We have a tremendous amount of value  
40 beyond just their business value.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's why it's  
43 there. But, yeah, I would love for you -- can you come  
44 up with some language for us?

45

46 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah. When do you want  
47 that?

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: By the end of  
50 tomorrow, so you have -- tonight you can think about it

1 and get some good language and bring it to the Council  
2 for us then.

3

4 MR. KOEHLER: Uh-huh.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Will.  
7 Is there anything else? Do you guys want to bring up  
8 this seagull thing and add that to the annual report?

9

10 MR. ERHART: Yeah.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we're  
13 all sleeping.

14

15 MR. ERHART: Yeah.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's have a  
18 consensus. We're going to add seagulls, a concern about  
19 the seagulls. Larry.

20

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, about the seagull  
22 thing. We've been living with that problem for years and  
23 years and at this point I don't really know what we can  
24 do about it.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Open season on  
27 seagulls.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, you know, that's one  
32 consideration. In my culture and I'm sure up and down the  
33 river we don't take anything that we're not going to use  
34 at the moment. You know, that's ingrained into us from  
35 childhood all the way to adulthood, you know, and that's  
36 what we've been teaching our younger generation. So, you  
37 know, that goes against the grain to just open season on  
38 seagulls. Like I said, I don't know exactly what we're  
39 going to do, but I do know that they take a lot of fry  
40 like Lester was saying. So we can discuss it and see  
41 what we come up with.

42

43 Thank you, Madame Chair.

44

45 MR. ERHART: Back in the older days, you  
46 know, the people used to harvest seagull eggs and they  
47 ate them and stuff. That's how they kept them down.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you don't  
50 like my idea?

1 MR. ERHART: I'm with you. Yeah, they  
2 can open season. I mean we have to go against the  
3 Council sometime. Come on. That's the way I look at it.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Didn't people  
6 use seagull feathers for regalia?

7  
8 MR. ERHART: No.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Never?

11  
12 MR. ERHART: No. These are kind of a  
13 scavenger, you know.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
16 Virgil.

17  
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Depends on where you  
19 live. When I used to spend a lot of time out on St.  
20 Lawrence Island, they eat seagulls out there because they  
21 don't really eat sea ducks, seagulls. I'm talking about  
22 back in the '70s before they had television, telephone  
23 and I don't think they had food stamps. I don't know  
24 whether they did or not. But I know what the people  
25 lived on because I lived out there part of the time. I  
26 was commander of the National Guard and they ate  
27 seagulls, walrus and seals. That's mainly what they ate.  
28 They had no -- and they ate eider ducks. But they would  
29 shoot the dirty-looking ones because the dirty-looking  
30 ones are the young ones. The real bright white ones are  
31 the old ones. But they ate lots of seagulls. So it  
32 depends on where you're at as to what you're going to  
33 eat.

34  
35 Something I should have said in  
36 conjunction with the hatcheries is that the hatcheries  
37 have caused an artificial population of predator birds.  
38 In other words, seagulls. Like the Taku River, which is  
39 the one that runs into the ocean just below Juneau, that  
40 chum salmon stock there that goes up the Taku River into  
41 Canada, its population has declined in the neighborhood  
42 of 80 percent.

43  
44 A guy by the name of Leon Shawl, who was  
45 a researcher for the Department of Fish and Game, got  
46 chewed out more or less for writing his opinion of why  
47 those chum salmon stocks have declined. It's because the  
48 hatchery there in Juneau has been dumping between 100 and  
49 110 million chum salmon smolt a year into the estuary and  
50 they put them in these net pens and then they release

1 them after the herring hatch and the plankton bloom  
2 happens so that it's ideal time for survival.

3  
4                   So these little chum salmon that are wild  
5 coming out of Canada get there after these things are  
6 gone or there's maybe some still there. They weigh three  
7 times as much as the wild salmon when they get released  
8 because they're kept in a net pen and fed a perfect diet.  
9 They also attract all these birds that eat little fish  
10 down there, so all these seagulls and other birds are in  
11 good practice at catching these fat, lazy hatchery chum  
12 salmon smolts. Then, when the wild ones get there,  
13 they've got the big bullies there that weigh three times  
14 as much as them, plus they've got hordes of these damn  
15 birds there that are in practice at eating them, plus  
16 there's not much for them to eat. Anyway, he got his tit  
17 in a ringer more or less for putting that in writing.

18  
19                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Better word.

20  
21                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Right, better words, but  
22 I think that gets the point across. He got chewed out  
23 for saying that.

24  
25                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
26 That's better.

27  
28                   MR. UMPHENOUR: But anyway, that goes  
29 along with this, Lester, because a lot of people -- well,  
30 it's common sense. You have all that food out there,  
31 then all these seagulls come and they really multiply  
32 because there's lots of these hatchery smolts for them to  
33 eat, which is really detrimental on the wild stocks  
34 because then when the wild stocks finally get there, then  
35 there's all these extra birds there.

36  
37                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So  
38 somehow we've got to come up with.....

39  
40                   MR. UMPHENOUR: There's no hatcheries  
41 around here. However, it's not really that far from  
42 where these hatcheries are for them to fly into the  
43 headwaters of the Yukon and start eating those smolt up.  
44 It's a close distance.

45  
46                   Thank you.

47  
48                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hear your  
49 concerns. So I think what we'd like to do is have  
50 something in there. I think the government needs to

1 really be concerned about, like this artificial influx or  
2 high number of seagulls because I believe that's part of  
3 the problem. Lester.

4

5 MR. ERHART: It's the same way it  
6 happened in the village with the ravens, you know. They  
7 made -- the government made us make dumps and look how  
8 many ravens we got. Back in the old days they didn't  
9 have dumps and there was very few ravens.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's  
12 true. Things have changed and now we have to figure out  
13 how to make it better from the changes that were made.  
14 Are we all in agreement to have this as a concern that we  
15 need to think about, the predation of salmon fry by  
16 seagulls? We're not going to solve the problem, but we  
17 definitely want to show it's a concern, so that will be  
18 added to the report.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Something they should do  
21 is what Monty Millard did when he was in charge of that  
22 trout hatchery. Like the State just did on beluga whales  
23 and the scientist that did that works at Fish and Game  
24 here in Fairbanks, former chairman of the Board of Game.  
25 She was the marine mammal biologist. She did a study on  
26 the Kvichak beluga whales and the conclusion of her study  
27 was that they had the potential to eat between 30 and 45  
28 percent of the sockeye salmon originating from the  
29 Kvichak River, which is the largest producer of sockeye  
30 salmon on earth. They might be eating as many as 20  
31 million sockeye a year if you count the smolts and the  
32 adults put together. Anyway, they average around 1,500  
33 salmon smolts per beluga whale when they're out  
34 migrating.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Definitely has  
37 an impact.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: So need to see how many  
40 salmon smolts are in a seagull.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think studies  
43 are great, but a lot of times, like the salmon, you know,  
44 stuff gets talked about so damn long until you wonder if  
45 anything is going to get done. Sometimes you have to  
46 come up with -- you know, when we show a concern, we can  
47 ask for a study, but I think we should also be concerned  
48 about coming up with ideas. You know, are people not  
49 eating seagull eggs anymore?

50

1 MR. ERHART: Unh-unh.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I mean I know  
4 when I was down in Unalakleet they were eating seagull  
5 eggs.  
6  
7 MR. ERHART: They don't want to have to  
8 go out and rustle them no more.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you mean  
11 we're getting a little lazy?  
12  
13 MR. ERHART: Lazy, yes.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ah, this is not  
16 good. But I mean that's what's happening in today's  
17 world, is things aren't.....  
18  
19 MR. ERHART: The kids used to harvest  
20 seagull eggs.  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.  
23  
24 MR. KOEHLER: You know, it's fine to talk  
25 about going after seagulls and such like, but it would be  
26 interesting to know how practical it actually is. I mean  
27 we've talked about in advisory committee meetings of, you  
28 know, I've watched golden eagles pushing lambs off the  
29 cliffs, you know, and killing sheep. The fact is though  
30 that we're not going to have a season on golden eagles.  
31 It's not going to happen because of the Federal  
32 protection they have. It's a very strong and it's very  
33 secure. I don't know that it's really even worth wasting  
34 energy trying to -- like doing a study on how many golden  
35 eagle -- how many sheep golden eagles kill because  
36 nothing is really going -- practically nothing is going  
37 to happen there.  
38  
39 It would be interesting -- I would be  
40 curious if someone could tell me what legislation  
41 protects seagulls and if there's nothing that is really  
42 going to be able to override that legislation. If it's  
43 powerful enough, is there anything we can really do.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, this is  
46 -- we shouldn't get too wrapped around the axle here.  
47 This just goes in our report and then they answer what  
48 we're saying. So it's really -- it isn't like we're  
49 making a proposal. We're actually just putting something  
50 in a report. This is a concern of ours and we'd like to

1 have it addressed.

2

3 MR. KOEHLER: Right.

4

5 MR. UMPHENOUR: I do remember reading  
6 somewhere Fish and Wildlife Service -- there's some kind  
7 of endangered species bird on the east coast, on some  
8 island on a Refuge someplace. I don't remember what it  
9 was, but I know the Fish and Wildlife Service did declare  
10 war on the seagulls because they were eating their eggs  
11 and went in and killed them by the thousands. So I know  
12 that when you have a salmon stock like our king salmon on  
13 the Yukon River that I think that rises to the occasion  
14 of maybe going down to the mouth of the Yukon and various  
15 places and thinning out the seagulls. This is something  
16 that's happened within the last two or three years. I  
17 don't know whether anyone in the audience has any  
18 information on that, but I know I read it somewhere that  
19 they did do that just within the last couple years on the  
20 east coast on a Wildlife Refuge.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Again, I think  
23 what we're trying to do is bring up concerns and put it  
24 in our annual report. Whatever happens from it --  
25 sometimes nothing does. I get a little discouraged  
26 because it takes so long for things to get done, like  
27 asking for a report. That could be what would come of  
28 our letter. All I would like to do is have an agreement  
29 that we would put that as a concern in our annual report.  
30 Everyone agree?

31

32 (Council nods affirmatively)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we  
35 have two things to add to our annual report right now and  
36 I want you all to be thinking as we go through the  
37 meeting something might come up and we go that's the  
38 perfect thing to put in this annual report because it's  
39 not something we can do at the moment, but it's stuff  
40 that we're concerned about. So keep that in your mind as  
41 we go through the meeting.

42

43 If there's nothing else here right now,  
44 we'll move on to the next thing in the agenda. I see Eva  
45 has something here.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. I just wanted  
48 to check in and make sure -- I know there was some  
49 hesitation on the gull report. Do you want to take a  
50 vote for the Council?

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what you're  
2 asking is Larry's concern about.....

3  
4 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Just wanted to double  
5 check and make sure that the Council as a group did want  
6 to include that in the annual report or if there were  
7 concerns expressed that you'd like to have in there as  
8 well.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you would  
11 like your concern added in is what she's asking about not  
12 wasting.

13  
14 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I was thinking that  
15 would be a -- you know, it's always -- I don't want to  
16 repeat myself, but it's always been the elder's job and  
17 since I'm an elder now to teach my grandkids and the  
18 younger generation that, you know, you just don't shoot  
19 any one thing. You're throwing nature out of balance  
20 when you do that. The equation is not there no more. If  
21 you do any one thing, overdo it. Of course, it's not our  
22 job to, you know, regulate nature and that's the way I  
23 feel anyway and that's the way I'd like to pass on down  
24 to my grandkids and to the younger generation in general.

25  
26 Thank you very much for listening.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we need a  
29 break or do you want to move on? What's your question,  
30 Virgil, on the record?

31  
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. What we're looking  
33 at on the agenda right now is wildlife closure review.  
34 Are we going to get a Staff report on these or are we  
35 just looking at them ourself?

36  
37 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We have --  
38 Chris McKee is the OSM wildlife biologist for the Eastern  
39 Interior region. He's on teleconference right now and  
40 what he will do is cover the wildlife closure which is in  
41 your extra packet here. There's a manila packet on your  
42 table and it's on the top. The OSM wildlife closure  
43 review for moose in 26C. The other wildlife closure  
44 review was completed in time for the book, so that other  
45 one is in your books. Chris will be covering the OSM  
46 analysis for the Council.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So the short  
49 answer is yes?  
50

1 MS. PATTON: Yes. And then we have  
2 additional materials. There were some other materials  
3 written provided for the Council by public and we have  
4 one letter that a public member had wanted read into the  
5 record. We also have public who have offered to provide  
6 some of their insights too. We have Fran Mauer who had  
7 wanted to provide input to the Council.  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He just  
10 wondered if we had someone to address it.  
11  
12 MS. PATTON: Yes.  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Do  
15 you want to go on?  
16  
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: I want to take a break.  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil wants a  
20 short break.  
21  
22 MR. ERHART: Sounds good.  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll say five  
25 minutes and that means it will probably be 10.  
26  
27 (Off record)  
28  
29 (On record)  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're  
32 going to bring up the correction to the minutes right  
33 now. If you guys go to Page 18 and go to that second  
34 sentence where it says Jason. I can't pronounce his name.  
35 I apologize. It's the third paragraph from the bottom.  
36 If you go to the second sentence where you -- the correct  
37 pronunciation is how?  
38  
39 MS. PATTON: Jason, how do you say your  
40 name?  
41  
42 MR. CAIKOSKI: It's Caikoski.  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Caikoski? Like  
45 we're psychotic?  
46  
47 MR. CAIKOSKI: Yeah. Even though there's  
48 a C there, it's still psychotic.  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Caikoski. Did

1 I say that right?

2

3 MR. CAIKOSKI: Yes.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Where it  
6 says Mr. Caikoski provided the latest moose population  
7 assessment, it's changed to -- cross out provided and put  
8 was available to provide but the Council decided to defer  
9 to the next meeting. That is the correction. Do I hear  
10 a motion to the effect.

11

12 MR. WOODRUFF: I make a motion that we  
13 accept the change.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Second. Do I  
16 hear a second.

17

18 MR. GLANZ: I'll second it.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Do  
21 we need any discussion?

22

23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let me ask. Is he going  
24 to be here to provide this now?

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. He just  
27 told me how to pronounce his name.

28

29 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So he's here.  
32 All right. Any other discussion guys. This is the  
33 correction to the minutes.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I need a  
42 motion to -- I'm lost in my Robert's Rules for a second  
43 here. Tina.

44

45 REPORTER: Motion to approve the minutes  
46 as.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I need a motion  
49 to approve the minutes as amended.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to make the  
2 appropriate amendment to the minutes.  
3  
4 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we all  
7 understand. Any discussion.  
8  
9 (No comments)  
10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.  
12  
13 IN UNISON: Aye.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.  
16  
17 (No opposing votes)  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. The  
20 minutes are approved. WCR12-22 Unit 25D west moose for  
21 wildlife closure review. Who is speaking to that at the  
22 office? Someone online?  
23  
24 MR. MCKEE: My name is Chris McKee,  
25 Madame Chair. I'll be speaking to this analysis.  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Say your name  
28 again.  
29  
30 MR. MCKEE: Chris McKee, C-K-E-E.  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go  
33 ahead.  
34  
35 MR. MCKEE: Thank you. Good morning,  
36 Madame Chair and members of the Regional Advisory  
37 Council. Again, for the record, my name is Chris McKee  
38 and I am a wildlife biologist with the Office of  
39 Subsistence Management. I believe the analysis of  
40 closure review WCR12-22 can be found on Page 36 of your  
41 meeting materials booklet.  
42  
43 Hunting on -- moose hunting on Federal  
44 public lands in Unit 25D West has been closed since the  
45 1993-1994 regulatory year for residents of Unit 25D West.  
46 This was due to population declines experienced for the  
47 species from 1986 to 1992, low densities, low survival of  
48 yearling cows and a high mortality of younger aged moose  
49 and possibly underreporting of harvest. Therefore, the  
50 closure was implemented for conservation reasons and to

1 ensure subsistence uses without competition from outside  
2 hunters.

3

4                   In 2002, the Yukon Flats Cooperative  
5 Moose Management Plan was completed. The current  
6 management objectives are to increase the size of the  
7 moose population by 2 to 5 percent in specific areas  
8 adjacent to local communities in Unit 25D, to improve  
9 harvest reporting compliance, to maintain a bull/cow  
10 ratio of 40 bulls/100 cows, to minimize harvest while the  
11 population is rebuilding, and to conduct annual  
12 population surveys to monitor moose population trends.

13

14                   As you can see from Figure 1 of the  
15 closure review, which I believe is on Page 40 of your  
16 booklet, the moose population has experienced steady  
17 declines over the last 10 or so years from an estimate of  
18 862 animals in 1999 to 440 animals in 2010. Also moose  
19 densities are extremely low in this area at 0.23 moose  
20 per square mile. Bull cow ratios in 2010 were below  
21 management objectives at 35 bulls per 100 cows. All  
22 previous bull/cow ratios except 2009 exceeded the  
23 management objective of 40 bulls/100 cows. We also had  
24 low numbers of yearly survival. In 2010, the high  
25 bull/cow ratios and the low number of yearling bulls  
26 seemed during most recent surveys to suggest that annual  
27 recruitment is below what is expected for this  
28 population.

29

30                   Some factors thought to be affecting the  
31 survival, recruitment and distribution of moose in the  
32 area are primarily predation by wolves, black bears and  
33 grizzly bears on calves and also wolves on adult moose  
34 during the winter. Any additional unreported harvest  
35 would obviously also contribute to limiting population  
36 growth.

37

38                   The harvest history in the area is as  
39 follows. The reported harvest has not exceeded the quota  
40 of 60 animals since the original closure in 1993 and  
41 1994. Harvest is done primarily by rural residents of  
42 Beaver, Birch Creek and Stevens Village. The total  
43 harvest in Unit 25D for moose in 2010-2011 was 16 moose.

44

45                   The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
46 maintain this closure. The subsistence harvest of moose  
47 by the residents of Beaver, Birch Creek and Stevens  
48 Village continues to be an important resource. The moose  
49 population remains stable at relatively low levels. It  
50 occurs at low densities and therefore can only sustain a

1 limited harvest by local residents.

2

3 Retaining the closure allows for  
4 continued cooperative management necessary for meeting  
5 management objectives and allowing for local subsistence  
6 opportunity. The next closure review for this area will  
7 be in 2015 and that's the end of my report for this  
8 closure review.

9

10 Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
13 Council members, any questions.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No questions.

18

19 Oh, Donald.

20

21 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

22 The question is what is the number of permits you are  
23 going to issue for Stevens Village, Beaver and that local  
24 area and do you see the -- this harvest, does it seem to  
25 be affecting your bull/cow ratio over time?

26

27 MR. MCKEE: What area were you interested  
28 in the number of permits for?

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: Stevens Village, Beaver,  
31 in that area.

32

33 MR. MCKEE: I'll just read them all out.  
34 For Beaver it's 25 permits, Birch Creek is 10 permits and  
35 for Stevens Village it's 25 permits. I'm sorry, my  
36 connection is kind of bad, so I didn't hear the other  
37 half of your question.

38

39 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you for answering  
40 the first half. The second half is do you see a lower  
41 number of cow/bull ratio after your harvest? In other  
42 words, is that affecting -- are the hunters affecting  
43 your cow/bull ratio?

44

45 MR. MCKEE: I don't have that information  
46 in front of me. I don't anticipate that it would, but  
47 again I don't -- I don't have any information for that  
48 from that analysis, so I can't really answer that  
49 question for you right now.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
2 questions, Council members. Virgil, I missed you. Go  
3 ahead.

4  
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, I know the  
6 Department -- there was a joint I think between Fish and  
7 Game and the Refuge to -- they had a lot of moose  
8 collared and they were trying to figure out what was  
9 causing the mortality. I know that the Fish and Wildlife  
10 Service has been doing population estimates and et cetera  
11 and studying the bear predation and all this other stuff.  
12 Hopefully we were thinking that that might end up with  
13 some type of predator management. What is the status of  
14 that?

15  
16 MR. MCKEE: In terms of predator  
17 management, we don't -- the Board itself does not decide  
18 matters of predator control. We leave that up to the  
19 actual individual management agency. So that would be up  
20 to the relevant wildlife refuges for them to determine.  
21 At this point, I don't know what the status of predator  
22 control is in any particular area. With the Fish and  
23 Wildlife Service that's an ongoing issue. I know the  
24 Board has had it brought up to them from the State Board  
25 of Game statewide in several areas. So I would expect  
26 that that issue is definitely going to get more attention  
27 and be addressed in quite a bit more detail over the next  
28 year or two.

29  
30 But in terms of this specific area that  
31 this closure analysis is referring to, I don't know of  
32 any pending predator control programs going on at least  
33 on the Federal side.

34  
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. While we have  
36 the Refuge manager here, that's who we need to ask that  
37 question of. Could I ask that question of the Refuge  
38 manager now, Madame Chair?

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure, why not.

41  
42 MR. BERENDZON: Steve Berendzon, Refuge  
43 manager, Yukon Flats Refuge. Yes, I'll address the  
44 question as best I can, but as Mr. McKee indicated, there  
45 are still a lot of unanswered questions from that study.  
46 As far as initiating predator control when we don't know  
47 that that's truly going to do any good, from what I  
48 understand at this point would not be worth -- an effort  
49 worth pursuing at this time. Is it something we could do  
50 in the future? It is, but we also anticipate a lot of

1 other hurdles in trying to do that.

2

3                   One huge one is the public review process  
4 that we'd have to go through at the very beginning of an  
5 effort like this. When you go out for public review, a  
6 contentious issue like this where we would get feedback  
7 from all over the country, that would be a very  
8 challenging process in itself. So until we get more  
9 definitive answers that says this is an action that's  
10 going to help and really worth pursuing, at this point we  
11 don't have any plans to pursue predator control.

12

13                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Follow up.

14

15                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

16

17                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Your predecessor, the  
18 previous Refuge manager, had indicated that they were --  
19 you know, after they do a certain amount of these studies  
20 and gather the science, he was looking forward to  
21 possibly going completely through the process to see if  
22 they could do some predator management. So basically my  
23 question is is that still more or less the plan that  
24 you're going to try to continue on so that maybe you can  
25 take some positive steps forward?

26

27                   MR. BERENDZON: Madame Chair. In  
28 response to that, I can't give you a firm answer on that  
29 at this time because, one, I'm still trying to get a  
30 better handle on the situation and the information that  
31 has been obtained through these studies, I've been  
32 briefed on them, I understand what the results have been,  
33 but my understanding, like I said, is that there's  
34 nothing really firm saying exactly what solution will  
35 bring about an increase in the moose population.

36

37                   What I understand there's several factors  
38 affecting it. Predator control in itself may not be a  
39 fix. Certainly what I understand would not be a  
40 long-term fix. The investment in trying to do that from  
41 what I understand at this point is not worth the possible  
42 benefits that might come out of it, especially when we  
43 don't know if there would truly be any benefits.

44

45                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James.

46

47                   MR. ROBERTS: What are the other factors  
48 that you're talking about besides predator control?

49

50                   MR. BERENDZON: Well, it's complicated.

1 I'm not a predator biologist and I've actually been away  
2 from biology myself for quite a while. What I understand  
3 from other studies is that if you remove predators, you  
4 create a sync where you get more predators coming into  
5 the area and, yes, it's a big area. If you want to do  
6 predator control over millions of acres, then, one,  
7 that's a huge investment up front, but you're still --  
8 and you're not going to be fully successful. What I have  
9 heard and understand is that if you remove a lot of  
10 predators, that creates more opportunity for those  
11 remaining to recruit more or have more survival of their  
12 young and it's just a huge effort to try to remove all of  
13 them and then maintain all those predators.

14

15 MR. ROBERTS: What I was thinking, was  
16 the habitat poor or is it overgrowth or is it at the end  
17 of its ecological succession? That's kind of what I was  
18 asking.

19

20 MR. BERENDZON: I don't have an answer to  
21 that. I mean my understanding is that there could be  
22 some earlier successional changes that would be  
23 beneficial in areas, essentially fire, but I don't --  
24 that's just some things that I've heard. I haven't  
25 really looked into that specifically, so I can't answer  
26 that at this time.

27

28 Sorry.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

31

32 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
33 I have a question. Do you see the count of 2.2 moose per  
34 square mile, do you see that changing in our lifetime?

35

36 MR. BERENDZON: I see it changing, but  
37 I'm not going to guarantee I see it changing which  
38 direction. I mean it's natural for those populations to  
39 have some flux and change over time, but it's possible  
40 that they could get worse before they get better. Would  
41 we like to see them improve? Certainly. Again, as I  
42 understand it, there's several factors that are affecting  
43 that. I think they're pursuing answers to those different  
44 causes and with the hope of increasing that population.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
47 questions, Council members.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a  
2 question. I'm not putting you on the spot. We sit on  
3 this -- you know, I've been here almost 12 years and I  
4 see constant changes of Refuge managers and Park  
5 superintendents and biologists and everything. I think  
6 we're asking you -- haven't you just come on board?  
7  
8                   MR. BERENDZON: Yes, I have. I just came  
9 here in September.  
10  
11                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So does  
12 that put road blocks up for things that have happened in  
13 the past?  
14  
15                   MR. BERENDZON: It creates some  
16 challenges. What I think is more of a constant, at least  
17 for Yukon Flats Refuge Management, is the biological  
18 staff and that's who I depend on.....  
19  
20                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.  
21  
22                   MR. BERENDZON: .....for the guidance on  
23 these biological issues.  
24  
25                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The biologist,  
26 he's been with that Refuge a long time, right?  
27  
28                   MR. BERENDZON: Mark Bertram has been  
29 there for I think nearly 20 years.  
30  
31                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is he going to  
32 be here?  
33  
34                   MR. BERENDZON: As far as I understand, he  
35 intends to stay here the rest of his career.  
36  
37                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, I meant at  
38 our meeting.  
39  
40                   (Laughter)  
41  
42                   MR. BERENDZON: Oh, is he going to be  
43 here at the meeting. No, he's at training this week, so  
44 he will not be here at this meeting.  
45  
46                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think you're  
47 getting hard questions that he probably could answer.  
48  
49                   MR. BERENDZON: He could, yes. I'm sorry  
50 that I can't answer the questions as well as our

1 biological staff. What I could do is bring one of our  
2 biologists who's been studying the wolf and moose  
3 relationship, Bryce Lake. I could ask him to attend the  
4 meeting this afternoon or tomorrow if the Council would  
5 like that.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm pretty sure  
8 that we would. I know Andrew is not here right now. He  
9 might be at the TCC meeting or something. There's been  
10 a lot happening before you came on board with us, the  
11 Council and the Refuge, and we thought we were kind of  
12 moving in a light to get more done. It's nice to talk to  
13 the biologist and get a heads up on what's going on.

14  
15 Any other questions, Council members.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

20  
21 MR. BERENDZON: You're welcome.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

24  
25 Now we're just taking up this wildlife --  
26 did you have another question, Donald.

27  
28 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
29 I just wanted to point out at the bottom of Page 37 it  
30 says in 1994 Stevens Village submitted a proposal to  
31 change the harvest limit from one antlered bull to any  
32 bull and a longer season. I'm curious if that is sort of  
33 what -- in reflection of that climate change that my  
34 colleague here was speaking about at the Council concerns  
35 if anyone could address that.

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who are you  
38 asking to address that, Donald?

39  
40 MR. WOODRUFF: Well, Mr. McKee, if he's  
41 online, if he could address that.

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

44  
45 MR. MCKEE: I am not aware as to the  
46 reasons behind those requests for change in the season,  
47 so I can't answer that question whether it was related to  
48 climate. I know that that issue has been brought up all  
49 over Alaska in terms of adjusting harvest rates and  
50 season start and ending date, so it would not surprise me

1 if that was what was part of at least partially a reason  
2 for that request.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we're  
5 making assumptions here. We don't really know. '94,  
6 that's quite a ways back now already. It doesn't seem  
7 like it in some respects, but it is. I don't know who's  
8 going to answer that, Donald. I don't know that we have  
9 an answer for that.

10

11 Virgil.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. At the top of Page  
14 39, because I was thinking about this, it describes the  
15 Moose Management Plan planning process that happened in  
16 2001 and 2002. Of course, you and I were on this RAC  
17 when that happened. There's been a lot of effort pointed  
18 towards somehow rehabilitating or increasing this  
19 population of moose. I know that the previous Refuge  
20 manager had told us that he was working towards hopefully  
21 going through the entire process so that they could -- I  
22 don't like to call it predator control. I like to call  
23 it predator management. So that the predators could be  
24 managed on the Refuge.

25

26 Beings they've changed Refuge managers  
27 now, and this is a long process that has to go through  
28 public comment from everyone in the whole country, I just  
29 want to make sure that this process continues on because  
30 I know that from the people that live in this region  
31 there's a great deal of frustration. They went through  
32 all this planning process in 2001 and 2002 and to a lot  
33 of the people there it appears that that was just a waste  
34 of time because things have not improved. Here we are 11  
35 and 12 years later and still in the same situation.

36

37 I'm just trying to voice some of the  
38 frustration that I hear from the people that live in this  
39 region.

40

41 Thank you, Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We are  
44 now reviewing this process. This is on our agenda.

45

46 The next people to talk about it is the  
47 State, I believe.

48

49 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
50 Jennifer Yuhas, State of Alaska Department of Fish and

1 Game. As you see in your packet, the State supported the  
2 OSM conclusion and agreed with the retention of the  
3 closure. I have a call in to one of our specialist that  
4 isn't at their desk right now with some of the questions  
5 you've been discussing with predator management in the  
6 region or in that unit. Even though it wouldn't be on  
7 the Refuge, it would be on State land. I don't have an  
8 answer for you, but I do have a call in.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a quick  
11 question. Does anyone have a map here at the meeting  
12 where 25D West is exactly? I don't see it on our map  
13 here.

14

15 MR. KOEHLER: It should be in the  
16 regulation book.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think  
19 it's in there, no, because this is the same map that's in  
20 the book. So this proposal that we're looking at take in  
21 all of 25D or just west?

22

23 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair. I believe Mr.  
24 Caikoski can speak to the area you're looking at.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank  
27 you.

28

29 MR. CAIKOSKI: I might get this slightly  
30 wrong, but the boundary is west of -- so it's Unit 25D  
31 west of Birch Creek -- from the southern boundary of Unit  
32 25D west of Birch Creek down to the Yukon, then the Yukon  
33 down to the Hadweenzic, then north up the Hadweenzic to,  
34 I believe -- I want to say 42.5 Mile Creek and then that  
35 would meet the northern boundary of 25D and everything  
36 west of that line.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, that  
39 Hadweenzic.

40

41 MR. CAIKOSKI: Yeah.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see. So the  
44 Venetie, which is managed with State regulations, is not  
45 included in this area west.

46

47 MR. CAIKOSKI: That's correct.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I  
50 was looking for. Thank you. It's just a little bit of

1 Native land, I guess, around Beaver and Stevens that  
2 could be anything done on State land different than  
3 Federal.

4

5 MR. UMPHENOUR: And Birch Creek.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, and Birch  
8 Creek, yeah. Okay. I just wanted to get that in my  
9 head. Council, do you have any questions of the State.  
10 Virgil.

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: I know when we met in  
13 Fort Yukon, I believe two years ago, the State biologists  
14 were actually up there and they were flying around  
15 counting moose, I think, and wolves. I'm not sure what  
16 they were counting. I know they were up there counting  
17 though while we were stranded there. Do you remember we  
18 got stranded a couple days at Fort Yukon?

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah,  
21 that's right.

22

23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. They were stranded  
24 there too. But, anyway, is the State still doing some of  
25 that work with the Fish and Wildlife Service?

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Counts.

28

29 MS. YUHAS: We routinely conduct counts  
30 and survey areas. Do you have a more specific question?

31

32 MR. CAIKOSKI: For the record again, my  
33 name is Jason Caikoski, a biologist with Department of  
34 Fish and Game. So traditionally the U.S. Fish and  
35 Wildlife Service has conducted regular moose surveys in  
36 the western portion of 25D, so their survey area would be  
37 in this closure area. Traditionally Fish and Game has  
38 conducted surveys in the eastern portion of 25D. Moose  
39 densities in the eastern portion of 25D are still low  
40 density but slightly higher than in the western portion  
41 of 25D.

42

43 More recently we have collaborated both  
44 in moose surveys and conducting wolf surveys and bear  
45 surveys, et cetera, over the last few years, but  
46 generally the State has conducted the moose surveys in  
47 the eastern portion of the unit and the Fish and Wildlife  
48 Service has conducted the surveys in the western portion  
49 of the unit.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think he's  
2 satisfied. Thank you. More questions.  
3  
4 Will.  
5  
6 MR. KOEHLER: What do you mean by regular  
7 surveys? Is that a yearly or bi-yearly?  
8  
9 MR. CAIKOSKI: Yeah, they've varied over  
10 time but generally it's yearly or bi-yearly. It's been  
11 three years since the Department has conducted one in the  
12 east. That's been primarily due to conditions that  
13 haven't been conducive to survey moose. Low snow, that  
14 kind of thing.  
15  
16 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. Any  
19 other questions.  
20  
21 (No comments)  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now it's  
24 up to the Council, our recommendation on this closure.  
25 I'll need a motion. Virgil.  
26  
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move to leave it status  
28 quo.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hmm, that will  
31 probably confuse everybody.  
32  
33 MR. GLANZ: Support the closure.  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Support the  
36 closure. Do you like that better?  
37  
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, they're the same  
39 thing.  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know they  
42 are, but.....  
43  
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll go along with that.  
45  
46 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
49 Discussion on the motion. Do you want to speak to your  
50 motion.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The moose  
2 population is still severely depressed. It has one of  
3 the lowest moose densities in the state, so it can't  
4 withstand anymore harvest. Pretty simple. It's a  
5 conservation issue. Madame Chair.  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
8 discussion.  
9  
10 (No comments)  
11  
12 MR. WOODRUFF: Could I just point out  
13 something.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
16 Donald.  
17  
18 MR. WOODRUFF: I just got a preliminary  
19 moose harvest report from Yukon-Charley. Our moose  
20 population is .2 to .3 and he pointed out that he doesn't  
21 see that the hunting has an impact on the moose bull  
22 ratio and he also predicted that the .2, .3 change  
23 wouldn't be significant in our lifetime. That's in  
24 reference to the questions I asked the manager here.  
25  
26 Thank you.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
29 discussion on the motion.  
30  
31 MR. GLANZ: I have one. Talking about  
32 how predator control really just brings in more  
33 predators. It seemed to work real well in the Fortymile  
34 Caribou Herd the last 15 years, predator control by  
35 intensive management. We've had a great increase and the  
36 moose get the same benefit. I don't know why the Feds  
37 are so against any predator control. I guess they just  
38 like wolves better than we like moose or something. One  
39 species against another. Anyway, I'm in favor of this,  
40 maintaining the status quo.  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But you'd like  
43 to see them do something about it is what I heard.  
44  
45 MR. GLANZ: Yes, if there's predator  
46 control, but it doesn't seem like it. We're wasting our  
47 breath on it. It's just like the smaller net size. It's  
48 just things that we've been wasting years on and nothing  
49 is happening with it.  
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pretty  
2 discouraging, yes. Any other discussion.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 MR. GLANZ: I'll call for the question.  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. All  
9 in favor.  
10  
11 IN UNISON: Aye.  
12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.  
14  
15 (No opposing votes)  
16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion passes  
18 unanimously. Next is WCR12-31, Units 25B and 25C moose,  
19 a wildlife closure review. I take it OSM is speaking to  
20 that from the mic. Hang on there. We have to plug you  
21 in. Go ahead.  
22  
23 MR. MCKEE: Again, I'm Chris McKee for  
24 the record. I believe you've been given hard copies of  
25 this closure review if you'd like to follow along as I  
26 talk.  
27  
28 Hunting on Federal public lands in Units  
29 26B remainder and 26C is closed.....  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hang on just  
32 one second. Council members, it's in your manila folder.  
33  
34 MS. PATTON: In your manila folder there  
35 is the Wildlife Closure Review provided by OSM and this  
36 is the one for moose in 26C that Chris McKee will be  
37 speaking to.  
38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
40 Chris, go ahead. I'm sorry.  
41  
42 MR. MCKEE: Again, hunting on Federal  
43 public lands in Unit 26B remainder and 26C is closed to  
44 the taking of moose except by Kaktovik residents holding  
45 a Federal registration permit. The closure was last  
46 reviewed in 2010. We are reviewing the closure ahead of  
47 schedule due to recent actions by the Board of Game.  
48  
49 In March 2012, the Alaska Board of Game  
50 adopted Proposal 174A to open a State moose season in a

1 portion of Unit 26C; however, the affected area consists  
2 of Federal public lands that are closed to the harvest of  
3 moose, except by Federally qualified subsistence users.  
4 Thus, the State season is contingent on the Federal  
5 Subsistence Board lifting the closure to Federal public  
6 lands in the portion of Unit 26C in the Firth River and  
7 Mancha Creek drainages and the Upper Kongakut River  
8 drainage.

9  
10 Moose harvest has been restricted in  
11 Units 26B and 26C since 1996 when seasons were closed  
12 under State and Federal regulations. The closure was  
13 modified in 2004 to allow a limited harvest only for  
14 Kaktovik residents under Federal regulations. The closure  
15 was last modified in 2008 when the closure was lifted in  
16 a portion of Unit 26B.

17  
18 State management goals for moose in Unit  
19 26B and Unit 26C are to maintain viable populations  
20 throughout their historic range in the region, provide  
21 sustained moose harvest opportunity and to provide  
22 opportunity for moose photography and viewing.

23  
24 The management objectives for each unit  
25 are as follows: Unit 26B, maintain a population of at  
26 least 300 moose with short yearlings comprising at least  
27 15 percent of the population. For Unit 26C, maintain a  
28 population of at least 300 moose with short yearlings  
29 comprising at least 15 percent of the population as well.

30  
31  
32 Smaller scale surveys have been used to  
33 follow population trends, but complete area-wide  
34 population surveys have not been conducted for the area  
35 of interest. The moose population in the eastern portion  
36 of Unit 26B including the Canning River rebounded from  
37 low levels found in 1998 to 2000 to 335 moose observed in  
38 2005. The moose population in eastern Unit 26B appears  
39 to have declined following high counts in 2005 to 2008.  
40 The composition of short yearlings ranged from 15-18  
41 percent of observed moose in 2005 to 2008, but  
42 subsequently declined to 11 percent in 2009.

43  
44 The central portion of Unit 26C, which  
45 consists of the foothills and coastal areas, is surveyed  
46 every other year by Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
47 Staff. Between 2003 and 2011, the population in the  
48 survey area has remained fairly stable at around 52  
49 animals.

50

1                   The portion of Unit 26C that includes the  
2 Firth River, Mancha Creek, and upper Kongakut River  
3 drainages was sporadically surveyed in 1991, 2000, 2002  
4 and 2011. The data indicates that the moose population  
5 in this area has fluctuated with recent data suggesting  
6 the moose population may have recovered from low numbers  
7 observed in the early 2000s. However, the 2011 survey  
8 was associated with an expanded modified survey area and  
9 a different survey intensity, which limits the ability to  
10 make direct comparisons with previous surveys.

11  
12                   The fall survey in 2011 provides us with  
13 only a point estimate for the population. The Alaska  
14 Department of Fish and Game anticipated completing  
15 another survey in the Firth/Mancha area in 2012, but that  
16 did not occur. This population is migratory. Moose  
17 calve and summer in the Old Crow Flats of the Yukon  
18 Territory of Canada and then move into the Brooks Range  
19 to winter. In the winter, moose move from Old Crow  
20 Flats to Firth, Mancha, Kongakut, Coleen and Sheenjek  
21 River drainages in Alaska. Fall movement to wintering  
22 areas occurs in August and early September and spring  
23 movements occur in March and April.

24  
25                   Preliminary data from a study using  
26 satellite collared moose in Canada to track moose  
27 movement at finer scales corroborate these seasonal  
28 movement nature of this population. Moose movement data  
29 from the telemetry study initiated in 1995 indicates that  
30 moose migrated to Old Crow Flats from the wintering areas  
31 of the Firth, Kongakut, Coleen and Sheenjek Rivers. This  
32 maybe indicates that moose move between these ranges  
33 during migration. Additional movement data collected  
34 from the telemetry study on 19 collared moose from 2007  
35 to 2009 found that once moose selected a drainage to  
36 winter they stayed there throughout the winter. Many of  
37 the moose moved to wintering ranges prior to August to  
38 September.

39  
40                   Data suggests there are two populations  
41 in 26C. A resident population in the coastal plain on  
42 the northern side of the Brooks Range and the Old Crow  
43 Flats population. Although the sample size is small,  
44 none of the moose collared in Old Crow Flats moved to the  
45 coastal plain on the northern side of the Brooks Range.  
46 Data indicates that the Unit 26C moose population  
47 overlaps what would be 25A moose population.

48  
49                   The harvest on Federal public lands in  
50 Unit 26B and 26C is limited to residents of Kaktovik and

1 has been since 2004. An average of one moose per year  
2 were harvested between 2004 and now. Three permits are  
3 issued annually.

4  
5 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
6 maintain the status quo for this area. Low moose numbers  
7 in Unit 26B remainder and Unit 26C continue to be a  
8 conservation concern and additional moose harvest beyond  
9 the harvest by Kaktovik residents may not be sustainable.  
10 The harvest quota is limited to only three moose and  
11 Kaktovik residents continue to utilize moose for  
12 subsistence  
13 purposes.

14  
15 Survey results in the Firth River, Mancha  
16 Creek, and upper Kongakut River drainages indicate the  
17 population may be growing. However, interpreting the  
18 status of a population with, essentially, a single data  
19 point is questionable, especially given differences in  
20 survey conditions, sporadic survey history,  
21 and the migratory behavior of moose in the area.  
22 Therefore, Federal public lands in Unit 26B remainder and  
23 Unit 26C should remain closed to non-Federally qualified  
24 users for the conservation of a healthy population and to  
25 allow the continuation of subsistence uses under Section  
26 .804 of ANILCA.

27  
28 The necessity of the closure to Federal  
29 public lands in the affected area will be reassessed in  
30 three years, per the Federal Subsistence Board review  
31 process, or sooner if additional survey data suggest the  
32 closure should be lifted.

33  
34 That is the end of my presentation for  
35 this closure.

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
38 Council members, questions. Donald.

39  
40 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you for that review,  
41 Mr. McKee. Looking at this chart on Page 4 in 2000 there  
42 was a pretty steady climb of the moose population and  
43 then it seems to be dropping off. Can you address that  
44 issue?

45  
46 MR. MCKEE: What figure were you  
47 referring to?

48  
49 MR. WOODRUFF: Page 4 of the handout, the  
50 graph.

1 MR. MCKEE: I have the analysis, so I'm  
2 not -- is that referred to as Figure 1 or.....  
3  
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Figure 1.  
5  
6 MR. MCKEE: Figure 1. And you're asking  
7 what the reasons for that decline might have been?  
8  
9 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, sir.  
10  
11 MR. MCKEE: I can't answer that question.  
12 I'm not sure. It might have been bad winters. I really  
13 don't know.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald, are  
16 you.....  
17  
18 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any follow-up  
21 questions. Council members, any other ones have any  
22 question.  
23  
24 (No comments)  
25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Hearing  
27 none. Next would be the State.  
28  
29 MS. YUHAS: Do you want public members  
30 first, Madame Chair?  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I've been  
33 trying to get from my Staff here what my procedure is on  
34 these public reviews, if it's different than the other  
35 procedure. What am I hearing here?  
36  
37 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We do have a  
38 member of the public here. He has a PowerPoint  
39 presentation in terms of process. The State has written  
40 comments that they have provided and comments on the OSM  
41 closure review and we do have two written letters that  
42 were provided by the public as well. If the Council  
43 would like to consider the public comments and then the  
44 State.  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any preference  
47 here? Do you want to hear the public or hear the State?  
48  
49 MR. WOODRUFF: Both.  
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is there  
2 some public here that would like to comment on this?

3  
4 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, if I may.  
5 There are two written comments. We would just need to  
6 set up the projector if the.....

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we have some  
9 help to set up the projector while you handle these two?

10  
11  
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Is the State going to  
13 give theirs?

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The State,  
16 yeah. We just had a request to have the public first and  
17 the State last.

18  
19 MS. PATTON: So what we can do, we do  
20 have two written letters that were presented to the  
21 Council and sent out via e-mail. One is from Vic  
22 VanBallenberghe, who is a retired State biologist.  
23 There's a copy of that letter that was addressed to the  
24 Board and to the Council in your packets.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He was a State  
27 biologist? I thought he was Federal.

28  
29 MS. PATTON: Our public member, who is  
30 here today, Fran Mauer, is a retired biologist from  
31 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And we have a letter  
32 that was also submitted to the Council from Joe Matesi.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Matesi.

35  
36 MS. PATTON: Matesi, sorry. A previous  
37 Council member who has been involved in tracking moose in  
38 this region. He had requested if this letter could be  
39 read into the record.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are any of  
42 these letters in the packets?

43  
44 MS. PATTON: Both the letters are printed  
45 in the packet in the manila envelope.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: In the manila  
48 envelope. Okay, I see the one from Matesi. Is the last  
49 two -- Virgil. Unless I've got a memory lapse here, I  
50 don't think Vic VanBallenberghe was a State biologist.

1 He was a Federal biologist.  
2  
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, he was.  
4  
5 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry. My mistake.  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That means a  
8 lot to us.  
9  
10 MS. PATTON: My apologies. For the  
11 record, Mr. Vic VanBallenberghe is a retired biologist  
12 with -- Denali did you say?  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He was a  
15 Federal. That's all I know. I don't know which. Yeah,  
16 go ahead. You have something.  
17  
18 MR. MAUER: Madame Chair. I'm Fran  
19 Mauer. I'd like to clarify that Vic.....  
20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You need to  
22 come up to the mic.  
23  
24 MR. MAUER: I'm sorry. I'd just like to  
25 clarify a fact that Vic also was a State biologist in the  
26 early 1970s.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So he  
29 wore two hats.  
30  
31 MR. MAUER: He worked here in Fairbanks.  
32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. State  
34 and Federal.  
35  
36 MR. MAUER: State and Federal, right.  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay,  
39 thank you.  
40  
41 MS. PATTON: Thank you for that  
42 clarification. If the Council would like, I can read the  
43 letter from Mr. Joe Matesi.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. He has  
46 requested that you read it, so go ahead and read it.  
47  
48 MS. PATTON: This is addressed to Madame  
49 Chair Sue Entsminger, Eastern Interior Regional Advisory  
50 Council. Dear Ms. Entsminger, it is my pleasure to

1 submit these comments to the EIRAC while concerning  
2 Wildlife Closure Review 12-31 as part of the public  
3 participation of the Federal Subsistence Management  
4 Program. While this closure review specifically  
5 addresses a proposed State moose season in a portion of  
6 Unit 26C, the action also encompasses a larger issue of  
7 moose population decline in 25A.

8  
9                   The moose in Federal public lands in the  
10 portion of Unit 26C comprising the Firth River and Upper  
11 Kongakut River drainages are part of a migratory  
12 population whose range also includes Old Crow River, Bill  
13 Wattie (ph) Creek, Coleen River and a portion of the  
14 Sheenjok River. The moose in these Unit 25A drainages  
15 are in serious decline. Lifting the Federal closure in  
16 26C is likely to have a detrimental effect on the health  
17 of moose populations in those Unit 25 drainages and  
18 almost certainly impede any recovery efforts there.

19  
20                   Sometime between 1991 and 2000 the moose  
21 population in Unit 25A underwent a significant decline as  
22 evidenced by aerial counts in the headwater drainages  
23 showing a decrease of 57 percent. For most of the  
24 Sheenjok and Coleen River drainages there were no census  
25 data. It is known, however, from local residents,  
26 observations and hunters reports that hunting pressure  
27 has ballooned during that period. Hunters are typically  
28 dropped off on gravel bars where they hunt from a central  
29 camp or they float these sections of the rivers where  
30 migratory activity is concentrated.

31  
32                   In recent years, hunters have reported as  
33 many as three separate camps on a single gravel bar. The  
34 increase in harvest and decrease in the moose prompted a  
35 local subsistence user to submit to the Board of Game  
36 Proposal 170 to shorten the moose hunting season in the  
37 Sheenjok and Coleen River drainages from September 5th  
38 through the 25th, reducing it to September 15th through  
39 the 25th.

40  
41                   This proposal had the support of the  
42 Yukon Flats Advisory Committee and the Eastern Interior  
43 Regional Advisory Council, yet was rejected by the Board  
44 of Game. The ADF&G recommendation to the Board of Game  
45 was not to support the proposal and was based on flawed  
46 analysis of only 10 years harvest data. As of the  
47 writing of this letter, ADF&G has provided harvest  
48 information for only one decade, 2001 through 2010, and  
49 reported the data only in ranges and omitted information  
50 on the frequency of high harvest or low harvest, which

1 could be more informative. Even so, looking at the two  
2 decades of the ranges of harvest data show some trends  
3 when comparing the decade 1990 through 2000 to the decade  
4 2001 through 2010.

5  
6 The overall range in numbers of hunters  
7 in 25A has increased and range 85 through 119 in 2001  
8 through 2010 versus 22 through 99 in 1990 through 2000,  
9 but the success rate has declined slightly, 33 to 56 in  
10 2001 through 2010 versus 24 through 76 in 1990 through  
11 2000. This suggests that there may be more hunters but  
12 lower numbers of moose present. On the Coleen River, the  
13 range in total hunters was 7 to 30 in 1990 and 2000  
14 versus 23 to 45 in 2001 through 2010. The range in  
15 killed moose was 3 to 21 in 1990 to 2000 versus 8 to 19  
16 in 2001 to 2010. Hunter success rate was a higher range  
17 in 1990 through 2000 compared to 2001 through 2010.

18  
19 This comparison mirrors that for the  
20 Sheenjek and seems consistent with the reports of  
21 numerous long-term local observers that increasing  
22 numbers of hunters have been focusing on a consistently  
23 decreasing number of moose. These trends were not  
24 evident in ADF&G's recommendation for Proposal 170  
25 because they only looked at the past decade. It appears  
26 there has been a decline in hunter success, but ADF&G did  
27 not detect it or chose to avoid it because they did not  
28 look at data from the earlier decade.

29  
30 While ADF&G admits that the moose  
31 densities in 25A are likely low, the Department also  
32 claims stability in the number of hunters and moose  
33 harvested combined with relatively high and stable  
34 success rates indicate that current harvest rates are  
35 likely sustainable. This analysis is flawed.

36  
37 We know from area moose trends counts  
38 declining moose numbers was first detected in 1991 on the  
39 Upper Sheenjek when total moose counted dropped from 147  
40 in 1989 to 81 in 1991. Later in 2000 total moose counted  
41 throughout the region in the Sheenjek, Coleen, Kongakut  
42 and Firth were down about 57 percent. 722 moose in 1991  
43 versus 308 in 2000. We now have a moose population that  
44 is struggling along the past 12 years at a significantly  
45 lower level. 21 to 26 moose on the Upper Sheenjek when  
46 it used to be 145 to 50 range, a decrease of 81 percent.

47  
48 It appears that ADF&G claims that there  
49 is essentially no problem on the Upper Sheenjek and  
50 Coleen when that determination is based primarily on a

1 truncated review of harvest data system known to be  
2 faulty while ignoring local resident observations and not  
3 considering scientifically reliable aerial count data.

4

5           The question raised in this Wildlife  
6 Closure Review opens the door to a significantly larger  
7 picture, the conservation concern of moose in Unit 25A  
8 because Sheenjek and Coleen moose migrating through the  
9 Firth and Upper Kongakut River drainages would be  
10 vulnerable to additional hunting pressure in the proposed  
11 State season.

12

13           I urge the Council to recommend retention  
14 of the current 26 closure. Furthermore, I hope the  
15 Council will at the same time address the larger issue.  
16 I ask the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council to  
17 consider some proposal that will incorporate conservation  
18 measures for Unit 25A moose. One possibility would be to  
19 propose a Federal closure of the Old Crow, Bill Wattie,  
20 the Coleen and the Upper Sheenjek, allowing only a  
21 limited number of moose harvested by residents of Arctic  
22 Village, Venetie and Fort Yukon.

23

24           Another possibility would be to propose  
25 maintaining the current Federal closure in Unit 26C while  
26 forming a group that would evaluate moose in 26C and 25A  
27 for the purpose of developing a comprehensive management  
28 strategy for the entire migratory population as a whole.  
29 Such a group could consist of ADF&G, OSM, CATG, Arctic  
30 National Wildlife Refuge, Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation  
31 and Yukon Territory Game Department.

32

33           Thank you for your attention to this  
34 matter.

35

36           Regards, Joe Matesi.

37

38           MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would like to  
39 make note to the new members Joe was on this Council the  
40 last two years and was not reappointed, so he actually  
41 wanted to get involved in this particular closure. It's  
42 not in our region. If you look at this map, it's not in  
43 our region, but we have overlapping regions where we have  
44 C&Ts. That's why we take these up, something that's not  
45 in our region. You'll see that sometimes. Sometimes  
46 it's a little confusing, but just to understand that's  
47 why we do that.

48

49           Then there was another letter in here  
50 from Vic VanBallenberghe.

1 MS. PATTON: Yes.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's in your  
4 packet. Can you summarize it?

5

6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Vic VanBallenberghe  
7 notes he's been a moose biologist in Alaska since 1974  
8 and conducted studies in the Nelchina Basin and the  
9 Copper River Delta and continuing research in Denali  
10 National Park for 34 years he mentions. He was also  
11 appointed to Alaska Board of Game three times between  
12 1985 and 2002 and after reviewing biological information  
13 on moose in the Eastern Brooks Range, would like to offer  
14 comments for the consideration on moose management in  
15 Game Unit 26C.

16

17 In considering the closure review for  
18 2014, he strongly urges to retain the closure until  
19 adequate data are available to thoroughly evaluate the  
20 effects of hunting on this migratory moose population and  
21 the closure review is complete. Biological information  
22 indicates that Game Unit 26C population segment overlaps  
23 with Game Unit 25A and moose population in the Upper  
24 Sheenjek and Coleen Rivers.

25

26 He said migratory moose move between  
27 these areas, through the Firth and Kongakut areas, and  
28 while the moose are vulnerable to hunting as most of the  
29 country is quite open, the moose are easily spotted,  
30 excessive vulnerability may lead to decline or slower  
31 population growth in 25A.

32

33 He's also concerned about their  
34 vulnerability. Hunting of mature bulls may be eliminated  
35 and, therefore, jeopardize the long-term health of the  
36 population. He says this could be alleviated by antler  
37 restrictions designed to protect a portion of the large,  
38 mature bulls.

39

40 Ultimately, he urges to adopt a  
41 comprehensive conservation strategy for moose in the  
42 eastern Brooks Range that recognizes the complex  
43 structure of migratory moose populations in this area.  
44 It would allow a long-term sustained yield of moose for  
45 subsistence use and would maintain healthy populations,  
46 reopening the hunting season absent additional data and  
47 completed closure review would raise significant  
48 conservation concerns.

49

50 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

1 Vic VanBallenberghe.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we  
4 had one other, did you say?

5

6 MS. PATTON: We have one public member,  
7 Fran Mauer and then we have written comments from the  
8 State. Would you like to present, Fran.

9

10 MR. MAUER: Madame Chair, thank you for  
11 the opportunity to speak here today. My name is Frank  
12 Mauer. I'm a retired wildlife biologist. I worked for  
13 21 years at the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I'd  
14 like to explain and show what we learned in our moose  
15 movement migration study in 1995 when we first confirmed  
16 that we had a migratory population there. I think it  
17 will help to clarify some of these questions regarding  
18 movement of moose and when in between 26C and 25A.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have a  
21 handout?

22

23 MR. MAUER: I can provide one. I don't  
24 have one with me, but I could provide one.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This looks  
27 pretty professional here, so I need to know exactly. Is  
28 this a long presentation?

29

30 MR. MAUER: I can keep it as short as  
31 possible. I would estimate 15 minutes.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is it okay with  
34 the Council? Because, I mean, we have -- sometimes have  
35 to keep things moving.

36

37 MR. MAUER: Right.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil has a  
40 request here. He just showed me his watch. I really  
41 apologize for this. I didn't realize. You had an  
42 engagement you wanted to meet. What's your request? Let  
43 the Council know.

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: My request would be to  
46 take lunch now because some of us have a lunch meeting  
47 that we wanted to go to today and then we can do this  
48 presentation right after lunch. That's my request.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that okay

1 with the Council?  
2  
3 (Council nods affirmatively)  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I'm  
6 sorry. I didn't see the time, so I apologize.  
7  
8 MR. MAUER: All right. No problem.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you said  
11 about 15 minutes? Okay. We will come back at what time,  
12 Virgil?  
13  
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: At least a quarter after  
15 1:00.  
16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 1:15 we'll  
18 start back up.  
19  
20 (Off record)  
21  
22 (On record)  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we're  
25 going to get started. Andrew is here to join us. He's  
26 been feeling kind of sick. He can't talk, so he can't  
27 give us a report. He wants to wait until tomorrow.  
28 We're hoping he's well enough to speak tomorrow.  
29  
30 MS. PATTON: I just have a quick update.  
31 We have a dance group coming this evening right after the  
32 meeting.  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're  
35 coming back to order here. Eva said that we have a dance  
36 group coming this evening. Eva.  
37  
38 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Hey, everyone,  
39 there's some really great news. A Gwich'in dance group  
40 from Arctic Village is in town this week and Kenneth  
41 Frank and his dance group have kindly offered to perform  
42 for the Council after the meeting this evening between  
43 5:30, 5:45, whenever the Council adjourns. They'll be  
44 here with their group and their regalia.  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll just --  
47 not adjourn, but recess when we see them.  
48  
49 MS. PATTON: Sure. They're coming after  
50 and they know the meeting is going on and they're willing

1 to wait for that. One other update too, just a word back  
2 from the TCC conference. Fred Bue or Gerald Maschmann  
3 from Fish and Wildlife Service were going to give a  
4 season preview briefly tomorrow under Fish and Wildlife  
5 agency reports. They will be able to also report back on  
6 the TCC fisheries meeting that's occurring too to provide  
7 the Council with an update since I know many of you are  
8 here and not there, so thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Are  
11 you ready, Fran?

12

13 MR. MAUER: Absolutely.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now we  
16 can do this and hopefully not be interrupted.

17

18 MR. MAUER: So you're ready to start?

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

21

22 MR. MAUER: Okay. Great. Thanks a lot.

23 I appreciate the opportunity to give this presentation.

24 I hope that the information I impart will be helpful to

25 you in better understanding this issue between 25A and

26 26C, how moose move back and forth in between them. So

27 that's the main objective I want to try to cover here.

28

29 To start with, this is the part of Alaska

30 that I'll be talking about. In green, it's kind of hard

31 to see here, but the shaded green is 25A area and the

32 gray up at the top is 26C. The river valleys that you've

33 already heard about is the Kongakut and the Firth that

34 are located in 26C and the Sheenjok and Coleen Rivers

35 that are in 25A. This marker here that points those two

36 areas out, this is a boundary between 26C and 25A that

37 runs up like this.

38

39 This is all out of order here. I'm

40 sorry. I wanted to bring this up forward first because

41 this shows the land without any lines on it. No Canada

42 border, no 26C, no 25A. This is the way the wildlife

43 encounters the land and I think when we make decisions

44 regarding boundaries and lines that humans have put on

45 the map we're incumbent upon keeping this in mind as we

46 deliberate over our decisions because we're charged with

47 taking care of the well being of these resources.

48

49 I'll back up one more time. When the

50 Arctic Refuge first got established in 1960, soon

1 afterwards wildlife officers patrolling the area soon  
2 learned that there was congregations of moose that would  
3 show up in these upper river valleys in the fall and  
4 stayed during the winter, but they disappeared during the  
5 summer. So it looked like there was enough moose to do  
6 good, consistent aerial counts and try to monitor the  
7 population.

8  
9                   The question that always remained was  
10 where do these moose go in the summertime and what kind  
11 of an area do they represent, so when you get these  
12 numbers, what does it mean. What larger area are we  
13 talking about. This is the Upper Kongakut here, the  
14 Upper Sheenjek here, Upper Coleen and then the Firth  
15 River is over in this area. The Canada border runs down  
16 through here. I already showed the boundaries between  
17 25A and 26C.

18  
19                   Some of the ideas were that maybe the  
20 moose moved down towards Old Crow Flats. Maybe they  
21 scattered through the foothills of the Brooks Range, but  
22 nobody really had any firm information as to where they  
23 went. So, finally, in 1995 we got funding to catch some  
24 moose using the standard methods, tranquilizer dart fired  
25 from a helicopter, and marked some moose up in those  
26 areas in late March and early April.

27  
28                   One of the first things we noticed when  
29 we started handling these moose was how good their  
30 condition was. They were fat as you wouldn't expect to  
31 find that far north and at that time of the year. One of  
32 the people assisting me was a scientist from the Kenai  
33 Moose Research Center and he said that he rarely found  
34 moose this fat when he was catching moose down in  
35 Southcentral, southern Alaska. So I'll get back to that  
36 question why these moose were so fat at the end of summer  
37 way up in these northern areas.

38  
39                   This shows where we marked the moose. We  
40 had 15 collars put out in the Firth River, 15 in the  
41 Coleen, 15 on the Sheenjek and only 12 up in the  
42 Kongakut. A week or so later we went out and tracked the  
43 moose and this shows what we found. There was already  
44 some Kongakut moose that had moved from 26C into 25A and  
45 one of the Sheenjek -- or the Firth moose had started  
46 moving towards the Canada border. Not much movement at  
47 all from the Sheenjek and Coleen moose, but that changed  
48 very quickly. This is the picture we found at about the  
49 beginning of calving season for the moose. About three-  
50 quarters of the moose were either in Old Crow Flats or

1 were on the way headed over there. So what we found was  
2 these moose are actually born in Canada.

3  
4 They stay there for the summer as the  
5 results of this survey show on the 31st of July there's  
6 still moose there. Of course, it raises the question  
7 right away, why do they go over there to Old Crow Flats.  
8 I know it's a little bit hard to see, but we found the  
9 moose were primarily focused on these partially drained  
10 lake basins and for a couple reasons. The partially  
11 dried up land around the edges of the lake were coming in  
12 with beautiful young willow stands and moose love -- you  
13 know, were really focused on that willow. And then the  
14 remaining water is shallow and it warms up and it enables  
15 a lot of aquatic plants to grow. It was a perfect  
16 habitat for moose and that's where they were focused,  
17 most of our collared moose. As you can see here in this  
18 photo, the moose are out in the willows right next to  
19 some of the remaining part of the lake there.

20  
21 Meanwhile, while they're gone, the  
22 willows up in the Brooks Range valleys are unbrowsed and  
23 able to grow to their maximum limit for a given summer  
24 and there's essentially no moose up there eating the  
25 willows at that time, so when they come back in the fall  
26 their pantry is stocked so to speak.

27  
28 Another question that pops up is if the  
29 Old Crow Flats is such a good place for moose in the  
30 winter time -- or I mean in the summer, why in the world  
31 do they leave in the winter. This slide might help  
32 illustrate that a little bit in that this picture was  
33 taken towards the end of March when snow normally is at  
34 its maximum for the winter and this is on the Sheenjek  
35 where moose were spending the winter.

36  
37 As you can see, the snow is less than  
38 knee deep, undrifted and loose, so moose were able to  
39 move around real easily and get their food there and I  
40 think it helps them to avoid wolves to some degree. I  
41 don't have a slide of the snow in Old Crow Flats, but  
42 what we found there was the snow was at least thigh deep,  
43 sometimes up to waist deep drifted because there's a lot  
44 of wind in the flats and crusted. So it would be really  
45 hard for moose to move around in that stuff in the winter  
46 without losing weight and it would be easier for wolves  
47 to get at them.

48  
49 So I think those are some of the primary  
50 reasons why these moose were so fat when we caught them

1 in the spring. The next question, of course, is what  
2 happens at rutting time, so we'll take a look at where  
3 the moose were right after rut. This location shows the  
4 6th of October, right at about the end of the mating  
5 season. It's kind of a mixed bag. Some of the Firth  
6 moose ended up on the Kongakut. A Kongakut moose is over  
7 on the Sheenjek, a Firth moose is on the Sheenjek, one of  
8 the Coleen moose are there and we've got a Kongakut moose  
9 on the Coleen and a Firth moose on the Coleen and a  
10 couple of Firth moose over here. Even one still in  
11 Canada.

12  
13 From our radio tracking surveys we were  
14 able to identify some of the travel routes that moose use  
15 along the way getting there. One of the primary ones is  
16 this one that comes out of the northwest corner of Old  
17 Crow Flats and up the Old Crow River into the Firth.  
18 From there there's a branch movement up to the Kongakut,  
19 another one over ultimately to the Sheenjek through the  
20 Coleen and this one here is a major route that brings  
21 moose into the Coleen and some of them subsequently move  
22 on to the Sheenjek.

23  
24 This slide shows the fall movement of a  
25 single bull moose that illustrates that one location we  
26 had in late August was on the Old Crow River. The next  
27 time, a week or so later, up on the Firth, about the time  
28 hunting season starts, then in mid hunting season he was  
29 over on the Coleen. Later up to the Kongakut and then  
30 moved over to a willow patch near Double Mountain where  
31 he was at right at mating season on the 27th, 28th of  
32 September.

33  
34 Moving on. This is a bull moose, mature  
35 bull in the Firth area migrating and the point I'd like  
36 to make there is that these moose are going through  
37 mountain valleys, wide open country and they're very  
38 easily spotted and potentially vulnerable to harvest or  
39 if the conditions are good and too many hunters show up,  
40 you could very quickly have more harvest than you'd like  
41 to see.

42  
43 As we were doing this work, I went  
44 through the scientific literature and tried to see what  
45 some of the maximum movement distances were listed in the  
46 literature and this has some of the longer studies I  
47 could find at the time and the main takeaway is that the  
48 Brooks Range/Old Crow moose movement was perhaps the  
49 longest known maximum distance traveled by moose in North  
50 America. I think that's a statement for both the value of

1 the habitat in the winter range and the value of the  
2 habitat in the summer and it can draw moose a long  
3 distance.

4  
5 In 2007 and 2009, the Yukon government  
6 biologist did an additional study where they caught moose  
7 at random around the Old Crow Flats in the end of summer  
8 and they placed GPS collars on these moose so they got  
9 many more locations. They had a smaller sample. They  
10 had 19 moose whereas we had 57 moose marked. One of the  
11 things it shows is they documented some of the same  
12 movement pattern up the Old Crow River into the Firth,  
13 over to the Coleen and one animal following that route up  
14 to the Kongakut.

15  
16 The other thing that we did not pick up  
17 in our study that they did was movement out of Old Crow  
18 Flats over to the mid section of the Coleen River in this  
19 area. Also, since they deployed their collars at random  
20 in Old Crow Flats, nonetheless, the bulk of the animals  
21 were involved in this movement to Alaska rather than to  
22 comparable upland locations around Old Crow Flats with  
23 the exception of some moose in the southeast corner of  
24 the flats. So I think what the takeaway from all this is  
25 that the northwest corner of Old Crow Flats is one of the  
26 most important areas for this migratory population that  
27 ultimately ends up in Alaska.

28  
29 I'd like to talk a little bit now about  
30 the fall moose counts that have been done over the years.  
31 The first one was done in 1977 and there's been several  
32 counts over the years since then. Doing moose surveys up  
33 in this area is a real challenge because it's very remote  
34 and slow to get good snow cover in the fall, so by the  
35 time good snow cover comes daylight is diminishing. If  
36 that isn't enough of a problem, because the mountain  
37 valleys are -- some of them are wide open and no trees,  
38 that you really can't safely fly moose surveys if there's  
39 gray skies and whiteout conditions. So you need some  
40 clear skies to have shadows and to fly safely up there.  
41 When you get clear skies that late in the year, it's  
42 often 30 to 40 below. This picture was taken up on the  
43 Firth River in 1991 in November and I think it was like  
44 35 below and we were trying to do that work up there.

45  
46 I'd like to briefly cover some of the  
47 results of the counts that have been done between 1977  
48 and 2012. One of the primary things to notice is this  
49 column here for each drainage is the early data from 1977  
50 to '89 or 1977 to '91, depending on the river valley

1 here. All of them were at high levels at that time.  
2 Sheenjek had -- this is an average of several counts in  
3 that high period, 135 moose, then it dropped down to an  
4 average of 36 moose during 2000 to 2002, and I believe  
5 there was a count done this fall with 26 moose counted on  
6 the Sheenjek. It was common to count up to 120 moose up  
7 here in the earlier season.

8  
9 Likewise on the Coleen, the early surveys  
10 had averaged out 129 moose on the Coleen, then in 2000 we  
11 had a big drop down to 116 on the average between 2000  
12 and 2002, and a current count was done this fall at 79.  
13 We're not sure whether that survey was a completely  
14 comparable survey to other surveys that were done, but at  
15 any rate 79 were reported counted there.

16  
17 On the Kongakut we were averaging 196  
18 moose. In 2000 to 2002 it dropped down to 83 and more  
19 recently in 2011 a count of 120 moose, suggesting that  
20 moose may be increasing up there a little bit. Likewise  
21 on the Firth, we were averaging 207 moose in the good  
22 years, 2000 to 2002 we're down to 110 and more recently  
23 2011 there was a count of 212 moose.

24  
25 The picture here is that the Kongakut and  
26 Firth are the areas that are currently closed, have been  
27 closed to hunting since 1996 and it looks like they have  
28 either recovered or are in the process of recovering,  
29 whereas the moose farther west, the Coleen and Sheenjek,  
30 have been open to hunting all these years, were never  
31 closed, and we haven't seen a real strong improvement  
32 over the last -- well, from 2000. So we're talking 12  
33 years and numbers have remained low.

34  
35 The concern that I bring forward with  
36 this closure that you're reviewing for 26C is that if 26C  
37 areas on the Firth and the Kongakut are opened, moose  
38 that are headed for the Coleen and for the Firth are  
39 going to now -- would be exposed to additional harvest  
40 pressure where currently they're not. I think that's a  
41 concern.

42  
43 While I was doing the survey work before  
44 I retired, in two cases there were rifle hunters who took  
45 moose over on the Sheenjek and they told me that they  
46 found arrow points in the moose that they had taken from  
47 bow hunters and that's way up here in this remote area.  
48 I think what it illustrates is that these moose are  
49 moving through other hunted areas, there were bow hunters  
50 on the Firth River in 1994, 1995 just before it was

1 closed and there's been many bow hunting groups that go  
2 to the Coleen River and these moose are basically going  
3 through other hunt areas and are vulnerable to being  
4 harvested.

5  
6 This shows some of the major land  
7 ownership categories where these moose go. Our migratory  
8 moose are approximately in here. Some of them go through  
9 Vuntut National Park and some get into Ivvavik Park on  
10 the Canadian side and then into the Arctic Refuge in both  
11 26C and 25A.

12  
13 This is a family from Old Crow that we  
14 met in the spring of 1996 when we were doing the survey  
15 up there. Old Crow has a long-standing tradition of  
16 people going up to Old Crow Flats in the spring and  
17 trapping and hunting for muskrats. It's a famous muskrat  
18 place. Even people from Fort Yukon used to go up to Old  
19 Crow Flats to get rats in the spring. This was Steven  
20 Frost and his mother and his daughter and Steven Frost,  
21 Jr. While we were there visiting with them, I noticed  
22 that they had taken a moose, so they had harvested one of  
23 these -- probably harvested one of these spring migrating  
24 moose.

25  
26 Coming and going in Old Crow and I've  
27 coordinated with people in Old Crow because I used to get  
28 fuel for our airplane when we're tracking a moose and  
29 they've shown a keen interest in these moose over the  
30 years and they've asked me to give presentations about  
31 the results of my study and they've shown an interest in  
32 these moose and they're part of the picture I guess is  
33 what I'd like to say.

34  
35 In summary, I'd like to just sum this  
36 stuff up. We have a unique and highly migratory  
37 population and I can say that from my experience doing  
38 moose surveys in other parts of the Brooks Range there's  
39 no place that I know of anywhere else in the Brooks Range  
40 that has this kind of migration and these kinds of  
41 concentrations that come to the upper drainages. If you  
42 fly up the east fork of the Chandalar River in October,  
43 you're lucky if you see a couple moose. You go over to  
44 these rivers and there's concentrations of moose.  
45 There's really no place like this, so it is very unique.

46  
47 Calving, as I said, is in the summer in  
48 Old Crow Flats. And fall and winter in Alaska. The fall  
49 movements overlap between 26C and 25A and they're  
50 vulnerable due to the open terrain. The 25A moose have

1 remained low and open to hunting. 26C moose seem to be  
2 increasing and currently are closed. If the 26C is  
3 opened, we could jeopardize some of these 25A moose.

4  
5 The point I make about jeopardizing these  
6 moose is like in the Sheenjek we're down to -- moose are  
7 down in the twenties. When you're down that low, every  
8 moose counts in trying to rebuild a population. What we  
9 really need is a comprehensive conservation plan for this  
10 group of migratory moose that go across to Canada.

11  
12 That's the end of my presentation and if  
13 there's any questions I'd be happy to try to answer them.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
16 Council members, any questions.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't hear  
21 any questions. This is public testimony and I thank you,

22  
23 Fran.

24  
25 MR. MAUER: Thank you, Madame Chair.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It was quite  
28 intensive for your 20 years of working up there. Is that  
29 what I heard?

30  
31 MR. MAUER: That's correct. Twenty-one  
32 at the Arctic Refuge, 1981 to 2002.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 1981 to 2002.  
35 Okay.

36  
37 MR. KOEHLER: I don't have a question,  
38 but I have a small comment.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will, go ahead.

41  
42 MR. KOEHLER: First of all, I really do  
43 appreciate you mentioning the -- when you first started  
44 out, mentioning the importance of considering the area of  
45 the map without lines and your describing the movement of  
46 moose it sounds very similar to what we see in the  
47 mountains down where I am where they're coming up from  
48 the Flats during the rutting period. I can remember a  
49 couple years back killing one on the 1st of September,  
50 nice mature bull moose, and he had two bullet holes

1 through his antler and the only thing that I can assume  
2 is that our hunting season opens September 1st, but the  
3 Canadian hunting season opens August 1st. So, yes, he was  
4 traveling through a different hunting area I should say.  
5 So thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
8 Anyone, do you have questions of Fran.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
13 Fran. Now we probably ought to get some lights back on  
14 the subject. I have to ask on the teleconference, is  
15 there anyone out there that had any other public comment  
16 regarding this closure?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm assuming  
21 not since I don't hear anyone.

22

23 Now I believe next is the State  
24 presentation.

25

26 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair. Do  
27 you have any other public members in the room that wish  
28 to testify before we go.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wasn't made  
31 aware of it. I should have had blue cards, right, and I  
32 don't have any. I'm going to give you a chance. Any  
33 public would like to speak to this.

34

35 Yes. Your name. Come forward. You get  
36 the chance to speak here. You can say who you are, push  
37 the button.

38

39 MR. HOLT: My name is Glen Holt and I  
40 appreciate being able to speak to this group here, the  
41 RAC. I'm concerned.....

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Where are you  
44 from, Glen?

45

46 MR. HOLT: I'm actually from Fairbanks.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

49

50 MR. HOLT: I used to guide and hunt up in

1 26B and I've lived for a time in Kaktovik, so I've been  
2 over the area. I know that the moose north of the Brooks  
3 Range move around a bit. I was very interested to see  
4 the presentation that showed fat cows and fat moose and  
5 a good habitat. The last comment made about the season  
6 opening earlier in the Old Crow area was interesting.  
7 I'm concerned that the RAC would please consider holding  
8 off a determination on whether to keep the season closed  
9 until the whole process from our own Board of Game has  
10 had a chance to review it too because I believe it is on  
11 the agenda for them to discuss. I'm not sure if you knew  
12 that. That is my comment as a private person living  
13 here.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions,  
18 Council members. Thank you. Appreciate it. Is there  
19 anyone else in the audience that would like to speak as  
20 a public.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now  
25 we're ready for the State. Thank you.

26

27 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair and  
28 members of the RAC. For the record, again, my name is  
29 Jennifer Yuhas. I am the State's Federal Subsistence  
30 Liaison Team leader and I have with me Jason Caikoski and  
31 Beth Leonard, who are biologists for this region.

32

33 We've had several amiable meetings with  
34 this RAC and I've been able to put very positive things  
35 on the record and I have a feeling I'm about to become a  
36 bit unpopular with some of the folks who have already  
37 presented, but that old quote about what's popular isn't  
38 always right and what's right isn't always popular is  
39 something I'm just going to have to remember.

40

41 You have in your packet a letter that was  
42 sent yesterday by Doug Vincent Lang, our director of the  
43 Division of Wildlife Conservation. We don't like to send  
44 things to the RACs with such late notice. We like to  
45 give them to you with as much opportunity to review them  
46 as possible. Eva Patton is a wonderful Council  
47 coordinator who is highly organized and that's usually  
48 very easy for us.

49

50 We have very significant concerns with

1 what's been happening with this wildlife closure review.  
2 Closures under this program are not meant to exist in  
3 perpetuity. That's why we have a review process the  
4 State petitioned for several years ago, so these are  
5 taken up once every three years and we review their  
6 merits. We're used to a process that allows for adequate  
7 comment by the State under the ANILCA mandate to consult  
8 with us on these things. We agreed with seven proposals  
9 to keep areas closed in this last year.

10

11 This proposal review was sent to us in an  
12 expedited fashion with seven days to comment while the  
13 liaison office was present at a Federal Subsistence Board  
14 meeting. I was lucky enough to have a Smartphone to be  
15 able to forward this to my managers so they could get  
16 started on this.

17

18 When I brought it to the attention of OSM  
19 that this was early and unnecessary and ahead of schedule  
20 and why couldn't we have a little more comment time, it  
21 was originally told it isn't early, it's actually a  
22 little bit late and that I was mistaken, but as Mr. McKee  
23 put on the record today it is early, it's expedited. It's  
24 quite the blitz we just had with the big, fancy  
25 presentations by retired biologists, very little comment  
26 time and we were quite shocked by the conclusion.

27

28 We have a correspondence in your packet  
29 on the last page that shows you that we've been talking  
30 to OSM about this particular area for over a year. There  
31 was a Board of Game proposal last year to initiate a hunt  
32 in the area based on the most recent population data. We  
33 were very surprised to see under this expedited process  
34 that the conclusion was to keep the area closed. We had  
35 expected an entirely different conclusion. We put our  
36 managers and our policy staff in a position of having to  
37 draft an expedited response for you to review.

38

39 I'm hoping today to convince the RAC that  
40 since this has been expedited and since OSM is keenly  
41 aware that we intend to submit a proposal, a formal  
42 proposal that's not due until March 29th for this  
43 regulatory cycle to open a portion of this area, that  
44 there's no need to decide on this today. There's no need  
45 to expedite this.

46

47 Part of the way we maintain credibility  
48 and preserve the integrity of the process is to avoid the  
49 appearance of impropriety. As much as I respect my  
50 colleagues at OSM, this process on Wildlife Closure

1 Review 12-31 has significant appearance of impropriety.  
2 What's really going on with this expedited process?

3  
4 We'd like for you to wait to make a  
5 decision until you have our formal proposal before you at  
6 your fall meeting. I have two experts here to answer any  
7 of the questions on the biology that you might have.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
10 members, questions. Will.

11  
12 MR. KOEHLER: I guess the first question  
13 would be to try to understand -- and maybe we need to  
14 view this -- maybe you're correct, we need to view this  
15 longer, but is this a political issue or is it a  
16 conservation issue?

17  
18 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. The  
19 Department finds conservation concerns surrounding this  
20 proposal unfounded and we have the biological backup for  
21 you on that. There are times when people disagree on  
22 data, but the expedited nature of this certainly has  
23 political appearances.

24  
25 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
28 members, other questions.

29  
30 Donald.

31  
32 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame  
33 Chairman. So at this time you don't have any formal  
34 comments on the OSM review process or do you have  
35 specifics you would like to address?

36  
37 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. Mr.  
38 Woodruff. Our official comments are that keeping the  
39 closure in place right now is not necessary, that it does  
40 not need to be voted on until a later date. The  
41 specifics with regards to the analysis Mr. Caikoski is  
42 prepared to address.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does that  
45 answer your question, Donald?

46  
47 MR. WOODRUFF: Yep.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go  
50 ahead.

1 MR. CAIKOSKI: For the record, my name is  
2 Jason Caikoski, wildlife biologist for Alaska Department  
3 of Fish and Game. I reviewed the OSM analysis and I guess  
4 there's a significant number of errors in their analysis  
5 and recommendations and we pointed a few of those out.  
6 In addition, we feel they've omitted relevant data,  
7 relevant information of the closure review.

8  
9 I'd like to point out four fairly  
10 significant errors in their document. The first is that  
11 they cite one of our management reports that Unit 26C  
12 population objective is 300 moose. In fact, it's 150  
13 moose. The current minimum population in Unit 26 is more  
14 than double our population objective. We also have a  
15 management objective to open a season once we're above  
16 that population objective and we're well above that.

17  
18 On Page 5 of the OSM document they write  
19 that the Department of Fish and Game surveys differed  
20 from previous surveys in regard to search time, search  
21 area, and moose classification protocol. In fact, most  
22 of the surveys conducted in that area by the U.S. Fish  
23 and Wildlife Service differed significantly in search  
24 time and survey platform. Differences as much as  
25 doubling of search time between years, different  
26 platforms being used.

27  
28 That being said, I don't want to make the  
29 impression that I think the numbers of moose that are  
30 observed between these surveys would otherwise be  
31 significantly different. The main point being that  
32 pointing out that our survey is significantly different  
33 from theirs and that their surveys weren't significantly  
34 different between their own surveys is incorrect.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can I interrupt  
37 you a second.

38  
39 MR. CAIKOSKI: Sure.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You said Page  
42 5 of their document. In our book we have.....

43  
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Talking about this thing.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, it's the  
47 other one. I'm sorry. Go ahead. I'm mixed up. Sorry.  
48 Go ahead.

49  
50 MR. CAIKOSKI: Okay. The next point is

1 on Page 6. They note that low numbers of moose in Unit  
2 26B remainder and Unit 26C continue to be a conservation  
3 concern and additional moose harvest beyond the harvest  
4 by Kaktovik residents may not be sustainable. The  
5 current harvest by Kaktovik residents averages one moose  
6 a year. Our minimum population estimates is in the upper  
7 300's for Unit 26C, so that would represent a harvest  
8 rate of one-quarter of 1 percent. That's in the  
9 neighborhood of 10 to 20 times lower than demonstrated  
10 sustainable harvest rates of 3 to 5 percent on low  
11 density moose populations, so there's certainly room for  
12 additional harvest out of this population.

13  
14 On Page 7 they write that, however,  
15 interpreting the status of a population with,  
16 essentially, a single data point is questionable,  
17 especially given differences in survey conditions,  
18 sporadic survey history, and the migratory behavior of  
19 moose in the area. We recognize that the frequency of  
20 these surveys has been sporadic, that the methods may not  
21 be exactly the same between survey areas and that's  
22 exactly why we tailored the structure of our hunt to  
23 mitigate against those biases.

24  
25 So what the Department is suggesting is  
26 a limited entry drawing permit hunt. It would limit the  
27 number of hunters. We could regulate harvest to 3  
28 percent of the most recent count and it allows us to  
29 manage that moose population based on a minimum count of  
30 moose. So it would take into account whether we survey  
31 half the area or the whole area or all the area. We  
32 could base the hunt on the minimum number of moose we  
33 count.

34  
35 In addition, all the surveys for all  
36 years showed a very high bull/cow ratio. I think the  
37 lowest bull/cow ratio was 70 bulls per 100 cows, so again  
38 that supports that there's some harvest that could occur  
39 there.

40  
41 Some fairly important information that we  
42 think was omitted from the OSM analysis is customary and  
43 traditional findings and amounts necessary for  
44 subsistence. The State Board of Game has found a  
45 positive finding for customary and traditional use in  
46 Units 26B and C and they've established amounts necessary  
47 for subsistence. The current population in both those  
48 units is currently estimated at between 850 and 1,000  
49 moose. A harvest rate of 3 percent puts us well above  
50 the amounts necessary for subsistence in those two units,

1 which is 6 to 18 moose.

2

3 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair again. Mr.  
4 Woodruff did ask if we had a proposal. We don't have a  
5 formal proposal for you at this meeting because they are  
6 not due to the Office of Subsistence Management until  
7 March 29th for this regulatory cycle.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's the  
10 State season now?

11

12 MR. CAIKOSKI: Madame Chair. The State  
13 season for?

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 26C.

16

17 MR. CAIKOSKI: So all lands in 26C are  
18 currently closed to non-Federally qualified subsistence  
19 users, so there is no State season. At the last Board of  
20 Game, a proposal was submitted by a member of the public.  
21 The Department recommended modifying that proposal and  
22 the Board put a hunt on the books in the Firth River,  
23 Mancha Creek, Upper Kongakut drainage, but unless the  
24 Federal Subsistence Board lifts the closure, that hunt  
25 cannot take place. That is the drawing permit hunt that  
26 I spoke to earlier.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm  
29 trying to get -- you know, we have a Federal Board, we  
30 have a State Board and we have different deadlines, so we  
31 have to understand how it all works. Ours is up for March  
32 28th and then this would go into effect next season and  
33 that would be a two-year period because we're on a  
34 two-year cycle now for wildlife.

35

36 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair. March 29th is  
37 the due date for a proposal, so the Department would  
38 submit our proposal that we let OSM know would be coming  
39 on March 29th. You would not see that proposal until  
40 your fall meeting and it would not be acted on by the  
41 Federal Subsistence Board until next January.

42

43 With regards to deadlines and integrity  
44 of the process, the only thing that would happen if this  
45 body does not take action on the closure review which is  
46 before you, not the proposal, which will come later,  
47 would be that the closure would remain in place. That's  
48 why we questioned the need for taking action on the  
49 closure. I asked one of my colleagues at OSM -- actually  
50 told one of my colleagues at OSM that we viewed taking

1 action early on this closure review as a circumvention of  
2 our forthcoming proposal. There's no reason why they  
3 can't both be taken up in the fall.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Do you  
6 guys understand?

7  
8 (Council nods affirmatively)

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.  
11 Council members, any more questions.

12  
13 (No comments)

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You must really  
16 be thinking here. Minds are grinding. Beth, did you  
17 have something to bring us too?

18  
19 MS. LEONARD: Madame Chair. I don't have  
20 anything else to add. If you had some questions, then I  
21 might have been able to answer some of those questions  
22 rather than Jason, was why I came to the table.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
25 members, questions. Virgil.

26  
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: I want to make sure I  
28 understand this clearly. Is the Department -- now we had  
29 a member of the public speak a while ago that said  
30 there's a proposal that's coming up before the Board of  
31 Game on this actual issue.

32  
33 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. That is  
34 incorrect. It came before the Board of Game. The Board  
35 of Game acted. Their actions will have no meaning  
36 without lifting the closure. The closure does not have  
37 to be decided today.

38  
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: So the Board of Game took  
40 action on a proposal and they basically made a hunt, but  
41 the hunt can't take place as long as the closure stays in  
42 place.

43  
44 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. That is  
45 correct. Their action was March 2012.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A year ago.

48  
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So what you're  
50 asking us to do is defer this proposal and address it in

1 the normal process, which would be this coming fall.

2

3 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. That is  
4 correct. We're asking you to defer a decision by the RAC  
5 on the wildlife closure review until such a time you can  
6 take that action item up with the Department's proposal,  
7 which is forthcoming.

8

9 MR. UMPHENOUR: So that both things would  
10 be addressed together.

11

12 Thank you. Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

15

16 MR. KOEHLER: So just again trying to  
17 build upon that, build upon my understanding of it, if we  
18 were to confirm this closure now, today, basically there  
19 would be nothing to talk about at the Board of Game  
20 meeting. They would have a hunt, but they wouldn't be  
21 able to do anything with it because we would have kept  
22 the closure in place.

23

24 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. That's  
25 correct whether you act today or not. If you vote -- if  
26 you pass action to recommend retention of the closure,  
27 that happens. If you take no action, that happens. No  
28 action can be taken on the State side until such time the  
29 closure is lifted. It may or may not be lifted next  
30 January either.

31

32 MR. KOEHLER: Okay.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what you're  
35 saying is why get the cart ahead of the horse now and see  
36 what happens on this date -- I'm losing my voice.

37

38 MS. YUHAS: Yes, Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I have  
41 a question of the biologist here. I guess you've been  
42 with the State a while. The information that was  
43 provided to us by the retired biologist, is that stuff  
44 that you've looked at?

45

46 MR. CAIKOSKI: Madame Chair. So the  
47 information about the migratory behavior of those moose  
48 that Fran Mauer presented, we're well aware of that data.  
49 Fran published his work in a peer reviewed journal  
50 article called Alces and then we work with the Canadian

1 managers, with the Yukon Department of Environment. I've  
2 seen that data as well.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But that data  
5 isn't compelling for you guys to change your position  
6 about an opening.

7

8 MR. CAIKOSKI: Madame Chair. There's a  
9 lot of migratory moose populations throughout the state.  
10 For example, right here across the Tanana River, the 20A  
11 moose population has a significant migratory component to  
12 it and we don't feel it's an impedance to, you know,  
13 management of that moose population up north and we feel  
14 that we can have a drawing permit hunt for that portion  
15 in the Firth, Mancha and Upper Kongakut.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

18

19 MR. KOEHLER: Could you tell me again how  
20 many moose you're thinking about taking through this  
21 drawing hunt.

22

23 MR. CAIKOSKI: Through the Chair. Our  
24 harvest strategy would be to harvest up to 3 percent of  
25 the most current minimum moose count. So, for this  
26 example, our most current estimate is roughly 380 moose.

27

28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Ten.

29

30 MR. CAIKOSKI: What's that?

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Ten.

33

34 MR. CAIKOSKI: Right. Exactly. So we  
35 would issue 10 permits, which that would be a little over  
36 -- a little under 3 percent of 380 and up to 10 moose  
37 could be -- 10 bull moose could be harvested. In all  
38 likelihood, it would be less than that because a bulk of  
39 the people that draw these permits either don't go or a  
40 portion of them may be unsuccessful. So it would be a  
41 maximum of 3 percent of the most current population  
42 estimate.

43

44 MR. KOEHLER: So if we're talking about  
45 taking -- providing an opportunity to take between 5 and  
46 10 moose practically, why is that something you want to  
47 push? Is it worth having a hunt for 5 or 10 moose if  
48 there is a conservation concern?

49

50 MR. CAIKOSKI: Through the Chair. The

1 department doesn't feel there is a conservation concern  
2 and we have designed a hunt structure that ensures that  
3 that population is not overharvested. One of our jobs is  
4 to maximize opportunity, maximize the harvestable surplus  
5 of moose and that population currently that could support  
6 a harvest is not being harvested.

7  
8 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair. We would find  
9 it unfortunate if the Department was viewed as pushing  
10 something which we may have been put in a position to  
11 appear that way. We're simply trying to catch up to a  
12 process that seems to be circumventing itself in order to  
13 bring what would have been a proposal at the normal time  
14 rather than this expedited petition.

15  
16 MR. CAIKOSKI: And if I may add  
17 something. A little bit of history. The Department has  
18 been getting at every Board of Game cycle for the last  
19 few cycles proposals to open this area. The Department  
20 felt we didn't have the necessary data to support any of  
21 those proposals to open up that area, so we continued the  
22 support of keeping this area closed. Because of that  
23 public pressure the Department went up and surveyed this  
24 area and found that those moose have recovered from the  
25 declines previously observed and then after that data was  
26 collected then we came forth with a proposal for a very  
27 conservative limited hunt.

28  
29 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

32  
33 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
34 The question I have is of these 10 moose that you are  
35 considering permits for or these 10 permits, where would  
36 the draw permit take place and how does that coincide  
37 with the amount needed for subsistence? Are these going  
38 to be people that are going to be -- subsistence people  
39 that are going to be available for these permits or is  
40 this going to be just out of the general populace?

41  
42 MR. CAIKOSKI: Through the Chair. So  
43 anyone would be able to put in for these permits. It  
44 would not be limited to subsistence users.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. It's a  
47 State hunt. Virgil. I hear him grumbling over here.

48  
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Well, in the  
50 process here I'm not exactly sure -- we're not going

1 through the.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're not going  
4 through this.

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: We're not going through  
7 that thing. To me, that's biologically insignificant.  
8 Is that biologically insignificant to the Department, the  
9 10 permits, considering that on most of these type of  
10 permits you're lucky if 60 percent of the people that  
11 draw the permit even go hunting?

12

13 MR. CAIKOSKI: Through the Chair. In all  
14 likelihood we could probably issue more drawing permits,  
15 but because this is a contentious issue we'd like to be  
16 conservative. Of course, if the area is opened and we  
17 issued permits and found that very few people hunted and  
18 the harvest was low and the population warranted, you  
19 know, additional harvest, we could issue more permits.  
20 The current regulation on the book allows us to issue up  
21 to 30 permits, so that would be the maximum number that  
22 we could issue.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You have  
25 discretionary authority  
26 up to 30.

27

28 MR. CAIKOSKI: Yes, that's correct, we  
29 have discretionary authority up to 30 permits. We told  
30 the Board of Game that our harvest objective was a  
31 maximum of 3 percent of the observed population.

32

33 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair. We actually  
34 believe that many of the specifics of what an actual hunt  
35 would look like and the lifting of the closure would be  
36 discussed further once our proposal is actually in place.  
37 We're not asking you to approve lifting a closure today  
38 simply to delay action until such time you have more  
39 materials in front of you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What you're  
42 asking us to do is wait until this all goes through the  
43 Board of Game because a lot of the specifics -- no?

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's been through the  
46 Board of Game.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I meant  
49 through the Federal Board. I'm sorry. Things could  
50 change once it goes through that. It could be a

1 different scenario, right?

2

3 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair. You'll have a  
4 formal proposal before you at your fall meeting.

5

6 MR. CAIKOSKI: And just to clarify what  
7 that proposal would look like, we provided you with an  
8 analysis and recommendation for that Proposal 174 that's  
9 got the Department's recommendations for what we thought  
10 that season should look like. That's what our proposal  
11 to the Federal Subsistence Board will look like.

12

13 MR. FOX: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, who's  
16 speaking?

17

18 MR. FOX: Yeah, this is Trevor Fox.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Trevor, can you  
21 wait one second. We've got to turn a button on. Okay,  
22 go ahead.

23

24 MR. FOX: Like I said, I'm Trevor Fox  
25 with OSM. I just wanted to provide a little bit of  
26 context. I know there's been some discussion about why  
27 the closure review was expedited. According to the Board  
28 policy that closures should be reviewed or removed as  
29 soon as practicable when the original justification  
30 hasn't been met, so this review was expedited because of  
31 the Board of Game action last year when the State decided  
32 to open up the season there. So this closure review was  
33 done a little bit early just so we could look at the  
34 biology and present it to the  
35 Councils to see if they thought it was necessary to put  
36 forth a proposal to open an area if they thought that's  
37 what should be done.

38

39 As Jennifer and the other State Staff  
40 members have been talking about, they intend to submit a  
41 proposal, so this closure review doesn't preclude anybody  
42 from submitting a proposal and as they said they intend  
43 to. So, I mean this is going to be brought up again.  
44 We're not trying to circumvent anything. We're just  
45 trying to get the information out since it was deemed  
46 sufficient to open it under the Alaska Board of Game.

47

48 So that's just a little bit of context as  
49 far as the biology and everything goes. I'll let that  
50 come up during the official review.

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
4 Trevor. I guess I'm a little confused. This was  
5 expedited, so why wasn't this stuff put in our book? I  
6 mean that was last March. Why wouldn't we have gotten  
7 the information the same as the other closure?

8

9 MR. FOX: Yes, Madame Chair. We were  
10 waiting on some information to see if there was going to  
11 be some additional surveys conducted during November, so  
12 we held off on that trying to see if different  
13 information was going to come in that would support the  
14 earlier survey. That didn't happen. Surveys were  
15 conducted in different areas in the Sheenjek and the  
16 Coleen rather than the Firth/Mancha area, so we kind of  
17 waited for that and that information wasn't available, so  
18 that delayed the process. So that's why it didn't make  
19 it into the Council book.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But if I  
22 understand the OSM review, if we didn't do anything at  
23 this meeting and waited until next meeting, that's to our  
24 -- we could do that.

25

26 MR. FOX: Right. Basically the purpose  
27 of these reviews is just to show a summary of where the  
28 data is since the last time it was reviewed and that  
29 gives an opportunity for people to submit a proposal.  
30 Especially since we're just coming into the proposal  
31 cycle we thought it would be beneficial to bring this  
32 review forward.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
35 members, questions. Virgil.

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. If a proposal is  
38 put in to take this restriction out of the regulation  
39 where it's Federal subsistence hunters only, when would  
40 that be addressed by the Board?

41

42 MS. YUHAS: No one is answering from the  
43 Federal side, so that would be next January. It would  
44 come through the RAC cycle in the fall and the Board  
45 would take it up in January.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, in effect,  
48 2014. So we go through another hunting season as is.

49

50 MR. UMPHENOUR: If it doesn't get

1 addressed until January of 2014, then the soonest the  
2 hunt could take place would be the fall of 2015.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.

5

6 MS. YUHAS: (Shakes head negatively)

7

8 MR. UMPHENOUR: No? The drawing permits  
9 period is over on the 15th of December, so it would be  
10 the fall of 2015 is the soonest it could be opened  
11 anyway, correct?

12

13 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. That is  
14 correct and that is the process the Department has been  
15 waiting for. The reason we don't believe it's beneficial  
16 to have everyone vote to recommend retention of the  
17 closure and have the Federal Subsistence Board retain the  
18 closure prior to receiving the proposal is that you've  
19 just made the decision once. We believe it puts our  
20 proposal at a disadvantage this fall.

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madame Chair. I move  
23 that this -- that we defer this proposal and inform the  
24 Federal Subsistence Board it should just go through the  
25 regular process and address it next fall when it would  
26 normally be addressed anyway.

27

28 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to second that  
29 because I feel the same way. We're just beating a dead  
30 horse here until we get everything on the table so we can  
31 see what we've got going. So I'd like to have this  
32 deferred also.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

35 David.....

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madame Chair. Speaking  
38 to my motion, we didn't even get this stuff until we got  
39 to the meeting. If we're going to have an important  
40 decision, we ought to have it so that we can review the  
41 information before we even get to the meeting.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Especially if  
44 it isn't going to make a difference until after. Okay.  
45 David would like to speak to this, but we have this  
46 motion on the table and we'll have discussion after --  
47 what is it that you'd like to address us with?

48

49 DR. JENKINS: Madame Chair. David  
50 Jenkins. I'm the Acting Deputy Assistant Regional

1 Director for OSM. You've heard from competing scientists  
2 who have different opinions and you've heard implications  
3 of impropriety and I don't want to address either of  
4 those, but what I'd like to tell you about is the process  
5 because I don't think it's clear to you.

6  
7 You have in front of you a closure review  
8 and you have the opportunity to say, yeah, we agree with  
9 this closure review or to say, well, we don't agree with  
10 this closure review, but your agreement or disagreement  
11 is not going to have any effect on what the Federal  
12 Subsistence Board does. What the Federal Subsistence  
13 Board reacts to is a regulatory proposal. So if the  
14 Department of Fish and Game puts in a regulatory proposal  
15 to change the regulation, then, as Virgil points out,  
16 it's going to take some period of time to work through.

17  
18  
19 The Department appears to want you to  
20 either take no action or disagree with this closure  
21 because, as Jennifer just said, they think it sets the  
22 scene for this later regulatory proposal. It may or may  
23 not. The regulatory proposals that OSM analyzes are  
24 analyzed on their face. If there's biological data that  
25 supports the proposal, then we take one position. If  
26 there's biological data that doesn't support that  
27 position, then we take another direction.

28  
29 So I'm just trying to tell you what the  
30 process is because I don't think it's been clarified for  
31 you at this point.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Question  
36 from Virgil.

37  
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, thank you. So that  
39 causes me to ask you this question so I can understand  
40 better. Say on this closure review we decide to say we  
41 don't think the closure should be there anymore. It  
42 wouldn't make any difference on the timeline of when the  
43 Board would address it, correct?

44  
45 DR. JENKINS: It wouldn't make a  
46 difference because the Board is going to react to a  
47 proposal for a regulatory change and that's what the  
48 Board reacts to. That's what's needed to lift a closure.  
49 The Board doesn't simply say, oh, Eastern Interior wants  
50 us to lift this closure, let's lift it. That's not how

1 it works. The Board reacts to a proposal to the  
2 regulation and that's the mechanism for making a change.

3  
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: I've been going to these  
5 meetings long enough. I know they only address proposals  
6 and we have these emergency type deals, you know. Both  
7 State and Federal Boards both do. Okay, I think I'm  
8 clear now. There's really no need to even have this in  
9 front of us right now except maybe give us a heads up  
10 it's coming up.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have to  
13 agree. Will, did you have something.

14  
15 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, I'm sorry. I'm not  
16 completely clear yet. So this is basically -- is this a  
17 recommendation to the Subsistence Board that we're  
18 making?

19  
20 DR. JENKINS: Yes. You're recommending  
21 that this closure review either stay in place or it  
22 doesn't, but to alter, as I say, needs a proposal, which  
23 the Department of Fish and Game intends to submit by the  
24 end of March.

25  
26 MR. KOEHLER: So this recommendation that  
27 we make will have no bearing on -- since it's not a  
28 recommendation on the proposal, it will have no bearing  
29 on that proposal.

30  
31 DR. JENKINS: No, it may have a bearing  
32 because the Board can take into account what this Council  
33 recommends. If the Council recommends to lift the  
34 closure, the Board will pay attention to that. If this  
35 Council says, no, let's keep it in place, the Board will  
36 pay attention to that, but it will do so in the context  
37 of the regulatory proposal that it is addressing, not  
38 simply summarily lifting a closure. It doesn't happen  
39 that way.

40  
41 MR. KOEHLER: We're not lifting the  
42 closure. We're just making a recommendation one way or  
43 the other?

44  
45 DR. JENKINS: That's right.

46  
47 MR. KOEHLER: All right. Thank you for  
48 your patience.

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My brain was

1 hearing something else and not that, so I might have  
2 missed something. If we -- we can either go with it or  
3 choose to lift it or table it or whatever, but if we  
4 chose to lift it, nothing would happen either until that  
5 proposal comes forward. That's what you're saying.

6  
7 DR. JENKINS: Until a regulatory proposal  
8 is presented to the Board and it goes through the usual  
9 analytical process. Think of it the other way around.  
10 If OSM came up and said our recommendation is to lift  
11 this closure, the same thing has to happen. A regulatory  
12 proposal first has to be made in order for that closure  
13 to be lifted.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A pretty slow  
16 process, huh.

17  
18 DR. JENKINS: Welcome to government.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're telling  
21 me. Trust me, I'm the government. That's my favorite  
22 words.

23  
24 MR. WOODRUFF: I'd like to call the  
25 question on Virgil's motion.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did  
28 anyone have any other discussion.

29  
30 MR. KOEHLER: What is the motion again?

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, bring the  
33 motion up. No, it wasn't tabled. What was it?

34  
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: The motion is to defer it  
36 until the regular time when we would address it, which  
37 will be at our upcoming fall meeting. Nothing can happen  
38 anyway.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And there was  
41 a second.

42  
43 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

44  
45 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is  
48 everyone ready for the question. Everyone in favor of  
49 the motion to defer till fall meeting.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.  
4  
5 (No opposing votes)  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes  
8 unanimous. That took a while. As I used to stay moving  
9 rapidly along. We're into new business. Rural  
10 determination process. David, you can come back. If it  
11 doesn't take too long.....  
12  
13 DR. JENKINS: Madame Chair. David  
14 Jenkins. This is an easy one, isn't it. On Page 44 of  
15 your booklets there is the briefing. I believe it starts  
16 on that page. There's a news release and I'll speak to  
17 that.  
18  
19 As you know, ANILCA mandates that rural  
20 Alaskans be given a priority for subsistence uses of fish  
21 and wildlife on Federal public lands. Only residents,  
22 communities or areas that are found to be rural are  
23 eligible for the subsistence priority under ANILCA.  
24  
25 As you also know, the Secretaries of  
26 Interior and Agriculture tasked the Board to review the  
27 rural determination process and recommend changes if  
28 needed. The Federal Subsistence Board decided to start  
29 the review with public input. The public comment period  
30 will end November 1 of this year and after the fall  
31 Regional Advisory Council meetings. So at your fall  
32 meeting the rural review will be a topic on your agenda  
33 and we anticipate that this RAC will provide guidance to  
34 the Federal Subsistence Board on the rural review and  
35 that there will be significant public input on this issue  
36 during your fall meeting. So I'm sort of giving you a  
37 heads up about what will happen at that meeting.  
38  
39 At this point, what I want to do is alert  
40 you to the process and ask that you carefully consider  
41 the rural/nonrural issue. As Alaska changes over the  
42 coming years, the rural subsistence priority will  
43 continue to be an important issue. The Board has asked  
44 for public information about how to specify rural areas  
45 in order to provide the subsistence priority.  
46  
47 The Board has specifically asked for  
48 input on population thresholds, rural characteristics,  
49 aggregation of communities, timelines, and information  
50 sources. Comments on these and other topics will be used

1 by the Board to assist in making decisions regarding the  
2 scope and nature of possible changes to improve the rural  
3 determination process.

4  
5 I'm going to go briefly through each of  
6 these topics that the Board wishes the public to respond  
7 to. You can follow along in your news release starting  
8 on Page 44. There's a Federal Register notice that's  
9 also available. This notice appeared the end of December  
10 2012 asking for public comment. There are nine general  
11 questions that I would like you to consider and the Board  
12 is asking the public to consider.

13  
14 I'll go through these and let me  
15 emphasize, this is the important point, is that you have  
16 and the public has and the people in your region have the  
17 opportunity to craft the criteria for rural  
18 determinations starting with these nine questions.  
19 That's the important point. It's a bottom up process.  
20 People from your communities have the opportunity to say  
21 this is what we think is rural, this is what we think is  
22 not and here are the reasons why.

23  
24 Let me start with population thresholds.  
25 Currently a population below 2,500 is considered rural.  
26 A community or area with a population between 2,500 and  
27 7,000 is neither rural  
28 or nonrural, but community characteristics and criteria  
29 to group communities together are then used to determine  
30 rural status.  
31 Communities with populations more than 7,000 will be  
32 considered nonrural, unless communities possess  
33 significant characteristics of a rural nature.

34  
35 Let me just briefly point out that the  
36 2,500 figure that we use, below which communities are  
37 considered rural, that figure came from the 1910 U.S.  
38 Census and there's been no questioning of that particular  
39 figure in our program since it was instituted. Did  
40 communities in 1910 have the same rural characteristics  
41 that they do now, for example, is a question you might  
42 ask yourselves and ask people who live in your  
43 communities.

44  
45 Are these population threshold guidelines  
46 useful for determining whether a specific area of Alaska  
47 is rural? If they are not, the Board is asking the  
48 public to provide population size to distinguish between  
49 rural and nonrural areas, and the reasons for the  
50 population size you believe more accurately

1 reflects rural and nonrural areas in Alaska.

2

3                   So what about characteristics of rural.  
4 The Board recognizes that population alone is not the  
5 only indicator of rural or nonrural status. Other  
6 characteristics that the Board has considered include,  
7 but are not limited to, the following: Use of fish and  
8 wildlife, development and diversity of the economy,  
9 community infrastructure, transportation, and educational  
10 institutions. So these are the characteristics that the  
11 Board considers when thinking about rural characteristics  
12 and the question the Board asked the public, are these  
13 characteristics useful for determining whether an area is  
14 rural or not. If they are not, do you have better  
15 characteristics for the Board to consider in determining  
16 rural areas of Alaska.

17

18                   The next is the aggregation of  
19 communities. The Board recognizes that communities and  
20 areas of Alaska are connected in diverse ways.  
21 Communities that are economically, socially, and  
22 communally integrated are considered in the aggregate or  
23 are considered together in determining rural and nonrural  
24 status. The aggregation criteria the Board has used are  
25 there: Do 30 percent or more of the 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.

30

31                   So the board asks like it has with the  
32 other questions are these aggregation criteria useful in  
33 determining rural status and, if not, why not, and can  
34 you think of better aggregation criteria or better ways  
35 of grouping communities into larger communities.

36

37                   Then the question of timelines. The  
38 Board reviews rural determinations on a 10-year cycle,  
39 and out of cycle in special circumstances. The question  
40 is should the Board continue to reconsider rural status  
41 every 10 years. The reason the Board did this initially  
42 was based on the U.S. Census, the 10-year census. It  
43 turns out that the Board used the census long form to  
44 gather much of the information about rural  
45 characteristics and aggregation of communities. The U.S.  
46 Census no longer uses the long form, so we'll need to get  
47 some other kinds of information or other sources of  
48 information to make some of the determinations that we've  
49 made so far.

50

1 Which gets to the next question about  
2 information sources. Current regulations state that  
3 population data from the most recent census conducted by  
4 the U.S. Census Bureau, as updated by the Alaska  
5 Department of Labor, shall be used in the rural  
6 determination process. As I just pointed out, the U.S.  
7 Census Bureau no longer uses the long form, so there's  
8 going to be some problematic data gathering or some  
9 different data sources that are needed.

10

11 So the question is are there additional  
12 sources you think would be beneficial to use and then,  
13 finally, do you have any additional comments on how to  
14 make the rural determination process more effective.

15

16 Madame Chair, that's the end of my shtick  
17 on rural.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
22 members, any questions. Lester has one.

23

24 MR. ERHART: I don't know if it's a  
25 question, but you take Tanana back in 1910, the Army was  
26 there and there was over 10,000 people. Now there's only  
27 250 there. How can you go on that?

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good point. So  
30 all of this is going to come up and we'll be having it on  
31 our agenda next meeting and we'll have to be thinking  
32 about these nine questions.

33

34 DR. JENKINS: That is what the Federal  
35 Subsistence Board has asked the Councils to do and to  
36 bring back to your communities these questions and gather  
37 as much public input as possible over the next several  
38 months.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The 1910 stuff  
41 was regarding that 2,500 to 7,000?

42

43 DR. JENKINS: No. The 2,500 figure and  
44 below is determined under Federal Subsistence Board  
45 regulations to be a rural community. So 2,500 and below  
46 it's rural. I simply pointed out that that's a very old  
47 figure that came from the U.S. Census Bureau from 1910.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, the  
50 2,500.

1 DR. JENKINS: And then the Board adopted  
2 it in 1990.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.  
5 Something the Board adopted though. 1990, yeah. Okay.  
6 Question. Virgil, I'm sorry. That's not your name,  
7 question. I'm tired.

8  
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So I'm trying to  
10 digest that. So in 1910 they decided that if a town was  
11 20 -- or a community was 2,500 or more, it was more or  
12 less a town and if it was less than that, it was a  
13 village or something on the order of that. Is that what  
14 they were trying to figure out?

15  
16 DR. JENKINS: In 1910, the Census Bureau  
17 didn't make that determination. It was for determining  
18 an area that was rural and whether it was a town or a  
19 village, that was not part of the consideration. Just  
20 rural. By the way, Mr. Umphenour, the Federal programs  
21 have a variety of definitions of rural as you may know.  
22 Some Federal programs have a threshold of 50,000 people,  
23 below which is a rural area and above which it's not. So  
24 there's a whole range of rural definitions across  
25 different Federal programs.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which one uses  
28 50,000?

29  
30 DR. JENKINS: Well, it's an agricultural  
31 definition.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Not too many of  
34 them in Alaska, huh?

35  
36 DR. JENKINS: And also there's an urban  
37 housing definition. I believe it's 20,000 and below.  
38 The point is that these population thresholds -- the  
39 question is, the Board asks, are they useful in the  
40 Alaska context for thinking about rural and nonrural  
41 status because the rural priority, as you know, goes to  
42 -- subsistence priority goes to rural residents, so the  
43 question is how do we think about that. The Board -- the  
44 Secretaries through the Board has opened this up for  
45 complete review. Anything you have to say could be  
46 useful.

47  
48 Thank you.

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone

1 have any other questions or discussion. Bill.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: I noticed none of the  
4 boroughs are incorporated into subsistence hunting. Is  
5 that the whole state or that's just certain areas that  
6 they've determined that more than 7,000 or whatever the  
7 cut-off figure was?

8

9 DR. JENKINS: A borough could still be a  
10 rural area. It's partly based on this population  
11 criteria, but the question for you is if you think a  
12 borough is an appropriate political entity which would  
13 preclude a subsistence use, then you can make that  
14 argument. If you think it shouldn't be, you can make  
15 that argument. The point is that you can -- it's a  
16 bottom up process and your input is asked for. How  
17 should we think about rural status in Alaska.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
20 Anyone else have any questions. Including the 10-year  
21 cycle, huh, is up for review.

22

23 DR. JENKINS: Yes.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay.  
26 All right. No more questions. Thank you, David. I need  
27 a short break myself here, so let's take 10 minutes.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (On record)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're  
34 back in session here. I know we get a lot done at breaks.  
35 Council members, the next thing on the agenda is call for  
36 the wildlife regulatory proposals and I'm thinking that  
37 even as we go through the rest of the agenda if we -- we  
38 may have something else come up, so keep that in mind  
39 that even to the end of the meeting if you have a  
40 wildlife proposal that you forgot about, just bring it  
41 up, okay.

42

43 All right. Wildlife Division, OSM, will  
44 be speaking to this first, right? Okay. Who's online?

45

46 MS. KENNER: Are you asking who's online?

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go ahead.

49

MS. KENNER: I'm sorry, Madame Chair.

50 This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. Are you asking for a

1 report? Could you please repeat your question.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: Actually -- this is Carl  
4 Johnson. We were asking if somebody from Wildlife  
5 Division was on the line to present on the call for  
6 wildlife regulatory proposals.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Chris McKee, are you on?

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MR. JOHNSON: Are you there, Chris McKee?

13

14 MS. HERNANDEZ: Carl, this is Melinda.  
15 I'm walking down to his office. I know they were on just  
16 a second ago.

17

18 MR. MCKEE: I'm on. I'm sorry. I had my  
19 phone on mute and didn't realize it. Again, this is  
20 Chris McKee and the information regarding the proposal  
21 cycle that we're in the middle of right now is on Page 47  
22 of your meeting materials booklet. As has been stated  
23 earlier today, we are accepting proposals through the  
24 29th of March to list the changes for Federal regulations  
25 to the subsistence harvest of wildlife on Federal public  
26 lands. This can include changes in hunting and trapping  
27 seasons, harvest limits, methods of harvest and C&T use  
28 determinations and includes all Federal public lands in  
29 Alaska.

30

31 I just wanted to quickly state what's  
32 already in here that there are several methods to submit  
33 proposals, both by mail and hand delivery to our offices  
34 here in Anchorage at 1011 East Tudor Road. People can  
35 also submit them at any of the upcoming Federal  
36 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meetings through  
37 the end of March and they can also submit them online at  
38 [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

39

40 On Page 49 is a sample page that gives  
41 you an example of just what the form looks like that  
42 folks would submit to us when they're looking to write a  
43 proposal for our consideration. I will say that it goes  
44 through many multiple levels of review by our office.  
45 When we get our proposals in, we have an internal review  
46 process that looks at all the proposals that are  
47 submitted. They determine whether they meet certain  
48 criteria to be further analyzed. The wildlife proposals  
49 specifically come to our wildlife division and every  
50 wildlife biologist on our staff analyzes the biology of

1 them and this goes -- once they're done writing the  
2 initial draft that goes through multiple layers of  
3 internal review and editing and then those proposals are  
4 presented before the Interagency Staff Committee that is  
5 made up of all the Federal agencies in Alaska. We get  
6 their edits and their comments and make further revision.  
7 Then we present those proposals to each of the relevant  
8 Regional Advisory Councils, get their feedback and  
9 finally submit the final document to the Federal  
10 Subsistence Board at their January meeting.

11  
12 So it's a long, involved process, but it  
13 does go through multiple layers of review and feedback to  
14 make sure that the proposals that are ultimately  
15 submitted to the Federal Board are as accurate as we can  
16 make them. So that pretty much is a summary of the  
17 process. I can try to answer further questions if  
18 anything was unclear.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
21 members. Do you have any questions. This is our chance  
22 to put in proposals, so I think that's the short of it.  
23 Any questions. Virgil.

24  
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: I was noticing something  
26 I wasn't really aware of, so I'm going to ask a question.  
27 It says here that the regulations do not apply on land  
28 selected by the State of Alaska or Native corporations,  
29 so that means lands that are selected and not conveyed,  
30 but if they -- does anyone have any idea when they're  
31 going to finish conveying this land to the State of  
32 Alaska that it selected?

33  
34 (Laughter)

35  
36 MR. MCKEE: I cannot answer that question  
37 myself, but perhaps somebody else can. I can't answer  
38 that question.

39  
40 MR. JOHNSON: That's a BLM question.

41  
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have a  
45 favorite hunting place? I'm just joking you. I think he  
46 has a favorite hunting place and wants to know where to  
47 go.

48  
49 Any other questions.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Council  
4 members, does anyone have any proposals they want to  
5 bring up. Donald.

6

7 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
8 This is a proposal that I've been thinking about for  
9 quite a few years and I think it's time that we submit  
10 this. It's a C&T determination for sheep in the Yukon  
11 Charley Preserve, Units 25B, C and 20E. If you look in  
12 your regulatory book, you'll see on Page 117 there is no  
13 open Federal season in 25 and on Page 93, if you look at  
14 sheep, there is no open Federal season on 20E.

15

16 I know quite a few people that use this  
17 resource and it's a resource that has no Federal  
18 subsistence priority and I think that's something that's  
19 going to be really important, especially if we're talking  
20 about not harvesting any chinook and this is going to be  
21 maybe a substitute resource for people at that time of  
22 year because we don't eat -- there's not a lot of other  
23 species in the river in that area to harvest. We're  
24 going to have people going and getting sheep. So this is  
25 sort of an update or forecast for what's going to happen.

26

27

28 So the way this starts out is what is the  
29 regulation you wish to change and it's a customary use  
30 determination for sheep in 25B, C and 20E. Right now  
31 there's no Federal subsistence priority. How would the  
32 new regulation read: Sheep in 25B and C in Yukon-Charley  
33 National Preserves, rural residents of 25B, C and 20E.  
34 The season and bag limit would be determined. That  
35 hasn't been done, the harvest season. The bag limit is  
36 obviously one.

37

38 Why should this regulation be changed.  
39 Currently there is no Federal open season for sheep.  
40 What is the impact that this will have on the wildlife  
41 population. I don't see that that's going to have an  
42 impact. What will the change affect subsistence user.  
43 It will create an opportunity for Federal subsistence  
44 users to hunt sheep. Item 6 is how will this change  
45 affect other uses such as sport and commercial. The  
46 State season and harvest limit may be restricted  
47 depending on the harvestable surplus.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now, did  
2 you put that in as a motion?  
3  
4 MS. KENNER: Mrs. Chair.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Who's  
7 speaking? Hang on just one second. We've got to turn  
8 the mic on. Go ahead.  
9  
10 MS. KENNER: Are you talking to me?  
11 Okay. My name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an anthropologist  
12 at the Office of Subsistence Management and I'm sitting  
13 in my office in Anchorage right now. I had a question.  
14 I'd like to ask a couple questions first. Is the  
15 wildlife management biologist for the State in the room  
16 right now? I'm not there and I can't see who's there.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, he's not.  
19 He's actually going to be here tomorrow morning.  
20  
21 MS. KENNER: Okay. So he's not there  
22 right now though.  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He's not here  
25 right now.  
26  
27 MS. KENNER: He's not here right now.  
28 The other thing is, would you please remind me who was  
29 just speaking, the Council member.  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald  
32 Woodruff.  
33  
34 MS. KENNER: Donald Woodruff. Got it.  
35 Okay. Hello, Donald.  
36  
37 MR. WOODRUFF: Hello.  
38  
39 MS. KENNER: I have a question for you  
40 and that is -- I actually have a series of questions for  
41 you. You may have questions for me if it's not clear,  
42 the information that I'm looking for. You mentioned the  
43 C&T determination. In Units 25B and 25C for sheep,  
44 currently the determination is there's no priority, no  
45 Federal subsistence priority, and no one is included in  
46 those determinations. I understand you'd like those now  
47 to -- you'd like to put in a proposal requesting that  
48 there be a determination that includes people and it  
49 includes the rural residents of Units 25B, 25C and Unit  
50 20E.

1 Now in Unit 20E that C&T determination is  
2 different. That C&T determination for sheep is all rural  
3 residents of the state. In making your proposal, you're  
4 actually requesting that that determination become  
5 smaller, that it include only the rural residents of 25B,  
6 C and Unit 20E. Is that what your intent is?

7

8 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and Pippa  
11 I would mention that if you look at open seasons in that  
12 area there's no Federal open season even though it's all  
13 rural residents. This is the Chair speaking.

14

15 MS. KENNER: Mr. Woodruff, through the  
16 Chair, I have another question.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pippa, go  
19 ahead.

20

21 MS. KENNER: One of the things I heard  
22 you say is that the C&T determination would apply only  
23 within the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and I  
24 do notice that in particularly Units 25B and 25C there  
25 are other Federal public lands. Is your intent for this  
26 to be strictly within the Yukon-Charley Rivers National  
27 Preserve or would you -- is your intent to include the  
28 entire sub-Unit 25B and C? The other Federal land is the  
29 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Yukon Flats National  
30 Wildlife Refuge and other large and small parcels of BLM  
31 land.

32

33 MR. WOODRUFF: No, it's Yukon-Charley.

34

35 MS. KENNER: Thank you very much. That's  
36 really clear.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'd just  
39 like to remind people that this is just a proposal and  
40 the Council can put in whatever proposal we like, so  
41 maybe getting that specific isn't necessary at this time,  
42 but it can be helpful. I'll have to agree. I was just  
43 going to ask you the same question she did and then I was  
44 going to ask you, Donald, look at the map here in front  
45 of us. Right there between 25B and 20E, that little  
46 chunk of real estate, is it mountainous or is that a  
47 river bottom where there aren't sheep in the Yukon-  
48 Charley?

49

50 MR. WOODRUFF: That divider is a ridge.

1 Between 20E and 25C, that's a ridge line.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we  
4 would see sheep in that 25B on that northern portion,  
5 right?  
6  
7 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes. There's sheep in  
8 25B, 20E.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And also in  
11 that little piece of the Yukon-Charley that's 25C.  
12  
13 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So your  
16 intention of your proposal is strictly for Federal land  
17 on the Yukon-Charley.  
18  
19 MR. WOODRUFF: That's correct.  
20  
21 MS. KENNER: Can I get further  
22 clarification, Madame Chair.  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I was  
25 wondering -- go ahead, Pippa, but I think the Council  
26 needs to discuss this with Donald.  
27  
28 MS. KENNER: Okay.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
31 members. First of all, that was a motion for a proposal.  
32  
33 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, ma'am.  
34  
35 MR. GLANZ: I'll be happy to second that  
36 one.  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's a  
39 second. Now discussion on that. Who's first? I know  
40 you have lots of questions. This is just a proposal. It  
41 will come up before us and we'll get to discuss it all  
42 over again after it's been analyzed. Bill.  
43  
44 MR. GLANZ: I was just thinking we also  
45 have a tremendous amount of sheep in the White Mountains  
46 there too. Maybe we make it all for 25C and 20E, you  
47 know, but that's just an opinion in looking at it there.  
48 There's a regular State hunt up there in the White, so it  
49 doesn't matter. We've had several usage of the sheep up  
50 in the Charley River there for quite a few years. Stan

1 Galvin built -- his father built an airstrip up there  
2 just to hunt sheep years and years ago. So the  
3 anthropologist there, we could show lots of usage up  
4 there in that area. I've been there 28 years.

5  
6                   Anyway, it's a fine idea that Don has  
7 today putting this out.

8  
9                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think what  
10 happens on these C&Ts since they're done by GMU by  
11 species, a lot of stuff has been overlooked. Donald and  
12 I were talking and I said you guys don't even have a C&T  
13 in Yukon-Charley for sheep and I think it's one that was  
14 overlooked.

15  
16                   So we have a motion on the floor and I  
17 believe the intent, as I understand it, unless you guys  
18 want to change it, is it's only the Federal land on the  
19 Yukon-Charley. I can guarantee you once it gets analyzed  
20 you'll hear all the other things that will make you think  
21 more about it.

22  
23                   Will, go ahead.

24  
25                   MR. KOEHLER: Just a real quick question.  
26 Do we have any biological data to know if a harvest is  
27 sustainable, if there's any conservation issue?

28  
29                   MR. WOODRUFF: There's a State hunt on  
30 that land.

31  
32                   MR. KOEHLER: On the Yukon-Charley?

33  
34                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, because  
35 it's a Preserve.

36  
37                   MR. KOEHLER: Oh, oh. Right, right.  
38 Okay. Thank you.

39  
40                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's where  
41 all the -- we can debate a proposal right now, but we  
42 shouldn't.

43  
44                   MR. KOEHLER: Yeah. No, I understand.

45  
46                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We should just  
47 put the proposal forward if we want to and then it will  
48 be discussed greatly later.

49  
50                   MR. KOEHLER: Right.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Regarding this  
2 motion you brought up, can you talk to that.

3  
4 MR. GLANZ: What I'd like to see is --  
5 Andrew just passed me a note. He also felt the same.  
6 Maybe make it all Federal land for 25B and C due to the  
7 fact there's lots of mountainous territory around there  
8 we're covering.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So take a look  
11 all of you at your book right now. On Page 117 you have  
12 25B and C. It says no Federal subsistence priority. Can  
13 someone on the Federal side tell me -- that's just --  
14 would do a C&T, correct? His proposal would make you do  
15 a C&T, right?

16  
17 MS. KENNER: Mrs. Chair. This is Pippa  
18 Kenner at OSM.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go ahead,  
21 Pippa.

22  
23 MS. KENNER: Sorry, I was interrupted.  
24 I think your question is this proposal, the intent then  
25 is to take those statements in the C&T for sheep in Units  
26 25C and 25B and instead of saying no subsistence priority  
27 it would then say rural residents of Units 25B, 25C and  
28 20E.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, that's  
31 what -- I see a nodding of the head. And that was my  
32 question, that we're doing a C&T.

33  
34 MS. KENNER: We are.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then you  
37 would have to probably -- would we have to do a  
38 harvest.....

39  
40 MS. KENNER: Right on. I understand your  
41 language. You guys are doing a good job of explaining  
42 your intent.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. But  
45 would we also have to have a harvest limit and would that  
46 have to be a second proposal?

47  
48 MS. KENNER: Mrs. Chair. No, it doesn't  
49 require a second proposal. It can be imbedded in this  
50 proposal.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
2  
3 MS. KENNER: Then, when the proposal is  
4 analyzed, the two issues will be separated out. You can  
5 -- and it would be easier if you submitted it through the  
6 same proposal.  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald, one  
9 proposal?  
10  
11 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, we could add it to  
12 the proposal. It's one sheep. That's what it is in the  
13 State hunt too.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is the State  
16 one sheep or one full curl?  
17  
18 MR. WOODRUFF: One full curl, sorry.  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And is  
21 that what you would propose?  
22  
23 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
26  
27 MR. GLANZ: I'd agree with that also,  
28 Madame Chair.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: David doesn't  
31 like what we're doing.  
32  
33 DR. JENKINS: No, I think you're doing  
34 fine. I just wanted to point out that a customary and  
35 traditional use determination is divorced from harvest  
36 allocation or any of these other issues, so when we make  
37 a customary and traditional use determination we don't  
38 talk about, think about harvest, curls, anything else.  
39 It's just whether or not there were harvest that were  
40 customarily and traditionally engaged in. That's it.  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we need two  
43 proposals. Is that the short answer?  
44  
45 DR. JENKINS: Well, Don's proposal was  
46 for C&T. You can start there and then you can start  
47 talking about proposals for harvest limits and that would  
48 be a different.....  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's two

1 proposals.

2

3 DR. JENKINS: Two proposals, yes.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That was  
6 not the answer we got earlier. It's two proposals. So  
7 we're sticking to the C&T right now. Ruth.

8

9 MS. GRONQUIST: Madame Chair. That was  
10 just going to be my point, recommending or at least  
11 opening some -- proposing some questions about whether or  
12 not you're also going to propose a season. So you  
13 basically got to the same place that I was going to ask  
14 about.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: See, that's  
17 just -- and then there's 20E, you guys. So let's stick  
18 with the C&T first. Your motion is -- clarify it. One  
19 motion for C&T.

20

21 MR. WOODRUFF: That's correct. For Units  
22 25B, 25C and 20E for sheep in Yukon-Charley.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's  
25 where we were a little bit confused. Do we want it just  
26 Yukon-Charley because there's other Federal land. Bill  
27 talked about other Federal land.

28

29 MR. WOODRUFF: Bill wants to add White  
30 Mountain and I think that's a good idea too because I  
31 wasn't aware that there was a harvestable sheep  
32 population there. That's kind of Bill's expertise. So  
33 we can add the White Mountain.

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: The White Mountain sheep  
36 have a mineral defect and sometimes they'll have like 8-  
37 inch horns but they're broke off. The definition broken  
38 instead of broomed really applies there.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're just  
41 talking about C&T.

42

43 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's just general  
44 information on the sheep.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's just talk  
47 about C&T.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: So Bill's friendly  
2 amendment was to add White Mountain sheep.  
3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm getting  
5 scared.  
6  
7 MS. KENNER: Mrs. Chair. This is Pippa  
8 Kenner again.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go ahead,  
11 Pippa.  
12  
13 MS. KENNER: Thank you. I'm almost  
14 positive that the member means the White Mountain  
15 National Recreation Center. I mean area, that boundary  
16 that we see.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. That's  
19 BLM, yes.  
20  
21 MS. KENNER: And then I ask the Council  
22 to consider Steese National Conservation area.  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you see the  
25 Federal land in that area, guys. Then there's Federal  
26 land in 25B too. BLM and -- but I don't know where the  
27 sheep are there. So are we going to stick to all Federal  
28 public lands on this proposal? Because at first it was  
29 just the Yukon-Charley.  
30  
31 MR. GLANZ: Go ahead, Don, and amend it  
32 if you want and I'll.....  
33  
34 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, we can just leave  
35 off Yukon-Charley and put in all Federal public lands and  
36 those subdistricts.  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what you  
39 could do, I think, just being cautious for the resource,  
40 is keep it the same as the State. You know, the same  
41 seasons. I mean whatever. We'll do the C&T first.  
42  
43 MS. KENNER: Mrs. Chair. This is Pippa  
44 Kenner again.  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Pippa.  
47  
48 MS. KENNER: I just want to clarify that  
49 I'm not actually pushing you into including areas that  
50 you otherwise might not have. It's more just being clear

1 on the record what you're asking, what the request is, so  
2 we can make sure we analyze it correctly.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

7

8 MR. GLANZ: So that would be all public  
9 lands in 20E, 25B and 25C Federal lands.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do a C&T.

12

13 MR. GLANZ: For C&T.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For sheep.  
16 Does everybody understand the proposal. I think if  
17 there's any questions that these guys can help you with  
18 writing the proposal.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Just to be clear, Madame  
21 Chair, Bill and Donald, so you are asking for a C&T  
22 determination for Units 25B, 25C and 20E.....

23

24 MR. GLANZ: Correct.

25

26 MS. PATTON: .....on all Federal public  
27 lands within those districts?

28

29 MR. GLANZ: Correct.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I do know that  
32 Mount Harper is a permit, I think, or it was. This is a  
33 little scary, but.....

34

35 MR. WOODRUFF: Are you referring to the  
36 State hunt?

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

39

40 MR. WOODRUFF: We just use the orange  
41 harvest ticket for Yukon in 25B if we go north of the  
42 river there.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just use the  
45 State one.

46

47 MR. WOODRUFF: We just use the State  
48 orange harvest ticket.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the best

1 way to do it. All right. That's the proposal for the  
2 C&T. I'm just looking at this land status.  
3  
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question on the C&T.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
7 has been called for. Everyone in favor of putting the  
8 proposal forth say aye.  
9  
10 IN UNISON: Aye.  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.  
13  
14 (No opposing votes)  
15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes. I  
17 think the follow up is you have to come up with a second  
18 if you want a season. If you want to go hunting, you've  
19 got to have a season.  
20  
21 MR. WOODRUFF: Let me look at the State's  
22 harvest season.  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Do you  
25 have that in front of you? That's the Federal. Do you  
26 want to do that and then bring it back.  
27  
28 MR. WOODRUFF: I can just email it to  
29 Eva.  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So your  
32 intention then, you would make a motion that your  
33 intention is to parrot the State seasons and bag limits.  
34  
35 MR. WOODRUFF: (Nods affirmatively)  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
38  
39 MR. KOEHLER: I have a question.  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.  
42  
43 MR. KOEHLER: So if we pair with the  
44 State season, I'm trying to understand, is there an  
45 advantage to having a Federal season other than having it  
46 on the books that it's a Federal customary and  
47 traditional use? That's the advantage. Why would we --  
48 because we're not taking -- you can't take a Federal  
49 sheep -- a sheep on a Federal tag and then a State sheep.  
50 You're still only going to be able to take one sheep. So

1 why do we have a separate hunt? What is the advantage of  
2 that?

3

4 MR. GLANZ: I can answer that. You look  
5 at the caribou hunt in 20. Our caribou, Fortymile. Even  
6 though the State closed it, we're still allowed to get  
7 until Ruth and them decide we're overdoing it. Do the  
8 same thing here. The State could close the sheep  
9 hunt.....

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the Federal  
12 is still open.

13

14 MR. GLANZ: We could still maintain it.  
15 Not to deplete the population per se, but, you know --  
16 anyway, you follow what I'm saying now.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Probably on  
19 sheep I don't -- I would hope that -- it might not be --  
20 but some day down the road say there was a concern about  
21 the population and then the State could put a shorter  
22 season, the Federal season would have to also be changed  
23 or it would still be open with a longer season.

24

25 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you. That explains  
26 what I was looking for.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Some people may not  
31 realize it, but the State does not recognize the sheep as  
32 a subsistence animal.

33

34 MR. KOEHLER: That's right.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But the Federal  
37 does. So until something changes that's just the way it  
38 is.

39

40 MR. GLANZ: I believe also -- maybe you  
41 can clear me up on this. Wasn't it for years it was just  
42 a drawing permit or something for the Charley River sheep  
43 through the State, something.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

46

47 MR. GLANZ: It was. Okay. I thought so  
48 about 25 years ago or something because one of my friends  
49 was all happy he got drawn and then he crashed his  
50 airplane.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think Mount  
2 Harper was.  
3  
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't know about the  
5 Charley River, but the Glacier Mountain I think has been  
6 draw.  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, that one  
9 isn't permit. I think it's Mount Harper was. I can't  
10 remember.  
11  
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm not for sure.  
13  
14 MR. GLANZ: Too many years ago.  
15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Actually, it  
17 would be great to have the State biologist here as we  
18 discuss this. If you guys don't mind, let's -- we did do  
19 the C&T, so then let's look at the season with Jeff Gross  
20 and make sure we cover our bases and we'll take that up  
21 in the morning with Jeff.  
22  
23 MR. GLANZ: Sounds good.  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now I saw you  
26 Tanana boys talking. I bet you have a proposal. Huh,  
27 Lester, do you?  
28  
29 MR. WOODRUFF: I thought he had a  
30 proposal on seagulls.  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lester, turn  
33 your mic on, please.  
34  
35 MR. ERHART: Oh, excuse me. I still  
36 think I'm home. On the moose hunt on 20F, that's Yukon.  
37 That's right by my fish camp up that way. They open the  
38 season on the 1st of September and close it on the 20th.  
39 Due to global warming and all that, it's too early. I  
40 would suggest that they open it on the 10th of September  
41 until the end of the month.  
42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
44 20F.  
45  
46 MR. ERHART: Yeah.  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right now it's  
49 September 1st to September 25th.  
50

1 MR. ERHART: Yeah.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's the  
4 State season now, do you know?  
5  
6 MR. ERHART: It's to the 20th.  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Why would you  
9 want to close your own Federal season shorter when the  
10 State could still hunt?  
11  
12 MR. ERHART: It's too warm. We want to  
13 open it on the 10th.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you putting  
16 that in the State too to start it on the 10th and not the  
17 1st?  
18  
19 MR. ERHART: Yeah, because we don't want  
20 -- it's too warm. Moose don't take off on the 1st. They  
21 walk around until the 10th of September.  
22  
23 MR. KOEHLER: Why not just extend the  
24 season?  
25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, just  
27 extend it.  
28  
29 MR. ERHART: Well, we could.  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: To the 30th is  
32 what you want?  
33  
34 MR. ERHART: To the 30th.  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
37 Lester, I hear what you're saying. Extend the moose  
38 season in 20F and that's under -- that would take in both  
39 of these. That portion within the Dalton? Do you see  
40 the book on Page.....  
41  
42 MR. ERHART: Yeah, I looked at it.  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....92.  
45  
46 MR. ERHART: I couldn't figure it out  
47 though because I know -- I don't think we should -- I  
48 just want it on the Yukon.  
49  
50 MR. WOODRUFF: That would be the last one

1 too.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Remainder?

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chairman. Yes.

6 It's the remainder, one bull.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So he'd go the  
9 antlered bull under remainder and you want to extend the  
10 season to September 30th.

11

12 MR. ERHART: Yes.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second that.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I got the  
19 motion and that's a second. What is it, Virgil.

20

21 MR. UMPHENOUR: There's no BLM land along  
22 the river except one little teeny spot down below  
23 Rampart. Where Lester wants to get the season open,  
24 there's no BLM -- there's no Federal land. It's all  
25 State.

26

27 MR. ERHART: It's all State land.

28

29 MR. UMPHENOUR: Unless you go way back in  
30 the mountains and I know you're not going to pack no  
31 moose over that big mountain in the rapids.

32

33 MR. ERHART: No, no, no.

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's the only place  
36 that there's BLM land.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you need to  
39 go to the State.

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: It would only apply to a  
42 guy with a Super Cub or something that could land on one  
43 of those ridges and probably no moose there anyway.

44

45 MR. ERHART: No.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is the  
48 hard part about this two systems. Something that would  
49 work for you doesn't work because of where the land is.  
50 The Federal land in 20F is all in ridges. Even that

1 little chunk by Tanana. This piece right here. That's  
2 mountainous?  
3  
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, this is all  
5 mountains.  
6  
7 (Pause)  
8  
9 MS. PATTON: What Sue is saying is that  
10 would be a proposal to the State.  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I'm also  
13 wondering if that -- hey, just north of Tanana you see  
14 that yellow?  
15  
16 MR. ERHART: Yeah.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that a place  
19 you can get to to hunt a moose?  
20  
21 MR. ERHART: No.  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Really?  
24  
25 MR. ERHART: No. It's all hills.  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That sucks.  
28  
29 (Laughter)  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't know if  
32 we can help you.  
33  
34 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chairman. I think  
35 what he's addressing is just the general climate change  
36 that I experience where I'm hunting.....  
37  
38 MR. ERHART: Right.  
39  
40 MR. WOODRUFF: .....and often times the  
41 first part of September it's 65 degrees.  
42  
43 MR. ERHART: Right.  
44  
45 MR. WOODRUFF: And you cannot shoot and  
46 harvest a moose and get it put up before it starts to  
47 rot.  
48  
49 MR. ERHART: Right.  
50

1                   MR. WOODRUFF: That's just not going to  
2 happen especially if you go.....  
3  
4                   MR. ERHART: Yes. Agree.  
5  
6                   MR. WOODRUFF: .....any distance from  
7 your freezer, your electric line.  
8  
9                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Unless you do  
10 it the old way and dried it all.  
11  
12                  MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, ma'am, but that takes  
13 weeks.  
14  
15                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're changing  
16 our ways, aren't we. Well, then I would ask what do you  
17 want to do. Do you want to have it on the books in case  
18 somebody can hunt this Federal land or do you want to  
19 stick to putting a State proposal in for a longer season  
20 in State and remembering that all State residents are  
21 subsistence. I don't know if they hunt it that late in  
22 the year, but they might. What do you want to do?  
23  
24                  MR. ERHART: Put it on the State.  
25  
26                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So when is our  
27 State call?  
28  
29                  MR. UMPHENOUR: The first of May.  
30  
31                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want to  
32 do it in both Federal and State?  
33  
34                  MR. ERHART: Yes.  
35  
36                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you concur  
37 with that?  
38  
39                  MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, ma'am.  
40  
41                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
42 We're putting in two proposals, one to the Board of Game  
43 and one to -- now you would like to -- probably the State  
44 you'd like it to be September 10th.  
45  
46                  MR. ERHART: Uh-huh.  
47  
48                  MR. KOEHLER: We should keep them the  
49 same.  
50

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, the thing  
2 -- the reason -- they'd have a longer season on the  
3 Federal because they're the only ones that qualify, but  
4 on the State everybody qualifies.  
5  
6                   MR. KOEHLER: Oh, I understand.  
7  
8                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are we speaking  
9 the same language?  
10  
11                  MR. ERHART: Yep, yep.  
12  
13                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know that  
14 probably confuses you, but they know exactly what they  
15 want. Is your AC putting it in to the State Board of  
16 Game, this proposal, for September 10th to September  
17 30th? Your AC, are you putting one in? Do you know?  
18  
19                  MR. ROBERTS: I haven't been to any AC  
20 meetings, but I've submitted this before and it was  
21 rejected with the State. I did it about three or four  
22 years ago.  
23  
24                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. See,  
25 this would be Interior and I think we're, what, two years  
26 out.  
27  
28                  MR. UMPHENOUR: No. It's the first of  
29 May.  
30  
31                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For our region.  
32 Okay. We're on it.  
33  
34                  MR. ERHART: It's too warm in September  
35 1st.  
36  
37                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So let's do two  
38 motions. This one that you just did was to extend the  
39 Federal season five days.  
40  
41                  MR. ERHART: Yeah.  
42  
43                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
44 September 1st is on the books right now, so this would go  
45 to the 30th. All right. Do you concur, Donald. You were  
46 the second.  
47  
48                  MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, ma'am.  
49  
50                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other

1 discussion on that one.  
2  
3 (No comments)  
4  
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question has  
8 been called for. All in favor.  
9  
10 IN UNISON: Aye.  
11  
12 (No opposing votes)  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The motion  
15 passes. You need a second one. She's saying help. You  
16 want clarification.  
17  
18 MS. PATTON: Just to clarify so that we  
19 have it correctly in the record here. The request is to  
20 extend the moose season in 20F remainder to September  
21 30th.  
22  
23 MR. ERHART: Yes.  
24  
25 MS. PATTON: So it extends the season by  
26 five days. And then this is the Federal proposal.  
27  
28 MR. ERHART: Right.  
29  
30 MS. PATTON: And then we'll take up the  
31 State. Okay.  
32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know what  
34 you're doing, Lester. Make the motion.  
35  
36 MR. ERHART: I make the motion for the  
37 State from the 10th of September until the 30th due to  
38 global warming. Let me put it that way.  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Due to Mother  
41 Nature.  
42  
43 MR. ERHART: Due to Mother Nature. It's  
44 getting warmer.  
45  
46 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second that.  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Any  
49 other discussion on the motion for the proposal.  
50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 MR. GLANZ: Call for question.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
6 has been called for. All in favor.  
7  
8 IN UNISON: Aye.  
9  
10 (No opposing votes)  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. You  
13 guys might think of some other proposals. This is the  
14 time. The Federal is for two years in our book. So if  
15 you have any other proposals give us a head's up and  
16 we'll work on it. Do we have any more now that anyone is  
17 thinking of.  
18  
19 (No comments)  
20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
22 We'll move on. I bet I have one, but I can't remember  
23 it. Review and comment on draft tribal consultation  
24 implementation, get guidelines.  
25  
26 Jack Lorrigan.  
27  
28 MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you, Madame Chair  
29 and Council. Good afternoon. My name is Jack Lorrigan.  
30 I'm the Native liaison for the Office of Subsistence  
31 Management. I took this position in August. This is the  
32 first time I think I've been before you guys in person.  
33 I can't remember if I called in on your fall meeting.  
34  
35 A brief introduction. I'm from Southeast  
36 Alaska, Sitka. I got my degree at Sheldon Jackson. I'm  
37 Tsimshian Tlingit and Haida by descent. I used to be a  
38 RAC member on the Southeast Council. I had to resign  
39 that position to take a Federal subsistence staff  
40 position for that same Council with the Forest Service  
41 and then I got this job. So that's me very briefly.  
42  
43 I'm before you today to talk about the  
44 consultation policy that we're trying to get going. The  
45 Secretary of the Interior directed that the Federal  
46 agencies consult with tribes on a government-to-  
47 government basis. Our work has been going since May of  
48 2011. We have a timeline that once it was directed to do  
49 that, a work group was put together. Crystal Leonetti  
50 from the Fish and Wildlife Service took the ball and ran

1 with it at that time. Della Trumble was a co-chair.  
2 There were seven Federal and seven tribal members in the  
3 original work group. They worked through 2011 on a draft  
4 that went before the RACs from time to time and the  
5 Board.

6  
7                   Eight more members were added very  
8 recently I believe, in June of 2012, to incorporate the  
9 ANCSA portion of the consultation. So some ANCSA  
10 corporation members were added. I was added. We've  
11 proceeded on. We came up with a final draft that went  
12 before the -- it's not a final draft, but a draft that  
13 went before the Federal Subsistence Board this past  
14 January. They had some minor edits and that draft has  
15 been sent to all the tribes for their final comment and  
16 review. I believe the Councils received those also.  
17 It's the draft implementation guidelines.

18  
19                   The Chairman of the Board, Tim Towarak,  
20 wrote a letter to the tribes and asked for comment and  
21 response by the 29th of March so that we can have those  
22 comments incorporated in the policy and hopefully before  
23 the Board for final action whenever they meet in the  
24 spring. I don't believe a date has been set yet for  
25 their spring meeting. But that's a summary of the  
26 consultation process up to this date.

27  
28                   Madame Chair.

29  
30                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
31 Jack. Any questions, Council members.

32  
33                   (No comments)

34  
35                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It doesn't  
36 sound like it. Thank you, Jack. Next is customary and  
37 traditional use determinations.

38  
39                   DR. JENKINS: Madame Chair. David Jenkins  
40 with OSM. In 2009, the Secretary of Interior directed  
41 the Federal Subsistence Board to do two tasks. The first  
42 was to review with RAC input, Federal subsistence  
43 procedural and structural regulations adopted from the  
44 State in order to ensure Federal authorities are fully  
45 reflected and comply with Title VIII of ANILCA.

46  
47                   The second relevant task was to review  
48 customary and traditional determination process to  
49 provide clear, fair, and effective determinations in  
50 accord with Title VIII goals and provisions.

1                   The Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory  
2 Council does not believe that this directive from the  
3 Secretary of Interior has been met and believes that the  
4 current customary and traditional use determination  
5 process does not fulfill the goals and directives of  
6 ANILCA.

7  
8                   The Southeast RAC formed a workgroup that  
9 extensively studied Council meeting transcripts for  
10 meetings where the issue of revising the C&T process was  
11 discussed. The workgroup found that the issue had not  
12 been presented consistently and that Councils were not  
13 given a meaningful opportunity to comment on the C&T  
14 process.

15  
16                   In January of 2013, the Southeast RAC  
17 sent a letter all of the Council Chairs summarizing this  
18 history and inviting the Councils to review at their fall  
19 2013 meetings whether the current C&T process is serving  
20 the needs of the residents in their regions. The  
21 Southeast Council's letter can be found in your books and  
22 supporting materials that they wished us to include as  
23 well.

24  
25                   At this point, the Southeast Council  
26 urges all Councils to engage in a thorough review of the  
27 C&T process at their fall 2013 meetings and asks OSM to  
28 prepare an adequate briefing for that review for your  
29 fall meetings.

30  
31                   Madame Chair. Thank you.

32  
33                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You cut that  
34 pretty short. Good job. But it's not a short subject,  
35 C&T determinations. Council members, questions.

36  
37                   MR. WOODRUFF: I've got a question.

38  
39                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

40  
41                   MR. WOODRUFF: David, after reading the  
42 Southeast letter and one of their recommendations was to  
43 do away with the C&T determinations, do you see that  
44 happening or do you see that perhaps a modified method  
45 that would make people a little bit happier being more  
46 appealing?

47  
48                   DR. JENKINS: Well, the Southeast Council  
49 in that letter points out that ANILCA does not require  
50 customary and traditional use determination in order for

1 rural residents to engage in subsistence and the  
2 Southeast Council suggests instead that in times of low  
3 resource abundance that an .804 analysis be conducted.  
4 I believe in that same letter it spells out what it would  
5 prefer to see or in its supporting materials.

6

7 Now your question if I see whether or not  
8 it's possible to do away with, I don't think I'm going to  
9 hazard an opinion, Don. I do have an opinion, but I  
10 don't think I'll hazard one at this meeting.

11

(Laughter)

12

13

MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

14

15

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just for more  
information, I remember years ago, which is my dozen  
years on the Council, which isn't that long, but still it  
feels like it, when we Craig Fleener was Chair we were  
always saying, you know, isn't this weird that we're  
doing C&Ts by species when really, if you have a region,

1 why would you need a C&T for moose and not have one for  
2 caribou or have one for caribou and not have one for bear  
3 or sheep. Most of us are, you know, if there's a bloody  
4 animal there, we're going to take it and we're going to  
5 eat it. So it just always seemed odd to us that why  
6 wasn't this just by region that you get to subsistence  
7 hunt in a region instead of going through the species by  
8 species thing and making it so involved and so lengthy.  
9

10 This is information. We talked about  
11 that at length in the past. That would be one of my  
12 things I'd have to say about it. As you see, it takes a  
13 lot of time and effort for OSM Staff to do each species  
14 by each unit and sub-unit.

15  
16 Council members, do you have any other  
17 questions or input on this. We need to discuss it and  
18 this will be on our agenda at the fall meeting I take it.  
19

20 (No comments)

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: David, that's  
23 going to be on our agenda?

24  
25 DR. JENKINS: Yes.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: More to think  
28 about. Any more questions.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thanks.  
33 We might have to have a little outline of what we've got  
34 to think about for the next meeting because we've gotten  
35 heads up on several things and that would be helpful  
36 actually.

37  
38 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair. What are they  
39 asking, for us to vote it up or down? I didn't  
40 understand.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: David, do you  
43 want to come back now that you got your exercise.

44  
45 MR. GLANZ: I'm just trying to figure out  
46 what they wanted us to do with it.

47  
48 MR. WOODRUFF: I can answer that.

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald wants to

1 try to answer it and then David can try to.....

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: On the bottom of Page 53,  
4 the last sentence says, we would like your Council to  
5 consider what would be most beneficial to your region:  
6 eliminate customary and traditional use determinations,  
7 change the way the customary and traditional use  
8 determinations are made, or make no change.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's on Page  
11 53?

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: The very last sentence in  
14 53.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: David, did you  
17 have anything to add.

18

19 DR. JENKINS: Don captured it.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry I brought  
22 you up for your exercise.

23

24 DR. JENKINS: I'll be back.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
27 Thanks, David. Okay, Virgil, I think this Board of Fish  
28 thing that you wanted to discuss under new business.  
29 That's where I penciled it in.

30

31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, I kind of covered  
32 it a little bit. The Area M -- the Board of Fisheries  
33 meets -- I think Tuesday their meeting starts on Area M.  
34 One of the big issues with the Area M June fishery is  
35 that it's a purely intercept fishery, which means that  
36 the fish that their harvesting are not local to their  
37 area. They're traveling along the south side of the  
38 Alaska Peninsula through the Shumagin Islands and along  
39 the south side of the Alaska Peninsula and then they go  
40 around Unimak Island and on up north. So what they're  
41 targeting primarily are the sockeye because they're the  
42 money fish, but they're also catching all five species of  
43 salmon. I brought this up earlier under my concerns.  
44 They do catch a fair amount of chinook salmon as well,  
45 king salmon, and they catch lots of chum salmon and a lot  
46 of our fall chum salmon.

47

48 There's been genetic stock identification  
49 done on the sockeye and the chum, but to the best of my  
50 knowledge I don't think any has been done on the chinook,

1 where they're headed, the king salmon. I do know from  
2 ichthyophonus studies done by Dr. Kocan that they  
3 normally get ichthyophonus from eating herring that are  
4 infected. He did get a bunch of herring from -- I know  
5 he got them from Norton Sound and I don't know where else  
6 in the Bering Sea, but he sampled a bunch of herring from  
7 the Bering Sea and none of them had ichthyophonus, so his  
8 conclusion was that those king salmon are going south of  
9 the Alaska Peninsula where the herring do have  
10 ichthyophonus and that's where they pick the disease up  
11 and when they come up the Yukon.

12  
13                   So beings there are proposals addressing  
14 this issue before the Board of Fisheries and I don't have  
15 my proposal book with me for the Board of Fisheries,  
16 there are proposals addressing this issue. So what we  
17 probably should do -- it's too late to get in the Board  
18 book, but it's not too late to send a letter or fax a  
19 letter down to the Board before their meeting starts and  
20 then it would be an RC.

21  
22                   So I would make the motion that we  
23 support the proposal put in -- I don't know the number.  
24 I'll have to look it up. It's put in by the Southern  
25 Bristol Bay Advisory Committee that would restrict the  
26 fishing time of the Area M June fishery.

27  
28                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there a  
29 second.

30  
31                   MR. GLANZ: I'll second that, Virgil.

32  
33                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want to  
34 speak more to the motion.

35  
36                   MR. UMPHENOUR: What they're trying to do  
37 is restrict the fishing time of the fishery, but I've  
38 talked to some people from Bristol Bay and Norton Sound  
39 as well about this issue and what the Board did in  
40 January of 2001 would be the easiest thing for them to  
41 maybe do. All of those proposals, they want to put a  
42 chum cap back on. Prior to that happening, there was a  
43 chum cap and what that meant was when they're fishing in  
44 that fishery and they could fish seven days a week, 24  
45 hours a day prior to January of 2001, as long as they  
46 didn't exceed 8.3 percent of the forecast of sockeye  
47 salmon returning to Bristol Bay or the chum cap and the  
48 chum cap has been as high as 900,000 and the lowest it's  
49 been is 400,000. It's been changed back and forth  
50 numerous times since it started in 1984 or 5, one or the

1 other.

2

3

4 So what the Board did then is they just  
5 gave him three 16-hour periods a week and to heck with  
6 the chum cap and the Bristol Bay allocation and all that  
7 stuff because that's the easiest way to manage a fishery  
8 is by time. The fish that they're harvesting, which are  
9 headed -- like a lot of the stocks are stocks of concern  
10 like our king salmon that they're catching, Norton  
11 Sound's chum salmon, there's certain sockeye stocks in  
12 Bristol Bay that are all stocks of concern.

12

13

14 So the easiest way to do it is just limit  
15 their time. They're fishing on stocks without knowing  
16 any idea what the return is coming back in. It's just a  
17 shoot from the hip deal. You guys get to catch as many  
18 as you can and make lots of money. A lot of those people  
19 that fish there don't live in this state and that's part  
20 of the allocation criteria for the Board of Fisheries.  
21 Is the benefit to the people that live in the area.

21

22

23 Anyway, the only thing we can -- we can  
24 just send a letter -- I think I've spoken to my motion  
25 good enough.

25

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You want to  
28 send a letter.

28

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: If there's any questions,  
31 I can answer the questions.

31

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The motion is  
34 to send a letter to the Fish Board on this proposal which  
35 you're going to give us the number and you're going to  
36 help write the letter.

36

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. I'll have the  
39 number in the morning of the proposal.

39

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have a  
42 question, Will.

42

43

44 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah. Just a geography  
45 questions. So the south side of the Peninsula, is that  
46 going all the way up past Cold Bay and Chignik Bay and on  
47 that side? That's where you're talking about?

47

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: It goes from Kupreanof  
50 Point.....

50

1 MR. KOEHLER: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....to the east.  
4 Kupreanof Point is the boundary between Area M and the  
5 Chignik commercial fishing district.  
6  
7 MR. KOEHLER: Okay. Thank you.  
8  
9 MR. GLANZ: Do we need to call the  
10 question.  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
13 discussion. Does everybody -- the question has been  
14 called for. Do I hear any objection to sending this  
15 letter to the Fish Board that Virgil has put in the  
16 motion.  
17  
18 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Can I  
19 clarify, please. Virgil, you're requesting a letter to  
20 the Board proposing this action on a particular.....  
21  
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: What we would do is amend  
23 the -- I'll have to give you the proposal number, but I  
24 can tell you who put it in. It's the Lower Bristol Bay  
25 Advisory Committee. To amend that proposal to reflect  
26 the South Peninsula June Management Plan that was  
27 implemented in January of 2001 by the Board of Fisheries  
28 and I'll make a copy of that and bring that tomorrow.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I  
31 was just going to suggest. You bring a copy in and we'll  
32 look at it and we'll vote on it then. We didn't really  
33 vote now. If that's okay with everybody. Relaxing  
34 Robert's Rules and not tabling and all that stuff.  
35  
36 We'll just look at it then.  
37  
38 (Council nods affirmatively)  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
41 You're in charge of not letting me forget. Next on the  
42 agenda is a budget update from OSM.  
43  
44 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
45 Members of the Council. Carl Johnson with the Office of  
46 Subsistence Management. I'm actually going to give you  
47 a quick overview on a variety of different topics  
48 starting with the budget update. If you follow the news,  
49 there's a lot of discussion about that these days because  
50 we're operating under both a continuing resolution and

1 there's also the sequestration issue that's coming up  
2 soon. We have been and continue to be operating under  
3 not only a reduced overall budget, but a reduced travel  
4 budget.

5  
6 I can't tell you exactly at this point  
7 what's that's going to mean as far as percentages of  
8 reduction in budget or dollar amounts, but OSM has been  
9 working to prioritize. The operation of these Regional  
10 Advisory Councils is integral to what we do, so  
11 continuing to provide travel to Council meetings and  
12 conduct these Council meetings is going to remain a  
13 priority. As we do go through this process in the next  
14 couple months, we'll have a better picture going into the  
15 next meeting cycle as to exactly what it's going to mean  
16 as far as OSM operations. Unfortunately, the generality  
17 is all I can provide at this point.

18  
19 Staffing updates. As some of you know,  
20 Pete Probasco is no longer the assistant regional  
21 director for OSM for subsistence. He's moved over to  
22 Migratory Birds. In his stead, Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle is  
23 now the acting assistant regional director and, as David  
24 has already mentioned, he is the acting deputy assistant  
25 regional director. Helen Armstrong is also retiring from  
26 the Fish and Wildlife Service. There's a process  
27 underway right now to select her replacement. Michelle  
28 Chivers is also retiring as our permitting specialist.  
29 She's retiring from Fish and Wildlife Service. As some  
30 of you know, both of those two individuals have been  
31 around for a long time, so we're losing a lot of  
32 institutional memory with them leaving the program and  
33 leaving the service. In their place as well, there's  
34 also a process underway to select her replacement. We  
35 have things in motion to make sure that the work that  
36 needs to be done from her position will still continue.

37  
38 The next issue under the OSM report is  
39 the request for a fisheries monitoring plan proposals.  
40 Currently there are funding opportunity details under our  
41 website under the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.  
42 The deadline for submissions for proposals is April 4th  
43 at 5:00 p.m. Right now there is \$3.7 million available  
44 to fund new research and monitoring projects. All  
45 investigation plans addressing Federal subsistence  
46 fisheries will be considered. Past awards, just to give  
47 you an idea of what is available and what has been  
48 proposed, have ranged anywhere from \$3,000 to \$375,000 a  
49 year with award periods ranging from one to four years.  
50 So there's a lot of different options available to submit

1 proposals.

2

3                   To follow up on a couple of things that  
4 were on your fall agenda. You gave your input as to the  
5 regulatory cycle as to whether or not we should change  
6 the beginning of the fishery cycle, whether or not we  
7 should extend the fall meeting cycle and when the winter  
8 -- the January Federal Board meeting should take place.  
9 The Board heard a variety of recommendations and right  
10 now is in the process of putting together a working group  
11 that will address that. Most likely the Board will come  
12 up with a decision at its spring meeting, which will be  
13 sometime in May. The public meeting will be in May. As  
14 Jack Lorrigan mentioned, we don't have a date set for  
15 that, but that's when the Board will make a final  
16 decision.

17

18                   Just for your own reference, as is often  
19 the case with the Regional Advisory Council, there was no  
20 clear consensus as to a recommendation as to what the  
21 changes should be, but most suggestions centered around  
22 favorably extending the fall meeting cycle into mid-  
23 November, moving the Federal Board meeting from January  
24 to early to mid February and then also commencing the  
25 fisheries regulatory cycle instead on April 1st to May  
26 1st. Not everybody was in agreement on those, but those  
27 were the areas where there was the most consensus.

28

29                   Finally, the last thing I will brief you  
30 on exclusively is the Memorandum of Understanding update.  
31 Again, you provided feedback to the Board on that issue  
32 at your fall meeting. The Board has not given final  
33 approval yet to the revised MOU because it was waiting to  
34 hear back from some of the State ACs to get their input.  
35 Since that process went beyond the January Board meeting,  
36 once they have all of that information in place they'll  
37 be coming up with a final decision most likely at their  
38 spring meeting as well.

39

40                   A last quick point I will make and then  
41 I'm going to introduce somebody is on the issue of  
42 Council nominations and appointments. As some of you may  
43 know, this is an annual process. We do this every year  
44 because the system is set up to where roughly one-third  
45 of all Councils are up for reappointment every year. For  
46 reasons that defy understanding, the Council appointments  
47 from last year were delayed well over two months. In  
48 fact, we're still waiting to hear on some Council members  
49 as to their reappointment.

50

1                   We are going to look at ways that we can  
2 avoid that in the future. Unfortunately, a lot of it is  
3 out of our hands because it happens down in DC rather  
4 than here, but we are going to do what we can to improve  
5 that process. One of the things we were considering is  
6 possibly -- and it relates to another issues and that is  
7 extending the nominations application period through the  
8 winter meeting cycle. We had to make that extension this  
9 year. Normally the deadline was February 18th. Close to  
10 that deadline we still didn't have enough applications to  
11 fill the 45 empty seats on all the Councils. We only had  
12 maybe 35 applications.

13  
14                   So we are going to be extending that  
15 process and at this time I would like to invite Joel Hard  
16 from the National Park Service to come up and just talk  
17 to you a little bit about the importance of the Councils  
18 and those applications.

19  
20                   Thank you, Madame Chair.

21  
22                   MR. HARD: Thank you, Carl.

23  
24                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Joe used to  
25 work in Tok as a trooper. Now he's in the Park Service.

26  
27                   MR. HARD: Madame Chair and members of  
28 the Council. Thank you. My name is Joel Hard. I'm the  
29 Deputy Regional Director for the National Park Service.  
30 I also sit on the Federal Board as the National Park  
31 Service alternate in the absence of the Regional  
32 Director.

33  
34                   I want to thank you for your service.  
35 You can imagine this is not -- at least the new members  
36 can imagine from this conversation that this sort of  
37 public service is not an easy undertaking. I recognize  
38 that and I want to thank you for your service.

39  
40                   A system like this won't work if we don't  
41 have people knowledgeable at the local level to  
42 participate. I know the agencies will do their due  
43 diligence to make sure they attract appropriate people to  
44 apply, but each and every one of you that lives in a  
45 local community knows better than anybody who can fill  
46 these chairs should you leave them or other vacancies  
47 come up. I just want to tell you that we encourage you  
48 to take that very seriously and do what you can to  
49 attract new people to this system. It simply won't work  
50 without knowledgeable local people.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They tried to  
4 get paid once, but it didn't work. You'd get more people  
5 if they felt like they got something for it. As a  
6 volunteer, it's tough. That's why I think you're having  
7 a hard time because it does take a lot of time out of our  
8 lives. I did my Christmas newsletter this year and  
9 realized, oh, my God, I've put a lot of time in this.  
10 I'd like to be doing something else. But, yeah. When is  
11 that deadline that you extended it to?

12

13 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair. We've  
14 extended the deadline to March 29th. So when you go back  
15 home to your communities, if you think of people who you  
16 think would be great additions to the Council or perhaps  
17 your tribes or any organizations you're involved with  
18 might have somebody that they know who they could  
19 nominate, that's also kind of a very underutilized part  
20 of this process. Most people think about applying, but  
21 they forget that they can also nominate someone to serve  
22 on our Regional Advisory Council as well.

23

24 Thank you, Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have the  
27 information for our Council, who's up on our Council at  
28 this time? There's three here, right, that are up or how  
29 many?

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct. I believe  
32 there are three and I need to confirm. I think we've  
33 received everybody's applications for reappointment who  
34 currently serves on the Council.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Those three are  
37 -- just so people know. Who is up? Us three, right?

38

39 MR. ERHART: I just got reappointed.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But we're up  
42 for the next cycle. Larry, Lester and myself.

43

44 MR. ERHART: Well, I was just  
45 reappointed.

46

47 MS. PATTON: And Andy -- Andrew.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You just got  
50 reappointed?

1 MR. GLANZ: Yes, he did.  
2  
3 MR. ERHART: Yes.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Then help me  
6 out there. Who was reappointed? I mean it's kind of  
7 nice to have that.  
8  
9 MS. PATTON: You're reapplying?  
10  
11 MR. ERHART: Yes.  
12  
13 MS. PATTON: You're reapplying this year.  
14 I think you might be thinking of the SRC.  
15  
16 MR. ERHART: Oh, yeah. Okay.  
17  
18 MR. GLANZ: And he just reapplied. Okay.  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we're the  
21 three that's up this cycle.  
22  
23 MS. PATTON: And Andrew submitted his  
24 application.  
25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Andrew. So  
27 there's four of us that's up. And then the past three  
28 were Joe, Donald and Virgil. All right. That was  
29 missing in this. That would be good to have in here and  
30 you couldn't do it because you didn't know. Okay, that  
31 explains it. I'm sorry.  
32  
33 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Madame Chair.  
34 Normally that roster with those dates of when the terms  
35 expire would be in your book, but we were still waiting  
36 for word from DC on one reappointment.  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Virgil  
39 and I are scratching our head, why isn't it in here.  
40 Okay. Council members, questions. You probably might  
41 want to hang out.  
42  
43 MR. WOODRUFF: I want to thank you for  
44 extending the closure date to March 29th because there's  
45 a time when I'm out on the trap line 100 miles from the  
46 post office and I had to give Vince Mathews my  
47 reapplication and have him fill in the date. Otherwise  
48 I was off the Council and I was off the Council for a few  
49 years. So we made that work. If you're remote in a camp  
50 and you don't have -- you can't meet the deadline, you're

1 not going to be accepted for that term.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. ERHART: I agree.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Lester  
8 agrees. Do you guys have any other questions. Bill.

9

10 MR. GLANZ: It's not really a question.  
11 I just wanted to thank Joel, who had just spoken. He  
12 came in to Central and he's alleviated a lot of the  
13 problems with the Park Service in the Circle, Central  
14 areas there on Yukon and probably Eagle too. He did a  
15 nice job up there helping us out.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He's a nice  
18 guy. He didn't give me a ticket in Tok when he could  
19 have.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill, did you  
24 want him to talk to anything? A little more discussion  
25 about the situation up there because he said that's why  
26 he came to the meeting. Would you like to bring him up  
27 and talk about.....

28

29 MR. GLANZ: I would like to have Joel to  
30 go ahead and come on up here.

31

32 MR. HARD: Madame Chair. Members of the  
33 Council. Thank you. You know, more than me talking I  
34 guess I would like to hear from you folks. What are the  
35 issues that you're confronted with particularly with  
36 respect to law enforcement in the National Park Service.  
37 Maybe before we get into that. Some of you don't know me  
38 very well. My folks moved to Alaska shortly after  
39 Statehood and I was raised in a family of hunters. I  
40 went on to start a career with the Alaska State Troopers  
41 and left that organization after 20-plus years as the  
42 director of what was then the Division of Fish and  
43 Wildlife Protection.

44

45 Since then I've been at Lake Clark  
46 National Park and Preserve up until last May where I was  
47 the superintendent and then now as the deputy regional  
48 director. Much of the reason why I accepted an  
49 assignment as the deputy regional director was to try to  
50 influence in a positive way some of the negative feelings

1 and mistrust of the National Park Service. One of the  
2 first things I did was to meet Bill up in Circle last  
3 spring.

4  
5                   It would be interesting to hear what else  
6 I can do in terms of influencing favorably the attitude  
7 of the public towards the National Park Service in our  
8 law enforcement program.

9  
10                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: On the record?

11  
12                   (Laughter)

13  
14                   MR. HARD: Sure. You know, I have an  
15 idea about law enforcement. I've been doing it for 32  
16 years. How you do it is important. I mean fidelity to  
17 the law is important to me, but how you do it determines  
18 how successful you are. So that's the conversation that  
19 we've been having in the National Park Service is  
20 maintaining that fidelity to the law, but doing it in a  
21 way that works for people and makes certain that we don't  
22 lose the trust of people as we undertake that work. Is  
23 it something that's going to happen overnight? No. But  
24 are there some fundamental changes that I can influence  
25 as we do that work so that people understand the role of  
26 the National Park Service, understand the importance of  
27 it, and we don't lose them as we find ourselves in  
28 disagreement over the rules or a rule or a particular  
29 enforcement action.

30  
31                   For years, and it took me a long time to  
32 figure this out, we don't do much to protect resources as  
33 law enforcement people. You know, we catch a few bad  
34 guys. But more importantly the communities that respect  
35 conservation, particularly in wildlife law enforcement,  
36 are the key to successful conservation. If you do  
37 something that erodes that willingness of the public to  
38 help you in conservation, then you're losing ground.  
39 It's not surprising that some agencies have had that  
40 difficulty. I've had that difficulty myself. It takes  
41 some time to learn.

42  
43                   In the Park Service, we struggle a bit by  
44 culture in terms of how we populate our law enforcement  
45 program. Many of the people that we hire are young,  
46 well-intentioned, seasonal people, but they don't have a  
47 broad base of experience from which to draw and they  
48 learn the hard way, by making mistakes. My job is to  
49 help them learn by the mistakes I made so that they don't  
50 make the same ones. I think we're beginning to make some

1 headway on that, but it's going to take some time. It's  
2 one of the structural weaknesses of an agency as large as  
3 the National Park Service.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to  
6 bring something up that came up at our SRC meeting and I  
7 see Barbara smiling back there. You probably heard about  
8 the situation in the Wrangells, right?

9

10 MR. HARD: The rocks.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The rocks,  
13 yeah.

14

15 MR. HARD: Yes, I did.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My thing is I  
18 don't see the Park Service guy using common sense in that  
19 situation. It goes beyond me to understand why you have  
20 to act like someone is a crook before you find out more  
21 information. I think that is the worst thing that  
22 happens when this gal has a note underneath her tent,  
23 doesn't even see it until she tears her tent down. You  
24 were doing an illegal activity. That kind of stuff.  
25 Then we heard it was a bad day. Well, the bad day lasted  
26 months. So that doesn't sound like common sense to a  
27 normal person. Just using common sense in how to deal  
28 with stuff like that is critical.

29

30 Donald, you said you didn't take your  
31 blood pressure pills after that thing just to get on the  
32 Park Service. It's your turn to give him some input  
33 here.

34

35 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame  
36 Chairman. I want to appreciate Joel for coming in and  
37 talking to us. There's a couple issues. One of them we  
38 talked about at the Eagle Working Group. We have a  
39 working group in lieu of an SRC. That came up with the  
40 Wrangell-St. Elias issue as well. The law enforcement  
41 rangers need to be educated in a subsistence lifestyle of  
42 ANILCA. Last summer Bill and me, we participated in an  
43 education process to help with the rangers a little bit.  
44 I don't think it's necessary to reinvent the wheel in  
45 this process. It's already in the private sector, the  
46 educational process that other law enforcement people can  
47 go through. We pointed that out.

48

49 I read the letter from the St. Elias-  
50 Wrangell, although it wasn't out for publication. I sort

1 of abridged it a little bit and just kind of concisely  
2 said that it's not necessary for the Park Service to  
3 reinvent the wheel, that this educational process is out  
4 there in the private sector and they just need to get a  
5 little bit of understanding and training in it. I didn't  
6 do any research about that. I figured that's for the  
7 professional people to do.

8  
9                   The other thing that Joel touched on is  
10 that laws are only valid if you respect them. If you and  
11 I don't respect the law, then the 7,000 acres or whatever  
12 that you or I might use out in the woods is pretty much  
13 a free for all. If we have a vendetta or an anger  
14 towards game management people because of their lack of  
15 understanding towards us -- like he said, we're the best  
16 stewards of the resource. If we can share that with  
17 other people. And that was some of my comments about the  
18 chinook. If we don't respect the resource, it's not  
19 going to be there for us.

20  
21                   Like Joel said, it's going to take some  
22 time to re-educate the public a little bit about the  
23 intentions of the Park Service. I don't think that they  
24 are a malicious group of people, but sometimes, like he  
25 says, you know, it's a slow process for these rangers to  
26 learn that they have to respect our use of the resource  
27 and we have to understand their job as well.

28  
29                   Thank you.

30  
31                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

32  
33                   MR. KOEHLER: And I would add to that  
34 that it's a two-way street. I have a lot of people in my  
35 area that have a lot of old vendettas and hatred against  
36 the -- and I think hatred is not too small a word to use  
37 against the Park Service for actions that happened 20 and  
38 30 years ago and we need to move beyond that. It can't  
39 just be Park Rangers understanding us. We have to  
40 understand where they're at. I think that comes down to  
41 just mutual respect and good communication.

42  
43                   Like he said, education is very  
44 important. It's hard for -- I can think of a number of  
45 examples. One just off the wall in particular that is  
46 not with enforcement, just general Park Service. They  
47 were doing some surveys and they landed on one lake and  
48 made a mistake as to which lake it was. You know, on a  
49 topographical map one lake is 10 miles long, the other  
50 one is a half mile long. My little sister, my eight-

1 year-old sister could have told the difference between  
2 the two because she grew up with that. Yet these  
3 seasonal workers were unable to do that. Not saying they  
4 were bad or malicious or anything like that, but it's a  
5 little bit hard to respect someone who has the power of  
6 telling you how to live your life out there when they're  
7 unable, in our eyes, to perform something that is very  
8 simple to us.

9  
10 So I think all that that means, it's not  
11 that one side or the other is bad, it's just poor  
12 communication or communication that is less than it can  
13 be. I understand that that's difficult to achieve, but  
14 trying to always be trying to improve that communication  
15 and mutual respect and understanding that it is a two-way  
16 street. We both have to come to the table. We have to  
17 drop our old grudges because those are -- so much of the  
18 grudges that we hold today, that we make decisions by  
19 today, happened a hell of a long time ago.

20  
21 MR. HARD: Through the Chair. Member  
22 Koehler. One of my first assignments as a young trooper  
23 was to go to Eagle back in -- oh, shortly after 1980 just  
24 to have a blue uniform presence during the heat of that  
25 difficulty and I think we made tremendous progress over  
26 30 years. But every step backwards you pay for.

27  
28 I would say in this role that I have now  
29 I've heard, as I've traveled around the state, that  
30 there's a festering mistrust of the National park Service  
31 and that there's a perception that we don't want people  
32 to use public lands and nothing could be further from the  
33 truth. These are the public's lands. They are your  
34 lands and we want to encourage you to use them. That  
35 message will permeate down through the organization.

36  
37 I'll also make an observation. I was at  
38 the Board of Game for periods of their meeting last week  
39 and I was impressed by how purposeful they were in trying  
40 to meet their mandates. I can tell you in the National  
41 Park Service there are many, many -- most people within  
42 the organization very purposeful about doing what it is  
43 they're charged to do and they're doing it on your  
44 behalf. Sometimes we don't do it very well, but that's  
45 not unique to the National Park Service. I directed  
46 another law enforcement agency and we had similar  
47 problems. It just happens. In the National Park Service,  
48 you pay for them more, I think, but that's something that  
49 we have to work through.

50

1 I'm favorably impressed by what I hear  
2 today and I think there's a lot of room for improvement  
3 yet to come and I appreciate very much the statements  
4 made and the confidence in you and the National Park  
5 Service. So thank you very much, Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

8

9 MR. KOEHLER: Just one more thing along  
10 the same lines. I think through good communication and  
11 mutual respect we'll find -- as we continue to move in  
12 that direction, I think we'll find that we have less and  
13 less to disagree on and that our goals are actually the  
14 same because we do not want the lifestyle that we have.  
15 We choose to live the lifestyle that we do. The only  
16 reason we can do that is because there are lands  
17 available for us to live this kind of a lifestyle and we  
18 don't want that to go away. So I think our goals are  
19 actually more often than not a lot more similar to the  
20 goals and mandates of the National Park Service than a  
21 lot of times we get credit for.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
26 members, any other things you want to bring up.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So your  
31 position is what again? You're the assistant?

32

33 MR. HARD: I'm the deputy regional  
34 director for the National Park Service here in Alaska.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it goes for  
37 everything, not just enforcement.

38

39 MR. HARD: Right. Yes, Madame Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would just  
42 like to say that some of the distrust comes from the Park  
43 Service has a lot to do with everybody from the Lower 48,  
44 including people that are against hunting. You know,  
45 sometimes you see things come down that you totally --  
46 well, like the issues on wolves and bears. There's a lot  
47 of things -- I mean I think it's great that we have the  
48 opportunity to disagree, but sometimes you feel like it's  
49 -- we don't have the weight that we wish we had. Those  
50 are the frustrations that come up with the locals. I

1 think if you hired more locals things would be a lot  
2 better.

3

4 MR. KOEHLER: I'm looking for a job.

5

6 MR. HARD: Madame Chair. Thank you for  
7 that. And I would imagine Steve, the refuge manager in  
8 the back, understands how difficult it is to come in from  
9 outside and get a quick education about the complexities  
10 of managing Federal public land in Alaska under the  
11 ANILCA framework. It's a difficult proposition and I  
12 think that's part of the struggle, you know. Mistrust is  
13 hard to get past when there's repetitive people in  
14 leadership chairs where you have a relationship and the  
15 relationship is lost and you have to rebuild a whole new  
16 relationship with a whole new person and that's a  
17 struggle that I think the Federal system will always  
18 have.

19

20 It doesn't mean we don't have  
21 extraordinary people that come from the Lower 48 to bring  
22 different perspectives and those sorts of things and I  
23 want to make sure that people always have an open mind to  
24 those, but there is a recognition that when you have to  
25 take years to develop a relationship and you do that  
26 every two or three or.....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it's  
29 tough.

30

31 MR. HARD: It's very difficult. I  
32 experienced that in rural Alaska as an Alaska state  
33 trooper. It's the same thing. It's difficult to deal  
34 with.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did we wake you  
37 up, Virgil?

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't have a question  
42 so much as just kind of a statement. I spoke to this  
43 issue before. The thing that aggravates me and  
44 aggravates a lot of people is -- and a lot of the  
45 National Park Service personnel and Fish and Wildlife  
46 Service personnel get labeled this way. In fact,  
47 Congressman Don Young labels a lot of them this way.  
48 That is that they've been infiltrated by the greenie  
49 anti-firearms, anti-hunting people. A lot of people  
50 think that in Alaska.

1                   The thing that aggravates me though is --  
2 because I've been involved in this regulatory process,  
3 hunting and fishing politics, whatever you want to call  
4 it, for a long time, is that we don't learn from history.  
5 People for some reason say, oh, we have to study this  
6 some more. We've talked about this today a little bit.  
7 We have to study this because we don't have conclusive  
8 science that this is what's going to happen.

9  
10                   Well, I belong to an old-timers lunch  
11 group. They call themselves The Laundryhouse Gang.  
12 Today was our lunch day. We have all kinds of different  
13 people come. We've had the governor there, United States  
14 senators, Don Young, all kinds of people. Sue went, Larry  
15 went and I went today along with Jennifer sitting out  
16 there. Oh, Bud Burris spoke. He was the number two guy  
17 at Fish and Wildlife Conservation here in Fairbanks back  
18 in the late '60s, early '70s. He was the guy in charge  
19 of the wolf control back in the '60s and '70s. One of  
20 the things he said -- he's been digging through a bunch  
21 of his old boxes of papers and stuff. He dug out this  
22 paper and they were doing -- they were down to 13 moose  
23 calves per cow -- I mean per 100 cows. So they decided  
24 we're going to do something about this. This is when  
25 they could still shoot them out of airplanes without  
26 going through a bunch of, you know, public process. They  
27 could just go do it. So, for two years they killed every  
28 damn wolf they could. Every one they saw. The calf to  
29 cow ratio jumped up to -- was it 61 per 100, Larry?

30  
31                   MR. WILLIAMS: 53.

32  
33                   MR. UMPHENOUR: 53 per 100. Jumped up to  
34 53 per 100. So I says now when we quit killing the  
35 wolves how long did it take to get the place totally  
36 populated with wolves again. How long do you think it  
37 took?

38  
39                   MR. HARD: Through the Chair. Member  
40 Umphenour. Not very long I'm going to guess.

41  
42                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Two years. Anyway. But  
43 there was a lot more moose for them to eat then. Anyway,  
44 that's one of the things that a lot of people that live  
45 here, especially the people involved in the hunting and  
46 fishing politics.....

47  
48                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That long.  
49 People that have been around that long.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: That have been doing it  
2 for a long time. That's one of the things that  
3 aggravates them. We just don't learn from history. We  
4 have to study things to death before we take action. My  
5 background is I started out as a private in the Marine  
6 Corps and I ended up an infantry officer. I served in  
7 Vietnam as an infantry officer. One of the things you're  
8 taught if you're going to be an infantry officer, whether  
9 it's Army or Marine Corps, is the worst thing you can do  
10 is not make a decision. Any decision is better than a  
11 bad decision. Indecisiveness causes failure, period.

12  
13 So the Federal agencies do not know or do  
14 not demonstrate that leadership principal of  
15 decisiveness, making a decision, and that's what really  
16 aggravates, I think, a lot of the people up here.

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So there.

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll get off my  
23 bandwagon.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think  
26 it requires a response. Thank you, Virgil. And thank  
27 you -- I almost called you Sergeant Hard.

28  
29 MR. HARD: Thank you.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Do  
32 we need a break or do you want to continue.

33  
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's almost quitting  
35 time.

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is it almost  
38 quitting time? When is our dancers coming?

39  
40 MS. PATTON: About 5:30, 5:45.

41  
42 MR. ERHART: You're going to have to  
43 dance for us if they don't show up.

44  
45 (Laughter)

46  
47 MS. PATTON: It will be worth waiting for  
48 them, believe me.

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want to

1 take up the Denali National Park and Preserve?

2

3 MR. GLANZ: We have time.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go  
6 ahead, Amy.

7

8 MS. CRAVER: I was thinking I was going  
9 to be here tomorrow.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You must have  
12 a report.

13

14 MS. CRAVER: I have a written report.  
15 Good afternoon, Madame Chair and the Council. I will say  
16 I work for the Park Service, but I have lived in Alaska  
17 since I was four years old, so I am basically local hire  
18 I would think. Just so you know that there are some  
19 local hire going on.

20

21 In your packets I've provided just sort  
22 of -- this is a wildlife update that our biologist game  
23 up with. If there's any questions, field them through me  
24 and we can get questions answered. Mostly what I want to  
25 do is just hit the high points. We had an SRC meeting  
26 scheduled for February 28th and that ended up we didn't  
27 have a quorum, so then we were going to do a  
28 teleconference.

29

30 We now have a new superintendent who is  
31 from Outside of Alaska and who is very enthusiastic about  
32 learning about subsistence and the whole subsistence  
33 lifestyle. He was a little reluctant to participate in  
34 the teleconference without being able to interact with  
35 people one on one. So what we ended up doing is  
36 rescheduling him to -- like he and I will go to the  
37 various communities, Nikolai, Minchumina, Tanana and  
38 Cantwell so that he can sort of meet people firsthand and  
39 sort of hear their concerns and issues related to  
40 subsistence firsthand. So I think that will be really  
41 positive. Then we will reschedule our meeting for  
42 August.

43

44 Then I've been working with folks in  
45 Nikolai, a little bit with Tanana. We haven't really  
46 touched base so much with Tanana about talking about  
47 wildlife proposals. Folks in Nikolai are really  
48 interested in reestablishing a community sheep hunt,  
49 winter sheep hunt that happens in 16B in the additions of  
50 the Park. So we'll be putting a proposal in, kind of

1 doing the background research for that proposal.

2

3 Sort of as a follow up -- this is kind of  
4 my last statement. As a follow up to our last meeting  
5 when I came to the RAC here, we have somebody, Kevin  
6 Mayo, who is not able to attend our meetings regularly,  
7 who is an appointment from the Eastern Interior RAC to  
8 our Subsistence Resource Commission. I was delighted to  
9 find out that Lester Erhart, after discussion after the  
10 meeting, was interested in being -- putting his name in  
11 the ring for the Eastern Interior RAC appointment.

12

13 Happily, I'm just thrilled, that when I  
14 talked with Lester on the phone, his family does have --  
15 part of the criteria for that appointment is that that  
16 person has family connections to doing subsistence  
17 activities in the Park. His uncle is Alfred Star and  
18 that's like at the confluence of the Birch Creek, Muddy  
19 River area. Anyway, Lester was able to tell me all kinds  
20 of things about things he remembered his family doing in  
21 the Park.

22

23 I guess, as an action item, I would like  
24 for the Council to decide if you would like to appoint  
25 Lester to our SRC.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. You  
28 said something before we go on to that. Did you say --  
29 it sounded like you said Unit 16. 16 doesn't adjoin the  
30 Park. Did you mean 13? I might not be hearing you.

31

32 MS. CRAVER: It's 16.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that  
35 Minchumina?

36

37 MS. CRAVER: That's the Nikolai area.  
38 It's like 16B.

39

40 MR. WOODRUFF: It's not on the map.

41

42 MS. CRAVER: No, it's not on your map.  
43 But if you look in the reg book under.....

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's on the  
46 west. Yeah, okay. All right. And what's the  
47 superintendent's name?

48

49 MS. CRAVER: Don Stryker.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Where is he  
2 from, do you know?  
3  
4 MS. CRAVER: West Virginia.  
5  
6 MS. SWANTON: Most recently.  
7  
8 MS. CRAVER: Most recently.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And he just  
11 came -- his job started when?  
12  
13 MS. CRAVER: About a week ago. Actually,  
14 probably Joel could fill you in more in depth about his  
15 background.  
16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So are you not  
18 having a meeting like you said last meeting there was  
19 supposed to be an SRC meeting coming up in the next few  
20 days, like five days from now or something?  
21  
22 MS. CRAVER: The problem is we weren't  
23 going to have a quorum. So then we were going to have a  
24 teleconference and now it's just been decided that it  
25 would be best if the superintendent was able to visit.  
26 We don't really have a lot of issues right now in terms  
27 of meeting with everybody with the SRC and it would be  
28 more effective to have the meeting after we're able to  
29 acquaint Lester and our State appointment and have it in  
30 August. We just feel like it would be more effective for  
31 the superintendent to be able to meet with people  
32 firsthand.  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So your State  
35 appointment is still open?  
36  
37 MS. CRAVER: It is.  
38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Why are  
40 the meetings held during hunting season in August? Do  
41 you always do that?  
42  
43 MS. CRAVER: Yeah, we do.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Where we live,  
46 we don't like doing them during hunting season.  
47  
48 MS. CRAVER: The Federal season -- no, I  
49 think -- I don't know for sure, but I think it's like the  
50 15th of September. It's like moose hunting season for

1 the end of the Federal season, subsistence season. So  
2 generally people are waiting until September to hunt  
3 moose.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right, but  
6 there's other hunting. Sheep, caribou.

7  
8 MS. CRAVER: It's at the will of the SRC.  
9 That's what they've decided. I just go with the dates  
10 that they're available.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll take up  
13 the action item. Any questions on this report. Virgil.

14  
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. It says here  
16 that Fish and Wildlife Service is going to put radio  
17 transmitters in salmon and you guys are going to fund the  
18 helicopters to find out where they're spawning. Where  
19 are they going to put the radio tags in the salmon at?

20  
21 MS. CRAVER: I'll have to get back to you  
22 on that one.

23  
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. And it says you  
25 have wolves starving. I know the Park in the past has --  
26 because every wolf pack has radio collared wolves in it.  
27 When they get a mortality signal, they go out and  
28 recovery the wolf and then they run the bones through the  
29 isotope process to determine what they've been eating.  
30 I know that in the past some of those wolves their annual  
31 diet has been up to as high as 40 percent salmon. So are  
32 they still keeping that study up to date, still doing  
33 that?

34  
35 MS. CRAVER: You know, Mr. Umphenour, I  
36 have to admit that with the passing of our wildlife  
37 biologist, Tom Meier, a lot of this -- we will be  
38 continuing that study this summer, but there's been a  
39 little bit of a flux in terms of not knowing what's -- I  
40 don't know what's happening with that study and basically  
41 it's just because he's passed away and we're waiting for  
42 somebody to take his place.

43  
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Is the Bear Paw Pack  
45 doing good.

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 MS. CRAVER: No, no, this is all good.  
50 For the record, I can go back and talk to our acting

1 biologist and I can get the information. I don't know  
2 the information.

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, the reason I ask  
5 that. I have to tell a funny story. Percy Duyck, he's  
6 an old-timer that lives in Nenana. You know Percy?

7

8 MS. CRAVER: I know him.

9

10 MR. UMPHENOUR: And he used to trap over  
11 on the Bear Paw. In fact, his cabin was over there. He  
12 told me one time he was over checking his traps and the  
13 wolves would come down and eat those Toklat River chum  
14 salmon. So what he would do is he would set his snares  
15 on these trails where the wolves were coming to eat the  
16 salmon because those salmon spawn up until Christmas. I  
17 don't know if you're aware of this, but the Mallard ducks  
18 live all year long there. They don't leave in the  
19 winter. They dig up those salmon eggs and eat them, the  
20 Mallards do.

21

22 Anyway, so Percy is checking his wolf  
23 snares and here he's got a giant, about a 15-pound frozen  
24 chum salmon in a wolf snare. He figured a wolf was  
25 running by with a big old chum salmon in its mouth and it  
26 snared it right out of his mouth.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Anyway, thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I'm sure you  
33 got all those questions and you're going to provide the  
34 answers to Virgil.

35

36 MS. CRAVER: Absolutely. I just have to  
37 get his e-mail address.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Eva has it.  
40 Any other questions. Donald.

41

42 MR. WOODRUFF: Do we have an action item?

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We do. What  
45 did we bring Joel back for.

46

47 MR. HARD: Madame Chair. I think you  
48 wanted to know a little bit about the superintendent. I  
49 can give you a brief on those.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.  
2  
3 MR. HARD: Actually there were three new  
4 superintendents in the region. An unprecedented  
5 turnover. Two of the three have Alaska experience.  
6 Margaret Goudreau, who will be replacing me at Lake  
7 Clark, Diane Chung, who will be going to Katmai next  
8 month, and Don Stryker at Denali, did not have Alaska  
9 experience, but he comes from New River Gorge, which is  
10 a National Recreational Area, which has a hunting  
11 activity, and it's got, because of the coal mining there,  
12 somewhat similar social makeup to many rural parts of  
13 Alaska. So I don't think it's going to be a hard stretch  
14 for him to get accustomed to ANILCA and the  
15 relationships. Certainly the sport hunting component in  
16 Preserves will not be new to him.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I guess you  
19 guys are taking that advice that they learn more about  
20 ANILCA from what the Wrangell SRC sent.  
21  
22 MR. HARD: Madame Chair. We've always  
23 tried to get people to the Institute of the North ANILCA  
24 training. Not everybody gets to do it because the  
25 training is only held once a year and sometimes not even  
26 once a year. There is a training this coming fall and  
27 the new superintendents will be in there in particular,  
28 but also key people at Park level that need that training  
29 we get them to that. It's a struggle to get, as large an  
30 organization as we have, everybody exposed to the ANILCA  
31 nuances that are so important in managing these lands.  
32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks.  
34 Anything else of Amy or Joel.  
35  
36 (No comments)  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald, go  
39 ahead with your action item.  
40  
41 MR. WOODRUFF: I would like to either  
42 nominate or appoint.....  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Make a motion.  
45  
46 MR. WOODRUFF: I make a motion to appoint  
47 Lester to the SRC.  
48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As our RAC  
50 member or RAC appointment, right?

1 MS. CRAVER: It's an Eastern Interior RAC  
2 appointment to Denali Subsistence Resource Commission.  
3  
4 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. More  
7 meetings.  
8  
9 MR. ERHART: More meetings. I know it.  
10  
11 (Laughter)  
12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do we  
14 need any discussion.  
15  
16 (No comments)  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everybody in  
19 favor say aye.  
20  
21 IN UNISON: Aye.  
22  
23 (No opposing votes)  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,  
26 Lester. Now you get to go where? Where do you guys  
27 meet?  
28  
29 MS. CRAVER: Oh, he's going to hang out  
30 in Cantwell and Healy. Thank you, Lester. This is  
31 great. I'm delighted and I think you'll be a great  
32 asset.  
33  
34 MR. ROBERTS: I've got one thing to say  
35 about the Denali SRC. They're a really nice bunch of  
36 people to work with and they really get along with each  
37 other. I haven't heard one argument since I've been on  
38 there.  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're actually  
41 on it too.  
42  
43 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. What  
46 appointment are you, do you know? Is it governor?  
47  
48 MR. ROBERTS: I don't know. Amy pulled  
49 some strings and got me on it.  
50

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 MS. CRAVER: Department of Interior.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, all right.  
6 So we have two of you on there.  
7  
8 MS. CRAVER: James took Paul Star's place  
9 on the SRC and he's just been a -- I mean it's  
10 interesting because Tanana really does have a lot of  
11 connections to Denali and I'm not sure why it never was  
12 a resident zoned community, but it's just -- it's great  
13 to have James and I think it's going to be a great asset  
14 to have Lester. In terms of just like this community  
15 winter sheep hunt, they coordinate a lot with folks from  
16 Nikolai in terms of traditionally their use in the Park.  
17 I think it's going to be really positive. I mean it  
18 already has been with James.  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Cool. I'll  
21 have some suggestions for you later. Is that it for  
22 Denali? The dancers aren't here yet?  
23  
24 MS. PATTON: I saw somebody in the back  
25 there.  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are they here?  
28  
29 MS. PATTON: I saw somebody step in in  
30 the back, but they just stepped out.  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I think we  
33 can -- the next one was Wrangell, but I think if the  
34 dancers are here I think we're ready to see the dancing  
35 and call it a night.  
36  
37 MR. ERHART: Yeah, sounds good.  
38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then we'll  
40 start -- Barbara is here for tomorrow anyway, right,  
41 Barbara? Yeah.  
42  
43 MS. CELLARIUS: I don't have my handout.  
44 I'll have my handout tomorrow morning.  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good. That  
47 works great.  
48  
49 MS. CELLARIUS: So tomorrow morning.  
50

1                           MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you guys  
2 want to take a short break and then we'll see the  
3 dancers. We'll take a short break here and see what's  
4 happening.

5  
6                           (Pause)

7  
8                           MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to  
9 call a recess for the day and we're not coming back after  
10 the dancing. So see you tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.

11  
12                          (Off record)

13  
14                          (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, State of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

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THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed 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 1st day of March 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9/16/14