

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME II

7  
8  
9 Pike's Landing  
10 Fairbanks, Alaska  
11 February 21, 2013  
12 9:16 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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40 Recorded and transcribed by:  
41  
42 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC  
43 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2  
44 Anchorage, AK 99501  
45 907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2  
3 (Fairbanks, Alaska - 2/21/2013)

4  
5 (On record)

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We've got two  
8 people working on their assignments from yesterday. If  
9 they're anything like me, they can't multitask. We'll  
10 just call it to order and hopefully they'll be able to  
11 multitask. One of the things I wanted Andrew to do is  
12 just give us -- he said he had two sentences for the  
13 Federal Subsistence Board. He's busy writing. I'll bet  
14 all night everybody was thinking of proposals they want  
15 to put forth.

16  
17 Andrew, do you want to do that now.  
18 Andrew is going to give us a short report of the Federal  
19 Subsistence Board. That was one thing we waited for.

20  
21 MR. FIRMIN: If I can.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: His voice is a  
24 little scratchy.

25  
26 MR. FIRMIN: For the Federal Subsistence  
27 Board I guess there was 10 Yukon River proposals. I  
28 believe the one they adopted was to get rid of the drift  
29 gillnet permit system in like 4A. All the other Yukon  
30 River salmon proposals they just kind of -- since nobody  
31 agreed on any of them they only adopted one and added  
32 their own wording and the rest they took no action on.  
33 That one is 13-06. They modified it to where -- they  
34 just changed the wording to make sure it said chinook  
35 salmon, Yukon River chinook salmon, and I guess that's  
36 where the customary trade is only among Federally  
37 qualified users statewide with a C&T determination, I  
38 believe is what it boiled down to.

39  
40 Then the only other one was the pike by  
41 the Innoko River and they rejected that proposal due to,  
42 I believe, lack of biology.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does anyone  
45 have any questions for Andrew regarding the Federal  
46 Subsistence Board actions.

47  
48 (No comments)

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We'll

1 move along to the Wrangell National Park Service report.

2

3 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you. My name is  
4 Barbara Cellarius and I'm the subsistence coordinator for  
5 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. I  
6 distributed this morning a couple pieces of paper and  
7 then there's also something I'll draw your attention to  
8 that's in your book.

9

10 I'll start with the single piece of paper  
11 that's kind of a spreadsheet and that has Copper River  
12 fishery permit numbers and harvest data for the last 10  
13 years or so, including the most recent season. So I'm  
14 distributing that for your information. If you have any  
15 questions, I'll try to answer them. If I can't answer  
16 them, I'll get back to you on that.

17

18 The second piece of paper is a wildlife  
19 report. It says spring 2013 wildlife report and has Judy  
20 Putera's name on it. She's our wildlife biologist. I'll  
21 just mention very briefly what is in the report and if  
22 you have specific questions I'll either answer them if I  
23 can or get back to you. Judy is actually at the  
24 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council meeting today.  
25 She was asked to give a presentation on the Mentasta  
26 Caribou Herd. So there's quite a bit of information here  
27 about the Mentasta Caribou Herd, recent population data  
28 and then also some information about our radio tracking  
29 data including -- we just recently put out some GPS  
30 collars. I think on Page 4 there's actually this  
31 winter's data from the eight GPS collars we put out on  
32 the Mentasta Herd.

33

34 There's also information about the sheep  
35 survey that we did in 2010 and 2011. We now have  
36 population estimates as a result of that sheep survey.  
37 One of the survey areas is the northern part of the Park,  
38 which includes a portion of Unit 12. Then the last page  
39 is some information about the most recent harvest data  
40 for Federal subsistence permits. Moose is our largest --  
41 our highest harvest numbers are for moose, but there's  
42 also some data for sheep and caribou and goat.

43

44 I can talk more about some of those  
45 things if you're interested or if you have questions, but  
46 in the interest of time I'll stop here for now on this  
47 report.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
50 members, any questions. Virgil.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: On the Chisana Caribou it  
2 says there were two harvested. How many actually went  
3 hunting, do you know?

4  
5 MS. CELLARIUS: We issued nine permits  
6 and everyone who got a permit went hunting. I did give  
7 a fairly detailed report on that hunt at your last  
8 meeting.

9  
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: My mind is not working as  
11 good as it should. Do you know how many actually hunted  
12 though?

13  
14 MS. CELLARIUS: We issued nine permits  
15 and everyone who received a permit went hunting. Nine  
16 people hunted. What that tells me is that people didn't  
17 actually go out and get a permit unless they had figured  
18 out the logistics of what they needed to do to get to the  
19 hunt area to hunt. We had a whole discussion of how we  
20 issue the permits. In the end, we ended up doing it sort  
21 of first come first serve with some distribution to the  
22 -- allocation among the communities. That seemed to have  
23 been effective in the sense that people -- only people  
24 who thought that they could actually get out to the hunt  
25 area got permits.

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

27  
28 MR. KOEHLER: What was the -- can you go  
29 into -- I wasn't here at the last meeting, so could you  
30 go into a little bit more detail about the process by  
31 which it shows the people that were qualified to receive  
32 a permit. There was just one instance of neighbors of  
33 mine who are right in the middle of where the herd area  
34 was and they would have liked to have got a permit, but  
35 they couldn't get one. They couldn't figure out how to  
36 make them qualified.

37  
38 MS. CELLARIUS: Right. So this hunt was  
39 authorized I think in January of 2012 and as part of the  
40 process of passing the proposal an .804 analysis was  
41 done, so there's a C&T for caribou in Unit 12, but what  
42 happened with the .804 analysis is that an analysis was  
43 done based on Section .804 of ANILCA to determine which  
44 communities were most dependent on that particular  
45 resource because we had a harvest quota of seven. So  
46 there was concern that we can't just have a registration  
47 hunt with everybody who has C&T.

48  
49 As part of the proposal process, OSM  
50 staff analyzed the communities with C&T and the sort of

1 version of the proposal that went to the Federal  
2 Subsistence Board had I think six communities listed.  
3 Chisana, Tok, Northway, Tetlin, Mentasta and Chistochina.  
4 Those were the communities that were authorized as being  
5 eligible for that hunt.

6  
7 In the process, we became aware of some  
8 other areas that had an interest in being evaluated, but  
9 it occurred too late in the process to do it for that  
10 last proposal. I believe you're talking about the  
11 Ptarmigan Lake area and I actually provided some  
12 technical assistance to the subsistence users out there  
13 and I believe they're going to submit a proposal for this  
14 next funding round and I think the SRC is going to talk  
15 about -- they had made a recommendation for another area  
16 so we'll probably talk about that at the SRC meeting in  
17 a couple of weeks.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's on our  
20 agenda.

21  
22 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah. We've put that on  
23 the agenda too and I talked about that. So the Federal  
24 Board, as part of its process of establishing the hunt,  
25 they provided a list of communities for who was eligible.  
26 I then went around and talked to tribal governments in  
27 communities that had tribal governments, fish and game  
28 advisory committees and RACs and Subsistence Resource  
29 Commissions in the communities that didn't have tribal  
30 governments and sort of took their advice and came up  
31 with a plan for distributing the permits which basically  
32 involved a couple of permits to each of the four villages  
33 with Federally recognized tribal governments and the  
34 remainder of the permits were available on a first come  
35 first serve basis. We went up to Tok and issued some  
36 permits on a particular day and they were available at  
37 Tetlin Wildlife Refuge because that made more sense for  
38 people to go to Tok than it did for them to come to  
39 Copper Center.

40  
41 So that's kind of the process. I can  
42 actually get you a copy of the report from the last  
43 meeting if you'd like.

44  
45 MR. KOEHLER: That would be grand, thank  
46 you. Thank you.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

49  
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: I notice on the elder

1 hunt in Unit 11 one sheep was harvested and one in Unit  
2 12 none. Do you know how many people actually went  
3 hunting?

4

5 MS. CELLARIUS: I have access to that  
6 data. I just don't have it -- I can look it up on my  
7 computer and get you an answer to that question. I just  
8 don't have it at my fingertips. That data is collected.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other  
11 questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Barbara, I'm  
16 interested in -- with this Chisana Herd being in our  
17 region, Unit 12, what is Southcentral so interested in  
18 that we -- they have the biologist and we don't?

19

20 MS. CELLARIUS: The Mentasta Herd?

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

23

24 MS. CELLARIUS: The Mentasta Herd calves  
25 in Unit 11, not the Chisana Herd. She's giving.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I meant  
28 Chisana.

29

30 MS. CELLARIUS: She's giving a  
31 presentation on the Mentasta Caribou Herd and the  
32 Mentasta Caribou Herd Management Plan you'll recall that  
33 at the last round of proposal cycles there were two  
34 proposals to open up caribou harvest in Unit 11. So those  
35 proposals for Unit 11, which is in the Southcentral  
36 Region, generated an interest on their part to learn more  
37 about the Mentasta Caribou Herd.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My brain heard  
40 Chisana. Sorry.

41

42 MS. CELLARIUS: Sorry.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess I'm  
45 still recovering.

46

47 MS. CELLARIUS: We struggle a little bit  
48 when Southcentral and Eastern Interior meet on the same  
49 days.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're going to  
2 try to get ours in first.

3  
4 MS. CELLARIUS: Because there was that  
5 specific request in the annual report from Southcentral  
6 for a report on the Mentasta Herd, the biologist went to  
7 Southcentral and I came to this meeting.

8  
9 The other thing I wanted to draw your  
10 attention to is in your proposal -- in your meeting book.  
11 It's either Page 105 or 106. There's a four-page summary  
12 of the Chistochina community harvest. We have been  
13 surveying communities in the Copper Basin about their  
14 subsistence harvest and use and this is the first time  
15 it's happened in about 25 years. We're going to survey  
16 a total of eight communities and we now have results from  
17 the first community, so I've provided you a four-page  
18 summary of that. I have a few copies with me of the full  
19 report if anybody is interested.

20  
21 This was a cooperative project between  
22 the Park Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and  
23 Game. We're actually starting to survey -- we've also  
24 surveyed Mentasta, Mentasta Pass, Slana, Copper Center  
25 and this year we've started surveying Kenny Lake and  
26 Willow Creek. This week we're starting work in Gakona  
27 and we'll also be surveying Chitina and McCarthy. So  
28 this is a bigger project, but we're doing reports by  
29 year. So we'll have one sort of printed up report for  
30 each year. I just wanted to share with you the  
31 preliminary -- the results from the first community.  
32 They're not preliminary results.

33  
34 I think it's really great to have this  
35 information. It shows that subsistence continues to be  
36 a really important activity within these communities  
37 despite the fact that the road connected and a lot of  
38 people were involved in subsistence, a lot of resources  
39 were harvested and significant amounts of resources were  
40 harvested.

41  
42 Any questions about that? Like I said,  
43 I do have a few copies of the full report. I'll get Sue  
44 one either today or at the SRC meeting, whichever works  
45 best for you.

46  
47 We are having our next SRC meeting in  
48 Kenny Lake on March 6th and 7th. It's in a couple weeks.  
49 That's what I had.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
2 questions.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wanted to  
7 mention to you, Will, this is a chance for us to put in  
8 proposals -- she said she's going to the SRC meeting and  
9 we're hoping that the proposal goes in too and I think it  
10 will, but we could also put a parallel proposal in.  
11  
12  
13 MR. KOEHLER: For the Chisana?  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, for the  
16 Chisana C&T to add.  
17  
18 MR. KOEHLER: Okay.  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The wording,  
21 Barbara, that you're thinking of using is those in the  
22 hunt range.  
23  
24 MR. KOEHLER: Maybe defining that hunt  
25 range more. It would probably be better for me to talk  
26 to you over break over that because there's too much I'd  
27 have to catch up on, I think.  
28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. But I  
30 think it is good sometimes to make sure that we support,  
31 like in theory, a proposal to include the people -- I  
32 mean I found it a little bit disturbing that if somebody  
33 lives in the area where the animals live and they don't  
34 have a C&T.....  
35  
36 MR. KOEHLER: They're right in the center  
37 of the range. There's nobody except maybe me that's  
38 closer to the exact center of the range. So, yeah, I  
39 would definitely be up for doing that. I'm still rusty on  
40 the process.  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It takes a  
43 motion and a second.  
44  
45 MR. KOEHLER: Right.  
46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The concept of  
48 including those people. Do you want to wait or do you  
49 want to do it now?  
50

1 MR. KOEHLER: Just make a motion that --  
2 I make a motion that we submit a proposal that redefines  
3 the C&T.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That adds the  
6 people that live in the hunt area.

7  
8 MR. KOEHLER: That adds the people that  
9 live in the hunt area.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Barbara.

12  
13 MS. CELLARIUS: Two points. One, in the  
14 Federal regulation there is a definition of what the hunt  
15 area is. So there is a legal description that is  
16 essentially east of the Nabesna River and Nabesna Glacier  
17 and south of the winter trail. That portion of Unit 12  
18 that falls in that area. That is the hunt area.  
19 Residents of Unit 12 currently have C&T for caribou in  
20 Unit 12. The issue is that there was an .804 analysis  
21 done for this hunt that determined who was most dependent  
22 on the resource. It's actually the .804 analysis that's  
23 the question that led to the list of communities that are  
24 eligible for the hunt, not C&T.

25  
26 MR. KOEHLER: So would we be modifying  
27 the .804? Can we do that?

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

30  
31 MR. KOEHLER: So I would make a motion  
32 that we do a proposal modifying the .804.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Adding.

35  
36 MR. KOEHLER: Adding to it.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

39  
40 MR. KOEHLER: All right. Then I make  
41 that motion.

42  
43 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second that.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is one  
46 that was overlooked whenever the C&T process and the .804  
47 went in. Any discussion. I don't know that we need a  
48 lot over it. Just making sure that it gets in.

49  
50 (No comments)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
2 discussion.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
9 has been called for. All in favor.  
10  
11 IN UNISON: Aye.  
12  
13 (No opposing votes)  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion passed.  
16  
17 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. For the  
18 record, can I please get the wording once again.  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think Barbara  
21 will help us. Barbara, can you help us with the wording  
22 and then we'll get that.....  
23  
24 MS. PATTON: Just to make sure we have  
25 the wording as it is that the Council is voting for here.  
26  
27 MR. KOEHLER: So we are amending the .804  
28 for the Chisana Caribou Herd.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: To add.  
31  
32 MR. GLANZ: You're not amending, you're  
33 adding.  
34  
35 MR. KOEHLER: Adding. Thank you.  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The people who  
38 live in the hunt area.  
39  
40 MS. PATTON: Did you have the specific  
41 communities he wanted to name for this?  
42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, they're the  
44 people that live in the area.  
45  
46 MS. PATTON: Okay. So amend the .804 for  
47 the Chisana Caribou Herd to add the people who live in  
48 the hunt area.  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next on

1 our agenda is the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Park.  
2 Are they here?

3

4 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, she's here.

5

6 MS. OKADA: Good morning, Madame Chair.  
7 Council members. My name is Marcy Okada. I'm the  
8 subsistence coordinator for Yukon-Charley Rivers National  
9 Preserve. If you turn to Page 109 of your booklet,  
10 there's a Preserve update on that page.

11

12 MR. KOEHLER: 110.

13

14 MS. OKADA: It's on 110. Okay. So I'm  
15 just going to briefly go over the update. If you guys  
16 have any questions, feel free to ask them. We have a new  
17 chief of Integrated Resources. Tom Liebscher has retired  
18 and Jeff Rasic is our new chief. Unfortunately he's not  
19 here this morning. We've been doing climate and snow  
20 monitoring in Yukon-Charley Rivers. There's two climate  
21 stations and data has been collected since 2005.

22

23 For those of you who know John Birch, our  
24 wildlife biologist, he's been continuing with his  
25 furbearer and wolf studies. Basically I'm giving you  
26 information about the 2012 season. So the results are  
27 preliminary, but lynx, marten, otter, and wolverine  
28 tracks were fairly common in Yukon-Charley Rivers. No fox  
29 or coyote tracks were seen, but a few mink tracks were  
30 observed.

31

32 Wolf population in Yukon-Charley rivers  
33 showed that migration was basically in their normal home  
34 range. They weren't traveling too far out of Yukon-  
35 Charley Rivers.

36

37 Lastly, for those of you who live in the  
38 area, you know that it was a fairly low fire season this  
39 past year. That's basically it.

40

41 Greg Dudgeon here, our superintendent,  
42 will cover a compendium meeting that was held on December  
43 18th.

44

45 MR. DUNGEON: Good morning, Madame Chair.  
46 It's good to see the group again here back in Fairbanks.

47

48 In December we conducted a public hearing  
49 in conjunction with a community meeting of the  
50 subsistence users, a self-selected group of Eagle and

1 Eagle Village. Had an opportunity to review the upcoming  
2 -- I should say rather the annual update of the  
3 Superintendent's Compendium. With that we included  
4 provisions that tackled the subject areas including the  
5 recent decision by the State Board of Game to allow for  
6 the taking of brown bears over bait and the lengthening  
7 of seasons for the taking of wolves and coyotes.

8  
9 We took public comment from the 9 or 10  
10 people that were there that evening. Had an opportunity  
11 to discuss other issues and subject areas as well. As  
12 you are aware, and I've seen the correspondence from this  
13 group as well, we are just concluding the public comment  
14 period for the compendia for the Alaska region, a process  
15 which has been evolving over the years in our cooperation  
16 and consultation with the State. The process for the  
17 compendia is unique here in Alaska in that this is a  
18 process again that we've evolved over time in cooperation  
19 with the State. Those comments are now being pulled  
20 together and responses will be made from the regional  
21 office and the Parks here in the weeks to come.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: questions

24  
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have a question.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

28  
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: The compendium is made up  
30 by each Park superintendent for each individual Park,  
31 correct?

32  
33 MR. DUDGEON: Right. If I understood  
34 your question, Virgil, the compendia is a tool or A means  
35 for each Park to look at those specific areas of concerns  
36 that are unique to that Park unit. It's that  
37 superintendent's opportunity or responsibility to -- if  
38 there are additional concerns outside of the regular CFR,  
39 Code of Federal Regulations, that are in place already,  
40 there are opportunities in some cases to make specific  
41 closures or recommendations, opportunities for those  
42 units. That's an annual process again that we've been  
43 evolving over the years and I think this group has been  
44 active with now for -- at least for us for several years.

45  
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. So that leads  
47 me to this question. Does the regional superintendent or  
48 regional manager, whatever the person is called, the head  
49 person for the region for the Park Service, do they  
50 direct certain things, more or less pressure the

1 individual Park superintendent to put certain items in  
2 the compendium such as not recognizing or overruling the  
3 Board of Game's actions that they took last spring  
4 pertaining to the baiting of grizzly bears and the  
5 seasons for wolves and coyotes?  
6

7 MR. DUDGEON: The regional director. No,  
8 I've never felt any pressure as a superintendent of the  
9 Preserve. There are, and as you are aware with some  
10 recent Board of Game decisions, there has been a need to  
11 consolidate our responses, so we've worked in unison  
12 together on some of the recent issues, but, pressure, no.  
13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. That was  
15 something I've been wondering about because the  
16 compendium issue has been debated quite a lot in the  
17 Fairbanks area. I'm on the Fish and Game Advisory  
18 Committees and then, of course, our RAC and some of the  
19 other RACs as well. So I was just wondering whether  
20 there had been pressure from above to require or more  
21 less direct the individual Park superintendents to do  
22 that or whether it was totally their own decision.  
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If I may, as I  
25 remember, it came from the regional office. It didn't  
26 really come from the individuals and it was specific to  
27 these three things and there's three Parks in our region  
28 that it affected, so it appeared to us that it was coming  
29 from the regional office somewhere, somehow.  
30

31 MR. HARD: Madame Chairman. Joel Hard  
32 with the National Park Service again. I guess that  
33 person would be me in the absence of the regional  
34 director. Let me clarify the compendia a little bit and  
35 maybe some of the observations that I've made in my new  
36 chair. As a superintendent at Lake Clark, I also had a  
37 compendia. The first wolf season extensions occurred in  
38 Unit 9 while I was a superintendent at Lake Clark. So  
39 you look at those, you follow the Board process, you  
40 evaluate whether or not the seasons, extensions or the  
41 methods and means or what decisions the Board makes are  
42 compatible with Park purposes or not. I would like to  
43 just say for the most part they are. It's only recently  
44 that we've seen some situations that we've had some  
45 difficulty reconciling.  
46

47 So each of those Park superintendents  
48 makes that evaluation, but we have an obligation to  
49 consult with the State of Alaska before we undertake any  
50 sort of restrictions. We try to do that in a coordinated

1 way, so the regional office does coordinate that  
2 consultation meeting. It's an effort to be efficient,  
3 but it's not exclusive, nor is it a directive that a Park  
4 go a particular way. The rules are pretty clear for the  
5 National Park Service. We manage for ecological  
6 integrity and natural conditions and that's the baseline  
7 on which we make our determinations of whether we can  
8 accept certain things or not accept certain things.

9  
10 We have an unfortunate disagreement with  
11 the State on that, but it seems to me where I sit today  
12 that some of the process has caused some of this  
13 difficulty at the field level, at your levels, and that  
14 we've sort of used the compendia process -- or we've tied  
15 the closure or the restriction process that's an actual  
16 36 CFR requirement, an ANILCA requirement, with the  
17 compendia process. I think we undertook that as a region  
18 to make it more simplistic for everybody and more  
19 efficient for everybody, but, indeed, it might have  
20 confused the issue.

21  
22 I think my recommendation after this year  
23 is going to be after a Board takes an action and we make  
24 an evaluation at the Park level whether there should be  
25 a restriction or not, that we should, if we think there's  
26 a restriction necessary, implement the regulatory closure  
27 process at that time, not wait until the compendia  
28 process to undertake that meeting process because the  
29 compendia is not a regulated closure process. It's an  
30 agreed upon process with the State of Alaska and it's  
31 unique in that people that come from the Lower 48 don't  
32 actually even do a consultation process for compendia  
33 with their sister State agencies.

34  
35 So I think in our effort to consult with  
36 the State, maintain a good relationship with the State,  
37 that we've sort of tied two things together that's added  
38 to confusion and it will be my recommendation that we  
39 don't do that in the future. When the Board meets and we  
40 feel there's a restriction necessary, that we undertake  
41 the steps necessary to implement a restriction  
42 independent of the compendia and then in the compendia  
43 list the restriction later for the public because that's  
44 the purpose of the compendia. It's a conglomeration of  
45 restrictions or things the public would have to go to  
46 many different sources to find and it's an effort to  
47 simply give one document for the public so they  
48 understand better what the rules might be in a particular  
49 Park unit.

50

1                   But it is a little complicated. It's  
2 been complicated recently by these wildlife closures,  
3 which have not been a consistent effort on the part of  
4 the Park Service, but unfortunately with some recent  
5 authorizations by the Board we found ourselves in a  
6 difficult place where we can't be compliant with both the  
7 State law and the Federal rules that apply to Park lands.

8

9                   Thank you.

10

11                   MR. UMPHENOUR: So if I understand what  
12 you just said, in the future, what the Park Service is  
13 going to do is, say, if the Board of Game passes a  
14 regulation and they don't really like that regulation,  
15 then they would go through the Federal Subsistence Board  
16 process and voice their concerns with a proposal to not  
17 allow that in certain spots. Is that what they would do?

18

19                   MR. HARD: Through the Chair. Member  
20 Umphenour. No. Unfortunately, what the Board authorizes  
21 is general or sport hunting in Preserves, so the Federal  
22 Board doesn't address the general hunt situation and only  
23 deals with the Federal subsistence priority. So what we  
24 do is each time the Board meets we have a list of the  
25 proposals that they're going to hear and we write written  
26 comments and we have people available to testify, so we  
27 put our position on those proposals on record. The Board  
28 either decides to accept our input or not and makes their  
29 decision.

30

31                   After their decision is made, there are  
32 two avenues for the National Park Service if they feel a  
33 restriction is necessary. One is a temporary restriction  
34 and the other is a permanent rulemaking. I think there  
35 are plenty of folks, at least I've heard from plenty of  
36 folks over the course of this particular process, that  
37 they think we should go through a Federal rulemaking. I  
38 don't disagree with that, but I caution it because the  
39 Federal rulemaking process is a permanent process and I  
40 think the flexibility of the State is something that I  
41 would like to maintain some possibility of seeing a  
42 solution come between cooperating agencies to figure out  
43 how Preserves might be insulated from a broader  
44 authorization.

45

46                   So we've used the compendia because it's  
47 not permanent. You need to renew it each year. There's  
48 been a lot of criticisms because people feel that might  
49 be being abused when, in fact, I think it's just that we  
50 don't want to move to a rulemaking prematurely. We want

1 to see if there's some room -- as we have these difficult  
2 conversations with the State of Alaska, if there are  
3 mechanisms to insulate preserves from some certain  
4 authorizations.

5  
6                   Maybe my background gives me a little bit  
7 of a different perspective of this because I've spent a  
8 lot of time in the State system and a fair bit of time in  
9 the Federal system. I've watched as the intensive  
10 management statute in the State law has been implemented  
11 over the course of the last decade, but I also understand  
12 that that law has a mechanism in it to relax certain  
13 authorizations depending on land ownership. I'd like to  
14 see that part of the law, particularly as we look at  
15 predator harvest liberalizations that are premised on  
16 boosting moose and caribou predominantly, if there is a  
17 way to relax certain authorizations under the  
18 authorizations of that law without us having to use the  
19 Federal system.

20  
21                   I've had that conversation three  
22 different times with Board members and tried to  
23 articulate how I think that's more beneficial, but they  
24 have a difficult job to do and what they don't want to do  
25 is have many, many different rules for many, many  
26 different landowners throughout the state. That would be  
27 unmanageable. So, in each and every case they've said  
28 use your process if you think it's necessary to use your  
29 process. Up to now we've used the compendia process  
30 because it gives us the flexibility of backing away from  
31 it if there are other accommodations made. A Federal  
32 rulemaking is not so flexible, so we've not gone to that  
33 point yet.

34  
35                   MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I can  
36 appreciate that. Our Board of Game -- as a State Board  
37 of Game, I submitted my first proposal, I think, back in  
38 '94 to extend the wolf season to the end of May and that  
39 was for Unit 20A because while spring bear hunting I lost  
40 opportunity to shoot wolves and the caribou population,  
41 of course, was severely depressed and the season totally  
42 closed by the State. Now things have changed. In fact,  
43 some of those extensions of wolf seasons were proposals  
44 that I put forward that are in our region. Things have  
45 changed a lot.

46  
47                   Being a former Board of Fish member, I  
48 can relate to what you're saying. I'm going to bring up  
49 something really controversial later on in this meeting  
50 that people, when they meet next week at the Board of

1 Fish meeting, some people will be very unhappy when they  
2 see it, but I can fully appreciate what you're saying.  
3 Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

6

7 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame  
8 Chairman. The question is to Greg. How long can this  
9 closure on taking grizzly bears over bait, how long can  
10 it stay in the compendium process before it has to go to  
11 rulemaking? Is that a 10 year process or what?

12

13 MR. DUDGEON: Madame Chair. I know Don  
14 had asked a similar question when we were in Eagle and  
15 it's a good one.

16

17 I think what Joel was saying about trying  
18 to maintain flexibility, which we can do through the  
19 compendium. Since that's an annual process and we are  
20 not looking right now, though Joel has just described  
21 that maybe rulemaking is eventually where we end up  
22 going, I'm just looking at the closure or of taking brown  
23 bear over bait on an annual basis right now until or  
24 unless there would be a need to go through rulemaking.

25

26 Your question was how long can you do  
27 that before you're forced into rulemaking. I'm not a  
28 solicitor. I can't say that. I know that in some  
29 previous cases in Alaska what comes to mind are some of  
30 the vessel restrictions in Glacier Bay. They ended up  
31 having to go into rulemaking for some of those closures  
32 which for years had been in the compendia.

33

34 I'm hearing two things from stakeholders.  
35 I'm here from some folks stick with the compendia because  
36 it's flexible and it's not permanent. I'm hearing from  
37 others that, well, if you're going to do this, make it  
38 permanent, don't use the compendia, that's not a proper  
39 tool. I think for the time being  
40 flexibility is my primary interest. I don't have an  
41 answer for you as to how long we could continue to  
42 promulgate or rather to use the compendia for that kind  
43 of a closure, but I'll try to get that answer for you.

44

45 MR. HARD: I have that answer. Through  
46 the Chair. Member Woodruff. I think a lot of those  
47 answers will come through this process. This is the  
48 third year -- this will be the fourth year there's been  
49 a wildlife closure of one kind or another. The comments  
50 we're getting from the State and the discussions we'll

1 have with the State are largely on this compendia process  
2 issue. There have been conversations -- not  
3 conversations, but letters written suggesting that a  
4 rulemaking should be the appropriate process to go  
5 through.

6  
7 If we've got to that point where the  
8 discussions are pushing us into the point of rulemaking,  
9 then we'll likely move towards that because if that's --  
10 the mandate is to discuss this with the State and consult  
11 with the State to try to come to resolution and figure  
12 out a better way to navigate these sorts of differences.

13  
14  
15 If there's no room within the State  
16 system to accommodate the concerns of the Park Service,  
17 then if they're pushing us to a rulemaking, then I can  
18 understand that that might be the best way to go. The  
19 issue really is these are not what I would call closures.  
20 They're restrictions. The existing seasons are still  
21 there. There's plenty of opportunity to harvest wolves,  
22 coyotes and brown bears.

23  
24 These are new authorizations that we're  
25 restricting on a temporary basis because they're only for  
26 a short period of time with the exception of brown bear  
27 baiting. That probably -- that single one may have been  
28 the impetus for the push to the rulemaking conversation,  
29 which really hadn't surfaced in the three previous years  
30 that I can remember.

31  
32 But it is a very concerning point of  
33 theirs and we don't want to be -- I don't want to be  
34 accused or suspected of abusing a process. I told you  
35 yesterday fidelity of law is important to me. I've been  
36 doing this a long time. Maintaining the flexibility of  
37 the compendia process looked, from my perspective as both  
38 a superintendent and later as a deputy regional director,  
39 as the most flexible appropriate way to continue  
40 conversations with our sister agency at the State level  
41 to come up with resolutions. If we get pushed in this  
42 comment period to move to a rulemaking, we're going to  
43 consider that for sure.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just want to  
46 say what concerns me about this compendium is the Park  
47 Service interpretation of their own regulations for the  
48 necessity to say things like grizzly bears over bait  
49 shouldn't be shot or coyotes. Coyotes have -- I talked  
50 to my husband who has been here 50 years. There weren't

1 a coyote visible anywhere around the Interior of Alaska  
2 and then suddenly you start seeing coyotes. Now the Park  
3 Service wants to protect an animal that probably just  
4 moved in.

5

6 MR. KOEHLER: That's true.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the  
9 appearance it is to the local people. It's like, you  
10 know, there's two sides. You have your outside influence  
11 from the Lower 48 and then you have the people that live  
12 here. When we see something like those three species  
13 acting like -- I mean it looks like, okay, let's protect  
14 them because we're going to make these people happy in  
15 the Lower 48, that's how it comes across to us.

16

17 I call them -- one of the local guys,  
18 Danny Grangor (ph), calls them hand-wringers. We start  
19 to worry, worry, worry that something is going to be a  
20 bad thing for the resource. That's what most of the  
21 people in our area has talked about. That's such a  
22 limited amount of animals that would be killed in those  
23 three seasons, why not let it go a year or two and look  
24 at it before we jump on it and say, oh, these are are  
25 regs, we want to do it. We're protecting a healthy  
26 resource.

27

28 We don't look at it that way. We look at  
29 it like it's an opportunity for us and a lot of times --  
30 we got into this over a moose situation up in your area.  
31 He wrote a proposal for the State and he wrote it like  
32 what the State wants to hear is intensive management and  
33 then the same words went into the Federal side and the  
34 Federal said we can't do anything for intensive  
35 management. That proposal, when it passed, if I wouldn't  
36 have been at the Federal Board meeting saying I mean that  
37 wasn't the intent. He had to write it for the State that  
38 way and we have to write it for the Feds this way. So it  
39 gets a little frustrating for us. We're trying to do  
40 what we think is right for the area and the people and  
41 then we run into all these kind of problems and they're  
42 real.

43

44 MR. HARD: Madame Chair. I appreciate  
45 that comment. I suspect that in every region there's  
46 going to be a little bit different approach to these  
47 harvest methods, season extensions. I can tell you I  
48 haven't been to every region to interact at the SRC  
49 level. I did interact for the last decade in the SRC in  
50 Bristol Bay and I can tell you they don't support the

1 shooting of denning wolves when their hair has no value.  
2 They feel that's a frivolous take of wildlife.

3  
4 This isn't just about Lower 48 interests.  
5 I have to remind you that these are National Park,  
6 national interest lands. They're supposed to be managed  
7 for the highest level of public value and integrity.  
8 That doesn't mean that we don't take input at the local  
9 level and try to make adjustments, but a broad general  
10 hunt for wolves and coyotes while they're denning, while  
11 they have nursing pups, doesn't fit with a broad hunt in  
12 a National Park unit.

13  
14 I did have a conversation relative to the  
15 black bear baiting -- not baiting, denning provision in  
16 Gates of the Arctic and met with the staff here to  
17 understand if there were local people -- because there  
18 was a traditional component of that hunt. It didn't get  
19 promulgated necessarily in that way, but there is a  
20 process for us to use through the Federal Board to make  
21 sure that there's a traditional opportunity afforded to  
22 local rural residents. I think Marcy and Greg here both  
23 have met with at least members of Allakaket to understand  
24 if there should be a Federal proposal for a Federal hunt  
25 that represents that sort of interest for denning of  
26 bears in Gates of the Arctic.

27  
28 So it's not a complete closed door on any  
29 of these things, but when they're promulgated and allow  
30 all state residents an opportunity to do these things, it  
31 doesn't always comport with the fundamental purpose of  
32 the Parks and the Park values that we're charged to  
33 uphold. It's a difficult circumstance and I certainly  
34 understand your position on that.

35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

37  
38 MR. GLANZ: I think the problem with this  
39 compendium thing is because it was enacted, like Greg  
40 says, without an act of Congress. You know, taking the  
41 CFR out of the picture there. Their concern, I believe,  
42 most of the people I talked to, what if they say we can't  
43 have a boat on the river or something like that because  
44 -- you know, it's just so easily enacted, that's what  
45 they -- rather than a hearing or going through the legal  
46 process. That's the biggest problem most of them have  
47 with it. I understand the reason it went that way  
48 because it's not in stone, whereas a regulation would be  
49 in stone, so I think it's the better of the two deals  
50 myself, what you guys did.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
2 questions.

3  
4 Donald.

5  
6 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
7 This is to Greg and Joel. Since it's not in the Park  
8 philosophy or the integrity of grizzly bears to take them  
9 over bait, is the next step going to be that you don't  
10 like or you don't feel it's the integrity to take black  
11 bears over bait because that's a pretty important food  
12 source for subsistence people.

13  
14 MR. DUDGEON: Madame Chair. Don. Just  
15 to be clear, it's not a question of liking, not liking.  
16 The concern about the broad allowance of taking brown  
17 bears over bait, natural ecological processes and also  
18 food-conditioned bears, the community, the Park Service  
19 put a lot of effort in over the years to make sure that  
20 wildlife don't become habituated to human food sources.  
21 We know that there's a small amount of local use of  
22 taking black bears over bait. That I'm aware of, we have  
23 never had any kind of -- I'm talking about the Preserve  
24 now, having any kind of serious conversation about  
25 bringing any sort of end to that. That's not the point  
26 here.

27  
28 This was a Board of Game decision, a  
29 broad provision that would allow anybody with a sport  
30 hunting license to take grizzly bears over bait in the  
31 Preserve, something that had not taken place before.  
32 What the compendia would do in this case would simply go  
33 back to what had been, not allow a new general or sport  
34 allowance.

35  
36 So if your concern is specific to local  
37 users taking black bears over bait, I can tell you that  
38 that's not a place that we as a Staff have gone in terms  
39 of any conversations or see that as an issue.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

44  
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm going to respond to  
46 what you just said. I'm a hunting guide. I think  
47 everyone here knows that. I do bait black bears. What  
48 has happened and what caused the proposal for Unit 20C,  
49 which is part of that is Denali Preserve, was that a  
50 couple members of the Fish and Game Advisory Committee in

1 Fairbanks actually bait black bears in that unit and I've  
2 seen this happen out on Chena Hot Springs Road, I've seen  
3 it happen where I guide down in Unit 21D and then Unit  
4 24D, where we put out a black bear bait and what ends up  
5 happening is grizzly bears come to it. Once you get a  
6 grizzly bear coming to your black bear bait, you're not  
7 going to get anymore black bears coming to that black  
8 bear bait because they don't want to be anywhere near  
9 that grizzly bear. So that is why that proposal was put  
10 into the State Board of Game by the Fairbanks Fish and  
11 Game Advisory Committee for Unit 20C. Also there's a  
12 very low moose population there. The studies that have  
13 been done by the State and the Fish and Wildlife Service  
14 such as the one done in the Koyukuk National Wildlife  
15 Refuge in the early '90s, the bears, that's a combination  
16 between the black bears and the grizzly bears, at times  
17 take between 50 and 70 percent of the newborn moose  
18 calves before they're two weeks old in that region. So  
19 that's part of what these proposals are addressing.  
20 Another part of it, you know, as far as the conditioning  
21 the grizzly bears, they get conditioned anyway because  
22 they're eating up all the black bear bait and the black  
23 bears quit coming to the bait station once that happens.

24

25 I just wanted to let you know where the  
26 proposal came from. It came from the Fairbanks Fish and  
27 Game Advisory Committee and the reason why. We've got  
28 pictures. I mean I've got video of a grizzly bear with  
29 popcorn all over his face because I use popcorn for bait  
30 and put pancake syrup on it and bears really like that.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 And they can't run off with it like if  
35 you have a big piece of bait or something. They have to  
36 stay there and eat it. The popcorn, of course, with the  
37 syrup on it makes it sticky and it's really humorous to  
38 see this great big grizzly bear with popcorn all over his  
39 face, but no black bears came once they start coming.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions  
44 or fun stories.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. ROBERTS: I've got one.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,

1 James.

2

3 MR. ROBERTS: I've done black bear  
4 baiting before and I thought it was extremely difficult  
5 to get a brown bear to come in. You put a lot of time  
6 and effort into it and that's the only thing that comes  
7 in I'd like to be able to take it. As far as the guys  
8 hunting in 20C, I like it that they're -- you know, I  
9 like it so they have the option to kill these grizzly  
10 bears because that's where we hunt and we depend on 20C  
11 quite a bit for our food and I'd like to see a lot less  
12 grizzly bears around there.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's a point  
19 I'd like to make. In talking with Larry at break over  
20 this seagull thing, he had mentioned to me that, yeah,  
21 maybe someday in the future if you don't have food, you  
22 might shoot a seagull and want to eat it, but in their  
23 culture they wouldn't waste. What they shot they like to  
24 eat. I'm thinking in the future it could come down to  
25 where if you're baiting black bears and a grizzly bear  
26 comes in -- we eat grizzly bears. My family has eaten  
27 grizzly bears for years, especially in the fall they're  
28 pretty fat feeding on berries and it's excellent meat.  
29 I fed it to people and they don't know what they're  
30 eating and I tell them after and they can't believe it.

31

32 So I can't see closing a door. You're  
33 not closing with a compendium, but I guess I just -- I  
34 don't like to work in that hand-wringing process. I like  
35 to open seasons, let them go for a while and if you  
36 really feel like there's a problem, then you do something  
37 about it. In the future, there might be more people that  
38 want to shoot a grizzly bear to eat. I think the  
39 conditioning of the food situation, a lot of the areas  
40 where it is, it's so remote I don't see how it conditions  
41 them to the point where it's a concern to the people.

42

43 My point. Sorry. Anyone else. Larry.

44

45 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

46

47 I was listening to all these comments and  
48 questions being asked. Up in my area, you know, I hate  
49 to make it a practice of saying my area, but that's where  
50 I grew up and that's where I make my living subsistence

1 wise. Anyway, I always got the feeling that the bear or  
2 the moose or brown bear or whatever big game that you  
3 finally get has a fair chance, you know. I don't adhere  
4 to that policy of having a bait station. You know, it's  
5 not natural for me. If I see a brown bear and if I see  
6 a black bear or if I'm going to utilize it and I'm going  
7 to make use of it in some way, I'll get it. If not, I'll  
8 let it go.

9  
10 So all this bait station and all this  
11 other good stuff that people dream up I just don't go for  
12 it, so I would make my position clear on that and my  
13 people are not going to do that either. They tried to  
14 introduce it one time, but it didn't go over too good.  
15 They tried it, but it's just something that fell by the  
16 wayside as far as we were concerned.

17  
18 You know, we adhere to the policy of fair  
19 chase. Like I said from the beginning, that animal has  
20 a chance and we have a chance to give it a more, I guess  
21 you could say in your language, more sport-like,  
22 sportsman-like.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

25  
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: One teeny bit about bear  
27 hunting and that is you go to different parts of the  
28 state and in some parts of the state the people that live  
29 there there's no way you're going to get them to eat  
30 grizzly bear or brown bear, but other parts of the state,  
31 such as the Middle Yukon and the Koyukuk region, they eat  
32 them. We harvest quite a few grizzly bears, our guiding  
33 operation does, and I think I've made grizzly bear  
34 sausage for Sue before.

35  
36 Anyway, you take a nice big bear ham, you  
37 can cure it and smoke it just like you can a pork ham,  
38 whether it's a grizzly bear or a black bear. It depends  
39 on what the animal has been eating as to how it's going  
40 to taste. Like Sue mentioned the spring bears. You  
41 butcher one of these bears, even if it's a grizzly bear,  
42 and if it's up in the mountains in the berry patch, when  
43 you got that bear it smells almost like blueberry cobbler  
44 in the oven and those bears are really actually good  
45 eating. They make good sausage, they make good hams, you  
46 can make bacon out of them. Stan Zuray used to make lots  
47 of grizzly bear bacon. I made some up for him and he  
48 likes mine better than his.

49  
50 Anyway, a lot of people like to eat them.

1 But like I said earlier, once you get a grizzly coming  
2 into your bait station you can forget the black bears  
3 coming anymore. But that is what caused that proposal  
4 for the one that applies to the Denali Preserve, was the  
5 grizzly bears taking over the black bear bait stations  
6 and then the low survival of the moose calves in that  
7 area, the low calf to cow ratio.

8

9 Thank you.

10

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

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks guys.  
17 We're going to take up the date of our next meeting.  
18 Right now we have October 16th and 17th. We want to give  
19 the information to Carl so he can call and make sure we  
20 don't schedule on top of Southcentral and then we'll go  
21 back to the agenda. Right now we're currently at October  
22 16, 17. What did Southcentral do?

23

24 MS. PATTON: They're currently at October  
25 2nd to the 3rd, but they're going to revisit also, either  
26 confirm or.....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'd like to  
29 reconfirm ours. Anybody have any trouble with October  
30 16, 17.

31

32 MR. KOEHLER: Later is better.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Later is  
35 better?

36

37 MR. KOEHLER: Later in October. 16 and  
38 17 is a lot better than earlier in the month.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I agree.  
41 Our window ends when? Why does it say 11th?

42

43 MS. PATTON: It's extended actually, so  
44 this must be the old one.

45

46 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, it's March  
49 21st.

50

1 MR. JOHNSON: The window actually does  
2 close for the fall meetings on October 11th. You've just  
3 selected just outside of that window and typically if  
4 it's only one week outside of the window that's not a  
5 problem.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm with  
8 Will, later is better. We chose these dates already.  
9 Does anybody have any heartburn? Do we want to keep  
10 them?

11  
12 (Council nods affirmatively)

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It  
15 sounds like we want to keep those dates. Okay. If  
16 they're revisiting it at Southcentral, try not to  
17 overlap. Right now they've got 2nd, 3rd, so we should be  
18 all right.

19  
20 MR. JOHNSON: The main issue then is your  
21 winter dates, Madame Chair.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, wrong ones,  
24 huh. Sorry. The reason we're taking this up is so we  
25 can work this out with Southcentral. Look at the winter  
26 2014. What do you think?

27  
28 MS. PATTON: Council, there is a calendar  
29 in the back of the meeting book that has the.....

30  
31 MR. GLANZ: 117 page.

32  
33 MS. PATTON: .....meeting window for fall  
34 and winter on 116 and 17. The winter window opens  
35 February 2nd and runs until March 21st. Right now it's  
36 wide open. We just have one meeting so far. Bristol Bay  
37 RAC confirmed their winter 2014 date for February 11th  
38 and 12th. We can have two Councils meet per week, so  
39 it's wide open.

40  
41 MR. GLANZ: I have no preference.  
42 Whenever.

43  
44 MR. KOEHLER: What's the date of the  
45 Board of Game meeting? It would be nice to be able to  
46 come to town just once.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're all in  
49 the same boat. There's so bloody many meetings anymore.  
50

1 MR. FIRMIN: 19, 20.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 19, 20 of what?  
4  
5 MR. FIRMIN: February.  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's tough  
8 for me. Who in the State is here? When is Board of Game  
9 do you know?  
10  
11 MR. GLANZ: Rita St. Louis came in. She  
12 must have left already.  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rita is back  
15 there. Rita, when is the Board of Game?  
16  
17 MS. ST. LOUIS: Next year, I don't know.  
18  
19 MR. KOEHLER: It's usually the third week  
20 in -- second or third week in March, I thought.  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sometimes we'll  
23 have it right before the Board of Game starts.  
24  
25 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, that would be  
26 excellent.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be  
29 good for me too, I think. How about the rest of you?  
30 Which could be March 5th and 6th. I don't know.  
31  
32 MR. FIRMIN: 5 and 6 works for me.  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's  
35 tentatively mark that. Anyone else agree with that?  
36  
37 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.....  
38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: March 5th and  
40 6th. Yes, Virgil.  
41  
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll bet you that that's  
43 when the Board of Game will be meeting is during that  
44 period of time. What they've been doing is meeting right  
45 at the end of February and first of March for Interior --  
46 for our region for proposals. The last couple of cycles  
47 that's when they've met. I know we've had our meetings  
48 just prior to the Board of Game meeting starting, right  
49 in this same room, and then went straight from here to  
50 Board of Game. We've done that the last two times.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think it was  
2 around that first week of March. Can we all agree and  
3 just tentatively set it March 5th and 6th.  
4  
5 (Council nods affirmatively)  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If Board of  
8 Game changes, maybe we'll find that out before the  
9 meeting ends. Okay?  
10  
11 MR. KOEHLER: Sounds good.  
12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then I'm  
14 assuming Fairbanks is what we're thinking.  
15  
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: I want to say something,  
17 Sue.  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.  
20  
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Maybe the week before  
22 that and then we would have our meeting just prior to the  
23 Board of Game meeting and you could come to just one --  
24 into town one time.  
25  
26 MR. KOEHLER: I'd be in town for almost  
27 a month it sounds like.  
28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No,  
30 actually.....  
31  
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll make a bet that  
33 Rita.....  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It always  
36 starts on Friday.  
37  
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....Rita could go make  
39 a phone call and find out when the Board of Game meeting  
40 is going to be.  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: March 7th is a  
43 Friday and they usually start on a Friday, so it's either  
44 the week before or that week. Okay, Rita, could you give  
45 us a heads up over the mic.  
46  
47 MS. ST. LOUIS: It's 15th through the  
48 19th of Board of Game next year.  
49  
50 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's what it is

1 this year.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, March.

4

5 MS. ST. LOUIS: Oh, I said -- I asked for  
6 next year.

7

8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 2014? I don't see  
9 it on their website. They've got March 15th through the  
10 19th, 2013.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We could just  
13 have our intent to have it just in front of the Board of  
14 Game.

15

16 MS. PATTON: Sure, absolutely. We could  
17 get an update from the Board of Game on their final dates  
18 and work with the Council. This is plenty early on. We  
19 can make that adjustment. The challenge we're trying to  
20 do here is not to overlap with the Southcentral Council.  
21 If they choose their dates too, we'll just have to try to  
22 work with that. For the time being, the Council would  
23 like March 5th and 6th as the tentative dates,  
24 anticipating that falls after Board of Game.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Our intent is  
27 have it just in front of.

28

29 MS. PATTON: In front of.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Okay.  
32 Do you guys need a break or do you want to move on.

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let's have a break.

35

36 (Council nods affirmatively)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's have a  
39 short break.

40

41 (Off record)

42

43 (On record)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My gavel got  
46 left in Anchorage, so back to hitting the mic. Okay. We  
47 have a blue card here. Gerald Nicholia would like to  
48 speak to us on a couple issues that are on our agenda and  
49 our past chair of our Eastern Interior RAC. Could you  
50 come up, Gerald.

1 MR. NICHOLIA: Thank you. Gerald  
2 Nicholia from Tanana. I represent the Tanana Tribal  
3 Council. On this customary and traditional use  
4 determination that you guys have developed a policy or  
5 whatever, I read through it and it says a policy to this  
6 and a policy to that. There's no definitions and there's  
7 no really nothing. So I'm going to take the position of  
8 the State, representing the Tanana Tribal Council, is  
9 that this letter here that you guys could read and  
10 there's an attachment to this letter, I left it home in  
11 Tanana, but you could see it. It's addressed -- December  
12 7, 2007 and it's addressed to Mike Fleagle, when he was  
13 the chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board. Ken  
14 Taylor was the deputy commissioner.

15  
16 In this letter, Attachment A sections,  
17 are specific comments on the draft policy. You know,  
18 it's too broad. Your draft policy is too broad. It  
19 gives the Federal Subsistence Board too much leeway and  
20 it leaves too much misunderstanding and misleading. It's  
21 got to be more narrowed down to address just the C&T  
22 determination. There's too much in that draft policy.  
23 There's just too much. There's way too much. You're  
24 like handing the whole plate of meat to the Federal  
25 Subsistence Board and you're not leaving nothing for the  
26 users.

27  
28 This program was designed from the Katie  
29 John decision to allow Federally qualified subsistence  
30 users to continue to harvest natural resources. The way  
31 I see this Federal subsistence program, it's manipulating  
32 that policy to manipulate the users to gain more power.  
33 This program is not designed to do that. It's designed  
34 to allow the Federal subsistence qualified user to do  
35 what they do and don't just be manipulating.

36  
37 I think this draft policy for customary  
38 and traditional use determinations has to be redrafted,  
39 otherwise I don't know what we're going to do, man. Dual  
40 management is not working along the Yukon. It's not  
41 working anywhere in my view. You either work with the  
42 State or be prepared to be another Katie John deal. I'm  
43 working towards that, you know, because I can't have the  
44 people I represent be chewed up from both sides and  
45 restricted and then manipulated in other ways. I can't  
46 allow that.

47  
48 The chairman told me we've got to take  
49 the position of -- the Tanana Tribe Council has taken the  
50 position of the State on that with Attachment A. I

1 should have brought that. That's all I had to say. You  
2 can take this paper right here.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm just  
5 wondering what you're reading from. Is that something  
6 that's in our book?

7  
8 MR. NICHOLIA: I've got this letter right  
9 here and I'll show you right now.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As they bring  
12 it up, any questions of Gerald on this. It would be  
13 great, Gerald, if you sent to Eva all of this  
14 information.

15  
16 MR. NICHOLIA: I could do that. I could  
17 go to a computer and I could get it out of there, but I  
18 will.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Because  
21 you said there's an attachment. It's at Page 88 in our  
22 book.

23  
24 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Just to  
25 clarify for the Council and the audience, the letter that  
26 Mr. Gerald Nicholia has brought forth that was submitted  
27 by his council back in December 2007 to the State of  
28 Alaska is actually in your meeting book. It was provided  
29 by the Southeast Interior Council as part of the  
30 documents of reviewing C&T, so it is in your meeting  
31 book.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Gerald, can you  
34 help me out. What you're saying is this dual system is  
35 not working and Tanana now would go with the State. Am  
36 I hearing you right?

37  
38 MR. NICHOLIA: You could read Attachment  
39 A. It's just the draft policy is just way too broad. It  
40 gives the Federal Subsistence Board way too much power  
41 and it leads to too much misunderstanding. Every time we  
42 bring some kind of proposal for determination they always  
43 have to refer to lawyers and they get back to you, so  
44 nothing is ever done. It's got to be more narrowed down.  
45 It's got to be more explainable. Just read that  
46 attachment A.

47 MR. WOODRUFF: It's on Page 89.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm on  
50 it. It's on Page 89.

1 MR. NICHOLIA: I talked to my bosses and  
2 everything, the council and everything, me and Joe. They  
3 said just go for it. We have to stand against. It's got  
4 to be more narrowed down and there's got to be  
5 definitions for it, it's got to be more explained and  
6 it's got to be more clear because all I see in that  
7 policy is just more misleading and more misunderstanding.  
8 It's more like a dividing policy instead of to work  
9 together. All of us, if we want to achieve a common goal  
10 on any kind of resource, we have to work together, not be  
11 divisive. I see this policy as dividing instead of  
12 uniting.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does anyone  
15 have any questions of Gerald.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we're  
20 trying to wrap our heads around what you're saying. Let  
21 me get it clear then. This is what the Southeast people  
22 put up for us and they want to change some things and  
23 they're suggesting us to take it up at the next meeting,  
24 right?

25

26 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Yes. This is  
27 what David had presented on yesterday.

28

29 The Southeast Council has asked all the  
30 Councils to review the C&T process and consider it.  
31 There's no action needed at this meeting. It was  
32 bringing information forward and again requesting to look  
33 at how the information had been presented to each of the  
34 Councils and how the process worked. David is here as  
35 well. He's the one that gave the presentation yesterday.  
36 So if you have specific questions, he may be able to  
37 address some of the questions as well.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

40

41 MR. KOEHLER: So, if I'm understanding  
42 you correctly, you're saying that the draft policy for  
43 C&T is too broad, so do you want to do away with it or do  
44 you want to modify it?

45

46 MR. NICHOLIA: I'd say it's got to be  
47 narrowed. Just what that Attachment A -- you read that  
48 Attachment A and it explains everything. It's just way  
49 too broad for what it's trying to do. It's just going to  
50 lead to more misunderstanding. If we're going to save

1 anything, like a resource, or give to anybody or include  
2 anybody in a harvest of Federally qualified users, it's  
3 just way too broad. It's got to be narrowed down. It's  
4 got to do a purposes, not mislead and make  
5 misunderstandings because it's very misleading to me.  
6 You read it and then you'll understand what I'm saying.

7

8 MR. KOEHLER: So your position is in this  
9 Attachment A.

10

11 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, the Tanana Tribe  
12 Council position.

13

14 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
17 questions.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll ask you  
22 one more, Gerald. I just want to be clear what I'm  
23 hearing. This is an attachment that.....

24

25 MR. NICHOLIA: Attachment A.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....was  
28 brought to the Federal Board regarding Federal management  
29 and even though this dual system is not working that  
30 well, this is what you want for the Federal system.

31

32 MR. NICHOLIA: I want to do away with it  
33 or narrow it down. If you read it because it just  
34 policies and this will do that. It's not -- it gives way  
35 too broad. It's not doing its purpose.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do away with  
38 the Federal system, is that what I'm hearing, or go  
39 narrow?

40

41 MR. NICHOLIA: What's that?

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do away with  
44 the Federal system or no?

45

46 MR. NICHOLIA: Well, like I said earlier,  
47 dual management of the Yukon River and anywhere is not  
48 working because we're always fighting. I'd like to see  
49 the Federal Subsistence Board and Alaska Department of  
50 Fish and Game and everybody work together to a common

1 goal. The way I see this policy, it's more for Federal  
2 Subsistence Board to allow to manipulate the Federally  
3 qualified users in any situation that you've got to make  
4 a C&T determination on. I mean the Federal Subsistence  
5 Board. I've been to a lot of these meetings and every  
6 time it comes up they always say, oh, we can't do this,  
7 we can't do that and they always refer everything to a  
8 lawyer or the region solicitor and that system is not  
9 working.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we all  
12 feel your pain. Any other questions of Gerald.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Gerald, if your  
17 organization can send any other -- I mean if Attachment  
18 A you have any additions or anything else you want, send  
19 it to Eva and she'll get it out to us because we'll be  
20 discussing this at our next meeting.

21

22 MR. NICHOLIA: I'm kind of doing a whole  
23 bunch of things today, but I will talk to Julie again and  
24 we'll get together and we'll send a letter.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It doesn't have  
27 to be done today. It can be done within the next month  
28 or two.

29

30 MR. NICHOLIA: I just wanted to go on  
31 record for this.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We greatly  
34 appreciate it. Thanks so much. Good to see you.

35

36 MR. NICHOLIA: Thank you guys and thanks  
37 for allowing me to cut into your meeting.

38

39 I appreciate it.

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: I just wanted to thank  
42 you, Gerald. This is one of these super-complicated  
43 things that a person has to really read and focus on and  
44 try to figure out what's the best thing to do. It looks  
45 like we're going to be doing this -- it's scheduled for  
46 the next meeting.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Gerald, could

1 you push that button and turn the mic down. Somebody's  
2 online that wants to talk. Yes, go ahead.

3

4 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner and I'm  
5 the anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence  
6 Management here in Anchorage. I was just looking through  
7 the documents that the speaker was referring to and I can  
8 see how it can be a little confusing. I think that here  
9 at OSM we might have done a better job of putting the  
10 package together. I want to explain that there were two  
11 C&T review processes. One was in 2007 and one was more  
12 recently. The one more recently was part of the  
13 Secretarial Review. It happened a year ago where, again,  
14 OSM employees went out to the Councils and asked them for  
15 their opinions concerning the C&T determination process.

16

17 What I'd like to get at is that the main  
18 point that the Southeast Council is making is that that  
19 briefing wasn't done very well and Staff here at OSM  
20 agree with that. The people who were giving the briefing  
21 were not fully aware of this complicated process and  
22 weren't able to answer questions. What was going to be  
23 included with the letter was actually a review of the  
24 comments from the recent review. Unfortunately what's  
25 included with the document is all the information from  
26 the review that happened in 2007 and there's nothing in  
27 there about the more recent review.

28

29 What we would like people to do is be  
30 thinking about this issue though and maybe be prepared to  
31 speak to it in a more organized way when we get to the  
32 fall meeting.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, if  
37 there's missing stuff that isn't in here, it should be  
38 something we get long before we meet in our next meeting  
39 so we can be looking at it and thinking about it.

40

41 MS. KENNER: Yes, Madame Chair, I agree.  
42 I will make note of that.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's you  
45 guys's job. Appreciate it if you'd help us out there.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 Thanks again, Gerald.

50

1 MR. NICHOLIA: All right.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good luck at  
6 your meetings. Okay. It looks like BLM people that are  
7 doing this draft Resource Management Plan aren't here  
8 right now. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, are those  
9 people here right now? We've got Vince, so we've got  
10 one, and then next would be Tetlin and Yukon.

11

12 Go ahead, Vince.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. My name is  
15 Vince Mathews. I'm the subsistence Refuge coordinator  
16 for Arctic, Kanuti, and Yukon Flats. For Arctic we  
17 really don't have anything that was new since you heard  
18 in fall. So if there's questions you have about Arctic,  
19 I'll carry those back and then get you responses either  
20 before your next meeting or the next meeting. I cover a  
21 whole bunch of different topics, so I want to give you an  
22 update that some of you have been very helpful with and  
23 I think others will echo.

24

25 As you know, you have Federal hunts that  
26 require permits. Those permits are there because there's  
27 either a biological or management concern, so we need  
28 your assistance to make sure people comply with turning  
29 in those permits. I oversee I think seven permitted  
30 hunts. The point of it is is those hunts were specific  
31 to allow subsistence possibly to continue in an area  
32 where there's a biological or management concern. If you  
33 can get your fellow hunters and that to comply with  
34 those, that would be great.

35

36 I think with the hunters there's  
37 confusion over harvest because we call them harvest  
38 reports. We need also participation. If they go out and  
39 hunt and don't get anything, they still need to report so  
40 we can get that. That's a gauge on how the hunt is  
41 going. So with that, I'd really appreciate that the --  
42 Fort Yukon, Gwichyaa Zhee and CATG have been helpful in  
43 getting compliance for the hunts in 25D West. Just so  
44 you guys understand that.

45

46 What we've established now in the  
47 program, it's kind of in the experimental stage, is three  
48 steps. One, I'll send out a reminder during the season  
49 saying, hey, Eva, you've got a permit for this thing and  
50 please send us your reports. Then there will be one 15

1 days after the hunt saying, hey, you've got to report,  
2 you didn't report. Then the third step will be I give  
3 you a phone call and say, hey, Eva, where are you. Then  
4 after that it's possible that a permit will not be issued  
5 to that person the next time.

6  
7 Remember, the reason these hunts were  
8 established was to allow subsistence activity to continue  
9 during a situation that there was biological concern. So  
10 is that clear to everybody? I'm sure I'll be on a lot of  
11 bulletin boards around the tribal councils. But you get  
12 the idea we need -- you need actually that data too to  
13 understand if it's taking Donald 15 more days to get his  
14 moose compared to five or six years ago as an example or  
15 that whatever he reports that helps the system.

16  
17 With that I'll stop and see if there's  
18 any questions.

19  
20 MR. KOEHLER: I'm just curious, Vince.  
21 So you sent me my letter and you've sent me my letter 15  
22 days after the season and now you're going to give me a  
23 phone call. I don't have a phone, so what do you do in  
24 that case?

25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: I haven't thought that far  
27 ahead, but basically what I'm trying to do is get  
28 compliance. Maybe not Will, but the rest of you guys  
29 have seen the data and sometimes compliance on reporting  
30 is pretty darn low.

31  
32 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah. We see that on the  
33 State side.

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: And that's on your back  
36 too. I mean if the biologist or the manager's got a  
37 fudge factor of 50 percent, it's going to be on your  
38 back. If you don't have a phone, I don't know what we'll  
39 do, but the point is we need to get a system that is  
40 responsive to them, so that when you guys have an issue,  
41 she moves, whatever, you have an understanding what your  
42 users are doing under these permit hunts. I'm just  
43 focusing on the permitted hunts.

44  
45 So I don't know what I'll do with that.  
46 I mean if we have somebody flying in the area -- he hit  
47 me the other day politely, but when it came up, he  
48 slammed me on that one, on the application process, the  
49 timing and he doesn't get mail and I should have called  
50 in a Park Service plane to drop off a thing, et cetera,

1 et cetera.

2

3 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you. I just wanted  
4 to bring that to point we have a couple of issues, which  
5 communication with subsistence users can be really,  
6 really difficult sometimes.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's why I'm asking  
9 your help. Also when we meet with tribal leaders in  
10 different meetings we need their help on that. Of  
11 course, the first step is communication to lead to  
12 cooperation.

13

14 That's all I've got for Arctic. I mean  
15 the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, the CCP, is on hold.  
16 We don't know when that is going to be released, so once  
17 that's released then that will be a topic that will be  
18 before you. I'm carrying back information on that  
19 closure area for 26B remainder and 26C, so we'll be  
20 working with OSM biologist as well as the State on that  
21 issue you talked about at length yesterday.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

24

25 MR. GLANZ: Vince, do you receive any  
26 sheep harvest in Arctic Village after we passed it and  
27 let them go back in there or are they still not  
28 reporting?

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: I don't want to say they're  
31 not reporting. With seven hunts, to my knowledge, I  
32 don't think any permits were issued, but I'd have to go  
33 back and look. I do get calls, I think Sue gets calls  
34 from different individuals from Arctic Village. They  
35 call periodically and just want to talk. I'm drawing a  
36 blank on that. I'd have to talk with the subsistence  
37 manager for Arctic on that. As the person who enters the  
38 data, I do not remember entering any data that so and so  
39 got a permit for that area. You know the history of  
40 that. That's a pretty intensive, expensive hunt for them  
41 to go.

42

43 MR. GLANZ: Thanks, Vince.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Vince,  
46 that would be good data to bring to us every time.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I'll take that as a  
49 directive on that for Arctic Village and then through  
50 your contacts encourage them also.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.  
2  
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Vince, the radio stations  
4 have these public announcements like KJNP. Do you ever  
5 use those to try to get people to send in their reports  
6 and send them reminders?  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everybody would  
9 hear it.  
10  
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: A lot of people listen to  
12 that.  
13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Virgil, yes, we are looking  
15 into that. Mimi has been on the radio. You've all met  
16 Mimi Thomas, law enforcement ranger for Yukon Flats.  
17 She's doing a regular -- again, I've been traveling a  
18 lot, so I don't know if it's a regular time on the radio.  
19 But, yes, that will be brought up that way through the  
20 Fort Yukon radio station. I haven't had a chance to work  
21 closely with Steve and you'll meet the new deputy on  
22 expanding that to KJNP. But, yes, that would be a way to  
23 get areas that have radio stations to get the message  
24 out, hey, comply. Maybe we could work with the State on  
25 a combined message because all this process needs that  
26 data. Otherwise you guys are having difficulty in some  
27 of these touchy issues.  
28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You might not  
30 want to do it this way, but in our area we have Caribou  
31 Clatters on KCAM and you get to hear a lot of gossip  
32 sometimes. People put the doggonedest things out to  
33 their family in the Bush. I would bet you most people --  
34 there might not be everybody, but I bet a lot of people  
35 have HughesNet or StarBand or something. They have the  
36 internet because that's what's going on anymore.  
37  
38 Go ahead, James.  
39  
40 MR. ROBERTS: Yes, I was curious about if  
41 you don't comply with the permit and you get banished for  
42 a year, what's the offense for -- I mean what's the  
43 punishment for a second and third offense?  
44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I'm going to duck on  
46 that one because I need to talk to law enforcement.  
47  
48 (Laughter)  
49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: But there is -- it is in

1 regulations and all that. Speaking for myself, that's  
2 not really what we're here for, is to -- we're here to  
3 manage for the best of the resource and the users that  
4 are involved with it. If we need to use the stick  
5 instead of the carrot, I'm pushing the carrot except for  
6 the phone call part. So, yeah, I could look back into  
7 that. But, yes, there is fines and et cetera. I mean  
8 I've had law enforcement officers come up to me and say  
9 it's da da da da da and I didn't memorize that. So, yes,  
10 there is a mechanism in there where I think a citation  
11 could be issued, but I don't know the amount or all the  
12 details. If you want, I can look into it. It will be in  
13 like a Federal Register notice thing, but it's in the  
14 regs. There's no doubt.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We've got two  
17 here. Will, then Andrew.

18

19 MR. KOEHLER: Well, perhaps, you're  
20 exactly right. It's just a level of communication. I'll  
21 certainly bring that back to people in my community or  
22 where I'm from. As you can see from the area that I have  
23 of papers, I'm using enough area for three people.  
24 Sometimes us Bush people are just not very organized.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: More important  
27 things, huh. Andrew.

28

29 MR. FIRMIN: You could report on any  
30 permit and anything online too, can't you, because I'm  
31 normally too cheap to go buy a stamp when I get my  
32 reminder. Could you do that with all permits and special  
33 use permits?

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: If I understand what you're  
36 saying, you could report online. The Federal side, we  
37 don't have that where you can report online.

38

39 MR. KOEHLER: Right.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: So I would have to defer to  
42 the State on that. Our permit hunts are pretty limited,  
43 you know, an area. The State ones are broader and that.  
44 The State could speak about reporting online. The bottom  
45 line is that for you guys to function, the managers to  
46 function, people need to report at a good enough level so  
47 you have a barometer of what's happening out there is the  
48 bottom line, is the message I'm trying to carry across.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other

1 questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

6

7 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was pretty  
10 short, Vince.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: I only sweated a little  
13 bit.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tetlin is next.

18

19

20 MR. MOLLNOW: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
21 Members of the Council. My name is Ryan Mollnow. I'm  
22 the manager for Tetlin Refuge. I've been there getting  
23 pretty close to two years now. I've got with me Nathan  
24 Berg. He's one of our biologists and really today we're  
25 just here before you to present you with kind of an  
26 update on our moose survey we did in November and plus a  
27 few other updates. I'm going to let Nate go ahead and  
28 handle giving you that update.

29

30 We do have -- we didn't get this sent out  
31 to you early enough, but we did make copies, so I can try  
32 to.....

33

34 MR. BERG: I already did.

35

36 MR. MOLLNOW: Oh, you already passed it  
37 out? Okay, good.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We got copies.

40

41 MR. MOLLNOW: Thank you.

42

43 MR. BERG: All right. I'm Nate Berg. I  
44 appreciate the opportunity. Just to give you a little  
45 update on our moose survey that we did this last fall.  
46 We surveyed approximately a 3,000 square mile survey  
47 area, which encompasses all the Refuge, part of Wrangell-  
48 St. Elias National Park as well as Northway and Tetlin  
49 Native corporation lands. It's approximately 30 percent  
50 of GMU 12. The remainder of that unit was surveys also

1 this last year by Fish and Game, which was cool because  
2 then we can compare our results.

3  
4 We continue to have a relatively stable  
5 population. We estimated there was about 1,600 moose on  
6 the Refuge, which came to .55 moose per square mile. One  
7 thing that did stick out to us was our low calf/cow  
8 ratio. We had 18 calves to 100 cows. I talked to  
9 Torsten Bentzen at Fish and Game a little bit about that  
10 and they also noticed not quite that low, but relatively  
11 low calf to cow ratios for the rest of Unit 12 and also  
12 low reproduction for caribou and Dall sheep as well. So  
13 we kind of think it's not necessarily a predator issue,  
14 it was weather. It was kind of a severe winter and a  
15 cold, wet spring.

16  
17 Moving on from there, we've been working  
18 in a joint effort with the Yukon Environment, Alaska  
19 Department of Fish and Game and Wrangell-St. Elias to  
20 finalize a management plan for the Chisana Caribou Herd,  
21 so that is out and I have a copy of it here if you guys  
22 haven't seen it. Most of you probably have or some of  
23 you.

24  
25 Concerns from Mentasta caribou. On the  
26 Refuge oftentimes we get Mentasta caribou on the Refuge  
27 and they mix with the Nelchinas during the wintertime, so  
28 we do aerial flights to listen for those frequencies to  
29 see what the mixing ratio to Nelchina and Mentasta  
30 caribou is. We did a flight this fall right before we  
31 started our fall hunt and we didn't hear any Mentasta  
32 frequencies on the Refuge. We have additional flights  
33 planned for later this month and into March so we can  
34 keep tabs on that. At this time, the mixing ratio of  
35 Mentasta and Nelchina appears to be very low and we have  
36 little concern that Mentastas are being harvested in any  
37 significant numbers. There's probably only a handful of  
38 them on the Refuge.

39  
40 Our winter hunt opened up on November the  
41 3rd and after a good snowfall the Refuge was subsequently  
42 open to snowmachines on November 10th. As of Tuesday,  
43 there were 79 users that had been issued permits, 15 of  
44 which had hunted and 12 of those were successful for an  
45 80 percent success rate. I think there's probably other  
46 folks that have been out and have hunted and just haven't  
47 turned in their hunt reports.

48  
49 On the Refuge we also conduct snowshoe  
50 hare pellet counts to kind of keep tabs on that

1 population, see where the snowshoe hares are in the  
2 cycle. One of the big reasons that we do that is because  
3 snowshoe hares are so important for a bunch of other  
4 furbearers. Right now our data results indicate that we  
5 continue to be in the low part of the snowshoe hare cycle  
6 phase.

7  
8 We continue our long-term monitoring  
9 efforts also for migratory birds. We conduct surveys for  
10 waterfowl, for a variety of raptors as well as  
11 Passerines. That's about it for Tetlin.

12  
13 We've had a couple people recently  
14 retire. Our supervisory biologist Bud Johnson, who had  
15 been at the Refuge for about 14 years, retired in  
16 December and Hank Timm, who had been at the Refuge for a  
17 couple decades as the general biologist for us also  
18 retired on that same date. We have a few new people. We  
19 have a new I&M biologist Kristin DeGroot and one of our  
20 longtime seasonal, Nicole Wells, we've brought her on now  
21 as a permanent general biologist.

22  
23 I'll take any questions or comments or  
24 feedback.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm smiling  
29 because I didn't know either Bud or Hank in Tok has  
30 retired. Okay. Any questions of Tetlin. Donald.

31  
32 MR. WOODRUFF: Earlier yesterday we were  
33 discussing the predation of seagulls on chinook and I was  
34 wondering if you could include them in your waterfowl  
35 counts or your bird counts to see if they are either  
36 increasing or decreasing and that would give us some data  
37 that we probably will be making a proposal on in the  
38 future.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 MR. BERG: I'll take note of that.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

47  
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Is all of the Tetlin  
49 Refuge in the Tanana River drainage?

50

1 MR. BERG: Yeah, it is. On the Refuge we  
2 have the Nabesna River and the Chisana River that join  
3 and from there the Tanana begins. So, yeah, all of it  
4 is. Well, I take that back. There's a very small  
5 portion of it that drains into Canada, but it's just a  
6 little section right next to the border.

7  
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: So that part then goes  
9 into the Yukon.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

12  
13 MR. BERG: Yes.

14  
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: You don't have any salmon  
16 spawning in the Refuge, do you?

17  
18 MR. BERG: There are reports of chum  
19 salmon from some of the Natives that I've heard of, but  
20 as far as we know there are no significant salmon runs  
21 anywhere on the Refuge.

22  
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Would that be in the fall  
24 or say in August? Would it be in September, October or  
25 August when they say they see those fish? There's two  
26 runs of chum salmon that come up the Tanana, the summer  
27 and the fall. There has been reports, I know, of coho  
28 spawning, small populations of them in the Tok River  
29 drainage, which is close to there.

30  
31 MR. BERG: From what I have heard it  
32 would be the late season chum run when they're seeing  
33 those chums. I've heard the same thing about the silver  
34 salmon in the Tok. I know there's some people off of the  
35 Refuge down by the Robertson River where it flows into  
36 the Tanana that catch chum salmon there later in the  
37 season.

38  
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

40  
41 MR. KOEHLER: To add to that, Virgil,  
42 that's kind of where I grew up, but we would put in a few  
43 dog salmon nets. The salmon are really not much good  
44 except for the eggs, but we would put in dog salmon nets  
45 usually starting about the 25th of September, so we'd  
46 start catching dogs and silvers about that same amount of  
47 timeframe, about the 20th until things iced up.

48  
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Is that new Bluff Cabin  
50 Slough?

1 MR. KOEHLER: Mostly it was below there,  
2 but between the Robertson River and Tanacross, so that's  
3 below Tetlin, but I think they definitely go up higher  
4 because we would consistently catch fish.

5  
6 MR. BERG: Will, just for some  
7 clarification, was that just chum salmon that you were  
8 catching?

9  
10 MR. KOEHLER: No. Silvers as well.

11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
13 questions of Tetlin. Will, go ahead.

14  
15 MR. KOEHLER: I have a question. Could  
16 you update us. One of our points is the hunting guide  
17 concession. It's on our draft annual report on Page 34.  
18 Could you update us on the process of that area? I think  
19 it's Area 001.

20  
21 MR. MOLLNOW: Through the Chair. Where  
22 that process is at right now is there was an application  
23 period last winter and those people that applied that  
24 came to me we moved through the process. We are now to  
25 the point where we're actually reviewing some additional  
26 applications that were there and I'll be further making  
27 a selection here probably within the next couple months.

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Help me out.  
30 No, I don't know what you're talking about.

31  
32 MR. MOLLNOW: What transpired was the  
33 Ellises missed the application deadline and there was  
34 some letters written. Basically the way it ended up  
35 shaking out is we have allowed them to go ahead and  
36 include their applications. Now I'm waiting to get Kirk  
37 Ellis and Cole Ellis's application for me to then go  
38 ahead and take them into consideration along with the  
39 other people that applied so that I can go ahead and make  
40 a final selection.

41  
42 MR. KOEHLER: So actually we're dealing  
43 with two areas, 001 and 002 both.

44  
45 They both missed their application?

46  
47 MR. MOLLNOW: Yes.

48  
49 MR. KOEHLER: Hmm. Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's  
2 interesting because the last time I talked to you it was  
3 a done deal and now we're doing nothing. When did this  
4 change?  
5  
6 MR. MOLLNOW: It changed just over  
7 Christmas.  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm glad to  
10 hear this. Great.  
11  
12 MR. MOLLNOW: Yes.  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And our draft  
15 letter didn't even go out yet. Donald.  
16  
17 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes. At the end of this  
18 guiding concession issue it says it will not reopen for  
19 10 years. Why is that a significant number, 10 years?  
20  
21 MR. MOLLNOW: As far as I'm aware of,  
22 that is the way the regulations set with guide use areas.  
23  
24 MR. WOODRUFF: It's pretty limited.  
25  
26 MR. KOEHLER: It's usually a permit, Don,  
27 that's on a 10-year renewable basis. So you apply for it  
28 and then you have it for 10 years and then you have to  
29 reapply and it goes out for bid again to the public.  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what  
32 happened when the State lost the management on guide  
33 concessions. The Feds took over -- actually the Park  
34 Service took theirs on and Fish and Wildlife Service took  
35 theirs on. It's all in a -- the rest of it, the Federal  
36 lands, is still managed by the State, which is all in the  
37 process of trying to work out right now through the  
38 State.  
39  
40 All right. Any other questions.  
41  
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Sue.  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.  
45  
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: If you want to really get  
47 into something complicated and lots of arguments, start  
48 talking about guide use areas right now. The State --  
49 and this is -- right now it's out for comment. The guide  
50 concession program through Department of Natural

1 Resources, which will be kind of similar to what they  
2 have on the Refuges, but we have the Refuge system, the  
3 National Park System, the BLM system and the Forest  
4 Service system. So we've got all kinds of them. I'm  
5 only involved in three, luckily enough; the Refuge, the  
6 BLM and the State. It's getting so that you almost have  
7 to be an accountant and a grant writer to be a hunting  
8 guide.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's  
11 a different issue. All right. Any other questions of  
12 Tetlin Refuge.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You guys don't  
17 see any proposals we need to write, do you?

18

19 MR. MOLLNOW: Not that I'm aware of at  
20 this point in time.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
23 Thanks.

24

25 MR. MOLLNOW: Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is Yukon  
28 Flats.

29

30 MR. BERENDZON: Thank you, Madame Chair  
31 and Council. Steve Berendzon, Yukon Flats Refuge  
32 Manager. I'd like to introduce Nathan Hawkaluk, the  
33 deputy refuge manager that just came on board this week.

34

35 We don't have much to update you on. We  
36 had a lot of information at the fall meeting. We didn't  
37 prepare any written updates. I do have a couple things  
38 I would like to update the Council on.

39

40 The CCP or Comprehensive Conservation  
41 Plan that was mentioned last time, we were anticipating  
42 starting that planning process sometime this year. Due  
43 to the budget cuts that the Fish and Wildlife Service has  
44 received, that's being postponed or cancelled -- or not  
45 cancelled, but postponed to a future date. We don't know  
46 at what time it will be initiated. Not in 2013.  
47 Possibly in 2014 we'll start that process.

48

49 Another topic, the fall moose survey that  
50 we had planned to do, because of poor snow conditions we

1 were unable to do that survey. We will be doing it in  
2 March. We should have adequate snow conditions to  
3 complete it. It will be tough -- or we won't be able to  
4 do a sex determination on the animals that are surveyed,  
5 but we will still do that survey this March.

6  
7 Then one other update. We just got  
8 information on a wolf study that was completed on Yukon  
9 Flats Refuge and the results, there are no earth-  
10 shattering results, but some of the lowest wolf densities  
11 found anywhere are -- my understanding is this is the  
12 lowest wolf density found anywhere on Yukon Flats Refuge  
13 from the study with numbers about 9 wolves per 1,000  
14 square miles or pack territory size is averaging 550  
15 square miles and small numbers in the packs, 4 to 5  
16 animals typically.

17  
18 That's pretty much based on or the  
19 speculation is that due to low prey density and only one  
20 ungulate prey species, the moose, that's a big factor on  
21 the low densities of the wolves. That's pretty much all  
22 I've got on that and that's all I've got for my report.  
23 So if there are questions or comments, I'd be happy to do  
24 what I can to answer them.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

27  
28 MR. GLANZ: In my experience in that area  
29 for about 10 or 12 years it seems like the bears are the  
30 biggest problems in the Yukon Flats. There's no prey,  
31 there's no wolves, but the bears can survive on berries  
32 and calves. Is there any way you could do a bear count?  
33 There's probably no way to do something like that, is  
34 there?

35  
36 MR. BERENDZON: Actually there was a bear  
37 study that was conducted and that's something I didn't  
38 have yesterday when I was talking to the Council, but the  
39 bear densities are twice the density of moose. The moose  
40 are a .2 per square mile. Black bears are .4 per square  
41 mile. Yes, the bear densities are really high. Because  
42 of that, that's one of the problems with trying to  
43 control predators to increase the moose population, is  
44 that bears account for -- or the predation rate on moose  
45 calves is over 80 percent and over 90 percent of that  
46 predation is caused by bears. So good point.

47  
48 MR. GLANZ: Thanks.

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

1 MR. KOEHLER: Could you repeat those  
2 density numbers again, please.  
3  
4 MR. BERENDZON: On which species?  
5  
6 MR. KOEHLER: Both black and brown bear.  
7  
8 MR. BERENDZON: I don't know the  
9 densities. I don't know if we know the densities on the  
10 brown bear, but the black bear is .4 per square mile.  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the other  
13 one was moose.  
14  
15 MR. BERENDZON: Yeah, moose was .2 per  
16 square mile and black bear is .4 per square mile.  
17  
18 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other  
21 questions. Donald.  
22  
23 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
24 I've been corresponding with John Burch, who is trying to  
25 design a bear survey for Yukon-Charley and I'm wondering  
26 if you could correspond with him and maybe share some of  
27 your techniques or methods. He's the biologist for  
28 Yukon-Charley and Gates of the Arctic.  
29  
30 MR. BERENDZON: I'd be happy to pass that  
31 information on to Mark Bertram, our biologist, who is  
32 really in charge of this.  
33  
34 I'm sorry, his name again.  
35  
36 MR. WOODRUFF: John Burch, B-U-R-C-H.  
37 Thank you.  
38  
39 MR. BERENDZON: Thank you.  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
42 questions.  
43  
44 (No comments)  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have one.  
47 How do you survey wolves?  
48  
49 MR. BERENDZON: They put radio  
50 transmitters on at least one individual in each wolf pack

1 that's in the study area, which was essentially the whole  
2 Refuge as I understand and they track the wolves through  
3 those radio transmitter locations.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They think they  
6 got all of them, all the packs?

7  
8 MR. BERENDZON: That's my understanding.  
9 I just got briefed on this yesterday or mostly this  
10 morning, so it's pretty new information for me. I don't  
11 have all the details by any means.

12  
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
14 questions. You're awfully quiet, Andrew.

15  
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's so grim. You  
17 can't really talk about it.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 MR. BERENDZON: I'm sorry, Virgil. I  
22 can't talk about it or you don't want to talk about it?

23  
24 (Laughter)

25  
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's so grim. We can  
27 talk about it, but I don't know -- you know, it's a  
28 pretty grim situation. It would take absolute drastic  
29 action to make any difference if you want to increase the  
30 moose population. It's like the big gigantic argument in  
31 Unit 16 where the Department came out and they said they  
32 needed to kill 2,000 black bears in that area if they're  
33 going to improve the survivability of the moose calves.  
34 That's something that's practically impossible to do,  
35 especially in that situation where the land is all a  
36 combination of Refuge and Native corporation land and  
37 then the access and all that stuff. It's just an  
38 insurmountable thing to do. It would just take massive  
39 bear baiting is what it would take.

40  
41 MR. KOEHLER: A lot of popcorn.

42  
43 (Laughter)

44  
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: It costs too much money  
46 to do it. It's hard to do. That's my point. It's  
47 something that -- you know, there's not really a  
48 practical solution to it.

49  
50 MR. BERENDZON: I think that's what I'm

1 understanding or that's the way the picture is playing  
2 out at this time for me, yes.  
3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But we have to  
5 think outside the box and come up with solutions. Try  
6 things, that's what we've got to do. So we might have  
7 some proposals. I'm not sure yet.  
8  
9 Any other questions.  
10  
11 (No comments)  
12  
13 MR. BERENDZON: Thank you. And welcome  
14 on board.  
15  
16 MR. HAWKALUK: Thank you.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're 15  
19 minutes to 12:00 and the next thing on the agenda -- did  
20 we want to do that Board of Fish? Fred Bue, fisheries  
21 update.  
22  
23 Is that a long report, Fred?  
24  
25 MR. BUE: (Shrugs)  
26  
27 (Laughter)  
28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As long as the  
30 questions don't take forever, huh.  
31  
32 MR. BUE: Madame Chair. Fred Bue, Fish  
33 and Wildlife Service. It's up to you. We're not really  
34 on the agenda.  
35  
36 You mentioned the Board of Fish. I think  
37 the bigger part for me is just to give you an idea of the  
38 season outlook. It's really preliminary, but this is  
39 your only opportunity to get something from us and so I  
40 think that would probably be what we'd focus on.  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, if it  
43 goes longer, we'll have you come back.  
44  
45 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair. So you  
46 know, for the record my name is Jeff Estensen with Fish  
47 and Game. You should have got a copy of a news release  
48 that was put out about the 25th of January and it  
49 basically just covers the regulatory changes. I think  
50 instead of just going over it I can -- if you've all had

1 a chance to read it, then I'd be happy to answer any  
2 specific questions that the Council might have regarding  
3 that.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So would you  
6 read it and then ask questions.

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: They briefed us on this  
8 yesterday.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.  
11 Virgil says you already briefed us on this yesterday.

12  
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. This is just  
14 basically what the Board of Fish did last month, correct?

15  
16 MR. ESTENSEN: That's correct.

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All the  
19 proposals.

20  
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: We went over the ones  
22 that were important to us yesterday, but I think I heard  
23 Fred say you guys are giving us the outlook for the  
24 coming year.

25  
26 MR. BUE: Yeah, I was just going to give  
27 you a real brief something if that's the case. I don't  
28 know if you've been handed this. We did a really quick  
29 summary for the Eastern Interior RAC meeting. I won't go  
30 through the text, but -- Madame Chair, is that where  
31 you'd like us to go?

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

34  
35 MR. BUE: Just to summarize the graphics  
36 on the next couple pages, the top graph is a run  
37 reconstruction of the run historical levels and we put it  
38 into perspective so it's -- you know, we keep on using  
39 different methods of measure, so we try to standardize it  
40 and so it's all representative. The top graph is just to  
41 give you a sense of the performance of the total run  
42 returning over the last several years since 1982, noting  
43 the significant shift there in 1998 when things really  
44 changed. It's nothing new to you.

45  
46 The next graph down below it is the  
47 escapement across the Canadian border and their  
48 escapement into Canada. We use that as an example of  
49 relating our performance, how we've put fish up into the  
50 spawning areas. I'd again note that the IMEG, that's

1 InterManagement Escapement Goal, that's what we're trying  
2 to get on the spawning grounds in Canada. We hurried up  
3 with this. That box isn't really totally accurate. What  
4 that is is the recent year. The escapement goal is  
5 42,500 of 55,000.

6  
7 We projected it backwards in time so that  
8 you'd get some sort of relationship of where we were  
9 historically. As you know, escapement goals change over  
10 time and they go up and down depending on what's at issue  
11 and new information and such. So that gives you a sense  
12 of how we've been doing putting fish onto the spawning  
13 grounds. As you can see out of the last three out of the  
14 last six years we've been below the escapement goal.

15  
16 That third graphic on Page 3 is our  
17 harvest on the Yukon River. Subsistence is the darker  
18 bar and commercial harvest is stacked on top of it. As  
19 you can see, commercial is pretty much eliminated for  
20 chinook salmon. Now we're down just practically managing  
21 it strictly for subsistence and escapement.

22  
23 The 2012 bar for subsistence, that's  
24 still pretty preliminary information, but the estimate is  
25 around 28,000 to give you a perspective. The average  
26 subsistence harvest is closer to 50-55,000 drainage wide.  
27 So that gives you a perspective.

28  
29 The 2012 run was low. We took very  
30 significant management actions, unprecedented in fact,  
31 and we were still -- subsistence harvest was greatly  
32 reduced and we still did not make the border objective I  
33 think is the take-home message there.

34  
35 Switching from that -- I'm trying to stay  
36 focused here with chinook. Our outlook for chinook is --  
37 it's still very preliminary. JTC meets next week I guess  
38 in Vancouver, the Joint Technical Committee. U.S.  
39 scientists and Canadian scientists meet together and set  
40 the -- look at the escapement goals and try to come up  
41 with an outlook for the coming season, so we do not have  
42 that yet, but the rough numbers that we have at this  
43 point is that the run is probably similar to the last two  
44 years, 2011 and 2012.

45  
46 When we're looking ahead for management  
47 strategies, what we did last year still wasn't enough to  
48 make consistent escapement goals all the way across the  
49 drainage. We made some, but we fell short on some. It's  
50 a pretty bleak and dire situation we're in. So what

1 we're going through and telling people we're likely to  
2 use the same management strategies we did this last year.  
3 I think we can maybe improve on it a little bit.

4  
5           Some of the things that we're looking at  
6 though is to begin windows earlier in the season just to  
7 start that. We know a lot of people have tried to fish  
8 early just to beat the rush and try to get their fish  
9 before closures clamp down on them, so we're going to  
10 start windows earlier is what we're thinking. Also  
11 subsistence fishing gear. I know these are all really  
12 hardships for people. What we're looking at is we need  
13 to do something, so we're likely to go with 6-inch  
14 gillnets for subsistence fishermen. That way they may  
15 take some kings, but the ones that they do catch will  
16 likely be smaller, tend to be more males.

17  
18           Of course, the Board of Fish -- I wasn't  
19 here yesterday, but I'm sure it was reported that the  
20 Board of Fish put in place a first pulse mandatory  
21 closure at least initially in the Lower River. When  
22 there is a lot of uncertainty, we don't have a lot of  
23 sense of how the fish are coming into the river. That's  
24 definitely in place.

25  
26           What they did allow is sort of a back  
27 door. If for some reason the fish came in just wonderful  
28 and then we could have the opportunity to relax fishing  
29 upriver we could, but initially the precautionary  
30 approach is to start out with a specific pulse closure  
31 and what we're looking at is probably trying to catch the  
32 very front end of that pulse. Last year we were maybe a  
33 little bit, half a day or a day late. We're going to try  
34 to do a better job and place that closure right on the  
35 first pulse to keep people completely off of that.

36  
37           The thought is that the earliest fish are  
38 bound the farthest distance upriver, which would be the  
39 Canadian stocks. They're not performing as well as the  
40 Alaska stocks. Not that the Alaska stocks are doing very  
41 good. They're also poor, but this would give us some  
42 additional benefit there.

43  
44           I think the other complicating issue with  
45 all these restrictions, Madame Chair, Council, is that  
46 this is really a hardship on people, so what can we do to  
47 help compensate people, help mitigate some of the loss of  
48 this resource to them. We have summer chum, which  
49 unfortunately runs really close on top of the chinook, so  
50 it's difficult finding ways to take advantage of those

1 abundant fish while still trying to protect kings.

2

3 I think what we're doing with that is  
4 going with the 6-inch gear and maybe trying to find a  
5 little bit more gaps between the pulses of kings because  
6 often the summer chum are available and pretty abundant.

7

8 I don't know what else we had. Part of  
9 the other issue we have is that it's restrictions up and  
10 down the river. Everybody wants things to be fair, but  
11 things are never exactly the same wherever you're at.  
12 Everybody has different fishing conditions, different  
13 water levels, different species available to them, their  
14 fishing gear all works differently. So when we make one  
15 restriction, it really doesn't -- it's not effective to  
16 have the exact same restriction all the way upriver. A  
17 pulse closure is pretty much across the board, but there  
18 may be some opportunities like in a fishwheel if you can  
19 release a king or different things like that, there may  
20 be some other opportunities.

21

22 What we're doing is coming to the  
23 meetings. There's a lot of meetings asking people what  
24 might work in their area. You know, everybody has unique  
25 circumstances. Also asking them what can they do to help  
26 protect this resource. We don't want to make a lot of  
27 regulations. Pull people through a knot hole just to  
28 save a few fish and have fishermen just working around us  
29 and constantly doing this tug of war thing. In order to  
30 get fish there we need cooperation with everybody. We  
31 would like to work with people and try to come up with  
32 opportunities rather than making ways to stop people from  
33 fishing.

34

35 Jeff, anything to add?

36

37 MR. ESTENSEN: No, that pretty much  
38 covers it.

39

40 (Pause)

41

42 MR. ESTENSEN: If I may just add, one of  
43 the things too with the state our chinook is in we've  
44 asked people to, you know, maybe look at other species  
45 and fall chum has been one of them. Last year just for  
46 fall chum we had a really good year in terms of  
47 escapement, run size. We made our escapements across the  
48 board, but also for subsistence fishing and the fact that  
49 people -- we had no restrictions for subsistence, but  
50 based on our preliminary pre-season or post-season

1 estimate people actually did take more fall chum this  
2 year than they have in the last couple years, which is  
3 good to see that people are able to do that.

4

5 And I just wanted to let people know that  
6 this year our outlook for fall chum is very similar to  
7 what we saw last year. We're looking at almost pretty  
8 darn close to the same. With that said, you know, it  
9 looks like this might be the case for a couple years now.  
10 The opportunity hopefully will be there for people to be  
11 able to take fall chum.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

14

15 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame  
16 Chairman. Jeff, I'm curious what the definition of bleak  
17 is -- Fred. Is that similar to crisis or do you want to  
18 define bleak for us.

19

20 MR. BUE: Madame Chair. Mr. Woodruff.  
21 Yeah, I think bleak is a word that requires some  
22 defining.

23

24 To put it into perspective, the  
25 subsistence harvest we saw in 2012 was roughly half of  
26 the historical average. What we're looking at -- when we  
27 look at what we harvested last year versus what we need  
28 in the escapement, we're thinking that you're going to  
29 have to reduce your harvest an additional half from last  
30 year. So, perspective historically we're looking at  
31 approximately 75 percent reduction over historical  
32 average subsistence harvest for chinook. So that's quite  
33 a bit. If someone, for example, is used to harvesting 40  
34 king salmon, we're looking at in order to -- if everybody  
35 reduced their harvest the same, then you're looking at  
36 somebody would take 10 chinook.

37

38 I know a lot of people have gone --  
39 they've already given up fishing, so it's hard for them  
40 to reduce their harvest any more than that.

41

42 That is the situation we're in.

43

44 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. The parent  
45 year, is that at 2007 for this run?

46

47 MR. BUE: There's three primary parent  
48 years, '05, '06 and '07. Primarily '05 and '06 would be  
49 the amount of fish, so 2007, 2006, I guess. '06, '07 and  
50 '08, is that right?

1 MR. WOODRUFF: My catch usually is about  
2 year '05 what I get. The whole community of Eagle has  
3 cut back their harvest by 90 percent and that's  
4 voluntary. It's not like you're telling us to stop  
5 fishing. That's our choice. There's an appearance that  
6 some people aren't getting the picture. If you could use  
7 the word crisis a little more instead of bleak, I think  
8 that would explain to people that further down the river  
9 everyone makes a commitment to reduce the harvest like  
10 you say, 75 to 90 percent. If we can get a king salmon on  
11 the table for dinner, we should be really happy because  
12 if crisis happens too much longer, our grandchildren  
13 won't see a king salmon.

14  
15 I hope that you both recognize that and  
16 convey that at other meetings because, professionally, I  
17 know that crisis isn't a happy word and it's not a very  
18 fulfilling sort of job description if you guys are  
19 working on crisis management, but that seems to be where  
20 it's at right now. If you could convey that to other  
21 people, I think that would be pretty beneficial up and  
22 down the river.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 MR. BUE: Yes, Madame Chair. My sense is  
27 that that message is getting out and it really is coming  
28 around and it's encouraging. People are understanding  
29 that there's other people out in the river they share the  
30 resource with. We were at St. Mary's last week, YRDFA's  
31 annual meeting, and there was quite a bit of talk about  
32 that, about not that Fish and Game needs to do something,  
33 the talk was these are our fish, we need to do something.  
34 So I think that is quite a bit of progress or a turn in  
35 people's thoughts. That's the only way we're going to do  
36 anything and have any self-satisfaction out of it.  
37 Otherwise we're always thinking the other guy is getting  
38 the better deal and stuff, but I think we all need to  
39 look for ways that we can do it.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

46  
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Oh, let me ask a quick  
48 question.

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, he forgot

1 he had a question.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: This study that just got  
4 released that basically just validates the genetic stock  
5 identification that Fish and Game did in the late '90s  
6 actually, they didn't do any genetic stock identification  
7 on the king salmon in Area M, did they? Only sockeye and  
8 chum?

9

10 MR. BUE: I think what Virgil is  
11 referencing is the WASSIP study, Western Alaska something  
12 something. Anyway, it was primarily a chum and sockeye  
13 study. What they did was went along the South Peninsula,  
14 North Peninsula, Bristol Bay, on up around coastal  
15 fisheries and they tried to identify stocks of sockeye  
16 and chum to see if they were being picked up in fisheries  
17 farther away from their terminal rivers and see if  
18 they're being essentially intercepted and picked up in  
19 other fisheries. How much mixing. Do the fish travel  
20 close to the coast where they might be picked up or are  
21 they taking a long route around.

22

23 I don't think -- the WASSIP did not  
24 address chinook salmon. I think that's your question.  
25 There is some genetic information on the pelagic trawl  
26 catch, but I don't believe there's very much on the  
27 nearshore seine and gillnet fisheries.

28

29 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Too bad.  
30 Millions and millions of dollars spent and it wouldn't  
31 have cost nothing hardly to have done the kings as well.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My definition  
34 is tragic.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything else.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We'll  
43 break for -- I'm sorry. Larry.

44

45 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
46 I'll probably hear this in a newsletter or some other  
47 major communication from Tanana Chiefs, but yesterday or  
48 two days ago a summit on the crisis that we're having  
49 with king salmon. I just wanted -- to Mr. Fred Bue  
50 there, did you attend that meeting and, if you did, can

1 you give us a brief update on what happened.

2

3 MR. BUE: Thank you, Madame Chair. Mr.  
4 Williams.

5

6 Yes, I did attend two days of it and they  
7 were still meeting some today in a reduced session.  
8 There was -- most of the first day was dedicated to  
9 giving people a briefing outlook, stock status, what the  
10 stocks have been doing. A lot of time was spent  
11 exchanging with the tribal leaders. It was primarily a  
12 meeting where tribal representatives were brought into  
13 Fairbanks and TCC to talk about it. A lot of time was  
14 spent just exchanging information, making people  
15 understand what the fish stocks are doing, just rolling  
16 up your sleeves and not just doing a brief summary like  
17 this, but a lot of questions and answers for most of the  
18 day. Then there was a lot of discussion on where we  
19 should go, what we should do with that.

20

21 I think similar sentiments, although it  
22 wasn't all unanimous, but I think a lot of people were  
23 recognizing that they do have a considerable voice in how  
24 management goes. I tried to express to them that this  
25 RAC is working for them. If they have ideas and  
26 concerns, they can bring it to the RAC, they can bring it  
27 to the state ACs. The Federal Subsistence Board I know  
28 gives deference to this RAC as far as management. They  
29 don't create their own proposals, they don't bring new  
30 messages forward. They try to work with the people  
31 through this process. The challenge is to have everybody  
32 get on the same page and then try to work out their  
33 differences and come up with some kind of unified or  
34 consistent voice up and down the river. I think that  
35 does seem to be the direction that a lot of people are  
36 coming.

37

38 Some representatives from AVCP were also  
39 at the meeting. There was a lot of common concerns and  
40 a lot of common interests there. That was the essence of  
41 it. As an agency person, I don't think I was privy to a  
42 lot of the inter-workings of the tribe, what was all  
43 going on, but for what I was there for it seemed like a  
44 pretty productive meeting.

45

46 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you for that report.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

49

50 MR. GLANZ: Fred, I don't know. Thinking

1 about this, if we had a total abolishment of all harvests  
2 of king salmon, would they ever come back? I know it's  
3 a ridiculous question, but I mean it just seems like  
4 we've been fighting this ever since I've been on this  
5 board and the other guys are part of that, so it just  
6 seems like it's a losing proposition here.

7

8 MR. BUE: Madame Chair. There's a lot of  
9 stuff we can control and a lot we can't control and so  
10 it's difficult for me to answer that right now. Our  
11 production, our returns per spawner are just breaking  
12 even. It's about one return per spawner, so if we  
13 harvest a few extra this year, well, we're going to have  
14 a few less in escapement, but it's not like putting extra  
15 fish on the spawning grounds is going to produce extra  
16 fish either because you're only replacing yourself.  
17 There's other stuff.

18

19 You know, weather. I can't predict the  
20 weather five years from now, but that's essentially what  
21 you're asking me to do with what the return will be. We  
22 do have the other climate stuff and hatchery stuff and  
23 bycatch stuff.

24

25 MR. GLANZ: I know that they're all  
26 against -- a lot of these people on the Board are against  
27 factory fish, but about 45 years ago outside Chicago they  
28 came and got all these police and fire fighters and we  
29 backpacked a bunch of smolt when they first started  
30 putting fish in Lake Michigan and all that, salmon.  
31 Would a major monster hatchery have any effect on the  
32 kings or not? I mean there was 100 percent of the fish  
33 that came into the weirs were captured and milked and put  
34 into the system.

35

36 MR. BUE: We've been trying things. One  
37 of the big questions right now is we're not certain which  
38 has the bigger factor on survival, freshwater or  
39 saltwater. There's a high mortality just going from the  
40 egg to the larvae and then going from fresh water and  
41 transitioning to marine water, then most of their life is  
42 -- a bigger part of their life is in the marine water.

43

44 MR. GLANZ: So basically it's the  
45 trawlers then maybe doing a major amount of damage to it?

46

47 MR. BUE: There is that. The habitat may  
48 be changing, there's pollution, fish are eating plastic  
49 that's floating out in the ocean. We see marine birds  
50 dying off and whales and things. Temperature, of course,

1 is an issue.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: Once they get used to nuclear  
4 stuff they'll be good.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

9

10 MR. FIRMIN: I just had one on the gear  
11 limitations. Have you ever thought of limiting the  
12 length of drift gear? I know there's talk of depth and  
13 mesh size, but when you're still stringing out 300 feet  
14 of net, cut off 100 feet. The other thing I was thinking  
15 is limiting fishwheel size. Has there been any  
16 discussion on that?

17

18 Another thing, on some of the -- what  
19 Jeff mentioned earlier about the fall chum is great that  
20 there's going to be a lot of it, but the Board of Fish is  
21 liberalizing commercial opportunity of fall chum at their  
22 last meeting. They didn't take into consideration in my  
23 mind that there's going to be a lot more harvest of that  
24 on the subsistence side also.  
25 limiting fishing wheel size any discussion

26

27 MR. ESTENSEN: Madame Chair. Jeff  
28 Estensen here.

29

30 Andrew, I'm not sure what you mean by the  
31 Board of Fish liberalized commercial. There was a  
32 proposal to try to lower the threshold. That was not  
33 adopted by the Board, so it remains the same.

34

35 I can tell you as a manager and managing  
36 the fall season that I am closely watching this potential  
37 increase in the subsistence harvest because we're asking  
38 people and how that plays into the commercial harvest.  
39 I am taking it into account and watching it. I am  
40 realizing that potentially the subsistence harvest is  
41 increasing so that will factor into what we look at for  
42 allowing for commercial.

43

44 As far as the other questions, I don't  
45 know if you want to address.

46

47 MR. BUE: Yeah, I think, you know, it's  
48 been brought up. Fishwheels are really unique fishing  
49 gear. You have experts on this Council that could tell  
50 you way more than I could ever dream of. In my mind,

1 they're designed specifically for a location eddy what  
2 they want to catch. So a lot of the really specifics on  
3 a fishwheel design, it may be meaningless and it may be  
4 too much. I'm not the one to say at what level how  
5 effective and how much that changes.

6  
7 As far as gillnets, I guess there's a lot  
8 of net studies and things out there. Yeah, of course,  
9 smaller, shorter amounts of gear in the water gives you  
10 less catch per fishing hour.

11  
12 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, I guess that was my  
13 biggest thing, was they were going to catch half as much  
14 fish if you have a 150-foot net versus a 300-foot net,  
15 but they're still getting the same drift time. Will they  
16 still catch the same amount of fish in a two-hour drift  
17 as they would if they got all day or two weeks to  
18 driftnet? They only want two hours to fish because  
19 that's all the fishing time they need to get their  
20 subsistence take.

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

23  
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Bill asked a  
25 question a minute ago about how long it would take for  
26 the fish to come back. I know of two studies that have  
27 been done. One was this guy Ricker, a real famous  
28 fisheries scientist, and that study was presented to the  
29 State Board of Fisheries in 1981. In it he basically  
30 said that the size of king salmon, and this is back in  
31 '91, has been reduced by 50 percent over the last 50  
32 years. That's in the whole Pacific Northwest. That's  
33 from California to Alaska. He figured that it would take  
34 about 8 to 10 generations of king salmon to change that  
35 if you stop doing what you're doing, which is selecting  
36 the large fish.

37  
38 MR. KOEHLER: Right.

39  
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: And then this guy  
41 Bromagin, who used to work as a scientist for the State  
42 and then he worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service and  
43 now he's working for the U.S. Geological Survey, but he  
44 did an analysis, him and a couple other scientists, and  
45 this was six or seven years ago. I'm not sure exactly  
46 how long. But they took about 20 years of data from the  
47 test fishery that they do -- or it's apportionment  
48 fishery, which is a test fishery, they do a Pilot Station  
49 sonar where they put out different sizes -- or they put  
50 out a gillnet that's made up of multiple sizes so they

1 can try to figure out how many of what kind of fish is  
2 going past the sonar to get accurate sonar counts,  
3 whether it's whitefish or pink salmon or chum salmon or  
4 what.

5  
6 He did a computer-type analysis, him and  
7 these other two scientists, and they came up with  
8 somewhere between 50 and 200 years, but they had a couple  
9 of different scenarios there. Anyway, the two studies  
10 basically mirrored each other as to what happens when you  
11 destroy the genetic integrity by only harvesting the  
12 large fish. I know you guys have heard me say this  
13 before, but that's how they got mini poodle dogs.

14  
15 (Laughter)

16  
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's what's happened to  
18 our king salmon. But I did go last year, not quite a  
19 year ago now, we had this -- I can't remember what they  
20 called it, but they brought in people from all over the  
21 region from the Yukon and we met in Anchorage and we  
22 spent two days, kind of a symposium thing, addressing  
23 this problem and what could be done about it. The guy we  
24 had as a facilitator is the best facilitator at any  
25 meeting I've been to where they had a facilitator.

26  
27 I normally don't like facilitators  
28 because they try to butt in and keep you from saying what  
29 you really want to say, but this guy was really  
30 knowledgeable and he's been involved in the fisheries in  
31 Washington and Oregon and on the Columbia River and in  
32 the treaty lawsuits and big giant arguments over what  
33 they're going to do about the salmon in the Columbia  
34 River and some of these other systems in Washington and  
35 Oregon and even California. That evening he told me --  
36 he says, well, I can't say anything in the public part of  
37 it, but he said what you said, you know, about what I  
38 just now talked about, he said it's absolutely true and  
39 they quit using large mesh gillnets in the Columbia River  
40 40 years ago. They're just now starting to get large  
41 king salmon back.

42  
43 So that causes me to regress back to when  
44 I went -- I was on the special committee the Board of  
45 Fish had, John White, Dr. John White and I, so we used to  
46 go to Portland every spring and this we would -- we were  
47 on a special committee for the Western Association of  
48 Fish and Wildlife Agencies to address marine problems  
49 with fisheries. So they had representatives there from  
50 California, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska and we

1 were the two from Alaska.

2

3                   After this one meeting in Portland and I  
4 think this would have been in March of 2002, myself and  
5 John White and the executive director for the Board of  
6 Fish we went to Bonneville Dam. We asked to look at the  
7 fish ladders. We accidentally ran into the guy that ran  
8 the hatchery there. So after we identified ourself he  
9 gave us a tour of the secret part of the hatchery there  
10 that they have to keep the chinook salmon from the Snake  
11 River from going extinct, so he explained all that  
12 process to us, showed it to us.

13

14                   My first question I asked him was, I  
15 says, we have this giant argument on the Yukon and in  
16 other rivers in Alaska where large mesh gillnets are  
17 destroying the genetic integrity of our king salmon and  
18 now the average king salmon is half what it used to be.  
19 He says, well, it's only 12 pounds in the Columbia River.  
20 That's exactly what happened to the Columbia River.

21

22                   So this is something that you and I will  
23 never see them recover. We'll be dead a long time.

24

25                   MR. GLANZ: Yeah, that's what I think.

26

27                   MR. UMPHENOUR: But it's something that  
28 we've made some good stuff before the Board of Fish on  
29 addressing this issue and people are finally starting to  
30 understand it. I can remember going to that first salmon  
31 size meeting we had in Anchorage here about six or seven  
32 years ago and one of the guys from the Lower Yukon they  
33 kept saying, oh, that's not the problem, there's lots of  
34 king salmon. I just told him -- he says you guys just  
35 want to stop us from fishing. I told him that's not what  
36 I want to do. All you're doing is cutting off your nose  
37 to spite your face and it won't be very long and you  
38 won't have a commercial fishery anymore and they don't.  
39 So they're finally getting it down river.

40

41                   But we've got to make the guys in Area M  
42 get it and we'll talk about that after a while.

43

44                   Thank you.

45

46                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It must be time  
47 for lunch.

48

49                   MR. GLANZ: Thank you, Virgil.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Eva, did you  
2 have something?  
3  
4 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. I just wanted  
5 to make an update for Larry Williams and other Council  
6 members. In regards to the TCC meeting and questions on  
7 Yukon fisheries, we do have -- Alyssa Frothingham will be  
8 coming in to present and other Native organizations for  
9 TCC. Orville is at that meeting still, but Alyssa will  
10 be here after lunch.  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
13  
14 MR. ROBERTS: No more dancers?  
15  
16 (Laughter)  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll break for  
19 lunch. How about 1:30.  
20  
21 (Off record)  
22  
23 (On record)  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Am  
26 I calling up this BLM right now?  
27  
28 MS. PATTON: Yes.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The BLM person  
31 is here for that report on the Eastern Interior Draft  
32 Resource Management Plan. And we got handouts from Ruth.  
33  
34 Hi, go ahead.  
35  
36 MS. COLE: Madame Chair and Council. I'm  
37 Jeanie Cole. I'm with the Bureau of Land Management.  
38 I'm the planning and environmental coordinator in the  
39 Fairbanks District Office. As many of you will remember,  
40 we came to the last meeting and gave a presentation on  
41 our Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan that's  
42 currently out in a draft format and open for public  
43 comment. So today I was just going to give you a brief  
44 update on that planning process. Ruth is passing out a  
45 handout.  
46  
47 On the third page of the handout there's  
48 a map that shows the Eastern Interior planning area.  
49 Right now we're developing a new Resource Management Plan  
50 for that area. When it's completed, which we expect it

1 to be in another year to year and a half, it will provide  
2 management direction for BLM lands on about 6.7 million  
3 acres of BLM land. ON this map the BLM land is primarily  
4 in yellow, but some of the light brown and light blue is  
5 currently BLM, but it's selected by a State or Native  
6 corporation, so it may or may not stay with BLM.

7  
8 One thing that's happened since the last  
9 meeting is we did issue a supplement to the draft RMP.  
10 It's a supplemental draft EIS which amends Alternative D  
11 of the draft RMP to include an option to lease hard rock  
12 minerals, which would be gold in the White Mountains.  
13 Under the revised alternative about 160,000 acres in the  
14 White Mountains would be available for mineral leasing  
15 and that's this map in your handout. The yellow -- the  
16 pinkish areas are the closed areas and the yellow, brown  
17 and green are the areas that could potentially be opened.  
18 This is just a draft available for public review and  
19 comment right now.

20  
21 We also did a subsistence Section .810  
22 finding on this supplement to the draft and under that  
23 Section .810 we're supposed to evaluate all land actions  
24 and how they might impact subsistence including  
25 abundance, availability and access to subsistence  
26 resources. So we looked at the effects of each of the  
27 four alternatives on subsistence with the addition of the  
28 supplement. We found that decisions in our Alternative  
29 D of the draft plan in combination with the cumulative  
30 case, which is everything else that's happening on State,  
31 private, Native corporation lands, there may be a  
32 significant restriction on subsistence use in the  
33 Fortymile, White Mountains and Steese subunits.

34  
35 Because of this finding in our previous  
36 meetings we had Section .810 hearings at our public  
37 meetings in the rural communities and we will be holding  
38 some more hearings and public meetings in the next few  
39 weeks and we'll have subsistence hearings at those  
40 meetings as well.

41  
42 If you'd like to comment or get more  
43 information, the draft RMP and the supplement are  
44 available online at the BLM website. There's a link on  
45 this handout. I also brought some CD copies. This has  
46 the supplement and the entire draft RMP on it. I brought  
47 a few paper copies of the supplement. It has a CD in the  
48 back, which also has the entire draft RMP and the  
49 supplement on it.

50

1                   Also, if I don't have enough copies here  
2 and somebody wants some, we have them at our office and  
3 we could mail them to you. There's three ways that you  
4 can comment at our upcoming public meetings is one, you  
5 can mail us written comments or we have an online  
6 commenting program where you can submit your comments  
7 online through the internet.  
8

9                   The next page is just our schedule. We  
10 released our draft RMP in March of 2012, almost a year  
11 ago. Between March and June of last year we had public  
12 meetings and Section .810 hearing on the draft. In July  
13 of last year, we extended the public comment period on  
14 the draft RMP because we're going to publish a  
15 supplement. We finally published a supplement in January  
16 of this year and we're having a 90-day public comment  
17 period on that, so the comments go through April 11th of  
18 this year.  
19

20                   We had a public meeting in Fairbanks last  
21 week. We have another -- we had a public meeting in  
22 Anchorage last night. The schedule shows the other  
23 public meetings. We're having a meeting in Chalkyitsik  
24 next week. Another one in Fairbanks the week after that  
25 and one in Fort Yukon and then one in Eagle and Eagle  
26 Village.  
27

28                   Once the public comment period closes and  
29 we get all the comments and we analyze them, we will  
30 revise the draft RMP and publish our proposed RMP and our  
31 final environmental impact statement. That's available  
32 for protest and Governor's Consistency Review and when  
33 all that protest and the Governor's Review are finished  
34 and everything is resolved, then we would issue the  
35 record of decision and actually implement -- pick one of  
36 the alternatives and implement a plan.  
37

38                   That's all I have to present unless  
39 someone has questions.  
40

41                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions,  
42 Council members.  
43

44                   MR. GLANZ: I have one.  
45

46                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.  
47

48                   MR. GLANZ: The last time you folks met  
49 in Central you had one preference you were going for.  
50 Are you still going for that same preference or are you

1 relaxing that preference. I believe it was preference C.  
2 I can't recall exactly which one you had.

3  
4 MS. COLE: Yeah, in the draft plan, the  
5 agency preferred alternative is Alternative C and that's  
6 still the case because we're still taking comments on the  
7 draft plan. After we get all the public comments and  
8 analyze them, we might make some changes to our preferred  
9 alternative based on public comment, so then the proposed  
10 plan would come out with our new agency preferred  
11 alternative based on public comment.

12  
13 MR. GLANZ: Has there been a lot of  
14 public comment or everybody just kind of sitting on their  
15 thumbs or what's going on with that?

16  
17 MS. COLE: To date there has not been a  
18 lot of public comment and I think it's partly because  
19 it's dragging out so long and we keep extending the  
20 comment period. I know there's a lot of people that are  
21 planning on submitting written comments, but they've been  
22 waiting for the supplement to come out before they submit  
23 their written comments.

24  
25 MR. GLANZ: Thank you.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other  
28 questions.

29  
30 MR. FIRMIN: I have a quick one.

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

33  
34 MR. FIRMIN: Are you still going to have  
35 a separate alternative for each subunit individually?

36  
37 MS. COLE: The alternatives are broken up  
38 by decisions common to all subunits and then separate  
39 decisions specific to each unit. When we come to the  
40 final plan and issue our record of decision, we're  
41 probably going to issue a separate record of decision for  
42 each subunit. Essentially each subunit would have its  
43 own plan, but a lot of the decisions might be the same  
44 across subunit boundaries.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other  
47 questions.

48  
49 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

2

3 MS. PATTON: If I may, just a reminder  
4 for the Council. Winter 2012 meeting last year the  
5 Council had made a motion to submit a letter to BLM. One  
6 for the Black River subunit, so that's almost finalized,  
7 but we were waiting on the White Mountain supplement as  
8 I talked with some of those working group members. The  
9 Council also had a motion to submit a comment letter on  
10 any subsistence concerns for the BLM plan. So this is  
11 the opportunity from any further feedback from your  
12 region and community and then we can work on that input  
13 for the final letter so we get it submitted for the April  
14 11th deadline.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is our  
19 window to do that. Council members, we need to talk  
20 about this.

21

22 MS. PATTON: For the Council, the  
23 discussion at the fall meeting is on Page 19 of your  
24 minutes. That reconfirms the motions that Council had  
25 made at the previous meeting in regards to the BLM draft  
26 Interior Resource Management Plan.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess the red  
29 flag flying for me is subsistence findings, Section .810  
30 analysis. Decisions in Alternative D in combination with  
31 the cumulative case may significantly restrict  
32 subsistence use in the Fortymile, White Mountains and  
33 Steese. So you're saying that doesn't affect us. I mean  
34 BLM is going with C and not D?

35

36 MS. COLE: Right now C is our preferred  
37 alternative and we did not find a significant restriction  
38 with Alternative C or Alternative B, only with  
39 Alternative D. We will update this Section .810 analysis  
40 and findings when we do the final environmental impact  
41 statement. So this public comment period is the time for  
42 the subsistence users to give us comments on how they  
43 think it's going to affect them and whether our Section  
44 .810 analysis that we did is sufficient or correct.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I will say we  
47 get hit with a lot of stuff here and sometimes it's tough  
48 to wrap your head around all of it. Sometimes it's  
49 important and you don't want it to run through your  
50 fingers. Has anyone seen anything they want to ask

1 questions about.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know when Joe  
6 was on he was concerned about that Black River country  
7 and that was in our comments.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. I guess  
10 throughout the summer and the fall Joe had provided  
11 extensive community comments and feedback from the  
12 meetings that took place in his region. The Council had  
13 set up a working group and Joe was the Black River  
14 representative and Andrew and Bill and then the late  
15 Isaac Juneby was for the Eagle Region, so each of the  
16 working group members tried to compile feedback from the  
17 community and any subsistence concerns that should be  
18 brought forward.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's four  
21 sections here and they were specific to the Black River.  
22 We haven't really commented on the other three, correct?

23

24 MS. PATTON: Right. None of the comments  
25 have been submitted yet. We're waiting for the final  
26 EIS. There was again extensive feedback from the  
27 communities that Joe had relayed over the summer to  
28 include in the comment letter. So that will be finalized  
29 and once we get feedback from the other working group  
30 members, we'll send that out for review to the whole  
31 Council before it gets submitted.

32

33 MR. FIRMIN: I can't remember off the top  
34 of my head which alternative, but I was looking at the  
35 White Mountain one and the only one -- I'm not sure what  
36 really changed in that supplemental, but you can see --  
37 the only concerns I had and other people had in the  
38 community was some of the places they wanted to open for  
39 -- like dredge mining in Quartz Creek, which flows into  
40 Beaver Creek, which is a Wild and Scenic River and has  
41 chinook salmon spawning population in it, amongst, I  
42 believe, sheefish and some other -- chum salmon, I  
43 believe, spawn in Beaver Creek. Those were our only  
44 concerns that we had, but I couldn't remember which,  
45 Alternative B or C, that was okay with me. I'd have to  
46 look when I get home.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is our  
49 working group continuing?

50

1 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Yes. I have  
2 just talked with Andrew and William. I was actually  
3 looking over at Donald there. Again, Isaac Juneby was a  
4 member of the working group. We don't currently have  
5 representation for Eagle region. If there were comments  
6 that the community had expressed that you might be able  
7 to bring forward for the Council as well and then I'll  
8 work with Andrew and Bill. It sounds like there's a  
9 community meeting that will be held in Fort Yukon next  
10 week. So we'll have a chance to follow up and then we  
11 can talk by phone and email to make sure that feedback is  
12 included in the comment letter.

13

14 MR. GLANZ: I know our community. They  
15 definitely were against B, you know, just locking it all  
16 up. It basically is locked all up. That's the way it is  
17 anyway. It's Federal ground. They're definitely against  
18 that B.

19

20 As far as Andrew is concerned, I don't  
21 think he has to worry much about it because I went to the  
22 BLM and I said, hey, I was down looking down there at  
23 Reed Creek and that is nasty, dirty. They're mining right  
24 in the creek. So Holly looks at her map and says, oh,  
25 that has nothing to do, that's State ground. I said but  
26 it blows into Birch Creek.

27

28 Oh, nothing wrong with that.

29

30 Okay. Thank you. Bye.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. GLANZ: But anyway they don't really  
35 have a pref -- actually, their preference in our  
36 community, talking to everybody and talking different  
37 areas along the road there, they really don't want to  
38 change anything, but then again apparently that's not in  
39 the agenda. We have to spend that Federal money, dang  
40 it, get rid of it, you know. So apparently we're doing  
41 it really good, giving us that 30-pound book. So  
42 anyhow.....

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't know,  
47 but it seems like in the last four or five years  
48 government is on the fast track to do some of this stuff.  
49 It's like it used to be like you do a little piece at a  
50 time, but doing all four of these together seems like a

1 fast track to me.

2

3 So Donald, I think I'm hearing that maybe  
4 you're asked to help -- to be a part of this working  
5 group.

6

7 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, ma'am, and that's  
8 fine. When they came to Eagle last time they met in the  
9 village in the school for the Eagle proper and I attended  
10 both those meetings and there was a fairly good turnout.  
11 I know that there are some people that have their  
12 comments written down for this next meeting on the 11th  
13 when they come to Eagle again. Of course, primary  
14 interest is the conservation of chinook habitat and the  
15 caribou spawning ground -- I mean calving grounds, sorry,  
16 and things that affect the chinook rearing salmon is a  
17 big issue.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

22

23 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair. Joe Matesi, I  
24 believe his idea was trying to make the Black River into  
25 Wild and Scenic River was his idea. What became of that  
26 idea? Is it possible to do?

27

28 MS. COLE: We did review all the rivers  
29 for eligibility and suitability as well for Scenic Rivers  
30 and it was the Salmon Fork that we said might be suitable  
31 and that was the one Joe was, I think, in favor of and  
32 that is not in our preferred alternative right now.  
33 There would have to be a lot of public support for it to  
34 get into our preferred alternative because that's a  
35 congressional designation and it's not going to go  
36 anywhere unless there's a lot of public support for it.  
37 Most likely there wouldn't be any designation of Wild and  
38 Scenic Rivers in the final plan.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because this is  
41 an EIS.

42

43 MS. COLE: Yeah, it's a draft plan with  
44 an associated EIS and the EIS analyzes the impacts of the  
45 four different alternative plans that we have.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which really  
48 isn't the avenue for creating a bill in Congress to have  
49 a Wild and Scenic River.

50

1 MS. COLE: We would have to do an  
2 environment -- yeah, if we proposed one, this would be  
3 the environmental impact statement for it and then we  
4 would have to submit it to Congress and they would have  
5 to pass legislation to designate it, which is highly  
6 unlikely when the State and our Federal congressional  
7 delegation are adamantly opposed to any new designations.  
8

9 MR. GLANZ: I believe there's a spot of  
10 blue on that map showing that area also, which indicates  
11 State ownership.  
12

13 MS. COLE: The State has selected some  
14 lands in the Upper Black River, but they're very low  
15 priority and we don't think they're going to end up  
16 getting them because they have other high-priority lands  
17 in other areas.  
18

19 MR. GLANZ: I don't even want to bring up  
20 when they're going to give the ground to the State.  
21 Anyway.....  
22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This yellow  
24 says BLM and State of Alaska low priority selection and  
25 this is kind of tiny so I'm having a hard time. Down  
26 there by Tetlin Wildlife Refuge, the big brown, which is  
27 the Tetlin Indian Reservation and then there's a little  
28 chunk of yellow there. Do you know what the exact status  
29 of that is?  
30

31 MS. COLE: To the left of the Tetlin  
32 area?  
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.  
35

36 MS. COLE: I believe that is not -- I  
37 don't believe that is State selected. I think it's just  
38 BLM.  
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just a little  
41 tiny area.  
42

43 MS. COLE: Yeah, we have a lot of those.  
44 We're getting those little fragments here and there  
45 because of the State and Native conveyance process.  
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But it's part  
48 of the plan. And whatever happens in the Fortymile  
49 applies to that little piece of land.  
50

1 MS. COLE: Okay, Ruth corrected me. She  
2 looked at it on the computer. That little piece is State  
3 selected. So, yes, the plan covers everything within the  
4 red line on this map. All the BLM lands within the red  
5 line. So anything that didn't -- if it got conveyed to  
6 the State. Eventually it would be under State management  
7 as long as it's still under BLM management the plan would  
8 apply to it.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The plan  
11 applies to it, but you're saying it's State select. They  
12 could eventually get it?

13  
14 MS. COLE: They could possibly get it,  
15 yeah, but it's low priority. They're getting close to  
16 their total entitlement, so at some point -- and then  
17 they're over-selected by more than 25 percent, so at some  
18 point they're not going to get all the lands that they  
19 have selected.

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It just seems  
22 like that would be a good place for the State to not have  
23 a little chunk.

24  
25 MS. COLE: Yeah, we agree with that, but  
26 I don't know if the State is going to want to take it or  
27 not.

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that  
30 something we could comment on or is that not part of  
31 this?

32  
33 MS. COLE: Sure, because we have  
34 identified some of these small parcels. We can identify  
35 lands for disposal, through sale or exchange. That's  
36 part of our planning process. We do want to be able to  
37 get rid of some of these little isolated parcels that  
38 aren't very manageable, so that probably is a parcel that  
39 we've identified in the plan as potentially available for  
40 disposal, sale or exchange. So that would be something  
41 you could comment on.

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think I'm  
44 going to take it to my AC and see what they think and  
45 then bring it back to you guys. Okay. Virgil.

46  
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: You said that the  
48 majority of the land the State has selected has been  
49 conveyed. Do you know approximately how much has been  
50 conveyed, what percentage-wise?

1 MS. COLE: I think 95 percent of their  
2 entitlement has been conveyed to the State and something  
3 like 98 percent of the entitlement for the Native  
4 corporations has been conveyed.

5  
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Is BLM waiting on the  
7 State to prioritize that last 5 percent or how does that  
8 work?

9  
10 MS. COLE: They have prioritized it.  
11 They can't add any new selections, but I understand they  
12 can still maybe adjust their priorities within what they  
13 have selected. The State is not really in any hurry to  
14 complete the conveyance process. They haven't been  
15 willing to -- we've asked them to relinquish some of the  
16 lower priority selections, but they've been unwilling to  
17 do that so far.

18  
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: The same for the Native  
20 corporations except they could over-select an unlimited  
21 amount. You said they've select -- or 98 percent of what  
22 they're going to get has been conveyed. Have they  
23 relinquished any of this land that they've selected as  
24 well? Because in some places both the State and Native  
25 corporations selected the same land and they're both  
26 over-selected, so how does that work?

27  
28 MS. COLE: You're correct. There are  
29 some areas that are Native selected that the State also  
30 wants. Until the Native selections are cleared up the  
31 State can't get access to that land. So the Native  
32 Corporations have been -- they've either been  
33 relinquishing lands -- we've been closing out villages.  
34 Like some of the village corporations are totally 100  
35 percent complete and they've either been relinquishing or  
36 else we've been just sending them a decision saying these  
37 are no longer selected. So that's kind of going on  
38 gradually, but I don't think they're all going to be  
39 relinquished until we finish up that last couple 2  
40 percent that's still pending.

41  
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
45 questions.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just talked  
50 to Eva. This working group is still alive and we have

1 until April 11th. So if anyone has anything to bring to  
2 the working group, do so by April 11th or sooner, I  
3 guess.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Just for the Council, that's  
6 the final deadline. So, if possible, you know, in the  
7 next few weeks here, especially after these community  
8 meetings that are coming up, if there's feedback that you  
9 know of at that point you can call and e-mail and we can  
10 discuss it and make sure those details get in there so I  
11 can finalize those comment letters and let the whole  
12 Council review it before it gets submitted.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
17 questions.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

22

23 ADF&G Bison reintroduction and then  
24 anyone from the Department after that.

25

26 (Pause)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Rita.

29

30 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
31 For the record, my name is Rita St. Louis. I work for  
32 the Department of Fish and Game. I'm a planner. I'm  
33 here to talk to you about the wood bison and then Jeff  
34 will talk about Fortymile caribou. I won't take a long  
35 time, but you all have a copies of this newsletter I do  
36 believe. It's our newsletter. Page 111 of your folder  
37 also mentions the wood bison.

38

39 What I would like to point out on Page  
40 111 of your newsletter it tells you how you can comment  
41 electronically. There is a mistake in the docket number.  
42 Our newsletter has the accurate docket numbers just for  
43 the record.

44

45 What has happened is since about 2009 the  
46 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska  
47 have worked very, very hard at getting some language put  
48 together to make wood bison a non-essential experimental  
49 population and we sort of shortened that to the 10(j)  
50 rule. What has happened is they've finally come up with

1 proposed language for this and that's what this  
2 newsletter talks about.

3  
4           The writing in the proposed rule is  
5 actually fairly dense, but on Page 1 of our newsletter  
6 and I do believe in your newsletter too the key points of  
7 the 10(j) rule that are essential before we can turn wood  
8 bison out onto the landscape are ADF&G will be the lead  
9 agency in the reintroduction management. Regulated  
10 hunting will be allowed. Resource development, hunting,  
11 trapping and recreation will be allowed. There will be  
12 no critical habitat designation. If a reintroduction  
13 effort fails, we'll remove the animals from the  
14 landscape.

15  
16           As you know, with threatened and  
17 endangered species, if critical habitat is set aside,  
18 then we cannot develop other resources of the state.  
19 Until a 10(j) rule is finalized wood bison will not be  
20 put out on the landscape. That's why this preliminary  
21 rule is something that's a stepping stone, a milestone in  
22 kind of the reintroduction effort.

23  
24           The final comment period ends March 18th.  
25 Then what happens is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
26 takes all the comments, both positive and negative, they  
27 evaluate all comments and then they come up with a final  
28 decision in either -- oh, somewhere between six months  
29 and a year. We don't know the exact date. If the State  
30 agrees with the decision and if the decision is close to  
31 what the proposed 10(j) is, then we'll be able to turn  
32 wood bison loose in the landscape.

33  
34           Probably 2014 would be the earliest we  
35 could do it because, as I said, it would be six months to  
36 a year before the final decision. We have to go out into  
37 the country. The first introduction spot would be Lower  
38 Yukon area and we have to make fences and do some major  
39 planning stuff to get them out there.

40  
41           Also, as you know, probably -- Yukon  
42 Flats and Minto Flats are two other areas that have been  
43 identified as ideal areas for the bison to be  
44 reintroduced. Just a little update on the herd itself.  
45 We have about 135 animals at Alaska Wildlife Conservation  
46 Center right now. We've cut back on breeding. We only  
47 are breeding about 10 cows a year now because our  
48 population was growing faster than the pasture was  
49 allowing -- you know, enough pasture for them.

50

1                   Once the animals are ready to be  
2 reintroduced into the landscape we have a big enough herd  
3 that we could crank out calves pretty fast, so that's  
4 part of the good news.

5  
6                   Other than that, I'm here to just answer  
7 any questions and so forth.

8  
9                   Thank you.

10  
11                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

12  
13                   MR. KOEHLER: Hi, Rita. Could you tell  
14 me the numbers again. I'm always terrible when I first  
15 hear them.

16  
17                   MS. ST. LOUIS: Numbers of what?

18  
19                   MR. KOEHLER: The numbers of bison that  
20 you have.

21  
22                   MS. ST. LOUIS: We now have 135 at Alaska  
23 Wildlife Conservation Center. We got 53 in 2008 and  
24 they've grown since then.

25  
26                   MR. KOEHLER: Right, right. The other  
27 question I have being from or having some connection with  
28 that Delta Junction area, bison are not exactly my  
29 favorite species. The question I'd have is would you  
30 remind us what the budget is for the wood bison project  
31 right now.

32  
33                   MS. ST. LOUIS: I don't know what the  
34 budget is for the wood bison project.

35  
36                   MR. KOEHLER: I think it was somewhere  
37 around 300,000 for the wood bison. Is that way too high?

38  
39                   MS. ST. LOUIS: You mean the budget from  
40 now on or what it's cost up to date?

41  
42                   MR. KOEHLER: No, no. A yearly budget.

43  
44                   MS. ST. LOUIS: I don't know what the  
45 yearly budget is. I don't think it's 300,000. These are  
46 rough numbers. It costs roughly 100,000 to feed and  
47 doctor and take care of them per year.

48  
49                   MR. KOEHLER: Per year. Okay. All  
50 right. So you still must have a budget significantly

1 higher than the budget that we have for those Delta bison  
2 and the bison range.

3

4 MS. ST. LOUIS: I don't know what that  
5 budget is, so I don't have any idea.

6

7 MR. KOEHLER: That budget I think is at  
8 80,000 right now.

9

10 MS. ST. LOUIS: I don't know.

11

12 MR. KOEHLER: Anyway, I guess the point  
13 I would like to make is they're costing a significant  
14 amount of money and we're going to have them encaged or  
15 enclosed for five years at best, six years before we get  
16 them on the range at this point from 2008 to 2014.

17

18 MS. ST. LOUIS: Yes.

19

20 MR. KOEHLER: I know there's nothing we  
21 can do to expedite the process, but just to be aware of  
22 that, especially the money that goes into these wood  
23 bison. Just to be aware of that if it's ever going to be  
24 a subsistence resource for us that it will have come at  
25 a pretty good cost, that's all I'm trying to say.

26

27 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair. Yes,  
28 Will, I think your concerns are probably multiplied  
29 tenfold by us. The wood bison project, the wood bison  
30 dream was to reintroduce a subspecies of animals that  
31 used to roam the Alaska landscape. As you know, they've  
32 been extirpated and we'd like to reintroduce them. The  
33 plan is to get a herd going so that -- or more than one  
34 herd so that people can hunt them and can get return and  
35 good red meat.

36

37 For example we had to cull some of the  
38 old bulls because of budget and space constraints. I can  
39 tell you that one of the big old bulls, just the meat and  
40 bones, hide, guts, head, everything else is gone, 1,200  
41 pounds. That's a lot of good eating. So I agree with  
42 you, but one of the other things was just the whole  
43 conservation effort, the chance to bring back a species  
44 that was here before.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. KOEHLER: I'm not necessarily stating  
49 an opinion for or against them. I just thought it would  
50 be good for us to be aware of the cost and the effort

1 that has been going on and will continue to go on with  
2 them.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

9

10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madame Chair. I believe  
11 we need a motion to write a letter supporting -- for this  
12 comment period, supporting the reintroduction of the  
13 bison and we need to point out that this 10(j) rule and  
14 the proposed plan looks real good to us and that we want  
15 to support the 10(j) rule that would allow mining,  
16 hunting, trapping, fishing, everything else to go on  
17 where the bison are at. So I so make that motion.

18

19 MR. KOEHLER: I'll second that.

20

21 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll speak to my motion.  
22 They do taste good. I ate one hamburger out of that big  
23 bull because my son cut it up and then all the rest of it  
24 went to the food bank. But it did weigh right at 1,200  
25 pounds. They're a really big animal. From what I  
26 understood, those were kind of the mean old guys is why  
27 they got picked out to get chopped. Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. And  
30 that is what you were looking for -- not that you were  
31 looking for. That's an action item that we can do to  
32 continue this process and hopefully see them not cost the  
33 state money and be out on the landscape.

34

35 MS. ST. LOUIS: Madame Chair. Another  
36 thing I just want to point out, not defending or not  
37 defending anything, but a lot of the cost of care of the  
38 wood bison has been donated by Alaska Wildlife  
39 Conservation Center, Carlile Trucking has hauled all the  
40 hay. They've probably hauled \$300,000 worth of hay free  
41 of charge. So all of this isn't total cost to the state.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, the other  
46 thing since you weren't on the council from the start,  
47 this whole 10(j) rule put a kibosh to something we  
48 thought would get done in two years.

49

50 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay.  
2  
3 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, I was aware of that.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's  
6 kind of crazy to me. Now we got the animals we can't do  
7 nothing with but feed them. Okay. Let's hope and pray  
8 that we can get those animals out to the landscape. I  
9 like the way you put that.  
10  
11 Any more discussion on the motion on the  
12 floor.  
13  
14 (No comments)  
15  
16 MR. GLANZ: Call for the question.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
19 has been called for. All in favor say aye.  
20  
21 IN UNISON: Aye.  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.  
24  
25 (No opposing votes)  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion carries.  
28  
29 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
32 Rita.  
33  
34 MR. ERHART: Wood bison fry meat.  
35  
36 (Laughter)  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I heard what he  
39 said. Wood bison fry meat. My favorite.  
40  
41 (Laughter)  
42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think you'd  
44 like it. All right. Do we have other Fish and Game  
45 things that we're going to take up here? I know that  
46 we've been working on some proposals that Jeff was going  
47 to help us with. Did you have something else, Jennifer?  
48  
49 MS. YUHAS: After your scheduled reports,  
50 Madame Chair, yes.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now it's  
2 Fortymile, huh. Caribou.

3  
4 MR. GROSS: Thank you, Madame Chair. I  
5 just want to give a real brief set of comments and really  
6 a heads up, which the Department is trying to do this  
7 with each of the different Councils and committees and  
8 boards that have been involved in the management of the  
9 Fortymile and the effort to reintroduce or for the herd  
10 to expand into its former range.

11  
12 As you all know, we've had real good  
13 success with the Fortymile Herd since early '70s. It's  
14 come back from just a few thousand animals to over 50,000  
15 in 2010 during our census. All along we've been trying  
16 to keep our eyes open and work with the public to  
17 reestablish the herd the best as possible. It's been a  
18 real success story. We have also told the Councils and  
19 committees consistently that we would come to you and  
20 talk to you at any sign of nutritional situation with the  
21 herd and that's really what I'm doing here today is to  
22 share kind of a yellow flag with you.

23  
24 Kind of the basics what we know, since  
25 2008 we have observed lower than average fall calf  
26 weights in four of the five years since 2008. We've also  
27 noted through Rod Boertje's research that the caribou  
28 density on the calving grounds has increased considerably  
29 since 2006. The herd continues to grow, but it doesn't  
30 seem to be expanding its calving range.

31  
32 We've also looked at birth rates  
33 consistently on this herd. The birth rates of cows  
34 greater than 48 months of age, which are really the  
35 mature cows, we have seen a slight decline in their birth  
36 rates, but more importantly the younger cows that have  
37 just kind of just become mature and in good nutritional  
38 condition can be very productive. Our three-year-old  
39 cows are actually now showing some declining birth rates  
40 down to levels that we have seen in other herds or  
41 documented in other herds that are known to be  
42 nutritionally stressed.

43  
44 It certainly isn't an end of the world  
45 sort of scenario. It's been a fairly gradual thing.  
46 It's important to understand there's a lot of variation  
47 between herds, so trying to compare one herd to another  
48 isn't exactly apples to apples so we want to caution  
49 everybody about some of the literature that our research  
50 staff has put out there. There's a lot we don't

1 understand but we're doing the best we can to use the  
2 information we have to watch the condition of the herd.

3  
4 Really there's very little comprehensive  
5 information in the literature about how to assess the  
6 nutritional condition of a herd as it's growing and being  
7 reestablished and what indicators are most important or  
8 at what point do we react as far as maybe stabilizing a  
9 herd. So we're kind of learning as we go here and that's  
10 kind of what we've done with all the committees from the  
11 get go with this.

12  
13 We do have another spring birth rate  
14 survey planned for this spring. That's going to be  
15 pretty important information once that birth rate survey  
16 is conducted. We're going to sit back down with our  
17 research staff, with our other cooperators. Ruth  
18 Gronquist and Jim Herriges of the BLM have been really  
19 fantastic working with us. We're going to look at the  
20 biology. We're going to run it through the research  
21 staff here in Fairbanks and kind of reassess at that  
22 point.

23  
24 Because we've largely been kind of  
25 learning as we go and not having a complete picture of  
26 what to do and when to do it, I'm really characterizing  
27 this as sort of a risk assessment. At this point I think  
28 we've identified in recent years that risk of some kind  
29 of decline or some kind of impact to the herd from  
30 nutrition has certainly increased from our standpoint.  
31 Again, it's not the sky is falling sort of scenario, but  
32 I just really want to point that out though. I mean  
33 don't take this as we think that we need to do something  
34 drastic right now. This is the first step. We really  
35 need to weigh all the information, including the spring  
36 birth rate surveys.

37  
38 Then kind of a timeline of what the  
39 Department is looking at -- this February 26th, in a few  
40 days, we're going to have a teleconference with the  
41 Fortymile Harvest Management Coalition, which is  
42 comprised of a number of advisory committees, including  
43 the Fairbanks, Upper Tanana, Central, Delta Junction,  
44 Eagle, Anchorage and Mat Valley Fish and Game Advisory  
45 Committees. It also has members from this RAC. It is in  
46 cooperation with Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management  
47 Board, Yukon Department of Environment, Yukon First  
48 Nations, Bureau of Land Management, the Park Service and  
49 then the Department.

50

1                   This coalition was instrumental in  
2 developing the Fortymile Harvest Management Plan that  
3 guides harvest of the herd. The teleconference that I  
4 mentioned on the 26th is going to be our opportunity to  
5 bring this same information to the attention of everybody  
6 on that coalition so they can take that information back  
7 to their respective folks.

8  
9                   Mid May, as I mentioned, we're going to  
10 conduct our birth rate survey that we do annually. Late  
11 May we'll be looking at that data and all the rest of the  
12 data again. Early June we're hoping to have a round of  
13 meetings with folks in the Yukon with all the Fish and  
14 Game Advisory Committees who are represented on the  
15 Harvest Management Coalition. We'll be discussing this  
16 with at least a portion of this Regional Advisory  
17 Committee and finding an opportunity for them to see that  
18 presentation too. Several of you are on the ACs that are  
19 involved in this harvest coalition, so you'll see this.  
20 Actually, it's surprising looking around here there's  
21 four of you.

22  
23                   That will kind of be the braindom for  
24 you. We're going to give you everything we know and then  
25 allow you some time to really digest it in your own  
26 corners and then hopefully in late June we'll pull  
27 together the Harvest Management Coalition again and have  
28 a more in-depth discussion about the conclusions and  
29 determine if there's some kind of change in strategy that  
30 we want to take with the herd and then look at the  
31 regulatory process if need be that would require to make  
32 a change.

33  
34                   The nice thing about the harvest  
35 management plan for this herd is it's got a lot of -- it  
36 was developed by the public and it's got a lot of leeway  
37 in there for us to react if there are conservation  
38 concerns. I also want to let you know if we do identify  
39 something is amiss or we feel like something needs to be  
40 done, I believe the tools are there for us to do  
41 something even as early as next fall if need be.

42  
43                   I feel really good about this. Rita has  
44 been heavily involved in this. You'll be hearing from  
45 both of us I'm sure quite a bit. With that, I hadn't  
46 really planned on getting down in the weeds of this too  
47 much because it really is extremely complicated,  
48 therefore the timeline of events that we're going to try  
49 to do this kind of in a step-wise process to really make  
50 sure everybody is well informed, but I'd be happy to take

1 questions and discuss whatever you want to discuss.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: When is that  
4 meeting date, the 26th of February?

5

6 MR. GROSS: The 26th of February will be  
7 the teleconference with the Harvest Management Coalition.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Bill.

10

11 MR. GROSS: Rita also reminded me we are  
12 going to attempt to do a photo census this year because  
13 we have not pulled off a photo census since 2010. Kind  
14 of based on some of our survival data reproduction and  
15 survival at the fall. We've probably likely been pretty  
16 stable the last couple of years, so I'm not really  
17 anticipating seeing much of an increase in the herd. I'm  
18 guessing we're going to be somewhere between 48 and maybe  
19 54,000, somewhere in there. Anyway, we hope to do that  
20 this summer.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Bill.

23

24 MR. GLANZ: Jeff, I just hope we're not  
25 too premature in doing all this stuff. We've noticed now  
26 that they're starting to go in the different areas. Like  
27 me and you were flying last fall there. You see all the  
28 white-topped mountains with lichen and all that. I mean  
29 do you think they're not eating the proper food? I don't  
30 understand why we're having the low calf weights. Is it  
31 because they're all jammed into the old grounds? You've  
32 noticed yourself they're up in the Whites now and heading  
33 into the Crazies. We're picking them up everywhere around  
34 there in our flights looking at them.

35

36 So I'm just wondering if we're a little  
37 premature, like we're going to start to thin them out or  
38 increasing the harvest rate as soon as possible. I don't  
39 like to see that happen if that's what the problem is  
40 going to be. Most studies are a couple years. I'd like  
41 just to see us go a little slower on it if we could, but  
42 then again I trust your judgment. Whatever you think.

43

44 MR. GROSS: Through the Chair. Bill and  
45 I had some opportunity to have some good discussions and  
46 the information that Rod Boertje put in his most recent  
47 technical bulletin, which is kind of the bible for us  
48 right now when we're talking about nutrition of the  
49 Fortymile. It really indicates that it's likely a summer  
50 range issue, calving and post calving issue kind of prior

1 to them dispersing more into the White Mountains and into  
2 Canada. It's essentially within and immediately adjacent  
3 to the Yukon-Charley is that particular range, is the  
4 high alpine.

5  
6 One of the theories that Rodney had was  
7 just along the lines of what you're saying, Bill. If  
8 they do start calving and utilizing the White Mountains  
9 to a larger extent during the summer we could see the  
10 herd turn around. I think, again, because we don't know  
11 a lot about how to apply these indices, again, we're kind  
12 of learning as we go along here, the one thing you learn  
13 in wildlife management 101 is game populations need  
14 certain things and as long as they have those things  
15 they're very resilient. They're able to grow pretty  
16 easily.

17  
18 The thing we want to avoid obviously and  
19 I know, Bill, you're going to be the first one in line  
20 and everybody right behind if we have any inkling that,  
21 hey, we might hurt this herd if we grow it anymore. I  
22 think we're all on the same page on that. As long as we  
23 keep the herd healthy, even if we did end up stabilizing  
24 it, I don't think anybody in the Department or otherwise  
25 thinks that this is necessarily the end of the road. It  
26 would be more like hitting the pause button and just  
27 seeing where things go.

28  
29 If things turn around, it could be a  
30 completely different scenario. It's kind of a cautionary  
31 thing. I think we've got a long ways to go between now  
32 and June collecting additional data and some more  
33 analysis before we jump to any conclusions. Again, I  
34 really want to emphasize that I don't foresee any kind of  
35 conclusion at this point or any intention to up the  
36 harvest at this point. It's more coming to you and  
37 giving you the first heads up, the first yellow flag and  
38 we'll kind of go from here.

39  
40 MR. GLANZ: Thank you.

41  
42 MR. KOEHLER: I guess we're not taking  
43 any action.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it's more  
46 of a report and then the Fortymile Working Group or  
47 whatever you call yourselves will be getting together  
48 next week and then you get to spend all day talking about  
49 it.

50

1 MR. GLANZ: It's a telephone thing  
2 actually.  
3  
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah,  
5 teleconference. Will.  
6  
7 MR. KOEHLER: Just one thing for that  
8 June meeting. You know, it's hard enough to get us all  
9 together in one room in the wintertime. Make sure you  
10 get those dates to us as soon as you can.  
11  
12 Thank you.  
13  
14 MR. GROSS: Yeah, I appreciate that. I  
15 need to think about that. Rita.  
16  
17 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to invite them all  
18 to Central. We could have it there for a change. You've  
19 been there, but a lot of them haven't been in that area  
20 there. Show them what Jeff's talking about. Just a  
21 thought, Jeff.  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
24 questions. Donald.  
25  
26 MR. WOODRUFF: I just have one comment.  
27 I think this is a really good opportunity for your  
28 research paper or whitepaper for other managers for  
29 protocols with herd growth because this is like a big  
30 test case. You know, it's a real success story and I  
31 think it would be a good opportunity for all you guys to  
32 put a research paper out there that other managers could  
33 use.  
34  
35 Thank you.  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
38 questions.  
39  
40 (No comments)  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving  
43 on. Jennifer.  
44  
45 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
46 Jennifer Yuhas. I am the State's Federal Subsistence  
47 Liaison Team leader. I introduced myself before. I  
48 don't know some of the newer members here, but I speak  
49 for the State in a policy capacity when I come to these  
50 meetings. I really appreciate coming to the RAC

1 meetings. It's much less formal than the Federal  
2 Subsistence Board. We have a little bit of time to be  
3 human with each other, share some food. We had some  
4 dance last night with the Gwich'in Nation and we had a  
5 little bit of time to let down and get to know each  
6 other. It's more casual.

7  
8 But we're also here to conduct a formal  
9 meeting and we have a formal record and it's also very  
10 important that the record is accurate by the time we  
11 leave the meeting. I like to be the person who brings  
12 all the positive news and not the person who has to make  
13 the definitions like we had to have our fisheries  
14 managers do earlier today, the difference between a  
15 crisis and bleak and have to put those things on the  
16 record.

17  
18 So I'm going to lead with the positive  
19 things. I might get corrected here, but I think that my  
20 working relationship with some of my National Park  
21 Service counterparts is very positive. I think that  
22 Nancy Swanton and Sandy Rabinowitch who I work with at  
23 the InterAgency Staff Committee meeting do a very good  
24 job of making sure that we provide accurate information  
25 to each other in a very timely fashion and when we  
26 disagree, it's very amicable.

27  
28 Yesterday Amy was here from Denali Park  
29 and we just had a side conversation and I asked her a  
30 question could we get a little star on the map there that  
31 says you are here so that it's easier for the users when  
32 we come up and they're snowmachining so that we know  
33 where we're at on the map if some folks aren't as good at  
34 reading a map as I am, they don't think they're in the  
35 closed area when they've just hit the boundary and she  
36 said, oh, no, that's a wonderful idea. We can do that  
37 right away. We'll have some rangers go put that up. So  
38 that was all very positive.

39  
40 And I felt really great listening to the  
41 compendia report today. I heard all about how this was  
42 developed in consultation with the State and we only had  
43 a few minor issues we were disagreeing on and it had only  
44 been for a short period of time. Then I checked in with  
45 the office and I found I have a professional  
46 responsibility to make sure that the record is accurate  
47 from the State's viewpoint before I leave the meeting and  
48 that didn't feel so good, but I know that it's part of my  
49 job, so I need to do that portion of the meeting here.  
50

1                   As far as developed in consultation with  
2 the State, I don't know that we would convey it kind of  
3 as warm and fuzzy as I heard, but we were able to  
4 participate in a once-a-year meeting in December where we  
5 were informed what the compendia would contain. We were  
6 told at that meeting that those points were pretty well  
7 non-negotiable and nothing really changed in the  
8 compendia by the time we left the meeting, so I don't  
9 know if we'd consider the consultation as highly as may  
10 have been reported earlier. I think we hear from a lot  
11 of users and sometimes tribes who say well that  
12 consultation wasn't meaningful. We felt like we were  
13 informed rather than consulted.

14  
15                   As far as the long history, I don't know  
16 that it's just been recent. I know that the State has  
17 submitted comments on the record for the duration of the  
18 compendia process, so I don't know that the State would  
19 agree that it's something that's agreed to in the same  
20 manner as what's presented. I'd heard through the  
21 presentation that nothing had been brought up in the last  
22 three years, but when I checked with the office we have  
23 submitted protests to the points in the compendia in  
24 2010, 2011 and 2012, so that would cover the last three  
25 years.

26  
27                   I don't know about just the few minor  
28 points. Our few minor points were contained within 37  
29 pages when we submitted them this year, so we might find  
30 that those are more than a few points. It's just  
31 important that we leave the record accurate when we leave  
32 the meeting because this is a formal meeting. We're  
33 conducting official business that affects the users.

34  
35                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,  
36 Jennifer. You say it differently than I do. I  
37 appreciate it. I have to say that sometimes -- I don't  
38 know what it is, if it's communication or what. I don't  
39 know what to say. Council members. Bill.

40  
41                   MR. GLANZ: Yes, Jennifer. I didn't even  
42 know how to pronounce the word and you've been dealing  
43 with it for three years. I had no idea. I thought that  
44 was something new that this young lady brought up to us  
45 at the last meeting. I'm glad the State is keeping an  
46 eye on it.

47  
48                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's true too  
49 because I was on the SRC and I've been following the SRC  
50 for years, but -- I hate to keep saying we're volunteers,

1 but we are and we only have a limited amount of time and  
2 we have -- what did you say, 30 pounds on one EIS, you  
3 know, and that just goes on and on and on, the stuff that  
4 you can get yourself informed about.

5  
6 On the SRC, I mean Barbara is the one  
7 that brought that to us as we need to look at this SRC  
8 and we got a report last meeting and a lot of the times  
9 when that word compendium was brought to the SRC it was  
10 like a foreign word from a different language, you  
11 know. It took a long time to understand what it really  
12 meant because we have the same things going on all over  
13 and all these agencies. All these things that have to go  
14 through Congress and has to go through regulation and has  
15 to go through CFRs and has to go through all this stuff.  
16 It's hard for the Federal and the State. It's a lot for  
17 us to keep our heads wrapped around.

18  
19 I see a hand. I talked enough to get  
20 some comments.

21  
22 MR. KOEHLER: Kind of along that line I  
23 would say that that would be -- we don't hear very many  
24 advantages or positive comments about dual management,  
25 but there is kind of an indirect advantage or positive  
26 point that I see in that. We, as volunteers, certainly do  
27 not stay on top of things as well as you folks do, in a  
28 lot of cases, so maybe having that little bit of dual  
29 management where you guys are at odds sometimes kind of  
30 puts in a point of checks and balances maybe. That's  
31 all.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
34 members, anything else.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair. That concludes  
39 my policy comments and we also have Jason Caikoski online  
40 again. I understand there's a discussion forthcoming on  
41 25A moose, so we brought copies of our regs and Jason is  
42 available if you folks have questions.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let me  
45 look at my schedule here.

46  
47 MS. YUHAS: I didn't see it on the  
48 schedule. I was alerted that one of the members had.....

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, what

1 we've been doing is talking about proposals amongst  
2 ourselves and we started on one that Donald brought up  
3 earlier, which brought up -- the minute you start looking  
4 at this stuff it gets so complicated you wonder what you  
5 have to do. This one was 25 moose?

6

7 MR. GLANZ: 25A moose or 26C or whatever.

8

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You should  
11 probably say that on the record, Bill.

12

13 MR. GLANZ: I forgot what I said.

14

15 REPORTER: I got it, Bill.

16

17 MR. GLANZ: This 25A has to do with 26C  
18 that we had earlier yesterday.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what do you  
21 guys want to take up first. We're going to work on some  
22 proposals here, all right. He's there for 25 moose.

23

24 MS. YUHAS: Correct.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want to  
27 take that up first and then we're going to get back to --  
28 all right.

29

30 MR. GLANZ: Let's do that as long as he's  
31 on the line.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andrew.

34

35 MR. FIRMIN: So this will be a State reg  
36 for Unit 25A and let me see where my other one -- the  
37 existing State reg says Unit 25A remainder, which is the  
38 only parts is Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.  
39 Now it's 25A remainder, one bull, residents and one bull  
40 non-resident with an antler restriction on it. So the  
41 25A new reg would say Unit 25A the portion consisting of  
42 Sheenjok River, upstream but not including Koness River  
43 and the drainages of the Coleen River and Old Crow  
44 Rivers, residents one bull with 50-inch antlers or four  
45 or more brow tines on at least one side. Non-residents  
46 would be one bull with 50-inch antlers or four or more  
47 brow tines on at least one side by draw permit. That  
48 would be for Unit 25A resident and non-resident.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a

1 motion?  
2  
3 MR. FIRMIN: That's the motion.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a  
6 second.  
7  
8 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
11 Andrew, can you speak to that.  
12  
13 MR. FIRMIN: Refer all comments to the  
14 presentation by Fran Mauer yesterday.  
15  
16 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that then.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We got a  
19 second. That's a third.  
20  
21 MR. GLANZ: It's okay.  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
24 More discussion. I'm going to remind all you guys that  
25 -- I mean this is the way we've done it in the past.  
26 When we have ideas about proposals, we do the best we can  
27 here, but sometimes we have a committee that goes back  
28 and finishes them up. Virgil is thinking. Donald, it  
29 looks like you want to tell me something. No. Virgil  
30 does.  
31  
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I need to be --  
33 this is a State regulation you want to propose.  
34  
35 MR. FIRMIN: (Nods affirmatively)  
36  
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. And this is for  
38 25A remainder.  
39  
40 MR. FIRMIN: It would be a new section of  
41 25A, splitting off this little area here and then the  
42 remainder would be the rest. Right now it refers to the  
43 Dalton Highway Corridor Management, which is just this  
44 little yellow corner of the map here and then the rest is  
45 25A remainder.  
46  
47 MR. KOEHLER: So you are excluding the  
48 Dalton area management?  
49  
50 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, because it's only this

1 much on the map.  
2  
3 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, I understand. Thank  
4 you.  
5  
6 MR. FIRMIN: That's another area  
7 altogether.  
8  
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Could you say  
10 again what you would like the regulation to be.  
11  
12 MR. FIRMIN: The portion consisting of  
13 Sheenjek River, upstream but not including the Koness  
14 River and the drainages of the Coleen River and Old Crow  
15 Rivers would be residents one bull with 50-inch antler  
16 restriction for residents. And then non-residents would  
17 have the same antler restriction by draw permit.  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So why don't  
20 you identify what it is now and what it's changing to so  
21 it makes sense or do you feel you guys understand it.  
22 Right now it's one bull and you're moving it to 50-inch,  
23 right?  
24  
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: So this area is the area  
26 that we got the report on yesterday from the -- well, the  
27 retired Fish and Wildlife biologist spoke to it and  
28 that's for the Federal proposal that we deferred until  
29 fall. This is what this would be addressing, that same  
30 area, the same moose in the same area.  
31  
32 MR. FIRMIN: The same moose but slightly  
33 different area. A lot of the area he was talking about  
34 is in 26C above 25A, so we're only addressing the moose  
35 as they pass through this lower area.  
36  
37 MR. KOEHLER: If I understand correctly,  
38 this will also affect the Chandalar River as well?  
39  
40 MR. FIRMIN: No.  
41  
42 MR. KOEHLER: So we're changing the  
43 boundaries of how it reads right now in remainder of 25A.  
44  
45 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.  
46  
47 MR. KOEHLER: To the Sheenjek River as  
48 being.....  
49  
50 MR. FIRMIN: Sheenjek, Coleen and Old

1 Crow.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: East.  
4  
5 MR. KOEHLER: Everything east of the  
6 Sheenjek River.  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Including  
9 Sheenjek River.  
10  
11 MR. KOEHLER: Including the Sheen.....  
12  
13 MR. FIRMIN: Upstream from the Koness  
14 River but not including and the Coleen River drainage and  
15 Old Crow River drainage.  
16  
17 MR. KOEHLER: All right. I understand  
18 now. Thank you.  
19  
20 MR. GLANZ: So the Coleen drainage.  
21 We're talking about the birth place of it all the way  
22 down to where it dumps in to Porky.  
23  
24 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, because the entire  
25 drainage is in 25A.  
26  
27 MR. GLANZ: All right.  
28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It was my  
30 understanding that that changes it from one bull to one  
31 50 inch.  
32  
33 MR. KOEHLER: But we're also changing a  
34 dividing -- the remainder of 25A as it stands now, as  
35 it's defined now, includes the Chandalar River if I'm  
36 seeing it right. Oh, no, no, no. Okay. Now I'm seeing  
37 where I've messed up.  
38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.  
40  
41 MR. WOODRUFF: Just as a suggestion maybe  
42 we can call this 20A East because it seems to encompass  
43 a huge area of 20A, but only to the east and that might  
44 be a clarification point.  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: See these kind  
47 of details would be great to work out unless it's easy to  
48 do. The biologist is online?  
49  
50 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair. Yes, he is.

1 He is having some difficulty hearing, so he's trying to  
2 pay attention the best that he can, but he is online  
3 listening.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wonder why  
6 he's having a difficulty hearing. Can you hear us out  
7 there in whatever land?

8

9 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair. This is Pippa  
10 Kenner.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're hearing  
13 us fine. Who is the biologist? What's his name again?  
14 Jason.

15

16 MS. YUHAS: Caikoski, from yesterday.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jason, are you  
19 hearing us?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MR. CAIKOSKI: Hello.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He can hear us.

26

27 MR. CAIKOSKI: Okay. Yeah, I think I've  
28 got it figured out now. I can roughly hear you guys.  
29 I'm getting kind of -- I think the major gist of it, but  
30 it kind of comes in and out.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it's  
33 because they're whispering once in a while and they're  
34 trying to get a handle on it. Did you hear what that  
35 area is?

36

37 MR. CAIKOSKI: Yeah. Well, I'll tell you  
38 what I understood it as. It's essentially the eastern  
39 portion of 25A. What was explained was the Sheenjok  
40 upstream of the Koness but not including the Koness, the  
41 Coleen it sounds like in its entirety and the Old Crow  
42 River maybe.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

45

46 MR. CAIKOSKI: And I understood  
47 residents, one bull, 50-inch antler or bigger and non-  
48 residents would have the same antler restriction but  
49 would be drawing permit and I didn't hear anything about  
50 brow tines. I assume the four brow tines would be there

1 as well.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. What's on  
4 the books. Anybody have any questions on the motion.  
5 Will.

6

7 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, I'm still trying to  
8 understand. I'm sorry I'm slow. So, to repeat this  
9 again, we're changing -- with this proposal we would be  
10 changing the boundary. We'd be creating another -- we'd  
11 be changing the existing 25A remainder by creating a  
12 boundary by the Sheenjek River, which does not exist  
13 right now, we would be adding a horn restriction on  
14 resident hunters, and that's everything, right?

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A draw for non-  
17 resident.

18

19 MR. KOEHLER: A drawing for non-resident.  
20 Okay.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But Donald  
23 suggested, and I think this is a good idea, to call it  
24 25A East.

25

26 MR. KOEHLER: One thing, since that  
27 Sheenjek River is being used and becoming more popular as  
28 a river for float hunters, we'd probably want to define  
29 that pretty carefully as far as what bank we want this to  
30 go to. Do we want this to include the whole bank of the  
31 Sheenjek River or the east bank or the west bank. Do you  
32 see what I'm saying?

33

34 MR. FIRMIN: It's the Sheenjek River  
35 drainage.

36

37 MR. KOEHLER: So the whole drainage?

38

39 MR. FIRMIN: Yes. Down to the Koness.

40

41 MR. KOEHLER: Okay. Do we need --  
42 generally on these regulations don't we go by a river  
43 bank so that we have a solid line?

44

45 MR. WOODRUFF: No.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A lot of times  
48 it goes by ridge line.

49

50 MR. KOEHLER: Okay.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.  
2  
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The unintended  
4 consequences -- I don't know who -- is there anyone here  
5 from Arctic Refuge.  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince.  
8  
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Vince is the only one  
10 here. What's going to happen -- what you basically want  
11 to do is make the residents have an antler requirement  
12 and limit the non-residents because you're making the  
13 non-resident drawing permit. So unless you make an  
14 allocation because that's -- all of it's National  
15 Wildlife Refuge land. The guide that has the permit to  
16 operate there, whoever he is, and I don't know who he is,  
17 he is told by the Refuge how many moose hunters he can  
18 take. That's all the hunters he can take. So he's  
19 already limited by how many hunters he can take whether  
20 they get a moose or not.  
21  
22 If they make it drawing permit, then --  
23 because I know there's probably float hunters. Someone  
24 mentioned float hunters floating down the Sheenjek and I  
25 don't know how many of those rivers they float down, but  
26 air taxi people fly them in and drop them off. So what  
27 will happen if you pass it the way you've just made the  
28 motion is that guide that only gets three guide areas in  
29 the whole state, that he might lose his moose hunters or  
30 he might -- you know, depending on how many permits they  
31 allow, say they allow 10 permits for the area, just an  
32 arbitrary figure, and then all these people from the  
33 Lower 48 put in, say 100 of them, put in to draw one of  
34 these permits, then this guy right now, this is all  
35 arbitrary because we don't have anyone from the Refuge  
36 that knows the numbers, this guy is only allowed two  
37 moose hunters a year or three moose hunters a year,  
38 whatever it is, he might not even get a moose hunter draw  
39 per tag -- or a permit, so he's just totally out of  
40 business. He's already limited on how many hunters he  
41 can take by the Refuge as it is.  
42  
43 So, based on that, I would amend your  
44 proposal to not include guided non-residents on the  
45 drawing permit because he can only take however many  
46 moose hunters the Refuge manager tells him he can take to  
47 begin with. I can assure you they are very conservative  
48 on how many hunters they let you take.  
49  
50 MR. KOEHLER: Can the State do that

1 legally, separate guided non-resident hunters?

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Oh, yes. We've got a  
4 Board of Game member back there in the back, but I know  
5 we can.

6

7 MR. KOEHLER: Okay.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you want to  
10 separate it out further.

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: I want to separate it  
13 out. If you're going to make a drawing permit only for  
14 non-guided non-residents, leave the guided non-residents  
15 the way they are because the Refuge manager determines  
16 how many of them get to go hunting, otherwise you're  
17 going to put the guide out of business that operates  
18 there.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can you get  
21 some wording, Virgil?

22

23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Certainly.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's take this  
26 one up after -- do you want to have a break right now and  
27 do the wording.

28

29 MR. UMPHENOUR: If you want to do that,  
30 we can do that.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's do it.  
33 Take a short break and you get the wording in there and  
34 then bring it back.

35

36 (Off record)

37

38 (On record)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As you're  
41 coming back to your seats, I want you guys to listen. We  
42 do not have to have it word for word. We give the intent  
43 on the record and OSM and everybody is going to get  
44 together, I got that from Carl over there, and they write  
45 the proposal. As long as our intent is on the record.  
46 So Virgil has a friendly amendment or what kind of  
47 amendment you want.

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: A friendly amendment. My  
50 friendly amendment would be the description of the area,

1 which is the remainder of -- the eastern part of the  
2 remainder of 25A for the residents it would be one bull  
3 over 50 inches or with four brow tines on one antler.  
4 For non-guided non-residents it would be one bull with  
5 the antler restrictions the same by drawing permit. And  
6 for guided non-residents it would be one bull with the  
7 antler restrictions by harvest tag.

8

9 MR. FIRMIN: Second.

10

11 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll speak to the  
12 amendment.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wait one second.  
15 Do I have a quorum since there's nine of us here and  
16 there's five sitting here?

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, we do, as long as  
19 everyone votes unanimous.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. One  
22 is walking in the room. Go ahead.

23

24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'm going to speak  
25 to the amendment. The guide that operates in that area is  
26 limited by the Refuge as to how many moose he can take or  
27 how many moose hunters he can take, not how many moose he  
28 takes. He's limited by how many moose hunters he can  
29 take. Whether the guide gets a moose or not is beside  
30 the point. He's allowed to take I believe five moose  
31 hunters, but I don't know what the number is. I think  
32 it's five.

33

34 If we do not do something like this, I do  
35 know that there is an issue in that area with  
36 transporters dropping off an excessive amount of moose  
37 hunters that are floater moose hunters, which I hate  
38 these drop off floater moose hunters because most of the  
39 meat usually isn't in very good shape if they shoot it  
40 early in their hunt and they're going to get picked up a  
41 week later or 10 days later, 50 miles or however far down  
42 the river, then that moose meat sits in an inflatable  
43 raft. Unless they take it out and hang it every night,  
44 even if they do do that, it's probably going to be very  
45 poor quality. That's why we have had these regulations  
46 implemented for meat on the bone so that people can't  
47 bone them out because if you bone them out, then you may  
48 as well just throw the meat in the trash because it's  
49 going to be unfit for human consumption.

50

1                   So these are the people causing the  
2 problems, but we do not want to put the guide out of  
3 business because he's not floating down the river like  
4 that. He has to take proper care of the meat. If we  
5 just leave it -- if we made a drawing permit for all non-  
6 residents, then he would have to compete with all other  
7 non-residents that apply for these tags and the odds are  
8 that he would not -- what he would have to do is put in  
9 a whole bunch more people than he's allowed to take in  
10 hopes that at least he would draw the number that the  
11 Refuge will let him take hunting. So that puts him in  
12 another problem. If he gets super lucky on the draw, he  
13 draws more hunters than he's allowed, so it causes total  
14 chaos for the guide when he gets put in that type of  
15 position and we don't -- and the guide, I know the guide,  
16 he's lived here for over 40 years in this state.

17  
18                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fifty.

19  
20                   MR. UMPHENOUR: And lives here in  
21 Fairbanks. Anyway, that's why I put forward this  
22 friendly amendment. It will protect the guide's business  
23 and still allow the same conservation reason for the  
24 proposal. Madame Chair.

25  
26                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good job.  
27 Overly wonderful except the word hate. Dislike is a  
28 better word.

29  
30                   MR. ERHART: Dislike, yeah.

31  
32                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does everyone  
33 understand that.

34  
35                   MR. KOEHLER: I understand.

36  
37                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Are  
38 we ready for.....

39  
40                   MR. WOODRUFF: I call the question on the  
41 amendment.

42  
43                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question is  
44 called for on the amendment and we understand the  
45 amendment. All in.....

46  
47                   MS. PATTON: Madame Chair.

48  
49                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

50

1 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry. For the record,  
2 because I ran out to get additional Council members  
3 here.....  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have six  
6 Council members present.  
7  
8 MS. PATTON: Yes, we're good. I just  
9 missed the second half of the friendly amendment. Can  
10 you.....  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah. I'm  
13 sorry.  
14  
15 MS. PATTON: .....restate the amendment,  
16 please.  
17  
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The amendment  
19 would be non-guided non-residents by drawing permit.  
20 Guided non-residents harvest tag.  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You just  
23 addressed non-guided.  
24  
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right.  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think  
28 you have to say anymore. It's done, right? Don't  
29 complicate it.  
30  
31 MS. PATTON: So just to clarify, non-  
32 guided non-residents by drawing permit.  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.  
35  
36 MR. FIRMIN: With the same antler  
37 restriction.  
38  
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: With the same  
40 antler restriction, which is already on the books.  
41  
42 MS. PATTON: With the same antler  
43 restriction. Okay. Thank you.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. On the  
46 amendment, non-guided. All in favor.  
47  
48 IN UNISON: Aye.  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

1 (No opposing votes)  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: None. So it's  
4 6-0 passes.  
5  
6 MR. WOODRUFF: I call the question on the  
7 motion.  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The main  
10 motion. The question has been called for. All  
11 understand the motion.  
12  
13 (Council nods affirmatively)  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in  
16 favor say aye.  
17  
18 IN UNISON: Aye.  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.  
21  
22 (No opposing votes)  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion passes  
25 6-0. Now that's done. Next. Jeff might as well stay  
26 there. Do you have another one?  
27  
28 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: On 25. Okay.  
31 Andrew.  
32  
33 MR. FIRMIN: The next one is for brown  
34 grizzly bear in Unit 25D. The current State regulation  
35 reads two bears per regulatory year for residents and one  
36 bear per regulatory year for non-residents and I'd like  
37 to change the resident portion of that to read residents  
38 may take brown bear over a bait at a registered bait  
39 station.  
40  
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.  
42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
44 Speaking to the motion.  
45  
46 MR. FIRMIN: This has been something  
47 that's been done in that area for generations. I think  
48 as we know we've already addressed and heard from the  
49 Refuge manager earlier and the biologist saying that  
50 their place is overrun with bears, brown and black alike.

1 I think this would be something that would bring possibly  
2 more outside hunters in to help cull the problem if it's  
3 perceived as one. If not, thin them out a little bit.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil.

6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: If I understand your  
8 motion right, you were limiting this to residents only?

9

10 MR. FIRMIN: It could be amended if you'd  
11 like, but that was the way I thought it at first. I  
12 wanted to do it only on the Federal side, but I think it  
13 wouldn't be bad to do it on the resident side as well.  
14 If you guys want to entertain it as non-resident also, I  
15 don't have a problem with that.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is a State  
18 proposal, right?

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know in our  
23 area -- I don't know that -- is it open for non-residents  
24 to bait? I don't think it is, Virgil.

25

26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes, I think it is.....

27

28 MR. KOEHLER: 20E.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, you can look it up  
31 in the reg book, but I think it is. Non-residents would  
32 have to be either guided by the guide that has the permit  
33 from the Refuge manager, who is going to tell him how  
34 many bear hunters he can take or a first degree of kin  
35 because grizzly bear or brown bear.....

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Second degree.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: .....have to be either  
39 guided or hunt with their relative.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Second degree.

42

43 MR. UMPHENOUR: So, if it was me, I would  
44 just make it for everyone. I'll speak to the motion in  
45 a couple minutes.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you just  
48 need to -- we just need to give our intent here and not  
49 get too crazy. Your intent for this proposal is to see  
50 -- right now over bait is by black bears, so it would be

1 over a black bear bait, right, or are you doing something  
2 different?

3

4 MR. FIRMIN: It would be the same because  
5 right now a resident is allowed five black and two brown  
6 every year and generally those five bears are taken over  
7 bait and I'd just like to include the two brown bears to  
8 be allowed to be taken over bait also.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So as long as  
11 our Staff understands what he wants to do, the actual  
12 language could be verified later. Before we do that, do  
13 I need -- who is the biologist? Jason. Jason, is it  
14 over black bear, the bait? I mean it's.....

15

16 MR. KOEHLER: I have the regulation here.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What does it  
19 say.

20

21 MR. KOEHLER: Brown grizzly bears may not  
22 be taken over bait or scent lures except under conditions  
23 of a black bear baiting permit in Units 12, 20C, 20E and  
24 21D.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which GMUs  
27 again? 12.....

28

29 MR. KOEHLER: 12, 20C, 20E and 21D.

30

31 MR. CAIKOSKI: Madame Chair, are you  
32 there?

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go ahead.

35

36 MR. CAIKOSKI: Jason again with Fish and  
37 Game. So we do have -- there are exemptions to the  
38 allowing the take of grizzly bears over black bear bait  
39 and I think that was getting read off, so we can  
40 certainly work with how the wording would look like, but  
41 we can certainly put in a proposal to allow the take of  
42 grizzly bears over bait and black bears could be taken at  
43 that same bait station, so it would be just a bear bait  
44 station in which both grizzly bears and black bears could  
45 be taken over it.

46

47 The second thing is if you want non-  
48 residents to participate, you should probably put that on  
49 the record.

50

1                   The third thing is I don't know what  
2 lands you want this to occur on, but if you want it to  
3 occur on Refuge lands, you might want to -- you might  
4 need to address it with the Federal regs as well.

5  
6                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That will be  
7 next. We'll deal with the State right now. Will, what  
8 page are you reading that on?

9  
10                  MR. KOEHLER: Page 26 in the hunting  
11 regulations.

12  
13                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It almost seems  
14 like you could just add 25 to that exemption.

15  
16                  MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.

17  
18                  MR. KOEHLER: All of Unit 25 or just 25D?

19  
20                  MR. FIRMIN: Just 25D for now.

21  
22                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 25D because  
23 that's his proposal. That might be where it ends up,  
24 right? I think you know our intent, but I think that's  
25 going to end up right there, adding 25D to that  
26 exemption.

27  
28                  MR. KOEHLER: Yep.

29  
30                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Jeff.

31  
32                  MR. GROSS: Madame Chair. Jeff Gross for  
33 the record. I just want to point out this past Board of  
34 Game cycle we did a proposal to allow brown bears to be  
35 taken over black bear bait. One of the things that they  
36 also brought up that you might want to consider was  
37 salvage requirements. We have actually the same salvage  
38 requirements for brown bears as we did for black bears in  
39 our units. Under hunting regulations, somebody can  
40 actually take a brown bear during the same time of year  
41 and not salvage the meat of a brown bear in Unit 12 and  
42 20E, but if they take it over bait, they do have to  
43 salvage the meat.....

44  
45                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that spring  
46 only?

47  
48                  MR. GROSS: .....during a portion of the  
49 spring season.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Until  
2 June 1st.  
3  
4 MR. GROSS: So anyway you might want to  
5 look at that, look at that regulation if that's something  
6 you may be concerned of because it did kind of catch us  
7 by surprise when the Board was dealing with the proposal.  
8  
9 MR. KOEHLER: That's listed in the red  
10 highlight right above the.....  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Yeah,  
13 I think we just have to add 25D to that.  
14  
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's all we have to do.  
16  
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So this  
18 is where Staff helps us out. They know our intention and  
19 they know where it probably would come in under  
20 regulations. So this is handling 25D allowing the use of  
21 bait, killing a grizzly bear over black bear bait.  
22  
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm going to speak in  
24 favor of this proposal and the reason I'm speaking in  
25 favor of it, we heard from the Refuge manager, the Refuge  
26 staff for this area, and most of this is Refuge land,  
27 that the mortality on moose calves is 90 percent or in  
28 the neighborhood of 90 percent and the largest predator  
29 are the bears, both grizzly and black bear.  
30  
31 Then another thing is that this area, a  
32 lot of it, is heavily forested or lots of brush, lots of  
33 vegetation and it's really difficult to hunt bears where  
34 it's really lots of vegetation because they are probably  
35 the smartest animal that we hunt as far as intelligence  
36 goes. They have super good noses and ears. Work very  
37 well. So it's hard to get them in the brushy, thick  
38 country. By using bait, then that allows you to have a  
39 better opportunity and a higher success rate of getting  
40 the bears and having spoken with the proposer about this  
41 issue, he has had grizzly bears coming to his black bear  
42 baits in the past. I know I've experienced the same  
43 thing. Madame Chair.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other  
46 discussion on the motion for a proposal.  
47  
48 MR. FIRMIN: I guess we should clarify  
49 that this would include non-residents also.  
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You'd have to  
2 change that.  
3  
4 MR. FIRMIN: Or should we put that in as  
5 a separate proposal?  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What I want to  
8 know from somebody in Fish and Game is a non-resident  
9 allowed?  
10  
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.  
12  
13 MR. CAIKOSKI: Can you hear me?  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go ahead.  
16  
17 MR. CAIKOSKI: So the current hunt we  
18 have or plan to have here in 20C that the Board of Game  
19 passed does allow non-residents, so I would just make it  
20 clear that your intent is in fact to allow a non-resident  
21 participation. Just put that on the record and then  
22 again we can help with what that language looks like.  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what's our  
25 intent?  
26  
27 MR. FIRMIN: To allow non-resident  
28 participation.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. This is  
31 a proposal guys, so we're just putting it in and we'll be  
32 discussing it at length later, okay.  
33  
34 (Council nods affirmatively)  
35  
36 MR. GLANZ: Call the question.  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
39 has been called for. All in favor.  
40  
41 IN UNISON: Aye.  
42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.  
44  
45 (No opposing votes)  
46  
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The motion  
48 carries. We now have 11 present. Keep going. Did you  
49 want to put it in the Federal regs? That was the State.  
50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. I guess the next one  
2 would be the Unit 25D. Under the Federal regulations I'd  
3 like to amend that -- or make a proposal that would say  
4 rural residents of Unit 25D may take brown bear over bait  
5 at a registered bait station  
6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll second that, but I  
8 notice in looking at the reg book it doesn't list 21D in  
9 the Federal regulation and it is -- you can do it in 21D  
10 by State regulation and the Federal regulations have not  
11 been changed. I know what's happened in the past, is the  
12 Federal Subsistence Board, the Staff just goes ahead and  
13 puts regulations forward when the State changes them so  
14 that both the State regulation and the Federal regulation  
15 will be the same, so I don't know if we even need to do  
16 this or not.  
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we do.  
19 You can't assume it's going to be done.  
20

21 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.  
22

23 MR. FIRMIN: The difference is the  
24 Federal resident season is year round for brown bear,  
25 almost year round. Only exception is July. August 10th  
26 to June 30th is open season for brown bear and then in  
27 the State regs there's a spring and a fall portion.  
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So actually I  
30 don't think there's anything in -- there's nothing in  
31 Federal regs anywhere that they're allowed to -- are we  
32 allowed to take brown grizzly over bait? Is there  
33 anything in Federal regs that allows it anywhere? I  
34 don't think any of it ever got changed because this was  
35 a new thing for the Board of Game not long ago and I  
36 don't think we have anything in here. That's why it's  
37 not in there.  
38

39 MR. FIRMIN: Well, let's be the first.  
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I'm  
42 into it. And that's 25D again?  
43

44 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, 25D.  
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I'm going to  
47 tell you right now when your discussion for the State --  
48 you can't have the same discussion. They're making it  
49 sound like it's killing them for your moose. You have a  
50 different discussion.

1 MR. FIRMIN: Well, maybe under the  
2 Federal portion that would be that. Also so you could  
3 harvest them legally as has been done for, I don't know,  
4 since as long as the oldest old-timer can remember  
5 telling me and then the State side would just allow non-  
6 residents and other statewide residents to participate.  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince, you  
9 wanted to add to this. I guess Fish and Wildlife Service  
10 doesn't feel like Park Service right now.  
11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: I just need to ask Andrew  
13 what do you hope to gain to put this in Federal  
14 regulation that you're not gaining in getting it passed,  
15 if it passed, on State regulations?  
16  
17 MR. FIRMIN: The season times are  
18 different and you just make -- making honest people out  
19 of my friends, I guess.  
20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe I misunderstood. Then  
22 you're asking for a season change in Federal regulations.  
23 What we heard in the back was able to hunt over a  
24 registered bait station.  
25  
26 MR. KOEHLER: That is what you're asking.  
27  
28 MR. FIRMIN: Basically, yes, I want to  
29 hunt -- the season is the same. I just want to be able  
30 to hunt over a bait station for those two bears that I'm  
31 allowed every year on Federal land from July 1st to June  
32 30th. I just want to be able to take them over a bait  
33 station that I'm already hunting black bear at.  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just a longer  
36 season, right?  
37  
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right.  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You wouldn't be  
41 able to do it under the Federal.  
42  
43 MR. MATHEWS: Unless he changed the  
44 season.  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's a longer  
47 season now.  
48  
49 MR. KOEHLER: The Federal season is the  
50 longest.

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The Federal  
2 season is a longer season than the State season. If you  
3 can't use.....  
4  
5                   MR. MATHEWS: Okay, okay. I didn't catch  
6 that. Sue is indicating that in the Federal arena you'd  
7 be looking at -- the Board has to look at it as a  
8 traditional subsistence activity and that's a hurdle that  
9 would have to be addressed with the hunting over bait  
10 station. Not to deter you. I'm just saying you know --  
11 Andrew, this would be a controversial possible proposal  
12 for your area. I think you know that.  
13  
14                   MR. FIRMIN: Everybody I know shoots a  
15 brown bear on their moose gut pile every year, so what's  
16 the difference? And the season is open year round.  
17  
18                   MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I just know in years  
19 past when Fleagle was the Chair there was a push to do  
20 similar. Communities in Yukon Flats were concerned about  
21 that push, but maybe things have changed.  
22  
23                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have a  
24 motion on the floor.  
25  
26                   MR. WOODRUFF: Can I make a comment?  
27  
28                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.  
29  
30                   MR. WOODRUFF: Andrew, to support your  
31 proposal you might include a letter or something to OSM  
32 that says that this is a traditional activity and, like  
33 you said off the record, that it wouldn't be hard to  
34 legalize your relatives or something to that effect.  
35  
36                   Thank you.  
37  
38                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can you speak  
39 more to it because they like hearing on the record the  
40 history of people in your area. I had heard this before  
41 myself.  
42  
43                   MR. FIRMIN: Well, I guess a lot of like  
44 -- say in the springtime you'll find the bears just  
45 coming out of their dens and the trappers that would have  
46 their carcasses from the winter trapping would use that  
47 as bait or something along that line, whatever didn't get  
48 eaten by the dogs, they would use that for bait in the  
49 springtime to get the spring bears and you'd use whatever  
50 was left from your moose kill in the fall for bait to get

1 a fall bear and whatever else. Generally not taken in  
2 the summer due to the weather and, of course, they're  
3 busy fishing in the summer.

4  
5 But those were the two times of year that  
6 they're normally taken, which the State season reflects  
7 on, but I'd just like to see it in the Federal reg book  
8 as well so I don't have to play that lawyer GPS where am  
9 I game to go from State and Federal land and bounce  
10 around and I could leave my bait stations where they are  
11 and not have to move camp 30 miles to get back onto  
12 Federal land or back onto State land as we have a  
13 checkerboard of land ownership in the Yukon Flats.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is the  
16 kind of stuff that needs to be on the record. Anyone  
17 else.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 MR. GLANZ: Can I call for the question  
22 then.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep. The  
25 question has been called for that proposal to add it to  
26 the Federal side. All in favor.

27  
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

31  
32 (No opposing votes)

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes  
35 unanimously 9-0. All right. We've got more to go. Are  
36 we ready for Donald? Did you have anything else?

37  
38 MR. FIRMIN: Nothing.

39  
40 MR. WOODRUFF: If I could introduce this  
41 sheep proposal that we spoke about a little bit earlier.  
42 Before each Council member there's a written document.

43  
44 What regulation do you wish to change.  
45 It's Unit 20 sheep. There's no Federal open season.  
46 Units 25B, C and D sheep. There's no Federal open  
47 season.

48  
49 How would the new regulation read. In  
50 20E, the season would align with the State, one ram full

1 curl or larger. Unit 20 remainder sheep, there's no  
2 Federal open season. Units 25B, C and D sheep, the  
3 season would align with the State, one ram full curl or  
4 larger.

5  
6 Why do you wish to change this  
7 regulation. At this time there's no Federal open season.  
8

9 What would be the impact to the change on  
10 the wildlife population. None that I could see.  
11

12 How will this affect the subsistence  
13 users. It will give Federal priority over other users on  
14 Federal land.  
15

16 How will this affect sport and  
17 recreation, commercial. It could change the harvest  
18 quota for the State.  
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're  
21 reading the actual season or were you reading the.....  
22

23 MR. WOODRUFF: Yep. The season would  
24 align with the State season so there's no confusion  
25 between the Federal and State hunters.  
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But we hadn't  
28 brought up the C&T again or I don't think we voted on it.  
29

30 MR. GLANZ: It's coming up next.  
31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want to  
33 do this before you do the C&T? It seems like you should  
34 do the C&T first.  
35

36 MR. WOODRUFF: Well, we presented that  
37 earlier in the.....  
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did we vote on  
40 it?  
41

42 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm not sure if we did.  
43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I didn't think  
45 we did.  
46

47 MR. GLANZ: We did not. We didn't vote  
48 on that, did we?  
49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I didn't think

1 we did.  
2  
3 REPORTER: On the C&T portion you did.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We voted on the  
6 C&T?  
7  
8 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)  
9  
10 MS. PATTON: Just the C&T, I think.....  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, two of us  
13 can't remember. I'm glad I'm not alone.  
14  
15 MR. GLANZ: You must have done this when  
16 I was missing.  
17  
18 (Laughter)  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We were  
21 thinking about something else. I thought we needed a  
22 little help on it, but I guess.....  
23  
24 MR. GLANZ: It looks good though.  
25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's  
27 the motion. Do I hear.....  
28  
29 MR. GLANZ: I'll second his motion.  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: .....a second.  
32 Virgil wants to clarify.  
33  
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Put down all rural  
35 residents.  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're reading  
38 the wrong one.  
39  
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Well, I don't'  
41 know. I've got this thing here that says sheep and it  
42 says.....  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was the  
45 C&T.  
46  
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's the C&T. Okay.  
48 So this is it.  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, this is

1 it. So what we're finding out when we go in and do  
2 things like this that it becomes extremely complicated.  
3 To tell you the truth, I can't hardly explain it myself.  
4 But the intent was to see a C&T for sheep in 20E or the  
5 Yukon-Charley, was the intent, then it went out to other  
6 Federal lands. So that's where were.....

7

8 MR. WOODRUFF: That's correct.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

11

12 MR. WOODRUFF: In other words, it  
13 encompassed Glacier Mountain by Eagle and some Federal  
14 land over by where Bill hunts.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who?

17

18 MR. WOODRUFF: Bill.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, Bill. Now  
21 I can't hear either.

22

23 MR. GLANZ: No, I was reading again.

24 What was the question?

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: His intent was  
27 to see that -- sheep was inadvertently forgotten from  
28 years ago of doing a C&T and there's no Federal open  
29 season. Might have been from the State regs that was  
30 pulled over, what, 23 years ago and nothing ever happened  
31 and we see in the books when I was talking to Donald on  
32 the phone or in Eagle when I was up there that there  
33 wasn't anything for sheep in 20E for the Yukon-Charley.  
34 I think the reason it was never done was because it was  
35 a Preserve and not any Park lands for the Yukon-Charley.

36

37 So we were looking at this situation like  
38 we look at the Fortymile Caribou. There are times where  
39 the season gets closed on Fortymile Caribou and yet the  
40 Federal season isn't closed and then people can continue  
41 to hunt. That's the only reason where the C&T would come  
42 into play. I'm trying to help you out, Donald.

43

44 MR. WOODRUFF: That's how I understood it  
45 as well.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let me ask him a  
50 question.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ask the  
2 question.

3  
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'm looking at the  
5 C&T part of it. You've got all rural residents and I  
6 know that was a problem when all these caribou were  
7 crowded at the Steese Highway as rural residents from all  
8 over the place, no matter where, could go up there and go  
9 hunting on the Federal season. I don't know if that's  
10 what you want or not, but I don't like all rural  
11 residents. Every place else where there's a Federal  
12 season for sheep you have to live right there where those  
13 sheep are. Like you can't go from -- you can't go up the  
14 Haul Road and shoot sheep at Atigun Pass.

15  
16 The first time -- when they first opened  
17 that up there were people doing that and people got  
18 really mad when people are driving up the Haul Road  
19 because they're a Federal subsistence user and shooting  
20 sheep inside the bow and arrow area up at Atigun Pass.  
21 That made a lot -- including me. I got mad over that  
22 because these damn sure weren't rural residents. In  
23 fact, what they were was they were in the Army station to  
24 Fort Greeley doing it. So we've got to be careful what  
25 we're doing.

26  
27 MR. GLANZ: I think he meant to say all  
28 rural residents of Unit 20 is what we meant to say.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is what  
31 needs worked out. We need to just tell what our intent  
32 is and then hopefully it gets done that way. Jeff.

33  
34 MR. GROSS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
35 This is Jeff Gross with Fish and Game. Just a point of  
36 clarification. The top part there, Virgil, for Unit 20  
37 sheep currently it is all rural residents in the Federal  
38 regulations for all of Unit 20. It doesn't break out 20E  
39 as of now. Speaking with Sue and Don, I believe what the  
40 intent was was to break out 20E, which is in the second  
41 box, and then you'll see the questions marks to fill that  
42 in. If you want all rural residents or something else,  
43 that was, I think, Don, what you wanted to discuss.

44  
45 MR. WOODRUFF: Correct.

46  
47 MR. GROSS: Okay. Thank you.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's stop  
50 right there. The motion on the floor is this one and if

1 you want to change this one, we probably should do it  
2 under another motion, right, parliamentarian?

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's  
7 why I was thinking C&T should have been done first, but  
8 they're saying we did it. Do you understand what C&T  
9 you're going to write a proposal on? Probably not.

10

11 MS. PATTON: If the Council would like to  
12 make an amendment to that first motion that was passed  
13 earlier for clarification on whether all rural residents  
14 or the specific communities, then we would need to make  
15 that clarification.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What I would  
18 like to know for the record, just to keep Robert's Rules  
19 in order here, what did we pass? What do you have that  
20 we passed for the C&T? I doubt it looks like this. I  
21 need lots of help.

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair. Carl Johnson  
24 for the record. Based on my notes taken during your  
25 discussion yesterday, your proposal that you approved was  
26 to submit for C&T for sheep in all  
27 Federal public lands in 25B and C and 20E for residents  
28 of those units.

29

30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For residents  
33 of those units.

34

35 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner. I  
36 concur with that. That's what I have also.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then I kind  
39 of remember thinking we needed some help on it and that's  
40 why I didn't think we had it fine lined or fine tuned.

41

42 MR. GLANZ: That's why me and you thought  
43 we had Alzheimers.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We don't have  
46 Alzheimers.

47

48 MR. FIRMIN: How would you know?

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have

1 present-timers.  
2  
3 MS. KENNER: Mrs. Chair. This is Pippa  
4 Kenner again.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,  
7 Pippa.  
8  
9 MS. KENNER: Hi, this is Pippa. I'm in  
10 Anchorage. Anthropologist with OSM. I think what you  
11 thought would be better to work on later was the season  
12 and harvest limits.  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Burn  
15 this puppy. That one means nothing. So unless we have  
16 any changes to the C&T that we passed earlier, we're  
17 going to go to this one. Now speaking to the motion.  
18 Donald.  
19  
20 MR. WOODRUFF: I just read this. I can  
21 read it again if you would prefer.  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does anyone  
24 need it read again.  
25  
26 MR. WOODRUFF: Everyone has a copy before  
27 them and Bill seconded it.  
28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any further  
30 discussion then.  
31  
32 (No comments)  
33  
34 MR. FIRMIN: Question.  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
37 has been called for. All in favor.  
38  
39 IN UNISON: Aye.  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.  
42  
43 (No opposing votes)  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes.  
46  
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let's take a break.  
48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Virgil  
50 has suggested a break. We'll take a break for 10.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Back on the  
6 record. On the floor we had a -- we just passed the  
7 seasons and we were re-looking at the thing I told you to  
8 throw away. Donald.

9

10 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame  
11 Chairman. The sheep C&T, in the past OSM held our feet  
12 to the fire with caribou C&T in the past and they did an  
13 analysis and it wasn't the intent of the Council. They  
14 said too bad, come back in two years and so that didn't  
15 feel very comfortable. What I want to get on the record  
16 is that with the sheep C&T, if OSM doesn't understand,  
17 which I think they do, but if they don't understand the  
18 intent of the proposal, they should get back to us  
19 because that way we can communicate a little more  
20 clearly.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: First I'd like  
25 to see if other people have anything, but I do want to  
26 say that -- like the caribou. At break here we looked at  
27 the Federal regs and we looked at moose and then we  
28 looked at caribou on 20E and then we looked at brown bear  
29 and they're all different. I guess I want to make a  
30 point that I think that there comes a point where that  
31 should be very similar who qualifies. Maybe a regional  
32 thing and not individual like it's coming down sometimes,  
33 which complicates the heck out of the thing when you look  
34 at it. My idea would be it would be more simplistic if  
35 C&Ts were done just for a region and not species by  
36 species and all these things that we're going through all  
37 the time.

38

39 So, I don't think you hit on everything  
40 you were supposed to hit on, Donald. What's your intent  
41 on 20E?

42

43 MR. WOODRUFF: On 20E presently there's  
44 no Federal open season in Units 20, 25B, 25C, 25D. The  
45 new regulation should read that there is an aligned  
46 season with 20E, the remainder of 20 would remain no  
47 Federal open season, 25B, C and D would align with the  
48 State regulation on the season and bag limit.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought we

1 voted on that.

2

3 MR. FIRMIN: We did.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was talking

6 about C&Ts.

7

8 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair. This is Pippa

9 Kenner.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

12

13 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner,  
14 anthropologist OSM in Anchorage. I can't see if anybody  
15 else wants to talk or to explain the proposal process to  
16 the Council.

17

18 What I just would like to remind the  
19 Councils and the public is that we won't be able to do  
20 much clarification after the Council meeting. It would  
21 be very helpful and we would like to see what we call on  
22 the record at the Council meetings for the Council to  
23 tell us what the proposal should look like and to vote in  
24 agreement that that's the proposal that they'd like to  
25 submit. I feel like you've given Staff that direction.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pippa, what  
28 we're concerned about is making it narrow and then coming  
29 back and seeing that it should have been broad. When you  
30 look at a moose C&T for 20E and you look at a caribou  
31 C&T, it's not just 20E that gets to qualify. That's the  
32 kind of stuff we're concerned about.

33

34 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.

35 You are talking about more than just the sheep C&T.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We are  
38 comparing what we just passed, 20E sheep was just the  
39 people in 20E. Well, there's only two communities in 20E  
40 and that's Chicken and Eagle. If you look at caribou or  
41 moose in 20E -- I mean this has never been a subject  
42 before, but if we pass something that's real narrow and  
43 isn't like moose or caribou for that 20E, then we may  
44 have inadvertently left people out and we shouldn't have.  
45 That's how I understand it and that's what's happened in  
46 the past.

47

48 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair. This is Pippa

49 Kenner again.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.  
2  
3 MS. KENNER: I'm going to give you  
4 another piece of information and it applies only to 20E.  
5 When a proposal comes in to change the C&T in an area for  
6 a species for which there has been no C&T such as 20E for  
7 sheep, when you see that it's open to all rural residents  
8 of the state, the Board has never considered a C&T for  
9 sheep in that area. Even if the request comes in for  
10 limited participation for only some communities in the  
11 state, we'll analyze it as if it were -- we will look for  
12 others who it may apply to. When we bring our analysis  
13 to you at your fall meeting, you'll have a chance to  
14 comment on that. We will advise you that there may be  
15 some other communities that should be included and we'll  
16 provide that for your consideration.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.  
19  
20 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. And thank you  
21 for that technical advice. Just for your benefit, the  
22 rural residents of 25B, C and 20E was the intent.  
23  
24 MS. KENNER: Even if a proposal comes in  
25 requesting that for 20E, we will look more broadly  
26 because C&T has never been adopted there.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So I  
29 would ask at least consider the people that are  
30 considered in other species, moose, caribou and bears.  
31  
32 MS. KENNER: I think that's good advice.  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.  
35  
36 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair.  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.  
39  
40 MR. JOHNSON: I'll just remind the  
41 Council that when you did vote on this yesterday your  
42 vote on the record was not only for 20E but also 25B and  
43 C.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'm aware  
46 of that, but Unit 12 was not included and they are for  
47 moose and caribou for 20E. I'm just talking about 20E.  
48 Other people have to talk about their units that they're  
49 more familiar with, like 25 -- the other ones, 25B, C and  
50 D.

1 MR. JOHNSON: I think with Pippa's advice  
2 and your note, Madame Chair, about wanting to consider  
3 those communities who are also authorized for C&T for  
4 those other species, that helps us to better understand  
5 the Council's intent on the action it has already taken.

6  
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And having not  
8 looked at all of it, I would say the same for those other  
9 units in 25. Okay? All right. We're just wanting to  
10 cover, Pippa -- we do things and then unintentionally  
11 something else happens. It's kind of scary. Sometimes  
12 you wish you'd have left it alone.

13  
14 MS. KENNER: Quite a few years ago I  
15 think this provision was made in areas for which a C&T  
16 had not been made, that we do look a little more broadly  
17 and offer the Council suggestions of who else may be  
18 included -- need to be included.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I  
21 think our intent is on the record.

22  
23 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair. I just want  
24 to reiterate any time this Council asks OSM to prepare  
25 any documentation, whether it's correspondence or  
26 proposal, we will submit that to the Council and  
27 sometimes just the Chair if it's narrow correspondence,  
28 but we will submit to the Council for its final approval.  
29 So we will definitely make sure to get these proposals  
30 drafted and provided to the Council in enough time so  
31 that they can look at the language, make sure that it's  
32 the Council's intent and then it's then submitted for the  
33 final deadline on March 29th.

34  
35 Thank you, Madame Chair.

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Are we  
38 comfortable? Will's not.

39  
40 MR. KOEHLER: I think the comments I was  
41 making off the record probably shouldn't be brought up  
42 until we actually comment on the proposal if I understand  
43 the process correctly.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, that's  
46 fine. All right. Will, do you have another one that we  
47 overlooked.

48  
49 MR. KOEHLER: Oh, yes. Thank you. I'd  
50 like to add an amendment to our proposal for the Chisana

1 Caribou Herd to include residents of Nabesna. As it is  
2 we put in a proposal to include the residents in the hunt  
3 area and I would like to add the community of Nabesna on  
4 the list of Federally-qualified residents within that  
5 C&T.

6

7 Did I say it correctly?

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

10

11 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We overlooked  
14 it the last time. It was something we talked about when  
15 we talked about Chisana before.

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: Do we need a second for  
18 that?

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

21

22 MR. WOODRUFF: I second that.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

25

26 MR. GLANZ: This is more or less  
27 housekeeping then actually, right?

28

29 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we just  
32 overlooked adding that community, which is really right  
33 against that area.

34

35 MR. GLANZ: And we talked about it.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we talked  
38 about it in the past.

39

40 MR. GLANZ: Question.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
43 has been called for. All in favor.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 (No opposing votes)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All  
50 right. What else have we forgotten to do.

1 MR. GLANZ: I have one.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

4

5 MR. GLANZ: I wish to change this  
6 regulation that has to do with the caribou. At present,  
7 it's residents of Unit 12, Wrangell-St. Elias, 20D, 20E,  
8 residents of 24A, 25, Unit 25B, Unit 25C caribou.  
9 Actually all residents of Unit 25.

10

11 I'd like to change the regulation to read  
12 Unit 20D, 20E, 25A, 25B, 25C, and Unit 25D. The  
13 residents north of Wrangell-St. Elias National -- save me  
14 a whole bunch of reading. It's all surrounding  
15 subsistence units surrounding the Fortymile Caribou Herd  
16 range, where they're at right now at the present time,  
17 which would actually be 12, 20D, 20E, 25F, 25, 24A and  
18 25. The harvest plan of the Fortymile Caribou Herd and  
19 that consists of Fairbanks, Upper Tanana, Fortymile,  
20 Central, Delta Junction, Eagle, Anchorage and Mat-Su  
21 Advisory Committee and the Eastern Interior Regional  
22 Subsistence, which is us, Yukon Fish and Wildlife, Yukon  
23 Environment, Yukon First Nation and Alaska Department of  
24 Fish and Game.

25

26 What we'd like to do is take this, make  
27 it into a unit of all communities surrounding the  
28 Fortymile Herd instead of open to the whole subsistence  
29 users in the state. This will address the original  
30 concerns of the State and the Federal. The State was  
31 concerned about this, the Steese Highway usage area. We  
32 only allowed 100 caribou for Federally qualified  
33 subsistence users. And by leaving it open to all the  
34 Federal subsistence users within the state, they could  
35 get that many in one day along the Steese Highway. They  
36 could do it tomorrow morning if they wanted.

37

38 MR. KOEHLER: In an hour.

39

40 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, not a day, an hour I  
41 should say. There should be no impact on commercial  
42 users. This harvest is controlled by Federal/State joint  
43 permit harvest quotas. I believe everybody got a copy of  
44 this out there. Okay.

45

46 MR. KOEHLER: Is that a motion?

47

48 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to make that a  
49 motion.

50

1 MR. KOEHLER: I second that.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: More  
4 discussion. So, Bill, this is something your group.....  
5  
6 MR. GLANZ: Came up with. And Rita St.  
7 Louis and the State also. We all kind of -- and, of  
8 course, Jeff.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any more  
11 discussion on that one. Virgil.  
12  
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is kind of a  
14 housekeeping thing. I'm calling the question.  
15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
17 has been called for. All in favor.  
18  
19 IN UNISON: Aye.  
20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.  
22  
23 (No opposing votes)  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes 9-0.  
26 Virgil, did you have something.  
27  
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. There's another  
29 opening on the SRC for Denali National Park. He was here  
30 earlier, but he's gone now. Coke Wallace was here. He's  
31 on the -- I think they call it the Middle Nenana AC, the  
32 one down at Healy.  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. You're  
35 talking about the Governor's.  
36  
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. But anyway he's  
38 on the AC down there. The governor can appoint another  
39 person. There's a vacancy there and I would like to --  
40 we've talked to Coke about this, Sue and I have. He's  
41 willing to serve on that SRC, so I move that we send a  
42 letter supporting Coke Wallace to get appointed by the  
43 governor to the Denali National Park SRC.  
44  
45 MR. GLANZ: I'll second if that's what we  
46 need for that.  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. More  
49 discussion.  
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Coke has lived -- well,  
2 I don't know how long he's lived down there. Quite a  
3 while down at Healy. He's an active trapper and he's a  
4 guide. He hunts a lot. I think he would be a good  
5 member to serve on that and represent our interests. So  
6 that's why -- and Sue and I have discussed this and we've  
7 talked with him about it and I think that would be good  
8 if he was on there along with our other two members we've  
9 got. Madame Chair.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So this is a  
12 governor's appointment. There's an opening and I think  
13 there has been for a while. Yeah, I would support that.  
14 Other Council members, discussion.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 MR. GLANZ: I call the question.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
21 has been called for. All in favor say aye.

22  
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

26  
27 (NO opposing votes)

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, it  
30 passes. And we have on the agenda a couple more items.

31  
32 MS. PATTON: Madame chair. Could I get  
33 the spelling of the individual that you were.....

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: C-O-K-E W-A-L-  
36 L-A-C-E.

37  
38 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Native  
41 organization. There's someone here that would like to  
42 speak.

43  
44 MS. FROTHINGHAM: Hello. My name is  
45 Alyssa Frothingham. I work with the Tanana Chiefs  
46 Conference. I've met a couple of you, not all. I gave  
47 a presentation at the last Eastern RAC meeting. I don't  
48 have too many updates, but we did just have a TCC fish  
49 summit that I wanted to speak to. That happened the past  
50 two and a half days. So I just wanted to basically kind

1 of go over what we discussed.

2

3                   We invited Fish and Game and they gave a  
4 lot of updates as to what to expect for this upcoming  
5 season. I think we had about 60 people total at the  
6 meeting and they were told that they should expect to  
7 reduce their harvest by at least 75 percent for king  
8 salmon, which I'm sure many of you know. A lot of people  
9 were upset by that. A lot of people feel like they're  
10 already doing quite a bit on the river, even not fishing  
11 at all, so to say 75 percent that they need to cut back,  
12 we feel like we need to do something.

13

14                   I guess one of the biggest things that  
15 came out was we need to ban together as a group. I know  
16 AVCP has talked about an inter-tribal fish commission and  
17 TCC would like to be on board with that. I don't have  
18 too many updates on that. I'm still kind of new to that  
19 process. TCC is working on what to do next for that  
20 inter-tribal fish commission and what kind of role can we  
21 play.

22

23                   We're also trying to find some funding  
24 for TCC delegates to attend the North Pacific Council  
25 meetings to give testimony regarding bycatch and things  
26 like that. We're also going to be presenting -- we put  
27 together some proclamations at the TCC fish summit that  
28 we're going to be presenting at the upcoming convention  
29 in March. If anyone is there, we will be discussing I  
30 believe on the first day of convention.

31

32                   I kind of jettied over here right after  
33 the meeting and it ended about noon today. We did create  
34 a proclamation and I don't have it with me. Eva, I think  
35 I'm going to go ahead and send that to you when it is  
36 finalized and I'll have -- if you could disperse it to  
37 the members, that would be great.

38

39                   That's about it. I know a lot of people  
40 are really concerned with the six-inch mesh. I mean  
41 there's a big group of people that think that using six-  
42 inch mesh they're actually catching more king salmon and  
43 I don't know if that's a common idea out there. So they  
44 think more research needs to be done basically.

45

46                   So that's kind of what came out. Hoping  
47 to get more action items going. We have a list of people  
48 that were attending the meeting and we're going to keep  
49 in touch. I'll take any questions.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Did you discuss the  
4 harvest of chinook caught in the Area M June fishery?

5

6 MS. FROTHINGHAM: We did. Orville  
7 Huntington was there and he was discussing that Board of  
8 Fish meeting is coming up. Didn't go into depth. A lot  
9 of people really wanted to focus on pollock bycatch, so  
10 that's where we stayed.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: By focusing on  
13 pollock bycatch did they have any wonderful solutions?

14

15 MS. FROTHINGHAM: At this point, people  
16 want to see the representatives from the North Pacific  
17 region at our meetings. An invitation was never  
18 extended, so it's not like they don't want to be at our  
19 meetings. It's just that we need to actually get them  
20 involved. That's kind of one of the action items we're  
21 working on, you know, is to spread the word as to what  
22 people of the Interior -- what their feelings are.  
23 There's obviously a lack of communication and we hope to  
24 bridge that. So nothing groundbreaking in the way of  
25 pollock bycatch.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

28

29 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. I had the  
30 honor to testify to the North Pacific Management Council  
31 for our Council and the area where we live and I noticed  
32 that there was quite a bit of participation with the  
33 local Native communities about their chum crashes  
34 basically in that area. I think that the North Pacific  
35 Management Council has a very difficult position because  
36 not only is the pollock industry a bazillion dollar  
37 industry, they have a big lobby, but it's in their best  
38 interest not to exceed the caps because then they get  
39 shut down. So the more that your organization can focus  
40 on reiterating that information, then they'll move off  
41 some of that ground where they're catching high chinook  
42 counts.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else,  
47 questions.

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Are you going to go  
50 represent Tanana Chiefs at the Board of Fish meeting?

1 MS. FROTHINGHAM: This upcoming one in  
2 Anchorage?  
3  
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. It starts Tuesday,  
5 I think.  
6  
7 MS. FROTHINGHAM: Yeah. No, I'll be  
8 attending a joint technical committee for Tanana Chiefs  
9 in Vancouver unfortunately. I wish we had more staff,  
10 believe me.  
11  
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Is Tanana Chiefs sending  
13 someone?  
14  
15 MS. FROTHINGHAM: Other than Orville  
16 Huntington at this point, no, but he's on the Board, so  
17 that's where we are. These are issues that came up at  
18 this meeting is, you know, we need people out there and  
19 we need to get more information out there. There's  
20 definitely a lack of communication in our region and  
21 we're hoping to work on that.  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lots of work.  
24  
25 MS. FROTHINGHAM: Yeah.  
26  
27 MR. KOEHLER: Looks bleak.  
28  
29 (Laughter)  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Were you here  
32 to hear that? Bleak and.....  
33  
34 MS. FROTHINGHAM: No, I didn't. I was at  
35 the summit. Yes, it's one way to look at it.  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. Any  
38 other questions.  
39  
40 (No comments)  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.  
43  
44 MS. FROTHINGHAM: Thanks.  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we have a  
47 YRDFA report, is that it, and not someone to bring it to  
48 us?  
49  
50 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. The YRDFA

1 representatives are also attending other meetings this  
2 week, so they weren't able to be here in person or  
3 online. They have a handout on the bycatch update that  
4 was a request from the Council, so there's a brief  
5 handout I'll get for you. They had a resolution also  
6 that they wanted the Council to be aware of or take a  
7 look at. Again, they won't be here to actually speak to  
8 that resolution, but I have both of those handouts for  
9 you.

10

11 Is Don Rivard online? Don, are you still  
12 with us?

13

14 MR. RIVARD: I am still with you, Madame  
15 Chair.

16

17 MS. PATTON: So Don Rivard attends the  
18 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and tracks  
19 that for OSM, so he's online if the Council has any  
20 questions about that recent meeting where there was a  
21 focus on chum bycatch. I'll get those handouts for you  
22 from YRDFA.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have any  
25 questions of Don Rivard online, Council members. Virgil.

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Don, could you give us  
28 the current bycatch for this past year?

29

30 MR. RIVARD: In your salmon bycatch  
31 update that's provided by -- there's a sheet in your book  
32 about what YRDFA put in there. Let me see if I can find  
33 it here.

34

35 MR. KOEHLER: Page 113.

36

37

38 MR. RIVARD: On the first page it talks  
39 about what was done in 2012. Is that what you're talking  
40 about?

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What page is it  
43 in our book?

44

45 MR. KOEHLER: 114.

46

47 MR. RIVARD: I don't have the book in  
48 front of me.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's 114. I

1 see it now.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: It's got the 2012 numbers  
4 there right in the first paragraph.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: First  
7 paragraph.

8

9 MR. UMPHENOUR: I see it.

10

11 MR. RIVARD: In bold.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let's see. That was the  
14 total bycatch for 2012, huh?

15

16 MR. RIVARD: Yes, it was fairly low,  
17 comparatively speaking, from other years.

18

19 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's really low. It's  
20 hard for me to believe it's that low unless somehow  
21 they've changed the observer program or something that I  
22 don't know about. I look at this and I look what they  
23 caught in Area M last year. Hell, Area M caught 60  
24 percent of what they caught as far as chinook goes  
25 because they caught over 6,000 in the June fishery.  
26 Anyway, thank you much.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald, is that  
29 something that ends up being talked about at the meetings  
30 is observers on the boats?

31

32 MR. RIVARD: At the North Pacific  
33 Fisheries Management Council meetings?

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

36

37 MR. RIVARD: Yes. In their next meeting  
38 that will be held in April they'll get an update on  
39 bycatch and what's been going on to date. They'll also  
40 be talking a little bit about updated genetics  
41 information that they're getting from the bycatch.  
42 They'll also be talking a little bit about the chum  
43 salmon bycatch as well.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was thinking  
46 more of the observers on those boats. Do they have more  
47 on there, less or is it -- do they talk about this at the  
48 meetings how the observers work?

49

50 MR. RIVARD: They were trying to get more

1 coverage. I'm not sure exactly what all was covered  
2 under chinook salmon, but I know that they did -- it was  
3 part of it they were going to have more observers on the  
4 boats. Did they talk about it? Somewhat. It's all kind  
5 of in context of -- for the most part for chinook salmon,  
6 with the passing of Amendment 91 back in 2009 now, they  
7 pretty much don't talk about chinook salmon anymore and  
8 now they're just focused on chum salmon for the Bering  
9 Sea/Aleutian Islands section.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Goodness.  
12 Bleak and disaster, huh. Any other questions. I think  
13 we're about to sleep. I don't hear any other questions.  
14 Donald.

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF: If I might just clarify,  
17 the North Pacific Management Council meeting that I went  
18 to Cora Campbell passed an amendment to put more  
19 observers on all the boats and I think 100 percent  
20 observers on the Bristol Bay area. There was also talk  
21 on the caps, but they didn't finalize the caps at that  
22 meeting and I believe at the bottom of this handout on  
23 the first page it talks about 60,000 chinook cap or an  
24 overall hardcap of 47,000. I think that's explanatory.  
25 Thanks.

26

27 MR. RIVARD: on the second page, the last  
28 sentence does talk about all participants in the pollock  
29 fishery must have at least 100 percent observer coverage  
30 and those vessels which were previously required to have  
31 200 percent observer coverage are  
32 still required to do so.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
35 questions.

36

37 MR. KOEHLER: Is there someone that could  
38 explain to me what 100 percent observer coverage and 200  
39 percent observer coverage means.

40

41 MR. WOODRUFF: I can explain that to you.  
42 Will, 100 percent coverage means there's an observer on  
43 each boat and 200 percent coverage would be two observers  
44 on each boat, I believe.

45

46 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

47

48 MR. UMPHENOUR: A person has to sleep and  
49 those large vessels fish 24 hours a day. They never  
50 stop. So what that means is two observers. They're

1 still not going to have 100 percent coverage because  
2 they're not going to be out there watching 12 hours a  
3 day. You actually would need three, but that's what they  
4 mean.

5  
6 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We understand  
9 two and three, don't we.

10  
11 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, that I can  
12 understand.

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm with  
15 you.

16  
17 MR. KOEHLER: Why don't they word it that  
18 way.

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know.  
21 Sometimes I think they need 400 and 500 percent on all  
22 boats the way things are going. I used to hear horror  
23 stories about the observers on those boats that they  
24 weren't allowed to write down what actually they saw. I  
25 heard that for years. Or they wouldn't feed them or  
26 throw them overboard or something like that. I mean I  
27 actually heard this. I don't know how true it is.

28  
29 We have before us -- I understand this is  
30 an action item and this is from YRDFA. Do you want to  
31 speak to that? Eva.

32  
33 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. It is not  
34 necessarily an action item. YRDFA had asked if we would  
35 present this information to the Council. This is a  
36 resolution, the proposed language for a resolution they  
37 have drafted. Again, they are not here or able to speak  
38 to this resolution, so that's all I can let you know is  
39 this is something they're looking at and they're bringing  
40 to the communities that they're meeting to submit to the  
41 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, if the  
42 Council wished to review it.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We could still  
45 support it, right?

46  
47 MS. PATTON: Sure. If the Council has  
48 the opportunity to review it. Again, I wouldn't be able  
49 to speak to any of the language in here or clarify any  
50 questions myself.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The bottom line  
2 is therefore be it resolved says. They request the North  
3 Pacific Management Council to take action immediately to  
4 reduce the overall bycatch cap to 30,000 and change the  
5 pollock fishery season closing date September 30 to avoid  
6 the consistently high bycatch in October. And then they  
7 said also take action to adopt chum salmon bycatch  
8 management measures which will adequately protect western  
9 Alaska chum salmon runs.

10  
11 I think we're really interested in this.  
12 Don't you, Virgil?

13  
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Uh-huh.

15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Aren't we  
17 interested in supporting a resolution like this?

18  
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.

20  
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

22  
23 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chairman. When I  
24 went to that meeting there was a lot of testimony about  
25 the total failure of the western chum salmon and it  
26 speaks to our chinook on the Upper River that they  
27 weren't also seeing much smaller fish like grayling and  
28 other fish in the streams because there was not the  
29 energetics to support and energetics meaning carcasses on  
30 the upper streams that feed all these other species, so  
31 they weren't catching grayling and whitefish and other  
32 things, so this is a reflection of the total disaster of  
33 chum on that coast and I think we should support them.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that a  
36 motion?

37  
38 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A motion for  
41 supporting this proposed resolution?

42  
43 MR. WOODRUFF: (Nods affirmatively)

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a  
46 second.

47  
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't know

1 the timeline, but something like this I'm all for. That  
2 North Pacific Management Council, whenever we first went  
3 to them to make changes on a cap, it took four years, so  
4 I can't forget that. It sticks in my brain pretty heavy.

5

6

7

Any other discussion on this.

8

9

(No comments)

10

11

MR. GLANZ: Call the question.

12

13

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
has been called for. All in favor of the motion.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

(No opposing votes)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes

unanimous. The last thing on our agenda Northwest Boreal  
Forest Landscape Conservation Cooperation. She's still  
here. God bless her heart and soul.

MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. If I may just  
give a brief introduction. At the fall meeting and in  
last year's annual report from the Eastern Interior  
Council there was a request for information on  
investigating natural disasters and climate change  
impacts to both fisheries and wildlife. The Northwest  
Boreal Forest LCC is a collaborative agency group and  
they're just getting started, but among the issues that  
they're taking on is looking at forest fires which were  
a question by the Council, climate change impacts.  
There's an opportunity for the Council to provide input  
based on your observations to give guidance on their  
strategic research priorities and ask questions.

41

42

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50

MS. ROBERTSON: Madame Chair and Council.  
Thank you for inviting me here today. I do appreciate  
the opportunity to come and introduce myself and our  
initiative to you today. As Eva said, I'm Amanda  
Robertson. I'm the science coordinator for what's called  
the Northwest Boreal Landscape Conservation Cooperative.  
It's quite a mouthful to say Landscape Conservation  
Cooperative, so you might recognize us. We say LCC to  
shorten that up a bit.

1                   What I'm going to do today is -- I know  
2 it's the end of the day, everyone is getting tired, so  
3 I'm going to try to keep it brief, but I do open up the  
4 floor to questions. I'm happy to talk at any length as  
5 long as the Council is interested.

6  
7                   I want to do an overview of what LCCs are  
8 and then narrow in a little bit to the Northwest Boreal  
9 LCC, the one that I'm involved in. I appreciate the  
10 introduction, Eva, but I'm going to make a quick  
11 correction. It's not an agency initiative. It was  
12 started by an agency by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
13 Service, but the idea behind LCCs is collaborative  
14 conservation and it focuses a lot on participation.  
15 Equal participation among Federal agencies, State  
16 agencies, non-profits, tribal and First Nation  
17 governments, local governments and so on.

18  
19                   The idea behind LCCs is that we're all  
20 part of this conservation institution. We all care about  
21 natural resources and their uses. So, instead of working  
22 in our individual silos and working as separate entities  
23 LCCs say why don't we combine our efforts and work  
24 towards the same conservation goals.

25  
26                   So the idea behind LCCs it's a little bit  
27 complicated in that they're science and support to inform  
28 sustainable resource management. LCCs are not management  
29 entities on their own. They have no jurisdictions.  
30 They're not going to be setting harvest limits or quotas,  
31 but what they're intended to do is support applied  
32 science that gives us more information about the  
33 resources that we care about, such as climate change, and  
34 other things that may be uncertain across the landscape  
35 so that we can make better decisions, the individual  
36 agencies and organizations can make better decisions.

37  
38                   LCCs all work at the landscape scale, so  
39 rather than just focusing on a single specific site or a  
40 refuge or a BLM management unit, we're talking eco-  
41 regional scale. So, in our case, we're talking about the  
42 boreal forest in Alaska/Yukon Territory in northern B.C.  
43 At their core, LCCs serve as a platform for communication  
44 much like this Council meeting, having folks come in and  
45 say what we're up to and just really providing that  
46 platform for information exchange and shared learning.  
47 Again, LCCs are about supporting applied science. They  
48 have no management authority.

49  
50                   LCCs were created with the recognition

1 that a lot of environmental stressors transform  
2 boundaries, both political boundaries and jurisdictional  
3 boundaries. In order to address some of these landscape  
4 scale stressors, such as climate change, we need to take  
5 a holistic view of the system. We're not just going to  
6 look at one species specific or one type of ecosystem.  
7 Everything is connected and we're going to take that  
8 holistic approach to address these stressors and they are  
9 science based initiatives.

10

11 So LCCs are made up of, like I said, the  
12 Federal and State as well as provincial agencies, tribal  
13 and First Nations and local governments, NGOs,  
14 universities, et cetera. There's 22 LCCs across North  
15 America. They were first initiated in 2009 and you can  
16 see that they go from the Pacific Islands into the  
17 Caribbean as well.

18

19 Here in Alaska we have five landscape  
20 conservation cooperatives. The blue there at the top is  
21 the Arctic LCC. It was the first to get going in 2009,  
22 followed by North Pacific. North Pacific goes from the  
23 Kenai Peninsula there all the way down to northern  
24 California. It's the coastal rainforest. You have  
25 Western Alaska and in yellow out of the Aleutian/Bering  
26 Sea Islands LCC, then the LCC for which I work is the  
27 Northwest Boreal LCC and it's the boreal and boreal  
28 transition zones of Alaska, Yukon Territory, northern  
29 British Columbia and a little bit of Northwest  
30 Territories as well. So it's quite a large area. It's  
31 over 330 million acres and it includes a very diverse  
32 partnership because of that.

33

34 So I'm going to do just a very brief  
35 overview because we don't have a lot of time left. The  
36 Northwest Boreal LCC recognizes that this is such a  
37 diverse partnership. There's folks in Alaska, folks in  
38 Yukon, folks in B.C. and the different agencies. They're  
39 working on a lot of different initiatives and they have  
40 a lot of different concerns.

41

42 So what the LCC wanted to do was first  
43 characterize what are people working on and what are  
44 people concerned about in this region. It's pretty  
45 surprising that what we're finding is that we're all  
46 concerned about similar things and we're all working  
47 towards similar goals. When we find the commonalities  
48 and those needs that are shared among everybody across  
49 this huge region, then we know that our cooperative is  
50 working and that we're on the right track.

1                   So in order to figure out what everybody  
2 is doing we've gone through this strategic planning  
3 process. We've sent out informal questionnaires through  
4 our steering committee. We have gone through exercises  
5 to identify priority biological and cultural resources.  
6 Not just within the LCC steering committee organizations,  
7 but throughout the entire region. This past October we  
8 held a management framing workshop that was hosted in  
9 Whitehorse.

10  
11                   In April, here in Fairbanks, we're going  
12 to host a science workshop. All of this is aiming at  
13 identifying what are people's management initiatives,  
14 what are the objectives and what types of management  
15 decisions people are making, and then saying what are  
16 your uncertainties in making those management decisions.  
17 The LCC is set up to support some of the science to help  
18 reduce those uncertainties that would make management  
19 decisions better in the face of a changing climate or  
20 uncertain environmental conditions.

21  
22                   So this is a word cloud that we put  
23 together from a question that we asked of our  
24 stakeholders what are your management concerns and  
25 uncertainties. What this word cloud does is take those  
26 responses and it counts the number of times a word is  
27 mentioned and then it puts the words that were mentioned  
28 most frequently into this display. The words that were  
29 mentioned the most frequently are larger. By doing this,  
30 this is just a very simple way to get a visualization of  
31 the information we're gaining from our stakeholders about  
32 what they're concerned about. You can see that climate  
33 change comes out front and center with what people are  
34 concerned about in our region, but you can also see that  
35 change is bigger than climate, so there's other types of  
36 change that land and resource managers are concerned  
37 about that aren't climate related.

38  
39                   There's also words that came out that we  
40 didn't expect too, so this was kind of an interesting  
41 exercise, but you see things like phonological  
42 mismatches, wildfire, pathogens, salmon, degradation,  
43 wetlands, et cetera, just to give you an idea of the  
44 types of concerns and interests that people in this  
45 boreal regions have.

46  
47                   This is a very busy figure, so I'm not  
48 going to -- I don't think our tired eyes can really take  
49 this figure in right now, but basically what we realized  
50 is that the information needs from within our region they

1 range from the societal and the cultural information  
2 needs, which are shown here on the blue side of this  
3 figure, all the way to the geophysical parameters, like  
4 glacial melt and stream discharge type parameters, which  
5 are on the green side. We recognize that there's a  
6 gradient from information needs that are social, like  
7 public health needs, drinking water resources and  
8 diseases, archaeological sites, all the way to ocean  
9 acidity and carbon dynamics. So the LCC is saying we're  
10 going to recognize that there is this gradient and we  
11 want to make sure we include both cultural as well as  
12 biological priorities.

13

14                   So, for the Northwest Boreal LCC the  
15 steering committee came up with a vision and mission  
16 statement that guides our activities and the vision is a  
17 landscape that sustains functioning, resilient boreal  
18 ecosystems and associated cultural resources in  
19 perpetuity. This is important because all of our  
20 partners from BLM, the Park Service to Environment Yukon  
21 to the Canadian Wildlife Service, et cetera, everybody  
22 agrees in this vision, a functioning resilient boreal  
23 ecosystem.

24

25                   The mission is to promote coordination,  
26 development and dissemination of applied science to  
27 inform landscape level conservation in the face of  
28 climate change and other stressors. The way that the LCC  
29 is going to get at this is through this participatory  
30 process. So an LCC framework is designed to build trust  
31 among the different partner organizations, it's a neutral  
32 platform by which partners can come to the table and  
33 bring their concerns and their interests and say, you  
34 know, I would really like if we would put some money  
35 towards looking at chum salmon in the Yukon River or you  
36 name it. Whatever the partners are interested in they  
37 can come to the table and say I don't know what  
38 information exists about these specific resources and I  
39 would like the LCC to help us find out more information  
40 or support new science to gain new information.

41

42                   At its core, the LCC is the platform for  
43 that communication, that information exchange. We can  
44 synthesize existing data that's scattered across that  
45 huge landscape. We can try to bring it together into one  
46 place so it's easily assessable and we can also support  
47 new science initiatives to get at our goals.

48

49                   That's all I have. I'd be happy to take  
50 questions.

1  
2 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions,  
3 Council members. Will.  
4  
5 MR. KOEHLER: To try to understand the  
6 organization of the LCC better, I'm curious how you get  
7 your funding to put the items together?  
8  
9 MS. ROBERTSON: The funding currently  
10 comes through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and it's  
11 intended to be seed money. The other organizations that  
12 are participating in the LCC if they see value in some  
13 projects, for example, can contribute funding to that.  
14 Multiple LLCs can work together to combine their funding  
15 if the project span -- you know, if it's a statewide  
16 project for example. There's the Alaska Climate Science  
17 Center with USGS that we work with to combine funding.  
18 What we found is that the money coming through Fish and  
19 Wildlife Service really does form that basis where people  
20 in Yukon may be doing the same type of work as somebody  
21 in Alaska and they say, hey, let's combine our funding  
22 and instead of doing this point and this point let's make  
23 it a broader effort.  
24  
25 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.  
26  
27 MS. ROBERTSON: And I want to mention  
28 that I did -- the Council should have a handout, but  
29 there's more handouts over here on the table on the LCC  
30 if anyone is interested.  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council  
33 members, any other questions.  
34  
35 (No comments)  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Very good job.  
38 Thank you.  
39  
40 MS. ROBERTSON: Thanks. As Eva  
41 mentioned, we are going through a process to set  
42 priorities and we're always interested in hearing from  
43 our partners. So if there's any information that any  
44 Council members would like to give us and say, hey, you  
45 know, I'd really like it if you focused on this or that,  
46 I'd be happy to have those conversations.  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other  
49 questions.  
50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So as far as us  
4 giving you input how does that work?  
5  
6 MS. ROBERTSON: Well, it can work in  
7 different ways. My contact information is on that sheet  
8 I handed out. I'm happy to take phone calls or emails or  
9 we could set up something more formal if the Council is  
10 interested. We could do questionnaires or we could link  
11 up a steering committee meeting, do it like a joint  
12 meeting. I'm open to brainstorming about different  
13 ideas.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank  
16 you very much.  
17  
18 MS. ROBERTSON: Thank you.  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I might be a  
21 little remiss in not letting people know that Board of  
22 Game member Nate Turner is here in the room with us.  
23 He's been sitting with us this afternoon and we thank you  
24 for coming, Nate. If you have anything you want to talk  
25 to him about, you could. He's right here.  
26  
27 Maybe he could verify the Board of Game  
28 meeting January -- I mean 14 in -- is it March or  
29 February?  
30  
31 MR. KOEHLER: For 2014.  
32  
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For 2014, is it  
34 in March or February?  
35  
36 MR. TURNER: February. We made an  
37 adjustment this year. Normally it's in March, but I  
38 believe it has gone to February.  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We might have  
41 to talk about this meeting later. We set our meeting.  
42  
43 MS. PATTON: What did he say?  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: February.  
46  
47 MS. PATTON: So it is February.  
48  
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because I got  
50 something from -- Rita St. Louis came to me and she said

1 -- she didn't say February on this note, but she says  
2 Interior Board of Game is supposed to meet in Fairbanks  
3 2014 the 14th to the 23rd and then she didn't put  
4 February on this note, but she said February verbally.  
5 We were trying to schedule a meeting.

6  
7 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. The dates  
8 that we had from Jennifer were March 14th through March  
9 18th, is that correct?

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.

12  
13 MR. FIRMIN: That's this year.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you correct  
16 or is she?

17  
18 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair. Before we did  
19 the draft schedule, which has not been finalized but we  
20 obtained from Board support and the beginning of the  
21 Interior meeting will be February 14th. The beginning of  
22 the statewide meeting will be March 14th.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the  
25 statewide is where?

26  
27 MS. YUHAS: I have to consult my  
28 Blackberry again. Do you have it on the computer, Carl,  
29 the one I forwarded you faster than I can find it.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I might have a  
32 conflict to have it two days before that. I have a show  
33 I go to and I'd have to get back to you guys exactly my  
34 dates of that show. I'm not sure when it is without  
35 looking myself.

36  
37 What do you want to do? Do you want to  
38 leave it at March 5th, 6th.

39  
40 MR. KOEHLER: The statewide is in  
41 Anchorage.

42  
43 MR. TURNER: Yep.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The statewide  
46 is in Anchorage?

47  
48 MR. TURNER: Yep. Interior is in  
49 Fairbanks.

50

1 MR. GLANZ: When are they projecting the  
2 Interior meeting, in February the 12th to 13th?  
3  
4 MS. YUHAS: February 14th to 23rd.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is the Board of  
7 Game and it's for the Interior.  
8  
9 MR. GLANZ: Right.  
10  
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess if I  
12 wasn't here the world wouldn't come to an end.  
13  
14 MR. ERHART: Yep.  
15  
16 MR. FIRMIN: The 12th and 13th?  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It sounds like  
19 you want to get rid of me there, Lester. I'm going to  
20 make you the Chair.  
21  
22 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair.  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.  
25  
26 MR. JOHNSON: If you still wanted to have  
27 your Council meeting before the Interior Board of Game  
28 meeting, there is only one other Council scheduled for  
29 that week, so you could and it would not conflict with  
30 the Southcentral meeting. They have selected February  
31 19th and 20th. So if you had your meeting during the  
32 first week that the window opens, that would be before  
33 the Interior Board meeting.  
34  
35 MR. KOEHLER: That's good for me.  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I won't be  
38 here. I'm pretty sure. So, what do you want to do?  
39  
40 MR. KOEHLER: What about immediately  
41 after?  
42  
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The Board of  
44 Game.  
45  
46 MR. KOEHLER: What about immediately  
47 after the Board of Game meeting?  
48  
49 MS. PATTON: That's when the Southcentral  
50 RAC had chosen, February 19th and 20th. That's who we're

1 trying to avoid overlapping with.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: Actually, Madame Chair, if  
4 you had it after the Board of Game meeting, the Interior  
5 Board of Game meeting doesn't end until the 23rd, so that  
6 would be after the Southcentral Council meets.

7

8 MR. KOEHLER: So like 26th and 27th.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Does  
11 that work for you guys?

12

13 MR. GLANZ: I've got no plans for that  
14 month, so it doesn't matter.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's just pick  
17 two days and time and as things progress we'll make sure  
18 we got it. We had first picked 5, 6 and now we're saying  
19 25, 26 or what do you want?

20

21 MR. KOEHLER: I would have a preference  
22 of 26, 27 as being the first and then 5, 6 as being our  
23 second choice if that didn't work out.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does anyone  
26 object.

27

28 (No objections)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, that's  
31 the way it will be. We just need to finalize that annual  
32 report. Is our intent enough on the record? He had some  
33 language that he talked about for that one. Do we need  
34 to read it or just.....

35

36 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. I think the  
37 intent on the record is good. Did you have the language  
38 right there?

39

40 MR. KOEHLER: Yes, I do.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Yes, that would be an  
43 opportunity.

44

45 MR. KOEHLER: Would you like me to read  
46 it or did you want me to give it to you?

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does he need to  
49 read it?

50

1 MS. PATTON: You can give it to me as  
2 well. I think you expressed your intention. The council  
3 has heard the intention.  
4  
5 MR. KOEHLER: Okay. Sounds good.  
6  
7 MS. PATTON: That would be fine unless --  
8 it's up to the Council if you would like to hear.....  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you guys  
11 okay with his wording to be interjected without reading  
12 it?  
13  
14 (No objections)  
15  
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
17 Sounds good. We did that one. Virgil, what am I  
18 missing?  
19  
20 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, if I may.  
21 Again, once the annual report is finalized with these  
22 additions that were brought up by the Council at this  
23 meeting it will be distributed to the Council for your  
24 review again.  
25  
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But it will be  
27 written when? When is it finalized?  
28  
29 MS. PATTON: I'll be adding these  
30 additions in the next couple weeks here.  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then you  
33 send it out.  
34  
35 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh. So the Council has  
36 an opportunity to read the language.  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The deadline  
39 for it to get to the Federal Board is when?  
40  
41 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair. I'll take  
42 over this part. After the Council approves the draft we  
43 will at OSM fine tune the language and then it will go  
44 out to Madame Chair for final approval. Typically we do  
45 like to get these letters done fairly early late spring  
46 because the next step is then to draft the -- and the  
47 response from the Board, which is typically approved in  
48 mid to late summer by the Board for availability at your  
49 fall meetings.  
50

1                   MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. During  
2 our meeting we only had two things and one was to talk  
3 about seagulls and the other one was the added stuff that  
4 Will had. Did we have anything else? Can anybody think  
5 of anything else that we've missed?  
6  
7                   MR. UMPHENOUR: For the meeting right  
8 now?  
9  
10                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For the annual  
11 report.  
12  
13                  MR. UMPHENOUR: Oh, for the annual  
14 report.  
15  
16                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're usually  
17 really good about that annual report, but we're not doing  
18 an awesome job like we used to because I think we put the  
19 same thing in every year and we get the same answer every  
20 time.  
21  
22                  All right. I think we've covered it, so  
23 we are at the end. Closing comments.  
24  
25                  MR. UMPHENOUR: I got something.  
26  
27                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you had  
28 something?  
29  
30                  MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.  
31  
32                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.  
33  
34                  MR. UMPHENOUR: Madame Chair. I move  
35 that we send a letter to the Board of Fisheries and that  
36 the management plan that was adopted by the Board of  
37 Fisheries in January of 2001 replace proposals in the  
38 current book that they're going to be addressing. This  
39 will be Proposal 179 through Proposal 183.  
40  
41                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's it  
42 replacing with?  
43  
44                  MR. UMPHENOUR: Proposal 179 through 183.  
45  
46                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will be  
47 replaced with?  
48  
49                  MR. UMPHENOUR: The management plan that  
50 the Board passed in January of 2001.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a  
2 motion.

3  
4 MR. GLANZ: I'll go ahead and second.

5  
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: What that -- and I have  
7 copies of it here. What that management plan would do  
8 would reduce their fishing time to three 16-hour periods  
9 per week for the drift and seine fishermen the 10th of  
10 June through the 24th of June and then after the 24th of  
11 June it would be based on the sockeye to chum ratio.

12  
13 But anyway it's a complicated thing.  
14 I've got copies for all the members here if they want to  
15 look at it. What this would be doing is addressing the  
16 chinook salmon bycatch. I've got with me how much they  
17 harvested just this last year. Now we just heard and  
18 it's in our Board book that the trawl fishery harvested  
19 11,000-something king salmon. Well, the Area M fishery  
20 just in the month of June alone harvested 6,371 that they  
21 sold. That's over 60 percent of what was caught in the  
22 trawl fishery, you know, the pollock fishery for the  
23 whole year that everyone is worried about. We need to be  
24 focusing on these guys too because those fish are headed  
25 north and no telling how many of them are going to the  
26 Yukon because no one knows, but we do know that they  
27 catch a substantial amount of the chum salmon headed for  
28 the Yukon along with other -- that's the two main species  
29 they catch in that June fishery. They're all migrating  
30 fish. None of them are local stocks. They're all  
31 migrating fish. There's no salmon that spawn in that  
32 area in June and they have no king salmon there to begin  
33 with, no king salmon streams.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You should have  
36 handed it out a long time ago instead of when we're  
37 sleeping. Donald, go ahead.

38  
39 MR. WOODRUFF: Virgil, while you're  
40 passing that out what would mitigate this bycatch? Just  
41 the shorter fish times or different fishing places?

42  
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, we just -- what we do  
44 is restrict them. They'll only be able to fish three 16-  
45 hour periods per week. Right now I'm not sure what they  
46 fish as far as how many hours per week. I know that the  
47 Board in 2004 increased their fishing time by 285  
48 percent, so go back to what they were before they got  
49 increased by 285 percent. Before that they could fish  
50 seven days a week, 24 hours a day until the Board changed

1 it in January of 2001.

2

3 All they had to do was lie about how many  
4 fish they caught or pitch them overboard. Right here I  
5 have something I got threatened at the last -- three  
6 years ago. It took me six.....

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Calm down.

9

10 MR. UMPHENOUR: It took me six years when  
11 I was on the Board of Fish to get the fish ticket  
12 printout as to what was actually sold and reported as  
13 sold. After I got it, I entered it to the record. I got  
14 it for a 10-year period. It identifies each fisherman,  
15 the stat area he fished in. The fishermen are identified  
16 by only a number. The only people that know who the  
17 number is is Fish and Game. And then it gives the gear  
18 type, like these here, number 3, means he's a drift  
19 gillnetter. Then it gives the date he fished or the stat  
20 area, the date, exact date, how many fish he caught by  
21 species and how many pounds they weighed. So what you  
22 have here is we have one guy for the month of June --  
23 well, he fished only between the 17th and the 25th of  
24 June, he caught 8,844 sockeye salmon and no other salmon  
25 that he sold. But then you go down to other people and  
26 here's a guy that caught 225 sockeye, same area, same  
27 time, then he caught 28 coho, 106 pink and 45 chum. He  
28 didn't catch any kings. But there's other people that  
29 have caught more chum than sockeye.

30

31 So anyway I entered this thing to the  
32 record. After I entered it to the record it was there a  
33 couple days and then the lawyer for the Area M fishermen  
34 got to looking at it and threatened to sue the State  
35 because it -- he tried to allege that it would violate  
36 the confidentiality statute. Anyway, there's no names on  
37 it and he said that some of these fishermen had contracts  
38 with their processors and that they could somehow figure  
39 out who the fishermen were, so it got pulled off, but all  
40 the Board members got to see it. That's when I got that  
41 passed.

42

43 Anyway, three years later the Board --  
44 several members were off of the Board and the guy that  
45 was the current chairman he was a sport fish guy. He had  
46 the president of the concerned Area M fishermen on his  
47 website in two different pictures of him holding up king  
48 salmon. So they kind of violated the administrative  
49 procedures act. They changed it and increased their  
50 fishing time by 285 percent.

1                   The Board composition is totally  
2 different now, but three years ago -- I just made -- the  
3 few pages I got here I entered them to the record at the  
4 Board meeting. Well, I first, when they did that in  
5 2005, I appeared before the Federal Subsistence Board to  
6 represent our RAC and I introduced this stuff and then  
7 they pulled me to the side and they had the lawyer, the  
8 Federal solicitor for the Federal Subsistence Board and  
9 the State's attorney and they told me -- or the State's  
10 attorney told me if I did that again they would prosecute  
11 me and I could get a \$10,000 fine.

12  
13                   Anyway, so I did it again three years  
14 ago, but this time when I made the copies I got all the  
15 discreet numbers off so there's no way in hell you can  
16 identify who the person was and it was in the record for  
17 about two days. I'd run it past the vice chairman, who  
18 is now the Chairman. He was the superior court judge for  
19 the Exxon Valdez oil case. Anyway, he's now the Chairman  
20 of the Board of Fish. You know Hazelwood, the captain of  
21 the Exxon Valdez, he was the judge in that case.

22  
23                   Anyway, I had run it by him and he says  
24 I don't see as it violates that statute, so the chairman,  
25 who was Vince Webster from Bristol Bay at the time, he  
26 says, yeah, go ahead and enter it into the record. Well,  
27 about three days later the attorney for the Board of Fish  
28 saw that and they had a big giant argument, him and the  
29 vice chairman and the chairman, in executive session and  
30 then they ended up pulling it again from the record.  
31 However, I want to attempt to put it in the record again.

32  
33  
34                   Anyway, that's the long story of how I  
35 got all these records, but it took me six years when I  
36 was on the Board of Fish to do it. That's why a chum cap  
37 or a cap like we had a proposal before or someone put in  
38 a proposal to have a cap of 2,000 king salmon in the chum  
39 fishery and the fishery closes, caps are an absolute  
40 waste of time. Hell, some of these fish tickets you can  
41 look at them and then you can look at this handout I just  
42 handed out and it gives -- or maybe it's in the next --  
43 yeah, you can look at -- well, this page you can't really  
44 tell that much, but I've got the whole report here. You  
45 can tell there. It tells how many salmon they catch by  
46 species by day and you can see where they catch lots of  
47 pink salmon. You can tell that whenever the price goes  
48 up for say pink salmon, they were selling them. Other  
49 than that they were pitching them overboard because they  
50 didn't want a pink salmon that was worth a nickel a pound

1 in their hold in their boat when they could replace it  
2 with a sockeye salmon that's worth a buck fifty or two  
3 dollars a pound. That's what they were doing.

4

5 MR. KOEHLER: Right.

6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Anyway, I could go on and  
8 on on this subject, but that's why.....

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We know that.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil, you  
15 need to take the short version because it's the end of  
16 the day.

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: But I made copies of all  
19 this. If you have any questions I can answer them.

20

21 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: I'll remind Madame Chair  
26 and the Council that the Council actually approved of  
27 what Virgil is proposing yesterday. He just had a  
28 homework responsibility to bring back the specific  
29 proposal numbers that this would apply to. So the  
30 Council did yesterday approve of submitting a letter to  
31 the Board of Fish to support those proposals as amended  
32 to reflect what was in the South Peninsula Management  
33 Plan in effect in January of 2001.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we didn't  
36 need that motion.

37

38 MR. JOHNSON: No, ma'am. We just needed  
39 the proposal numbers and having the copy of the plan that  
40 was in effect January 2001 is helpful.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Withdraw your  
43 second, Bill.

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, that clarifies the  
46 record. I'll withdraw my proposal and I'll just say that  
47 it's Proposal 179 through 183 in the Board book and  
48 everyone has backup documentation now.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: See, the short

1 version would have been simple, Virgil.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I think  
6 we've covered everything. What have we not covered,  
7 gang. Closing remarks.

8

9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, I move that our  
10 Council send a letter to the governor requesting him to  
11 reappoint Tom Kulberton to the Board of Fisheries. At  
12 the Board of Fisheries meeting I was at last month he  
13 really works hard for conservation and for the people and  
14 he's a very good Board of Fish member.

15

16 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anybody else  
19 want to speak to that.

20

21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I reference my  
22 comments I made a minute ago when I made the motion.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So he's one of  
25 us you're saying.

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: He's a hardworking good  
28 Board member that's very conservation minded is what I'm  
29 saying and he supported our proposals.

30

31 MR. GLANZ: Call for the question.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question  
34 has been called for. All in favor of supporting this  
35 Board of Fish member say aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.  
44 Very good. Closing remarks starting with Don unless  
45 somebody forgot something.

46

47 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame  
48 Chairman. I want to thank everyone's participation and  
49 insights and I think it's important that we all listen  
50 and it's very difficult to listen when we're speaking, so

1 I'm going to keep this very short. I want to welcome all  
2 the new Council members and our new officers. I think  
3 that's important to recognize their service because  
4 they're way busier than a Council member.

5  
6 I think I got some interesting things on  
7 the floor. One of my main goals was to define the crisis  
8 that the chinook are in. I know that Fred is not one to  
9 use that verbology and so it was helpful to define what  
10 bleak is when it actually is a crisis and we all need to  
11 recognize that up and down the river and make a  
12 commitment to restrict our own personal harvest. It's a  
13 personal issue. Fish and Game is not going to solve it  
14 for us.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: James, do you  
19 have some closing remarks.

20  
21 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. It was nice to meet  
22 everybody. I learned a lot and I've got a lot more to  
23 learn and I wish everybody good luck in whatever they're  
24 doing and I hope everybody has a good year until next  
25 fall.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, James.  
28 Larry.

29  
30 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
31 What I have to say and meaning no disrespect to anybody  
32 or any organization or any one individual, but we've been  
33 in a crises mode -- I'm talking about the lack of chinook  
34 salmon here, king salmon. We've been in a crisis mode  
35 for the last 15 years. I noticed that king salmon are  
36 getting less and less and smaller and smaller. Here  
37 we're still talking about what we're going to do next  
38 year. When are we going to put down our foot and say  
39 this is it, this is what we're going to do and do it  
40 instead of just talking about it, starting another  
41 organization to talk about it, you know.

42  
43 The same goes for the moose we have or  
44 lack of moose that we cry about in the Yukon Flats. When  
45 are we going to put a stop to that. I mean, you know,  
46 I'm not saying I can solve everything, but it's about  
47 time that we put something concrete forward to say this  
48 is it, you know, this is what we are going to do and we  
49 are going to do it right now instead of having a meeting,  
50 another organization formed with more money being spent

1 and nothing being done.

2

3                   That's my feeling and I get tired of  
4 hearing about another organization being formed by this  
5 individual or this government agency. You know, that's  
6 the way I feel.

7

8                   Thank you very much.

9

10                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lester.

11

12                  MR. ERHART: What? I'm going to sleep.

13

14                  (Laughter)

15

16                  MR. ERHART: Yeah, I want to thank  
17 everybody. This was a pretty good meeting. I want you  
18 to think about the seagulls and what I said about them.  
19 I think they're eating a lot of fry, but they're not the  
20 only thing. We've got to do a lot of other things for  
21 our king salmon, for our chinook salmon. I think there's  
22 a lot of other issues besides. They all combine together  
23 and that way if we try to take care of them, maybe we can  
24 get it back. I'm kind of like with Virgil. I don't  
25 think I'll ever see them again.

26

27                  Thank you for a very good meeting.

28

29                  MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

30

31                  MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I really  
32 concur with what Larry and Lester said. I've been  
33 arguing about these king salmon since I was on the Board  
34 of Fisheries. I kept track of how the size has declined.  
35 I used to be able to buy king salmon and I always weighed  
36 them individually and I did that for a reason. I have to  
37 go back to the old saying we don't need to be reinventing  
38 the wheel. There's lots of science out there and that  
39 doesn't just apply to the size of king salmon and how  
40 many king salmon are coming back. It applies to almost  
41 everything that we address. It applies to predator  
42 management as well.

43

44                  That's all I'm going to say on that.

45

46                  I think we had a good meeting. I want to  
47 welcome the new members and the Staff has been very  
48 helpful. We've actually had a very cordial meeting. No  
49 one yelled at anyone or anything, so that's good. That's  
50 all I have.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's your  
2 definition of yelling?

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

7  
8 MR. FIRMIN: It was good to see everybody  
9 again. I'm glad everybody made it through another not  
10 too bad of a winter. I think we did get more than we  
11 figured we'd get done at this meeting. It was good to  
12 see new members and new faces and new ideas at the table.  
13 I hope everybody has a good spring.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: William.

16  
17 MR. GLANZ: I'll echo everybody else's  
18 thoughts and I appreciate Larry. He's got some of the  
19 best ideas, just put our foot down and do it to it  
20 instead of -- but nothing is getting done. The moose are  
21 still declining in the Flats, as they said. There's three  
22 times more bears than our moose. I appreciate the way  
23 everybody gets along and we get stuff moving. I just  
24 hope it becomes positive through the OSM office.

25  
26 Anyway, thank our officers, they did a  
27 fine job and thank you, Eva, for doing a good job on  
28 that.

29  
30 Thank you, guys.

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Will.

33  
34 MR. KOEHLER: Not much to say for me.  
35 Just a real honor to be here and to work with you guys.  
36 I thank you very much for your patience in dealing with  
37 me as I learn through the process. I wish everybody good  
38 luck through spring, summer and fall.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I definitely  
43 welcome the new Board members and I appreciate when you  
44 get involved. I'd like to see you get more involved.  
45 It's important to hear from you. I think you have a lot  
46 to bring as new members. Appreciate the frustration. I  
47 feel that same frustration that Larry feels. Sometimes  
48 I call it commando biology. Sometimes you just do things  
49 yourself, but that's against the law, so I don't know  
50 what we're going to be doing. It's just frustrating to

1 hear those kind of problems continuing that many years  
2 for moose and fish in the Yukon River. It's definitely  
3 a crisis.

4

5 I really appreciate Eva. She does an  
6 awesome job. And thank you guys, all that come to the  
7 meetings. We appreciate all the participation from the  
8 agencies and putting up with us. Sometimes we get  
9 frustrated enough that it's pretty tough.

10

11 Thank you, guys.

12

13 And thank you, Tina, for doing such a  
14 great job.

15

16 We'll see you guys next meeting.

17 Meeting's adjourned.

18

19 (Off record)

20

21 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 1st day of March 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9/16/14