

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8
9 Pikes Landing
10 Fairbanks, Alaska
11 October 22, 2014
12 8:30 a.m.

13
14
15
16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39 Recorded and transcribed by:

40
41 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
42 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
43 Anchorage, AK 99501
44 907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 10/22/2014)

(On record)

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The next thing on the agenda is recommended changes to nominations, appointment process.

MS. PATTON: Can we check in with everyone on line?

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. All on line, would you like to identify yourselves.

MR. CRAWFORD: Good morning, Madame Chair. This is Drew Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage.

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Good morning.

Anyone else on line besides Drew.

(No comments)

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You might be all alone there. Okay.

MS. PATTON: I think we have some new folks this morning that have joined us as well.

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Eva's reminding me we might have some new folks that's joined us this morning that weren't here yesterday. Could you identify -- or if you hadn't identified yourself yesterday, you can do it so now.

MR. JOLY: Madame Chair. I'm Kyle Joly. I'm a wildlife biologist for the Forest Service.

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we'll move back into the agenda. It says Carl, but it's actually Eva.

MS. PATTON: Good morning, Council. So we'll pick up where we left off yesterday, and to address the recommended changes to the nominations and appointment process.

1 As the Councils know and have noted in
2 their annual reports, the correspondence with the
3 Federal Subsistence Board, the process for appointing
4 Council members has often been delayed in recent years.
5 In the last two appointment cycles, the Secretary did
6 not appoint or reappoint Council members by the
7 expiration of their terms on December 2nd. In 2013,
8 for the 2012 appointments, most of the Council members
9 were appointed by January 4th. 2013 were not completed
10 until May 3rd. In 2014 for the 2013 appointments, only
11 two regions were appointed by mid January, and the
12 process was not completed until May 22nd.

13
14 This has created problems in the
15 coordinating of travel for new and reappointed members,
16 and left some Councils with less than full complement
17 of members for their meetings. And some of you may
18 recall as well not receiving notice until shortly prior
19 to the meetings was quite challenging to make plans and
20 to participate fully.

21
22 Additionally, there's other aspects of
23 the current nominations and appointment process that,
24 while as not as problematic as the appointment delays,
25 create difficulties for the program, the Council, and
26 the public. These issues are under the current system.
27 The application period opens in the fall with
28 appointments from the prior appointment cycle being
29 announced in December. This creates an overlap in the
30 appointment periods that's led to individuals applying
31 again before hearing results from the prior cycle, or
32 not knowing whether or not they've been selected for
33 appointment.

34
35 And so as many of you know who have
36 been on the Council for a long time, the application to
37 notification process takes nearly a year. Once the
38 applications are received and interviews through the
39 nominations panel, the recommendations are made to the
40 Board. The Board then makes the recommendations to the
41 Secretary of the Interior, and the delay has been
42 actually receiving the vetting and final appointment
43 from the Secretary's office. That has taken an
44 extensive amount of time that's caused a delay.

45
46 Under the current appointment process,
47 alternates are identified and vetted in D.C., but not
48 appointed. They're also not notified that they've been
49 identified as an alternate, and this leads to delays in
50 having alternates appointed to fill vacancies during an

1 unexpected vacancy.

2

3 The number of applicants for the open
4 seats on the Council has been decreasing. In the first
5 10 years of the program there was an average of 104
6 applications per year. In the last 10 years the annual
7 average has dropped to 70, a 33 reduction in
8 applications.

9

10 So the Office of Subsistence Management
11 in consultation with the InterAgency Staff Committee
12 and the Federal Subsistence Board has considered these
13 issues and identified some potential solutions. So the
14 Board is seeking your input, recommendations that you
15 have that can be recommended to the Secretary of the
16 Interior to make the process work better for the
17 Council, make the process more accessible to the
18 public, and more efficient in having appointments
19 notified prior to the end of the terms. So there's
20 some changes that may be possible that were discussed
21 with other Councils as well, and seeking your
22 recommendation.

23

24 One is changing the appointments from a
25 three-year term to a four-year terms. Some had felt
26 that a greater length of time for those that serve long
27 periods would be helpful. There's some I guess
28 advantages to disadvantages. It's fewer open seats per
29 annual cycle if it goes to a four-year term rather than
30 a three-year term. Fewer names submitted to D.C. for
31 approval, which would likely speed up the appointment
32 process. It keeps Council applications in the public's
33 attention. And disadvantages, no cost savings.
34 Requires work of nominations panel still.

35

36 The four-year biannual cycle --
37 biennial cycle rather, so there was a recommendation,
38 instead of every year, of doing every other year.
39 Advantages, would reduce the burden to OSM and agency
40 Staff in terms of nomination panel reviews. Reduces
41 public outreach cost, eliminates overlap of appointment
42 cycles and confusion. And the disadvantages is that it
43 may increase the burden on the panel for a larger
44 number of names in a given year. It may take the
45 Council appointment process out of the public eye, so
46 we're not reaching out to the public on a regular
47 annual basis.

48

49 So that's one of the considerations in
50 the recommendations.

1 And then the other was to formally
2 appoint alternates to the Council. And those
3 advantages are filling of unexpected vacancies. For
4 example, James was able to come onto the Council. He
5 was identified as an alternate so when we have an
6 unexpected vacancy we're able to bring someone back
7 onto the Council in a short period of time to serve.
8 And then an applicant would be aware that they're
9 actually an alternate so they don't get a surprise
10 call, but they're actually notified that they were
11 selected as an alternate, which is not the case right
12 now. The disadvantages is it could lead to potential
13 for ill feelings or questions if someone's selected as
14 an alternate, but another is not. And it could be seen
15 to be a waste of time if an alternate never is actually
16 seated, if that opportunity doesn't arise during the
17 regular cycle.

18
19 So these changes would involve an
20 amendment to the Council charter. Currently the
21 charter states a vacancy on the Council will be filled
22 in the same manner in which the appointment is made.
23 And that would be revised to state, a vacancy on the
24 Council would be filled by an alternate duly appointed
25 by the Secretary, or if no alternate is available,
26 filled in the same manner in which the appointment is
27 made.

28
29 The other is a carryover in term. The
30 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council has
31 recommended that the charters be amended to provide for
32 carryover terms, so that if terms expire and there's a
33 delay by the Secretary's off in appointments, those
34 that are currently on the Council will continue to be
35 full members of the Council rather than having a lapse
36 in membership. So what happened last time was the
37 appointments were delayed by the Secretary beyond the
38 expiration date of Council members, so technically
39 until those Council members were officially
40 reappointed, they could not serve in the capacity of a
41 Council member. So that carryover in terms would make
42 the request to the Secretary's office that until those
43 appointments are made, Council members would continue
44 to serve as full -- their full capacity. So
45 advantages, if appointments are delayed in the future,
46 Councils can still conduct business and have a complete
47 Council. And sitting Council members who are awaiting
48 reappointment can plan ahead with certainty. And
49 disadvantages are the key -- relates to timing when
50 late appointments is made, and a sitting Council member

1 is awaiting reappointment and plans to attend the
2 meeting, and someone else appointed to that seat
3 instead. And that obviously would create some
4 challenges.

5
6 Another recommendation that was made to
7 the Board was youth involvement in Councils. There's
8 been a desire by several Councils to have youth
9 involvement in the Council process in some formal sort
10 of way. There has been some different ideas suggested.
11 Some, you know, less formal in terms of having students
12 participate in the public, in the audience. Others
13 have suggested perhaps there could be a youth seat on
14 the Council, not a voting member, but a mentorship or
15 internship type of seat with a youth on the Council.
16 And there's various ways to pursue that option, so
17 right now the Council can't be increased, positional
18 membership for a formal seat, but sort of informal
19 mentorships would be possible.

20
21 So the Federal Subsistence Board is
22 seeking your feedback. These are some of the
23 suggestions and ideas for mechanisms that may make the
24 process work better for some. And the Board will be
25 taking all the Councils' recommendations and
26 considerations at the next meeting to see what may be
27 able to be possible through the Secretary of the
28 Interior's Office to make these changes.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
33 members, any suggestions. Virgil.

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. This did cause
36 a problem for our Council. The Board of Fish was
37 meeting in Anchorage addressing the Yukon and our
38 region, and I was at the meeting, and I was
39 representing the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory
40 Committee. However, I could not represent -- and our
41 RAC had addressed all the proposals, and a number of
42 the proposals were made by our RAC, but I was not
43 allowed to address -- I was not allowed to represent
44 the RAC, because my term had expired I know. And Fred
45 Bue was there at that meeting. And so no one
46 represented our RAC at that Board of Fish meeting.

47
48 And so I favor what the Western
49 Interior favors, which is carryover terms. And they
50 point out that in the National Park Service Subsistence

1 Resource Commission, that that is what they do. If
2 your term is expired and you haven't been reappointed
3 because of bureaucracy and time like you're supposed
4 to, then you just serve your term until the official
5 appointment is made. So I favor that.

6

7 And as far as the four-year term,
8 that's fine with me. And they say on the advantages
9 and disadvantages of having it done every year or every
10 other year would be more work if it's every year, but
11 it's every year the way it is no, so it doesn't seem to
12 me that it makes that much difference.

13

14 Thank you, Madame Chair.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Others.

17

18 Andy.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.

21

22 Yeah, I agree with Virgil on that. I
23 think the four-year biannual cycle actually makes sense
24 to me as well. So I would be in favor of requesting
25 that it change to that. The formal appointments as
26 alternates I think is also a good thing to do.

27

28 I wish there was a way that if a
29 sitting member isn't able to attend, that an alternate
30 would be able to step in in short term actually. I
31 think the more heads we have at the table, the better
32 decisions we make. And so I would be in favor of
33 formal appointments. And also add that I would like to
34 see it set up, if possible, that formal appointments
35 could sit in short notice. Now, I don't know how easy
36 that would be, but that would ideally be good for our
37 Council. I think for every Council.

38

39 And I think all of that leads towards
40 the youth involvement. I think getting some younger
41 people appointed as alternates is maybe a good way to
42 get them started, and I've always said, you look around
43 the table, there's way too much gray hair. I mean,
44 it's good to have a little gray hair at the table, but
45 it's also good to get some young guys in there. And
46 fortunately we have some younger guys on our Council
47 now, which is just great. They're going to have all of
48 that long-standing knowledge when the rest of us leave.
49 And that's how you get really good decisionmaking.

50

1 So I would be in favor of actually all
2 of these to help improve the program. Madame Chair.
3 And whenever we're ready for a motion, let me know and
4 I'll put that into a motion.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Larry.

7
8 MR. WILLIAMS: Thanks, Madame Chair.

9
10 I've noticed that there's less and less
11 interest in being on the Council in my area anyway.
12 And the reason is that -- I think one of the reasons is
13 that the people don't know enough about it. And I know
14 it's a matter of logistics and finding housing and all
15 that, but I think the Council should meet more out in
16 the village were the people who we're representing
17 actually see us and sit in at the meetings and see what
18 we're trying to accomplish and what we're trying to do,
19 and see how -- and they could actually see the make up
20 of the Council. But we're always meeting in Fairbanks,
21 and I mean, like I said, it's a matter of logistics and
22 housing, and a whole bunch of other stuff that we have
23 to think about when we do have a meeting, but it's
24 something to think about.

25
26 Because there was a flyer out
27 advertising an open seat on the Council. I happened to
28 notice it, but it seemed like nobody else noticed it.
29 Mr. Eddy Franks, he's our tribal administrator, he
30 said, it seems like nobody's interested. And he said,
31 I just wonder why. Is it not advertised enough. They
32 don't know enough about it. Or maybe, you know, just
33 we're not -- nobody in to actually physically see us
34 and see what we do. And it's something to think about.

35
36 And also, on alternate. I think they
37 should have an alternate that's appointed to the
38 Council, but make him understand that he is an
39 alternate. He can be ready in case a person who
40 actually is on the Council cannot make it. You know,
41 some of us have full-time jobs. I have a full-time
42 job. Last week I had medical appointment, and this
43 week, I had this, so I'm missing quite a bit of work.
44 And in a case like that, I could contact somebody and
45 say, hey, I can't make it. Can the alternate please
46 take my place, and then we'll go on from there. So
47 just something to think about.

48
49 And thank you very much.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Others. Bill.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Madame Chair.

4

5 I kind of feel the same way as Virgil
6 and Andy does there, that the four-year would be a lot
7 less hassle.

8

9 And like we're talking about youth. I
10 try to get younger people involved in our Fish and Game
11 ACs, and caribou boards, whatever it is. And nobody
12 just seems to be really into it. Like Larry was
13 saying, I think everybody in the village seen it. They
14 just -- nobody wants to get involved. Other than some
15 of the people. But we need more youth involved in this
16 definitely. We've got a couple now going, which is
17 great.

18

19 And that's all I really feel, is just
20 the four-year term maybe make it easier and less
21 restrictive on the people in Washington, D.C. or
22 whoever's dragging their feet. It can't be that hard
23 to look at an application and make an appointment.
24 Anyway that's my point.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Others. Will.

27

28 MR. KOEHLER: When I look at this, I
29 think that the disadvantage listed here on the four-
30 year biannual cycle, one of the disadvantages listed
31 is, may take the Council appointment process out of the
32 public eye and make outreach more difficult. I think
33 the reality is that where we are right now is if you
34 want to be on the Council, you can fill out an
35 application, and if you're qualified, you have a pretty
36 good chance of getting on the Council. There's too few
37 people that want to be here. So I don't really think
38 that this disadvantage listed of taking the appointment
39 process out of the public eye is really too much of an
40 issue. If someone wants to be on the Council, and
41 they're qualified, they can get on the Council. So I
42 am definitely in favor of the four-year biannual cycle.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

47

48 Donald.

49

50 MR. WOODRUFF: That last sentence

1 (indiscernible - microphone not on).....

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Your mic.

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Sorry. On the last
6 sentence of this review it says that the subsistence
7 management program will not be responsible for youths
8 under 18. As far as I can see, if you're over 18,
9 you're not a youth. So how do we get youth involved,
10 but yet not have the Federal government responsible for
11 travel or, you know, the responsibility of the youth to
12 the Council meetings.

13

14 That's confusing to me.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
19 There was some discussion just when these requests came
20 up from other Regional Advisory Councils of logistics
21 or legalities or how it would work, and those have not
22 been worked through yet.

23

24 Some schools have their own internship
25 programs, so for the North Slope Council, for example,
26 we met with the school district, and they were in
27 interested in providing these sorts of internships. So
28 most likely if it's youth under the age of 18, and
29 they're in high school, it would be a process of
30 collaborating with the local school district. So that
31 those issues can be worked through.

32

33 Funding is always an issue for travel.
34 And so some of the says people thought we'd be able to
35 work through this is, you know, working with a student
36 in the village or the community where the meeting is
37 being held that year, so not necessarily that they
38 would be traveling all the time.

39

40 So Council members are -- you know, our
41 counsel and the office is just working through of, you
42 know, how it could be best approached. And it might be
43 a Council-by-Council basis, what works in that region
44 to be able to bring on youth under the age of 18.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: I have a question.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Regarding what you
2 were just talking about, is that something that has to
3 be formally approved by the Federal Subsistence Board,
4 or is that something that we would be able to just say
5 as a Council we would be very open to any tribal entity
6 having a youth liaison attend our meetings. How much
7 formal action has to take place for that to be allowed.
8

9 MS. PATTON: In our discussions at the
10 office and with the ISC on this, I think it's fairly
11 flexible. I mean, there's a lot of this already going
12 on at many of the Council meetings where through the
13 Partners Program that we discussed yesterday they have
14 both high school and college interns who are supported
15 through that program that some attend the Council
16 meetings, give presentations to the Council on the
17 fisheries research and monitoring projects they've been
18 working on. So that's another partnership avenue
19 through the Partners Program where they're actually
20 taking care of and responsible for those youth, but
21 help them be engaged in the Council process. Those
22 don't require any sort of formal mechanism through the
23 Federal Subsistence Board or the Secretary's Office.
24 So there's a lot of option and opportunity.
25

26 The challenge was if there was a formal
27 youth seat that would be built into the Council
28 process, which there's limitations based on the charter
29 and the legal structure of the Council, making formal
30 recommendations. So they could not be a voting member
31 unless they were officially appointed by the Secretary
32 of the Interior.
33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I think
35 a way to proceed, unless someone else as any input
36 here, is just look at each one of these bullets and
37 agree or disagree.
38

39 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. Would you
40 like to just have a motion covering (indiscernible -
41 microphone not on).
42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We might not
44 agree on all of them. Let's just look at the carryover
45 terms. To me that's a no-brainer. Can we all agree
46 that the term would be a carryover.
47

48 (Council nods affirmatively)
49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. That one

1 we agree on. I don't see any disagreement on that. If
2 so, please speak up.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Now let's talk
7 about the four-year term. As I get older, I think, how
8 old am I going to be then.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Scary. Will I
13 be here. But any rate, how do you feel about the four-
14 year term. Do you guys have any other opinions.
15 There's several spoke for it. Is there anyone against
16 it.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Quiet again
21 this morning. No one's against it I see.

22

23 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair. I'm not
24 against it, but if it's not broke, we don't really need
25 fix it. I mean, we could leave it go to three. I
26 mean, it wouldn't be no big deal either way. But I'm
27 more leaning towards if because nobody's appointed,
28 that the same Council member shall stay on that board
29 until there is somebody appointed. I'm more inclined
30 to vote for that only. My opinion is.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
33 Personally I think I'm with you. I see you nodding
34 your head, Andrew.

35

36 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, that's kind of --
37 I'm kind of in agreement with Bill on that, because I
38 don't see changing it if what's -- three years, oh, I
39 have to apply every three years. That's three years
40 apart, it's not that big of a deal, and the carryover
41 should cover a lot of that. And then formally
42 appointing alternates would cover people that can't --
43 oh, I don't -- I can't be on it for another term, so
44 I'm not going to reapply, then you'd already have an
45 alternate in place for somebody that, you know, doesn't
46 want to show up for a fourth year, because of their
47 carryover. And I kind of think that four-year biennial
48 cycle will -- it's already kind of a -- applications
49 get swept under the desk or under the table easy enough
50 as it is yearly, and I could -- you'd almost see them

1 disappear if on a biennial cycle if you're only seeing
2 an application every two years, people will forget what
3 the heck they are, or what they're for. So I think
4 keeping them on an annual cycle like that on the three
5 years is fine with the formally appointed alternates
6 and the carryover term.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Will.

9

10 MR. KOEHLER: This is how we keep you
11 on the Council forever, Sue. There's no one to replace
12 you, so it just carries over and you can't leave.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That came to my
15 mind. I could just see the carryover being a perfect
16 way not to have an opening. Oh, goodness. Yeah.

17

18 Others. I mean now we have mixed here.
19 I mean, this is just information for you guys, right?
20 OSM?

21

22 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
23 Yea, so that the Board is -- and they're getting
24 feedback from all of the Councils, so, you know, those
25 recommendations that have I guess, you know, the most
26 votes for it being a better, more efficient way for the
27 Councils to function. So it doesn't have to be, you
28 know, 100 percent. We can let folks know, you know,
29 this works for some and not for others.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So just the
32 discussion you hear you can take back.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Absolutely.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. All
37 right. Andy.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. On the four-year
40 terms, you know, for me it's not carved in stone. You
41 know, being a realist, I realize that the cost of doing
42 business and government agencies are being stretched
43 more and more to do a lot more with a lot less. And
44 it's something that can save some money, and if that
45 money can be put towards something else that's more
46 productive within the OSM organization, you know,
47 research or another position, or for a biologist or
48 something like that, to me that's -- I'd rather see the
49 money spent that way. And I guess my feeling is
50 generally terms aren't -- at least on our RAC haven't

1 turned over real quickly, and it seems like once people
2 get on, they stay on for quite a long time, and I think
3 that's pretty important. I think historical knowledge
4 is really invaluable when you start making decisions on
5 such a wide range of topics like we do. And so for me,
6 personally, the difference between a three-year term
7 and a four-year term is negligible. It really doesn't
8 matter to me one way or another. But if there can be
9 some cost savings put into that, I think the benefits
10 of having people commit for longer terms, and most
11 people do. They stay on for quite a long time on this
12 RAC.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, there was
15 a time that -- before our terms, that this RAC had
16 difficulty meeting, getting a quorum. And this has
17 changed.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: And that's another thing.
20 If we can get people to stay on. And I agree, the
21 carryover is good, and I also think that the alternate
22 is actually probably one of the most effective tools
23 that we can do right now to ensure that the Council
24 always has quorums. So that's just my -- but I'm not
25 married in stone with it. I mean, if the Council
26 feels like three years, keeping it the same is fine.
27 I'm fine with that, but I do see some cost savings and
28 benefits that way. And quite frankly I don't think the
29 reality of it really changes as far as how the Council
30 works.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well, I
33 agree about saving money for government as long as
34 they're frugal with it when they save it, which
35 sometimes I don't trust that.

36

37 But I think one of the problems that
38 we have for -- like Larry brought out, the interest in
39 it is -- like we had a meeting in Tok and a whole bunch
40 of people come to it. and then they realize what they
41 were talking about was State land. There's confusion
42 with two boards. That is so hard on the public to say
43 -- they go, well, we want moose over here, and it's all
44 on State land, so then they realize, well, that Board
45 isn't going to help me, so I'm not going to go to that.
46 There is a lot of disinterest because of how much
47 Federal land is in your area. So that's a real issue.
48 And people do tire trying to go through -- in the
49 villages to pull up both of those regulation books and
50 understand regs. Sometimes it's like I don't need to

1 do that, I'm just going hunting. Yeah, I'd say more
2 times than not. It's a challenge.

3
4 So as far as this term, I would say the
5 discussion you're hearing here, that's how you can take
6 it back, unless someone else has more to add here.

7
8 And as far as alternates, I'm again for
9 saving money, guys. Paying for more people to come to
10 meetings, unless they're completely sitting in, you
11 know, unless they're here sitting in on the person,
12 they need -- they can be on teleconference from
13 wherever they're at to keep informed, which probably
14 will be a problem, because who wants to sit for two
15 days on the teleconference when you've got work to do.
16 So I find that's probably going to be a challenge for
17 them to stay informed.

18
19 And the youth, I think working in the
20 schools. I would add that. There's school programs
21 that you could probably -- the teachers could work in,
22 you know, as a project for the kids. So if that was
23 going to the school districts, and if it was advertised
24 to the school districts, there might be school
25 districts that would like to do that, especially if
26 there's Federal land in their area.

27
28 Go ahead, James.

29
30 MR. ROBERTS: In regarding the youth,
31 did this Council actively recruit kids from Fairbanks
32 to come here, like right now?

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You mean us
35 personally?

36
37 MR. ROBERTS: I mean, yeah, this
38 Council, do we advertise for youth to come here to
39 attend this meeting. I mean, if we open it to them, or
40 give them like public knowledge, maybe they would be
41 here right now.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
44 We do share the information with the local school
45 districts. Oftentimes it works much better when we're
46 meeting in a rural community where we have more
47 direction with the school, easier for the students to
48 be able to, you know, maybe take an hour or two off of
49 class.

50 Some of the challenges is that the

1 Council does meet during the school year, and students
2 are, you know, required on a regular curriculum.

3
4 So often it has worked quite well when
5 we meet in the rural communities to work with the
6 school district. Either they'll bring a class or a
7 handful of students that are interested to participate
8 through part or some of the meeting. In some cases the
9 students will provide a presentation to the Council on
10 subsistence issues of interest.

11
12 Meeting in Fairbanks, it is an urban
13 center, and so that outreach to the rural students is a
14 little bit different. And Larry's points are very well
15 taken, that the Council meeting in those rural
16 communities is very important, and it's an essential
17 part of the Council's function to represent the region.
18 That has been a budget issue, which is why we have not
19 met outside of Fairbanks for some time. So I would
20 request if the Council is interested in resuming and
21 pursuing that opportunity to meet in rural villages, to
22 make that known and express the impacts that it has of
23 not meeting in those rural communities.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I think
26 that impact has been known. We push that every time
27 sometimes. It really is important. And didn't you
28 guys do a budget analysis, and sometimes it's cheaper
29 to go out to the villages? Yeah. So I'd keep doing
30 that. And I think we'd all agree. Yeah.

31
32 Well, this is just information to take
33 back. I don't think we have to go all day on it.

34
35 Andy.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: One more quick thought
38 that I had is as far as trying to get youth involved,
39 it's not always necessarily kids of the high school
40 level. It might really do -- we might do really well
41 in the future to make a contact with the University.
42 There are a lot of students there that are going into
43 natural resource management, and actually have thoughts
44 of going into a career in fish and wildlife or natural
45 resource management, and they would be very likely
46 people that would be both educated and.....

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And interested.

49
50 MR. BASSICH: Interested. And might

1 want to become a Council member representing their home
2 region whether it be on our RAC or from a different
3 RAC.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Sounds
6 good.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: So I think that might be
9 a really good avenue to make a contact with.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. That was
12 quick.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: That's what I'm trying to
15 do.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anything else.

18
19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The next
23 thing on the agenda is an all-Council meeting in the
24 winter of 2016. How many of us are there.

25
26 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. There are
27 10 Council, and the majority of the Councils have 10-
28 seat membership. Southeast has 13 on their Council.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So over 100
31 people.

32
33 MS. PATTON: And the idea was an
34 opportunity for all the Councils to come together to
35 both share and network and address issues that are
36 common throughout the State for subsistence issues, be
37 able to network and share on, you know, successes some
38 Councils have had, the approaches they have taken to
39 addressing subsistence in their region. And the sort
40 of idea or process for having all those Councils
41 together would be to have both a joint session, and
42 then individual sessions, so each Council would have
43 its opportunity to take care of its unique issues or
44 business for the region. So it would be a joint
45 session and then break-out sessions, so each Council
46 would then meet individually. The only place that can
47 accommodate a group of that size is really Anchorage,
48 so OSM Staff have been looking into the opportunities
49 to reserve a place that would allow over 100-member
50 Council to meet, and then break-out sessions.

1 So right now this is an idea to get a
2 sense of whether Councils are interested in pursuing
3 this. The earliest date it would take place is the
4 winter of 2016. And OSM is asking if Councils can just
5 identify if the Council is indeed interested in an all-
6 Council meeting, what date or what week during the
7 winter cycle would work best and just generally try to
8 narrow it down there. So I'm taking your feedback if
9 you're interested.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So would that
12 be microphones and -- 100 microphones and all of this.
13 It's a formal meeting. That sounds pretty non-
14 productive to me.

15

16 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. One of the
17 main ideas was to conduct workshops for the Councils
18 and, you know, some Councils have asked, hey, we would
19 like a really comprehensive training on, you know, C&T
20 or how .804s work. We would like a comprehensive
21 training on ANILCA for all of our Council members. So
22 some of the idea was that, you know, rather than having
23 a lengthy 100-member Council meeting, that there would
24 be an opportunity in some venue to do that, and then to
25 have workshops and training sessions where people could
26 take advantage. All the Councils would be there, and
27 public as well, to have some more comprehensive
28 trainings that would be produced in a workshop type
29 setting.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
32 members. Any input.

33

34 MR. FIRMIN: It sounds like fun.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And chaotic.
39 No. Okay. Any other input. Donald.

40

41 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair. I know we've
42 had a couple of -- we've had meetings like that with
43 Western and us I believe at one time. And then we was
44 on the tri-RAC Council that -- as long as I think we
45 keep it small, you're good to go. Whereas we'd have a
46 100-member meeting, and, you know, that would be --
47 maybe a Chair and Vice Chair could all have the
48 meeting, and everybody else do the workshops or
49 something, but that would be pretty chaotic.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did you have
2 your hand up, Donald.

3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 I personally could use a workshop on ANILCA. I think
6 it would be very beneficial for us to have a better
7 grasp of what it really implies, because it seems like
8 the State and the Feds are battling this out in court a
9 lot, and maybe we could assist them in some of the
10 information that we have to share.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Or maybe it
15 will continue battling and it will change and you'll
16 need another workshop.

17
18 Andrew.

19
20 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, I think it would be
21 good as long as OSM and Staff could come up with a way
22 to, like you say, a schedule to actually keep us all
23 occupied and not have 100 people arguing in the same
24 room kind of thing. Like different, like you said,
25 workshops and small group things, and like however they
26 wanted to fix it, if they can come up with a good
27 enough schedule, I think it would be a good thing for
28 everybody.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, a
31 workshop might be better first, and then meeting, and
32 then some of the chaos might have worked its way
33 through.

34
35 James.

36
37 MR. ROBERTS: I think it would be good
38 to have just like our regular Eastern RAC meeting, and
39 then have all other RACs at the same time and just
40 dedicate one day to have all the Councils together so
41 we can exchange information, see what their angles are,
42 they could see where we're coming from. And maybe we
43 could get along a little better from region to region.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, it's been
46 my experience that probably the better way to do it is
47 have all the workshop and have the meeting first, and
48 then go into your separate meeting, because then you'd
49 have all that information first, because we've done it
50 before and it seemed to work. But if you think it

1 would work better, that's fine to express your opinion.

2

3 MR. ROBERTS: Well, I'm not opposed to
4 an all-Councils meeting though, I'm for that. and I'd
5 like to, you know, talk to the guys from Southeast or
6 up on the North Slope or, you know, Seward Peninsula so
7 we get a better understand of what they have to go
8 through and live through, because, you know, we don't
9 live there, and we have no idea. And maybe it will
10 enlighten some of us.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So after dinner
13 it would be nice to talk to them again. I'm giving you
14 -- yeah.

15

16 MR. ROBERTS: I mean, it's
17 communication, you know.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Oh, I
20 understand, yeah.

21

22 MR. ROBERTS: It makes things move.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Will.

25

26 MR. KOEHLER: I am opposed to an all-
27 Council meeting, just because I think -- I understand
28 the idea of learning about what our neighboring
29 Councils have to go through, but I don't really think
30 we would make a lot of progress in one day or two days
31 of that. And I don't think it would be worth the
32 logistical hassle.

33

34 I also agree with Andrew, it sounds
35 like a ton of fun, but these Councils were made to deal
36 with regional issues. So we're dealing with the issues
37 that are in our region, and I think that's what we're
38 supposed to do. And there's limited resources. It
39 sounds like kind of a flippant use of resources to do
40 an all-council meeting. I understand that there could
41 be benefits from it, but for the amount of logical
42 expense going into setting it up, I don't think it
43 sounds like something that would be a very worthwhile
44 investment.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

49

50 Andy.

1 MR. BASSICH: I think keeping meeting
2 where it's more like the tri-RAC meetings is much more
3 productive when you have issues that are crossing
4 boundaries or resources that are shared resources. I
5 think that's really productive.

6
7 But I think maybe I'm going to agree a
8 little bit more with Will on the rest of it. I can see
9 some benefits, but I don't really see it as getting
10 that much out of it.

11
12 I understand the workshop aspect of it.
13 There might be some real pluses there, and it might be
14 more of a cost savings for you to do one workshop for
15 all the Councils than to bring it to different
16 Councils, but I think if there's going to be multiple
17 RACs meeting, I think just keeping it more within the
18 general regions or shared resources is a much more
19 productive way to do it. But I'm not opposed to it,
20 I'm just feeling like it's not.....

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
23 have any input. Virgil.

24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: I kind of agree with
26 Andy. And even if they did do this, it wouldn't have
27 to be Anchorage, because there's other places that
28 could accommodate that type of a meeting. The Board of
29 Fish and Game goes all over the State, the
30 Council does. You could even have it in Nome. They've
31 got facilities to do it. I mean, almost any place in
32 the State. Kodiak, Nome, Sitka, Fairbanks. You know,
33 they're capable of holding a meeting of that size. It
34 doesn't have to be Anchorage.

35
36 Madame Chair.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
39 comments.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. This is
44 just information. And next is an all-Chairs meetings,
45 January 2014 Board meeting. All Chairs are usually at
46 those Board meetings anyway.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Yes, Madame Chair. This
49 was just a discussion for those Chairs that attend the
50 Board meeting to have an official opportunity to

1 gather, to meet, to share information together. It
2 hasn't been organized in the past.

3
4 One of the challenges, because the work
5 of the Councils is public, the work of the Board is
6 public process, just to ensure that these meetings meet
7 the criteria for the public transparency process.

8
9 So just getting an idea if Chairs are
10 interested in that being set up at the next Board
11 meeting.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think it goes
14 along with the same comments that you've been hearing,
15 but, yeah, I mean I think it's great for the Chairs to
16 get together when they're -- they're there anyway, so
17 it's no added expense. It's great to have them
18 collaborate together.

19
20 Okay. Anything else on that, guys.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
25 into the agency reports. We've been asked to move the
26 NPS first, but I need to go through a couple things
27 here.

28
29 Special action updates. Is there
30 anything on that.

31
32 MS. PATTON: No, we don't have any
33 special actions.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So do we have
36 any other tribal or Native organizations that would
37 like to speak. We had TCC yesterday.

38
39 MS. PATTON: Maybe we can just touch
40 base on line and see if we have any.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: On line, is
43 there any Native or tribal organizations that have any
44 reports.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Then the
49 first thing would be the National Park Service.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Madame Chair. I
2 suggest we take a break before we start into this
3 subject, because this could be contentious.
4
5 Madame Chair.
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's
8 take a 10-minute break.
9
10 (Off record)
11
12 (On record)
13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So are we ready
15 to start, guys. No. I had talked to Barbara Cellarius
16 at the break, and we're going to go through these
17 reports of the different parks and then go into the
18 proposed rule.
19
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: We're going to do what?
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We're going to
23 get their reports. First is the Wrangell-St. Elias
24 National Park and Preserve.
25
26 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
27 Chair. My name is Barbara Cellarius, and I'm the
28 subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National
29 Park and Preserve.
30
31 So you should have a handout in your
32 packet. It starts with a wildlife report is the first
33 things with the Chisana Caribou Herd. So actually
34 there should be some information in your book, and some
35 information in your packet.
36
37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So Chisana is in
38 the book? (Indiscernible - away from microphones) page
39 number.
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Jana, it's in
42 the book.
43
44 MS. CELLARIUS: 178. So starting on
45 Page 178 there are -- and I'm not going to like walk
46 through everything. I'm not going to sort of read you
47 everything, but I just wanted to mention what
48 information we have for you, and briefly talk about a
49 couple of things.
50

1 So Page 178 is the news release with
2 the plan for the Chisana Caribou Herd hunt. You'll
3 recall that the Federal Subsistence Board established a
4 small hunt on the Chisana caribou herd at its January
5 2012 meeting, and so this was the third year of the
6 hunt occurring.

7
8 And there's some things that are
9 delegated to the superintendent. One is to set the
10 quota. Another is to set the number of permits to be
11 issued. We try to get permits out to the different
12 communities. I did some outreach with the communities
13 and came up with kind of a strategy for doing that.

14
15 So we set the permit -- the harvest
16 quota comes out of the management plan, and it was
17 seven caribou this years as it has been the last two
18 years. We decided to allow for a maximum of 18 Federal
19 registration permits to be issued. We issued 11 and we
20 had two caribou harvested.

21
22 And that's all I'll say about that,
23 other than if you look at the separate handout that is
24 in I think one of the folders that you have, it has the
25 most recent population estimate for the herd, and what
26 that shows is essentially that the herd population is
27 stable. And that's a population estimate for basically
28 a year ago.

29
30 Also there's -- actually let me go back
31 to -- there wa something else here I think that I sent
32 ahead of time.

33
34 You may recall that we did a big
35 environmental impact statement and planning process
36 about off-road vehicle use in the Nabesna area, the
37 Nabesna Road area. And in order to implement some
38 aspects of the decision and the environmental impact
39 statement, we had to do a regulation change. And the
40 main subsistence related things that occurred with the
41 regulation change were that we established in
42 regulation vehicle and weight limits, and then the
43 designation of trails for subsistence users in
44 designated wilderness. There is an allowance for off-
45 trail ORV use for game retrieval. And so there is a
46 map in your book. I don't know if your book is color
47 or black and white. The color map is easier to read.
48 So there's a map there.

49
50 And then in the other information

1 packet, so not in your book, but the other information
2 packet, there's some information, some recent sheep
3 survey data. And then I included a couple of things
4 about from our fisheries program, a list of projects.

5
6 And then we've gotten some -- we've had
7 some concern about the burbot population in Grizzly
8 Lake, which is in the Yukon River drainage within
9 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. There's been quite a
10 lot of harvest on those burbot lately, so we've been
11 trying to do some more population estimates this year,
12 and we've got work planned for the next two years. And
13 the preliminary results indicate a substantial decline
14 in population since 2011. So we're going to keep
15 looking at the burbot information that we have.

16
17 And then I think the last thing that
18 there is in your report is a table with our Federal
19 registration permit data. We don't have harvest data
20 for 2014 yet, other than the Chisana Caribou Herd. I
21 keep pretty close track of that. Because we have such
22 a small harvest quota, I ask people to call me within
23 three days of harvesting a caribou. But the other
24 harvest data we don't have in yet for this year, but it
25 will show you the number of permits that are issued.

26
27 And that's what I have for Wrangell-St.
28 Elias.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
31 questions.

32
33 MR. KOEHLER: I have a question.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Will.

36
37 MR. KOEHLER: Barbara, would it be
38 possible to get a map showing the boundaries of these
39 count areas on sheep in Unit 12 and Unit 11.

40
41 MS. CELLARIUS: I will ask our wildlife
42 biologist.

43
44 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you very much.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'd like a copy
47 of that, too.

48
49 Any other questions. Donald.

50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 In the second paragraph on this plans
4 for subsistence out on the Chisana caribou, you said
5 that the eligibility for the hunt is limited to
6 permanent residents. And Bill brought this up over in
7 his area. How are you guys designating what a
8 permanent resident is, because obviously Bill, and I
9 know in Eagle, it's an issue with seasonal residents
10 and claiming residency and not being residents, and
11 that turns into quite a management issue.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MS. CELLARIUS: There is in Federal
16 regulation a definition of resident. And it provides
17 guidance on a variety of things to look at. You know,
18 the majority of people when they come in, it's clear,
19 you know, where they live.

20

21 And actually I issue the Chisana
22 permits for the most part myself for that particular
23 hunt. People have to come talk to me unless they live
24 in a village and I'm working with the village council
25 to issue permits in a village so that they don't have
26 to travel to come to see me.

27

28 But in general we look at the
29 definition of resident. We ask people to bring in a
30 photo ID, a resident Alaska hunting license, and some
31 other proof of local rural residency. In the majority
32 of cases it's pretty obvious. There are cases where
33 it's more difficult and you have to look at that list
34 of what constitutes a resident, and make a
35 determination. But we do our best.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Barbara, is
38 that something in the Federal law that we could get a
39 copy of, because it.....

40

41 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah, like if you look
42 at the handy-dandy, in the handy-dandy, the hunting and
43 fishing regulations, in the definitions section,
44 there's a definition of resident. It does not have,
45 say, the number of months they have to live there, but
46 it does have things that you look at. It is similar
47 to, but not totally identical, to the State, but I
48 think you kind of get more or less to the same place.
49 But it's your primary permanent residence. When you're
50 gone from it, that's where you're going to return to.

1 You look at things like the address that someone puts
2 on their PFD application, on a license to hunt or drive
3 or fish. There's a whole list of things there.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's in
6 the handy-dandy, but the regulation, that's in....

7
8 MS. CELLARIUS: So that definition in
9 the handy-dandy is mirrored in the Federal regulation
10 book.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think what
13 we'd like to see is the Federal regulation book. I
14 know it's mirrored, but just that they can look at it.

15
16 MS. CELLARIUS: I mean, it's going to
17 be the same words, but we can get you a copy if that
18 would be helpful.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But I'm going
21 to ask you a hard question, which is, does that
22 definition allow someone to have like Bill talked
23 about, a home somewhere else and still meet these
24 qualifications.

25
26 MS. CELLARIUS: In the majority of the
27 cases it's pretty clear. There are occasionally cases
28 that are fuzzy. And so the question is what is the
29 primary permanent residence. And it is occasionally
30 hard to make that determination. I work with our
31 rangers as a general rule if we have questions.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: In looking at Table 2
36 on Dall sheep in Unit 12, it appears that the total
37 sheep population the last 12 years has declined by
38 about 50 percent. Do you have an explanation for that.

39
40 MS. CELLARIUS: I can take that
41 question back to our wildlife biologist and try to get
42 you a response. I'm not the wildlife biologist, so I
43 need to ask her.

44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Is she here?

46
47 MS. CELLARIUS: She's not here today.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
2 questions.

3
4 Will.

5
6 MR. KOEHLER: I don't have a question,
7 I just have a comment. I think on this Chisana caribou
8 hunt, I just want to always make a point to people -- I
9 live right in the center of the hunt area, and so I get
10 to watch these caribou. And it is a really, really
11 very difficult area to access, and it's a very small
12 herd. And I think the way it's being managed right now
13 is very, very good.

14
15 And Barbara especially carries a lot of
16 responsibility. She carries -- you know, she does so
17 much for it, you know, giving out the permits and
18 monitoring the hunt. And I think I'd just like to
19 compliment you for doing a really good job on that from
20 my perspective and my looking at it.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
27 questions.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
32 would be Yukon-Charley report.

33
34 MS. OKADA: Madame Chair. Council
35 members. My name is Marcy Okada. I'm with Yukon-
36 Charley Rivers National Preserve.

37
38 Eva should have handed out the handout,
39 so I'll just quickly go through this handout.

40
41 So related to the Forty-Mile Caribou
42 Herd, Yukon-Charley Rivers Staff is partnering with
43 U.S.G.S. to map patterns of snow melt and lichen
44 abundance within the range of the herd. This data is
45 primarily being collected to assess the habitat use and
46 quality, and to see how the animals use the landscape.
47 I know the Forty-Mile Working Group is meeting tomorrow
48 here, so there will be a Park Service Staff member
49 attending that meeting.

50

1 Related to wolves in Yukon-Charley, at
2 present there are now four collared wolves within
3 Yukon-Charley. Since April, two collared wolves dies
4 of unknown natural causes, and a third was suspected to
5 be a collar failure.

6
7 And Yukon-Charley gained one collared
8 wolf, it was a young male wolf that dispersed from
9 Denali National Park. And so far he appears to be
10 settling down in the old Fisher Creek/Washington Creek
11 pack territory. As of September 11th, he was still
12 alone and hasn't paired up yet.

13
14 No furbearers surveys were conducted in
15 2014, and none are scheduled for 2015.

16
17 There were peregrine surveys that were
18 -- or peregrine surveys were not conducted this past
19 year as well.

20
21 And then lastly, there were no fires
22 within the boundaries of Yukon-Charley. Fire Staff did
23 implement some fuel reduction projects within the
24 Preserve, and one project was in coordination with
25 Tanana Chiefs Council. The crew implemented a fuels
26 break along the Biederman camp allotment boundary and
27 also the Preserve.

28
29 And that's it. Are there any
30 questions.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
33 members, questions.

34
35 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Marcy, I have a
36 question. What's the Biederman camp? Where is that?
37 Is that the Biederman, the bluff, or is that the old
38 Biederman camp across from the Kandik River, or do you
39 know.

40
41 MS. OKADA: It's the old allotment for
42 the Biederman family. So they gave permission to do
43 some fuel break work.

44
45 MR. GLANZ: I'm saying that -- that
46 must be the place that Eddie O'Leary's purchased from
47 the Biederman, or is that the one downstream from the
48 Kandy (ph) cabin.

49
50 MS. OKADA: Oh, okay. I believe it's

1 the Eddie O'Leary area.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you.

6

7 Marcy, a number of years ago, or I
8 remember for two or three meetings, I had been
9 requesting that a search be done for any studies on the
10 long-term impacts to tundra. And I was just wondering
11 if anybody in the Park Service ever followed up on
12 that, to try and get some information on the impacts of
13 extreme burns over large areas and their impacts on
14 caribou migrations or caribou rearing. And I just
15 wanted to bring that up just to kind of keep that
16 fresh. I'm still really interested in that mine given
17 -- in that information given that, you know, we're
18 still trying to work on the Forty-Mile Herd and
19 continue to build it.

20

21 And then the other question I had was
22 how come the peregrine falcon studies weren't done this
23 year. Was it a funding issue? I'm just curious why
24 that wasn't done this year again.

25

26 MS. OKADA: I can't answer that
27 question off hand. I'm going to note down your first
28 comment on the tundra impacts to caribou. But as far
29 as the -- we have our chief of resources here who could
30 probably answer that question to the peregrine surveys.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Would you like
33 that now, Andy?

34

35 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I mean, it should
36 be brief. I'm just curious.

37

38 MR. FORESIC: Yeah, it's a quick
39 answer.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Come on
42 forward. You've got to come forward and talk in a mic.

43

44 MR. FORESIC: Hi. Thank you. I'm Jeff
45 Foresic. I'm the chief of resources at Yukon-Charley.
46 It's a quick answer. The researcher who leads that
47 study had a family crisis this year. Her father passed
48 away right before the survey, so we paused it for this
49 year.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I had one other
2 question. Is this the first time that we've seen a
3 long migration of wolf from such a great distance
4 that's been collared? I can't remember ever seeing any
5 data on one that's has moved that kind of a distance
6 from Denali over all the way to the Yukon River like
7 that, so I'm just curious about how often this happens,
8 and if this is like the first time it's actually been
9 documented with a collared animal.

10
11 MR. FORESIC: Yes, it happens
12 occasionally, and we have a few cases documented. A
13 wolf that lived in the vicinity of Yukon-Charley a few
14 years ago migrated all the way to the North Slope, not
15 far from Prudhoe Bay. And there's some other cases
16 where Denali -- or wolves living in the vicinity of
17 Denali had dispersed to the Seward Peninsula. So it
18 probably happens more often than we think, but once in
19 a while you happen to capture those episodes with a
20 collared animal, and it's instructive about the nature
21 of wolf populations in Alaska and the extensive
22 territories they cover, and I'll leave it at that.

23
24 So, yeah, there's a few cases.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Donald.

27
28 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame
29 Chairman.

30
31 Were there studies on the golden eagles
32 this year in Yukon-Charley?

33
34 MR. FORESIC: No, there were none this
35 year.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
38 questions.

39
40 MR. GLANZ: I just have a statement. I
41 know that when I worked for the Alaska Fire Service,
42 they did a lot of research and had biologists involved
43 with going over the years that we had fires, and the
44 healing process and so forth and so on. I think that
45 would be a good resource to check into. They've done a
46 lot of work on that when I was working there for those
47 20 years.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, one quick question
2 since we have the resource gentleman here. Can you
3 give me what the current estimation for moose densities
4 are within Yukon-Charley right now.

5
6 MR. FORESIC: You know, I don't know
7 the number off the top of my head. It's a thing we
8 could get for you though.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: If possible, I'd like to
11 get that, and in particular -- I don't know if you
12 break it down to the whole preserve, or if you can
13 break it down to the river corridor, but I'd be really
14 interested in seeing that number in particular along
15 the river corridor, you know, within five miles of the
16 river corridor. I think it's really important for us
17 to understand that for future management. So if I
18 could.....

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That brings me
21 to a suggestion. On the Wrangell report there is
22 wildlife data. Maybe we could get some of that for the
23 Yukon-Charley. Just what's going on in the numbers.

24
25 Bill.

26
27 MR. GLANZ: If I may, I'd like to refer
28 back to the question I first asked. How long would you
29 guesstimate before -- they gave us -- when I was
30 working there, they gave us it would be 10 years for
31 the moose browse to return fully, and 50 for caribou
32 browse to return. Is that still accurate, or have they
33 been able to update that at all, do you know, after a
34 major burn.

35
36 MR. FORESIC: I don't know the latest
37 thinking on that, but to follow on your -- oh, sure.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: There's some
40 help it looks like.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MR. FORESIC: We're going down the
45 ranks here.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: When the
48 questions come up, I like it when you come forward with
49 the answer. Go ahead and introduce yourself.

50

1 MR. JOLY: Madame Chair. Council
2 members. I'm Kyle Joly. I'm a wildlife biologist.

3
4 I guess I'll start back with Andy's
5 question. I was involved with a lot of the research
6 looking at caribou habitat in the winter range. And so
7 our findings with the Nelchina Herd, which winters just
8 south of the preserve, Yukon-Charley, in the Forty-Mile
9 country there, we found that caribou were avoiding
10 burned areas for at least 45 years. They were avoiding
11 the big fires, the interiors of the big fires more than
12 smaller fires. We're just learning about the fire
13 intensity. It looks like the caribou are avoiding more
14 intensely burned areas than less intense burned areas.

15
16 The way the lichens reseed, their
17 spores are coming in through the air, and so it's
18 harder for them to reseed areas that have been
19 intensely burned and are far from a seed stock. So it
20 makes sense that those areas are harder for -- take
21 longer to regenerate and are avoided longer by caribou.

22
23 There's different species of lichens
24 that caribou like to eat. A lot of them are coming
25 back in 50 years, but some of the old growth if you
26 will lichens take 150 years to come back. So there's
27 quite a wide range. Some lichens that caribou don't
28 like to eat will come back almost immediately, so
29 there's a wide range of application, but in general,
30 you know, 50 years is a good rule of thumb for caribou
31 avoiding burned areas.

32
33 On the moose density, the last time we
34 did a survey was in fall of 2012 I think we were out
35 there. And I believe, off the top of my head, the
36 density was .37 moose per square kilometer. So it's a
37 low density moose area. We do those surveys in the
38 fall, and in the fall the moose haven't -- aren't
39 really congregated on the rivers. We actually find
40 them up in the hills a lot. So we wouldn't be able to
41 tell you moose densities near the river per se. And
42 the survey area encompasses mostly just the Preserve.
43 There's a little bit -- we get out a little bit here
44 and there due to the kind of odd nature of the shape of
45 the Preserve.

46
47 But we can give you the most current
48 report as soon as we get back to the office. I can
49 email. And the most current report has survey results
50 from previous years. And we do them about once every

1 three years.

2

3 I guess the only other thing I would
4 touch on was Virgil's question, was I haven't done
5 sheep surveys on the Wrangell side. I don't want to
6 say that I know the reason for the decline there, but
7 the declines in Dall sheep population is pretty much
8 statewide at this point. We've actually had much
9 larger declines up in Gates of the Arctic and Western
10 Alaska, like Noatak. And those declines have been up
11 to 70, 80 percent, 50 percent in other areas.

12

13 And what we've been seeing is that
14 there's really poor recruitment, some really tough
15 conditions, winter conditions persisting into summer,
16 and just the recruitment isn't there. So I don't know
17 if that's the same situation in the Wrangells, but it's
18 a much larger phenomenon at this point.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You didn't say
21 who you work for. You're a biologist.

22

23 MR. JOLY: Well, I'm a biologist for
24 the National Park Service. I work for Yukon-Charley,
25 but I also work for Gates, but I also work for Noatak,
26 Bering Land Bridge, Kobuk Valley, and Cape Krusenstern.
27 So I cover a little bit of territory.

28

(Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yeah.
31 Virgil.

32

33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, how's the sheep
34 population doing in Yukon-Charley.

35

36 MR. JOLY: That's a good question. We
37 haven't done a survey out there in a number of years,
38 and on my list of things was to ask Jeff when's the
39 next time we should be doing a moose survey out there
40 -- or, excuse me, sheep survey. It's been about four
41 or five years since we've done one. It's a very small
42 sheep population and it's not that heavily harvested.
43 So it hasn't been a high management priority, but it's
44 in the queue to be back up. I'm hoping to get another
45 survey done either next summer or the summer after, but
46 Jeff and I haven't had that conversation about budgets
47 and Staff availability.

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Have you
50

1 actually participated in a survey there in the past?
2
3 MR. JOLY: Yes, I have.
4
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: How many phantom sheep
6 did you see.
7
8 MR. JOLY: The survey that I was
9 involved in was south of the river, and so we didn't
10 get up into the Ogilvies. So I actually didn't see any
11 phantom sheep. But I would like to expand the study
12 area to include that Ogilvie area so we can take a
13 better look at those phantom sheep.
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Madame
16 Chair.
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Prospecting,
19 are you?
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
24 other questions.
25
26 MR. GLANZ: I'd just like to thank them
27 for doing what they did, but anyway.
28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
30 right. Thanks.
31
32 MR. FORESIC: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm sorry,
35 James.
36
37 MR. ROBERTS: I just had a question.
38 Do you cover more territory than that lone wolf?
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 MR. JOLY: I try.
43
44 MR. ROBERTS: Someone put a collar on
45 him.
46
47 (Laughter)
48
49 MR. FORESIC: Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
2 Thank you, guys.

3
4 And next is Denali.

5
6 MS. CELLARIUS: I'll be doing the
7 Denali report. You should have a blue folder that was
8 distributed this morning with the Denali report in it.
9 Amy was very sorry she couldn't be here today.

10
11 So in the packet there is a handout
12 about the Denali local knowledge of climate change
13 study. There's a briefing on -- so that has -- it's
14 kind of like this; it's got a couple bar charts on it.
15 There's a wolf monitoring briefing, 1986 to 2014. And
16 then an article from the Journal of Animal Ecology on
17 the impacts of breeder loss on social structure,
18 reproduction, and population growth in a social canid.
19 There's also a wildlife report, and it talks about a
20 couple of moose surveys that they've done in areas that
21 are important to subsistence users, as well as bear
22 monitoring, wolf monitoring, some information about
23 caribou and Dall sheep monitoring. Oh, and actually on
24 the back it's got coyote, fox, and lynx research.

25
26 So if there's questions, I can send
27 them back to Denali and see if he can get answers for
28 you. And then Amy just wanted me to let you know that
29 there was a Denali SRC meeting on August 7th, followed
30 by a community potluck. They didn't take up much in
31 the way of major issues. They had a boundary change
32 issue that's going on down there, so they provided a
33 briefing, but there will be a future community meeting
34 on that topic.

35
36 And if there are any questions, like I
37 said, I will do my best to get answers to them.

38
39 And I don't know if there might
40 somebody from Park Service on the line who was at the
41 Denali SRC meeting.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I think
44 there's one right here. Lester Erhart.

45
46 MS. CELLARIUS: Right.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

49
50 MS. PATTON: And James.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: James, were you
2 at the meeting?

3
4 MR. ROBERTS: No, ma'am, I didn't make
5 it.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So are
8 there any questions.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MS. CELLARIUS: Madame Chair. I did
13 have an update for you on our horns and antlers
14 environmental assessment that was a request from the
15 Eastern Interior RAC to the Park Service a couple years
16 ago. So if there aren't questions for Denali, I'll
17 just go ahead and go over that briefing quickly.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. CELLARIUS: So last spring the
22 National Park Service selected modified Alternative D
23 in its decision regarding what was officially called
24 subsistence collections and uses of shed or discarded
25 animal parts and plants from park areas in Alaska. The
26 selected alternative will allow subsistence collections
27 and uses of shed or discarded animals parts and plants
28 to make handicrafts for personal or family purposes,
29 barter, or to sell as customary trade.

30
31 This decision clears the way for the
32 Park Service to promulgate regulations to authorize
33 such subsistence collections. We need a special
34 regulation, because there's a national regulation that
35 essentially prohibits these kinds of activities. When
36 the Park Service signed the decision, or announced the
37 decision, it indicated that the -- in the press release
38 that it would begin the process of drafting new
39 regulations within a year of the decision. That
40 drafting is underway and we expect to have a draft rule
41 language available for review at the winter/spring RAC
42 and SRC meetings.

43
44 The regulations will provide a general
45 framework for authorizing subsistence collections with
46 provisions allowing superintendents to customize the
47 implementation as needed through unit-specific
48 regulations or compendia.

49
50 And with that in mind, we're interested

1 in hearing from subsistence users on a couple of
2 points. So one of the things that the decision on the
3 EA said was that NPS-qualified subsistence users would
4 need to have a written authorization from the
5 superintendent to engage in this collection activity,
6 and such authorizations can take many forms. For
7 example, permits could be issued to individual
8 qualified subsistence users, or there could be a
9 written authorization that would, say, specify all of
10 the resident zone communities or something like that.
11 And so one question we had is what type of written
12 authorization would be best for your area and why.

13

14 And the decision also allowed for
15 mitigating measures to minimize potential adverse
16 effects to resources and values in affected NPS areas,
17 including visitor use and enjoyment. And there's some
18 more language there in the briefing about that.

19

20

21 There's also one thing that came up
22 with some of the comments was a need for public
23 education. And so the other two questions that have
24 for you are which areas and resources should be opened
25 or not opened to subsistence collections and why. And
26 then what should be included in a public education
27 program.

28

29 So if there's any comments that you as
30 RAC members, subsistence users from your communities
31 have on those topics, we'd appreciate hearing them.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Barbara, what's
34 the timeline.

35

36 MS. CELLARIUS: So the draft rule -- if
37 it's something that you want to think about and get
38 back to us later, this is more part of -- in some ways
39 this is part of implementing the regulation with the
40 unit -- the sort of area-specific regulations. So we
41 don't necessarily have to have comments on these topics
42 today. If you have any sort of initial comments, that
43 would be great, but we hope to have draft regulatory
44 language before you at your next meeting.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. These
47 meetings become overwhelming, because this is specific
48 to parks, and we have a Subsistence Resource Commission
49 for the Wrangells and we have one for Denali. We don't
50 have one for Yukon-Charley.

1 So, you know, we started this
2 basically. We started a letter, and I think one of the
3 other RACs did also, allow this. I don't want to take
4 our meeting forever here, but I would say that the
5 Subsistence Resource Commission.....

6
7 And you're saying that -- let me get
8 this straight, the meeting or the timeline would be you
9 want something, some comments from us now for a
10 proposed rule that might go out before our next
11 meeting?

12
13 MS. CELLARIUS: We want to continue the
14 dialogue with SRCs and RACs as we go into the
15 rulemaking process. We expect that we'll have some
16 form of draft language at the next meeting.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So it will be
19 draft.

20
21 MS. CELLARIUS: I'm not sure whether it
22 would have been published in the Federal register or
23 simply a draft before we've quite gotten there.

24
25 And so some of the things -- like the
26 regulations will probably say that a written
27 authorization is required, and then the superintendent
28 would have some ability to decide what kind of written
29 authorization to use at a specific park unit. So some
30 of the questions I'm asking are actually like once we
31 have the regulation, what kind of education programs do
32 we need as we implement it. Once we have a regulation
33 authorizing this, would you want an individual permit
34 or a blanket authorization.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Blanket.

37
38 MS. CELLARIUS: I know that we've
39 talked with the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC that they feel
40 that a blanket authorization that would cover all of
41 our eligible subsistence users would be more
42 appropriate.

43
44 So this is an opportunity for the RACs
45 and SRCs to comment, if you have comments, but there's
46 not -- it's not like there's a deadline that if you
47 don't comment now, you'll lose your opportunity.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I just
50 look around the table and see which parks affect which

1 people on this table.

2

3 And I see you had your hand up, Will.
4 Did you have something.

5

6 MR. KOEHLER: I just wanted to make a
7 really quick comment. I think this is a really, really
8 good place of work by the SRC and the Park Service. I
9 don't think that in my region there will be any more or
10 less sheds harvested due to this work, but it gives a
11 channel for people to do it legally now. And that's --
12 I guess it's good, because it's taking, you know, a
13 subsistence resource that people are already
14 harvesting, and is a customary and traditional use, and
15 making these people that are doing their customary and
16 traditional use, making them not criminals. So I
17 really appreciate that.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But technically
22 it isn't legal until this is all finished.

23

24 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And it's
27 been taking a long time as it does when we work with
28 government.

29

30 So just having participated in this
31 from the very beginning, I would recommend that we need
32 to support the least amount of paperwork possible.
33 Does anyone have anything to add to that.

34

35 MR. KOEHLER: Could you put that in
36 writing?

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Maybe need a
43 megaphone maybe.

44

45 So, yeah, do we agree on that? The
46 least amount of paperwork possible, because, no offense
47 to anyone here, but it looks like job security. But
48 that would be our comment on that. All agree?

49

50 (Council nods affirmatively)

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anything
2 else.

3
4 MS. CELLARIUS: That's all that I have,
5 but I think Jeff has another regional briefing for you.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I've
8 already forgot names. I apologize.

9
10 MR. FORESIC: I'm Jeff Foresic. I'm
11 the chief of resources at Yukon-Charley National
12 Preserve. I'm prepared to speak a little bit and
13 listen about the proposed wildlife regulation. This is
14 a good time?

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The proposed
17 rule. So you'll be the presenter on that.

18
19 MR. FORESIC: We have other
20 representation from Yukon-Charley as well. The deputy
21 superintendent.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Forgive
24 me if I'm confused, but this proposed rule is not just
25 the Yukon-Charley; it's for all parks in Alaska, right?

26
27 MR. FORESIC: Correct. That's my job
28 title, but I'm prepared to speak about the rule in
29 general.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
32 don't have anybody from Anchorage that's for the
33 office.

34
35 MR. FORESIC: Correct.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: They just send
38 the locals. All right.

39
40 MR. LARSON: Good morning. My name is
41 Randy Larson. I'm deputy superintendent at Yukon-
42 Charley. I've been up here in Fairbanks for just a
43 little over a year, and looking forward to some time
44 with you here today to get to know the RAC.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MR. FORESIC: As folks are well aware,
49 the Park Service published a notice in the Federal
50 Register in September proposing permanent amendments to

1 regulations for sporthunting and trapping in national
2 preserves in Alaska. National preserves are managed in
3 the same manner as national parks, but are by law open
4 to sporthunting.

5
6 Purposes of national preserves
7 including maintaining natural ecosystems and processes,
8 including wildlife populations and their behaviors, and
9 subsistence use. So to be clear, subsistence use is
10 seen as a natural part of the ecosystem.

11
12 The proposed rule would not adopt State
13 laws or regulations that authorize taking of wildlife,
14 hunting, or trapping activities, or management actions
15 involving predator reduction efforts with the intent or
16 potential to alter or manipulate natural predator/prey
17 dynamics and associated.....

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry, I'm
20 going to interrupt. Are you reading from something
21 that we have.

22
23 MR. FORESIC: It's paraphrased from the
24 introduction to the proposed rule. Is that okay?

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Just making
27 sure. Okay.

28
29 MR. FORESIC: I'm nearly done here. I
30 don't intend to read to you very long.

31
32 We're engaged in the process right now.

33
34 The comment period, the public comment period extends
35 until December 3rd, and comments can be submitted in a
36 number of ways. Certainly by writing, by letter to the
37 regional director, through a web portal by electronic
38 means through regulations.gov. I went in there to test
39 it today. It's a pretty straight forward and simple
40 system. If you type in regulations.gov and search on
41 Alaska hunting and trapping, you'll quickly be led to
42 this means of public comment. Right now there's 72
43 comments in there, and this is a nationwide system, so
44 it hasn't received an overwhelming amount of comment to
45 this point, but that's one of the openings.

46
47 We're also -- in the process we have
48 scheduled 17 public hearings across the state. We're
49 engaged in tribal consultation. There has been one
50 teleconference for tribal organizations, and another

1 scheduled for this coming Monday. There's dial-in
2 information available for that. We've also extended
3 invitations to tribes to engage in face-to-face
4 meetings and consultation on this issue.

5
6 I should mention the topics have been
7 discussed for the past five years as the Park Service
8 has implemented temporary closures. So this is a
9 logical outcome of that process. The temporary
10 closures were never an ideal situation, so here's an
11 attempt at a permanent fix to some of the impasses that
12 we find ourselves dealing with.

13
14 I would underline the fact that this is
15 a draft. This is draft regulation. It's open to
16 comment, it's open to change. At this point it's our
17 best attempt to deal with a number of complex issues,
18 and we encourage your comment and participation in the
19 process as it unfolds.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
22 members. Questions.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I've got one
27 right away. I just went to what you said, and I have
28 to do this to comment on everything in the future,
29 you're not going to hear from me much. It takes too
30 much time. And you said if you type in Alaska hunting
31 and trapping I'm going to come up with how many
32 results?

33
34 MR. FORESIC: Yeah, I went through --
35 so you're at the regulations.gov website.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yep.

38
39 MR. FORESIC: I searched on hunting and
40 trapping in Alaska. I refined it to Alaska and the top
41 one or two results was this proposed rule. It's not
42 the only means to comment, but it's one of them out
43 there. A letter or.....

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: This one says
46 206 results for Alaska hunting and trapping. Then it
47 comes up with a sea turtle. So this isn't real helpful
48 for me.

49
50 MR. FORESIC: Yeah. I'm sure you could

1 also type in -- there's an identification number for
2 the proposal package. 1024-AE21.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
5 members. Now's your chance to -- 1024-AE?

6
7 MR. FORESIC: AE21.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm not very
10 good at this.

11
12 Virgil.

13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: What I don't understand
15 is why the Park Service is not going through the normal
16 channels or process, public process, to develop the
17 regulation. So can you answer that.

18
19 MR. LARSON: I can try to answer that,
20 sir. Late last winter, early spring, we did do public
21 scoping. I know I personally travelled to Eagle and
22 spent time with Andy and Don and the community in
23 talking about these proposed -- or the idea of a
24 proposed regulations.

25
26 I'm not well positioned to talk about
27 Denali and Wrangell.

28
29 We did the same thing in Bettles and
30 that meeting was again late winter, February-ish. And
31 then similarly we conducted a meeting here in February
32 in Fairbanks, late winter, to start the conversation on
33 the public's view on these regulations.

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is really
36 frustrating to me.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes.

39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: One of the -- or a
41 number of the regulations that will be circumvented
42 were actually drafted by this RAC. And I don't want to
43 insult people, but I'm going to just tell you how I
44 look at this. Okay.

45
46 I've get a little (indiscernible - beep
47 on teleconference) I'm looking at. Medal of Honor
48 quotes.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: As you're

1 looking that up, I just want to say one thing. That
2 everyone in the room needs to hear it. It's I'm also
3 frustrated that this includes the whole State and we
4 have presenters from one park in the State. That's
5 really hard for me to understand. I don't know about
6 the rest of you guys, but you can't speak to the other
7 parks. You can only speak to the Yukon-Charley. So I
8 think you're disenfranchising us here on this, and we
9 have a December 3rd deadline. So I think that you
10 should be more aware of us and helping us through this,
11 because we're volunteers and we can't follow every
12 little thing all the time.

13

14 Virgil, go ahead.

15

16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The history of
17 our country, breaking away from Great Britain, and I
18 just read a presentation or essay, whatever you want to
19 call it, by a professor from Cornell University last
20 week, about rulemaking and bureaucratic bullying. And
21 basically it starts with the Medieval Agers in England
22 where bureaucrats, they were, of course, dukes and
23 kings and people like that, but anyway made up rules,
24 and then they formed their legislature or whatever they
25 want to call it in England, and they made laws. But
26 then these bureaucrats would make rules. And that is
27 what happened to the English Colonies, and that is why
28 our country broke away from Great Britain, England, or
29 whatever you want to call it, and we have the
30 Revolutionary War.

31

32 To me this is a failure. This action
33 is a failure of basic leadership principles. And I
34 think, or I know, that as far as leadership principles
35 goes and leadership training goes, that I have been
36 trained probably more than anyone in this room. All
37 military type training though. I was an NCO in the
38 Marine Corps. I went through the Officers Candidate
39 School, and through Officers Basic Course, Ranger's
40 School, Airborne School, Advanced Infantry Course, and
41 Commander and General Staff College. The principle of
42 leadership that is really failing here is integrity.

43

44 As I said a minute ago, I'm going to read a few quotes
45 from this book given to me by Drew Dix. I don't know
46 if you know who he is, but he got the Congressional
47 Medal of Honor as well. And he's the guy that started
48 the organization that come up with these quotes.

49

50 The first one I will read is from

1 Senator Ted Stevens good buddy, Senator Daniel Inouye
2 from Hawaii. Duty, honor, country. As long as we
3 believe in these words, our nation and democracy will
4 flourish.

5

6 This one is by Charles Hagemeister, an
7 Army officer. Integrity is when you do the right thing
8 when no one is watching.

9

10 I feel that by totally circumventing
11 the public process and circumventing ANILCA in
12 providing subsistence uses, and putting this out in the
13 manner they did so that everyone in the world can
14 comment on it over the computer when ANILCA mandates
15 that you provide for subsistence uses of people in the
16 rural areas in Alaska who in many, many places have no
17 internet, they may not have the computers or the
18 computer knowledge to properly or to comment
19 effectively, and with millions of tree-huggers out
20 there and people that don't understand the subsistence
21 way of life in Alaska, that they're going to be
22 outnumbered millions to one. They probably will be.
23 And so I feel this is a total failure of integrity.
24 That's what I feel.

25

26 And maybe -- well, I don't want to
27 insult anyone, I'm just going to say that a number of
28 these regulations that are going to be preempted were
29 written by people sitting at this table right now. And
30 we did it for a number of reasons. They were
31 deliberated by the Board of Fisheries or the Board of
32 Game, and some of them were even deliberated by the
33 Federal Subsistence Board and passed. And now they're
34 going to be preempted, more than likely, and that's
35 because of the agenda that Don Young, our Congressman,
36 told me. Him and I were having a conversation about,
37 and this was refuges though, not the Park Service --
38 but the same applies to the refuges as well, because we
39 have the identical proposed rule right here for the
40 refuge system.

41

42 Don Young told me, he says, well, you
43 know, what's really disappointing to me is that Fish
44 and Wildlife Service has been totally integrated by a
45 bunch of people that would like to disarm the American
46 public and stop hunting. He said, that's really
47 disappointing to me, but that's what has happened.

48

49 And so I believe what Congressman Young
50 told me. And this right here appears to be part of the

1 same thing. That's what it appears to me to be. And
2 it is really, really disappointing to me.

3

4 Thank you. Madame Chair.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
7 appreciate your history, Virgil.

8

9 And our Subsistence Resource Commission
10 took this up, and the Council was provided a letter
11 that we wrote. And this is a way bigger issue than you
12 can present in a few minutes here. And as we -- the
13 SRC spent a great deal of time looking at the proposed
14 rule. And you're here to get comments from us on the
15 proposed rule, which our deadline is December 3rd.

16

17 Virgil, you were speaking general, but
18 not specific to what's in the proposed rule. And as we
19 worked through

20 the proposed rule at the SRC, we noticed -- if you pick
21 up --I have a yellow copy here, but if you pick up this
22 proposed rule that we're supposed to be commenting on,
23 and you look on I think it's one, two -- third page, it
24 outlines in the middle column, in according with NPS
25 policies, taking wildlife, hunting or trapping
26 activities, or management actions involving predator
27 reduction efforts. Okay. You read on, that's one.

28

29 Two is prohibit historically illegal
30 practices. This is where our SRC took exception. We
31 don't believe this is a true statement. Prohibit
32 historically illegal practices for taking wildlife for
33 sport purposes. We felt it was inflammatory. And then
34 it goes into the black bear cubs and sows with
35 artificial light is one.

36

37 Two is taking brown bears over bait.
38 Three is taking wolves and coyotes during denning
39 season. Okay. So that was a bullet two. That's all in
40 two.

41

42 And then three is prohibit
43 intentionally obstructing or hindering persons actively
44 engaged in lawful hunting. Well, I think we were all
45 to look at that one, we'd say, great, that's wonderful.

46

47 And, four, update procedures for
48 implementing closures or restrictions in park areas,
49 including taking fish and wildlife for sport purposes
50 to more effectively engage the public.

1 Five is reflective Federal assumption
2 of management of subsistence hunting and fishing under
3 Title VIII of ANILCA. I'm not sure I really totally
4 understand what that means.

5
6 And, six, allow the use of Native
7 species to be used as bait, commonly salmon eggs, for
8 fishing.

9
10 So as you can see, there's a mixed bag
11 of things in this proposed rule. And we were very
12 upset as the SRC that, okay, you've got some things
13 here we agree on, and then a bunch of stuff that's just
14 -- we don't believe it's true, the statements are
15 inflammatory.

16
17 So what we need to do as a Council is
18 understand this is in front of us, and what we did as
19 an SRC is we asked -- we sent the letter, which you
20 should have here, to rescind and start all over and
21 work with the State. And then we created a
22 subcommittee or a working group, I'm sorry, and we plan
23 two meetings to get together and go through all of
24 this.

25
26 Now, today we have to make a decision.
27 This is our chance to comment. These are what's in the
28 proposed rule. This will become rule if we don't
29 comment on it.

30
31 So, Council members -- and, you know,
32 in my history in this State, looking at the land and
33 shoot situation back in, I don't know, 80s, 90s, this
34 looks like a similar giant wheel going down a mountain
35 that you can't stop. Park Service is first to stop the
36 free-ranging wolf, same-day-airborne, and then the Fish
37 and Wildlife Service was second. So this looks like,
38 with all the stuff that's piled on our desk here, we're
39 coming down that big wheel, million ton wheel coming
40 down a mountain at us.

41
42 So how do you want to deal with it.
43 Will.

44
45 MR. KOEHLER: Well, I guess I feel
46 that, and that is what comes to the root of this issue,
47 is I feel whether we comment on it or not, this is
48 going to become regulation. It just feels like this is
49 being brought forward not through our public process,
50 not in a spirit of working together. I'm really

1 disappointed to see policies and procedures that are
2 written down, and people spent a lot of time crafting
3 and trying to put together things like this master
4 memorandum of understanding. That's something that
5 people spent a lot of time putting together so that we
6 would have a policy of working together as is the
7 spirit, the intended spirit of ANILCA. And that
8 doesn't seem to -- the master memorandum of
9 understanding was certainly ignored in this case.

10

11 Also really disappointed again to see
12 somebody from -- nobody here from the Regional Office
13 dealing with regional issues. It seems like -- this
14 whole system seems like this regulation is being
15 railroaded on upon us, so comment doesn't seem to have
16 a great amount of value. And it just seems to be
17 disrespectful to the entire RAC system, that's to us as
18 volunteers on the RAC and to the system itself.

19

20 I think I have one last comment that is
21 not quite related, but is similar in we have letters
22 here, one from the Regional Director, and it is
23 outlining these regulations. It is cc'd to the Alaska
24 Region superintendents. And then we have another
25 letter here from somebody in the Alaska Department of
26 Fish and Game responding to Herbert Frost. And I think
27 we see -- one of the big problems that I see here is
28 that on this letter from Alaska Department of Fish and
29 Game, it's cc'd to five other individuals, all
30 connected with the State or the Alaska Department of
31 Fish and Game. On the letter from the Federal side, it
32 is cc'd to all people from the Federal side. There is
33 no sharing of information. Why do we have a letter
34 from the State that is cc'd only to people from the
35 State. That letter -- the Alaska Department of Fish
36 and Game should be cc'ing this stuff to the Federal
37 agencies and vice versa. There needs to be a spirit of
38 working cooperation for the people that you are
39 serving.

40

41 That's all. Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did I see
44 another hand. Andy. Did I miss anyone over there.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: I'm not working for some
47 reason.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I must have
50 pushed my button that I don't have. I have tela.

1 MR. BASSICH: There you go. I'm good.
2 Do we have a copy of the master memorandum of
3 agreement?

4
5 MR. KOEHLER: Nothing but an electronic
6 copy right now.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Well, I guess what
9 I see as a course of action in my mind is I tend to
10 agree with Will on this. The issue in my mind is why
11 this is being done in the manner that it's being done.
12 And I think from my perspective, what I would like to
13 do -- I don't want to get into the nuts and bolts of
14 the regulation. I would like to write a really strong
15 letter from this Council to both the State and the
16 Federal offices, and also to the Secretary of Interior
17 and Secretary of Agriculture and all of our Senators,
18 stating that we object to the way that this regulation
19 is being registered, that it hasn't followed the agreed
20 upon memorandum of agreement, and that the regulation
21 be rescinded.

22
23 And the grounds for that is basically I
24 heard you say that for four years we you were doing
25 temporary regulations. I'm wondering what's happened
26 that this has to all of a sudden happen within one
27 year. You know, if it's going to take another year and
28 a half for us to do this in the proper form to achieve
29 the same results, but do it in the proper format and
30 the proper regulations -- in the proper procedures I
31 should say, then that's the way it should be done. I
32 don't see why it's such an emergency to get this done
33 right now, and in the short time frame that it's being
34 done. So that would be my suggestion to the Council,
35 and not get into the nuts and bolts of it, because I
36 think we'll get very convoluted and we'll lose it.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But, Andy.....

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Let me finish, please.
41 We'll lose a lot of our thrust if we do that, and we're
42 basically playing the game of acknowledging that this
43 is okay. So I think we should.....

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But we're also
46 sticking our head in the sand.

47
48 MR. BASSICH: Huh?

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We're also

1 sticking our head in the sand.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Well, we can do both.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Because this is
6 going to happen. This is out. What's the chances of
7 this going away?

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. If our
10 Senators and Congressman in Washington, D.C. apply
11 pressure, that's how it gets fixed at this point in
12 time. It doesn't get fixed by us in this little room
13 in Fairbanks, Alaska.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Others. Virgil
16 and then Bill.

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I totally agree
19 with Andy. When they first started developing this
20 memorandum of understanding, I was on the Board of
21 Fish. I worked on that as a Board of Fish member. I
22 really aggregates me that all that work done by Staff
23 and by members of the Board of Fish and the Board of
24 Fish and the various people from the Office of
25 Subsistence Management, that all that work was done for
26 naught. I mean, totally circumventing the process in
27 the memorandum.

28

29 I agree with Andy. We need Congressman
30 Young and Senator Murkowski to get engaged. And I know
31 that they will get engaged. I'm positive of that, and
32 that's what needs to happen. That's the only way it's
33 going to get fixed. And that's what I think we need to
34 focus on.....

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We need
37 clarification here what we can do.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR:because otherwise
40 we could spend the rest of the day and have another two
41 days tacked onto this meeting, and we would never get
42 that addressed the way that we need to address it, if
43 we try to address each individual thing. There's only
44 one fix for this, and that has to come from the top
45 down. I totally agree with Andy.

46

47 Madame Chair.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
50 going to address that, what we can do as a RAC. And

1 we've run into this before, guys. What we can and
2 can't do. And that is, Eva?

3

4 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. Members of
5 the Council. The Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
6 Councils are governed under FACA, the Federal Advisory
7 Committee Act. Guidelines of FACA prohibit lobbying.
8 So actions of the, you know, Council drafting a letter
9 to elected representatives is not an option for the
10 Council to take. Letters can be drafted to the
11 management agencies, to the Secretary of the Interior,
12 but cannot be drafted to elected members in.....

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Can they be
15 cc'd to elected members.

16

17 MS. PATTON: I would need to check on
18 that. I'm not sure about that. I think the direction
19 of those letters to elected members is what is not
20 allowed under FACA.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Bill,
23 then Virgil.

24

25 MR. GLANZ: Well, it doesn't preclude
26 any of us from just sending our own letters and have
27 one letter stating everything and say, you know, blah-
28 blah, this or that.

29

30 But I also noticed down here it says,
31 update obsolete subsistence regulations. It also says
32 in CFR. What subsistence regulations are they going to
33 update, and how can they. Anyway, I'm writing my
34 Congressman and my Senator as soon as I get back to the
35 room. I was going to email Murkowski and Begich. They
36 seem to rely immediately when I do that, so we'll see
37 what can happen. I doubt they're going to do anything,
38 that they can overturn it, because there's too many
39 earth-huggers in Congress representing their
40 Californians. Anyway.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. You
43 sounded like you asked a question in all of that.

44

45 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I did.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And that was at
48 the bottom of this, what was the question?

49

50 MR. GLANZ: All right. The question

1 was, they said the rule would maintain long-standing
2 prohibit sporthunting and trapping practice, update
3 procedure to close an area, restrict an area, and blah-
4 blah. National Park areas. Update obsolete
5 subsistence regulations, prohibit obstructing a person
6 engaged in wildlife hunting and trapping, and authorize
7 use of native species. It's on the opening statement
8 of the CFR, and it's right above date.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: What was the
11 question.

12

13 MR. GLANZ: The question was, what is
14 update of obsolete subsistence regulations. Why is
15 that in here.

16

17 MR. FORESIC: I can answer that.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now we
20 think we have an answer to that.

21

22 MR. FORESIC: Yeah, there's -- actually
23 we have a -- there's a section of the Code of Federal
24 Regulations with some minor language updates to reflect
25 court decisions on subsistence issues in Alaska.
26 McDowell and Katie John court decisions. So there are
27 minor wording changes in a section of the CFR. We have
28 a strike-through version of that that people can see
29 that we're happy to share. It amounts to two-thirds of
30 a page, and I would say 20 percent of the wording on
31 that page has redline strike-throughs on certain
32 specific language.

33

34 MR. GLANZ: Is that in this copy I'm
35 holding right here.

36

37 MR. FORESIC: No, that's a separate
38 document. We could supply the Council with that
39 document though.

40

41 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to see it if I
42 could.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I have that.
45 So that wasn't supplied to the RAC, and I'd say that's
46 a failing on the Park Service. That stuff needs to be
47 supplied to us. How are we going to make decisions if
48 we don't see everything. That's probably why the SRC
49 -- we had the -- have you guys seen the press release,
50 too? Yeah, that's what you were reading from. That

1 really upset the SRC, because the language is
2 inflammatory and a bit misleading. A lot misleading.

3

4 So if you want to see that strikeout, I
5 have a copy of it. Do you guys want to see it before
6 this meeting's over?

7

8 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I'd like to see it.

9

10 MR. WOODRUFF: I have a question.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

13

14 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

15

16 For both Jeff and Randy, in your
17 position with the Park Service, do you feel that the
18 process with the State and with the public, including
19 the RACs, is progressing in a proper manner? Do you
20 agree with the process as representatives of the Park
21 Service, or do you have some misgivings about how some
22 of this is progressing. I'm not trying to put you in a
23 spot so that you jeopardize, you know, your position in
24 the Park Service, but is this progressing according to
25 your standards of leadership as Virgil says, or is it
26 just sort of rolling along, and even though we're
27 having a meeting on November 5th in Eagle, is that
28 going to fulfill, one, the legal requirement? I think
29 it probably does.

30

31 But what is your feelings on this.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. LARSON: That is a very difficult
36 question. Way above our level. You know, there are
37 higher discussions with Deputy Regional Director Joel
38 Hard, a friend of yours, and new Regional Director
39 Herbert Frost, and lengthy, deliberative conversations
40 with their colleagues at the State level. You know,
41 those are conversations that, you know, are well above
42 our level.

43

44 Virgil, to your reading of the quotes
45 on integrity, that is very important to me. I have
46 tried on just my brief time here to establish a rapport
47 with Andy and Don. I'm going to be going back there on
48 November 5th. Integrity is important to me. I know
49 it's important to my colleagues here.

50

1 And, Don, the process locally I can
2 answer to, but that process up at the top levels of the
3 Park Service and the State of Alaska, that's probably a
4 question that's better directed upward.

5
6 MR. KOEHLER: You are representing them
7 I think here.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, you're
10 making our heads spin right now. Just let me say
11 before I lose my train of thought, the integrity --
12 this is an example of integrity for the -- this is --
13 as Virgil says, we're not here to offend anyone in this
14 room personally. And I've had to say that often,
15 because sometimes we say things, and people are taking
16 it personally, because they work for the Park Service.
17 It's this big, giant animal out there that we're
18 talking about, we're upset about.

19
20 I'd like to know who made the decision
21 to send you two guys and not somebody from the top
22 level as you speak. Who makes that decision.

23
24 MR. FORESIC: Someone at the top level.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. See now,
29 you know what that looks like? That is where integrity
30 is lost completely.

31
32 MR. LARSON: Yeah, it's a point well
33 taken, and we'll take that message back, and not repeat
34 that again.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, my gosh, I
37 can't believe it.

38
39 MR. LARSON: Because I'm sure they
40 expected.

41
42 MR. FORESIC: You know, I want you to
43 know, we're not.....

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I mean, it
46 seems like it's on purpose. Okay. Well, we'll just
47 send these guys.

48
49 MR. FORESIC: We're versed in these
50 issues to a certain degree, and we speak on behalf of

1 the park and we speak -- or preserve, and we speak to
2 this region. And it is an appropriate level of
3 representation in a way for a Regional Advisory
4 Council.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But then we
7 need Barbara up here, and then we need the Denali up
8 here, because they're also in our region.

9
10 MR. FORESIC: Right. We can do
11 better.....

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right now we
14 just have Yukon-Charley.

15
16 MR. FORESIC: We'll do better on that
17 is what I would say. As far as my comfort level with
18 the process, it's not a perfect process, you know.
19 It's a valid criticism. I've seen lots of earnest
20 communications between the State and Federal
21 Government, between the State and the Park Service, and
22 there's an impasse. So I wish nothing more than adults
23 could get in the same room and come out with some
24 decisions on these things, but it's not playing out
25 that way.

26
27 I think the public process I've
28 participated in has been honest and earnest. We're
29 vigorously reaching out to communities, holding public
30 hearings, and we're listening, we're documenting those
31 comments.

32
33 Virgil made a good point earlier about
34 the electronic communications. That's just one
35 additional channel for the public to provide input on
36 this. It's a Federal law, so we're obliged to take
37 comments from the whole country, but it's not a vote.
38 If we receive 10,000 emails in a form letter, those are
39 not 10,000 votes for a certain position. The thing
40 that carries weight in this process are considered
41 substantive comments, particularly from people live in
42 rural communities in Alaska. So we're committed to
43 that.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'd like to
46 give some more before it leaves my brain, because I'm
47 getting senioritis really bad.

48
49 The process. I've been told by some
50 people in the Park who I highly respect that this is

1 one of the reasons it came to final rule, was that the
2 Park Service went to the Board of Game and asked for
3 some of these -- to make special exceptions on parks
4 and preserves. Or preserves. Whatever it was. They
5 went to the Board of Game, and the Board of Game said,
6 do it through your own process, and that's why we went
7 down this road with, you know, the compendium and now
8 this.

9

10 But I would argue that that's isn't the
11 -- that's at the top level. It's not here. I would
12 argue that you start it with the people that it affects
13 first, not go to the top first. That would be my
14 argument against that being we're going through our own
15 rule here. And I'll tell you why. Because in this,
16 what might work -- if you go back to the history of
17 some of these regulations that were put in place by the
18 State that's in here that we're arguing, it doesn't
19 work by region. Like taking of black bear cub and sows
20 by artificial light might not work in our region, but
21 it might work where it was intended to work to start
22 with. So putting it all in one and not letting us do
23 it, there's where the failing was. We should have
24 started region-by-region where these things are and
25 worked through that region in that regional area, and
26 say, okay, that does work in this region.

27

28 So I would argue that we lost the
29 public process. It went right to the top instead of
30 starting at the bottom. Would you guys agree with
31 that?

32

33 MR. KOEHLER: Absolutely.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's a
36 failing. And I think I see it already coming down with
37 the Fish and Wildlife Service. It's starting at the
38 top and we're going to be left completely. And then
39 we're going to say, okay, you have until December 3rd
40 to comment. Here it is. Proposed rule. Go for it,
41 fans. And then add stuff that you agree in inside it
42 that -- and you don't want to go down it one at a time,
43 but the thing is, if we don't have something on record,
44 they don't have anything to go by from what we -- our
45 opportunity to comment.

46

47 Will.

48

49 MR. KOEHLER: It doesn't seem like our
50 opportunity to comment really has a lot of meaning in

1 this case with this process.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But I'm also
4 told by people in the State that we in rural Alaska are
5 the ones that need to speak out.

6

7 Andy.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Why can't our comment on
10 this be that we don't approve of the methodology or the
11 manner in which it's taking place? Why can't that be
12 our comment? Why do we have to comment on each bullet
13 point on it? I think if you comment -- if our comment
14 to what they're asking us for is that we don't approve
15 of the way they've conducted this, because they're not
16 following the proper procedures set up by them, agreed
17 to by them and by the State, that's way stronger than
18 saying, we don't agree with you changing this so that
19 you can't snare bears on bait or something like that.
20 That's way stronger of a statement on what this
21 regulation is.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Now, if we had
24 somebody at the top telling us that we're just going to
25 go ahead with this regardless of what you say, then I'd
26 say that's a problem, but I don't have anybody from the
27 top telling me that.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, but it sets a
30 precedent. I think it sets a precedent, and it also
31 allows -- it's on the record then, and it's something
32 for those that have much greater power than we do to
33 sink their teeth in when they're addressing this at a
34 higher level.

35

36 MR. KOEHLER: It's also something the
37 public will understand better.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Because that's the key
40 issue for me.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's the key issue
45 for me, too. It's nothing more than bureaucratic
46 bullying. I don't know who in the hierarchy had
47 directed these guys to be here. I know they don't want
48 to be here telling us this.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's someone up there
2 wherever they're at, but that person needs a reality
3 check. They have circumvented the public process.
4 They've totally circumvented it, and it looks like the
5 refuges are going to do the same thing. And so who's
6 next? BLM? Currently BLM just goes along with
7 whatever the Board of Game passes and the Board of
8 Fish. But Fish and Wildlife Service doesn't
9 necessarily do that, and the Park Service darn sure
10 doesn't do that. And so we all know what's going to
11 happen in the future. The only thing we can do is
12 write the Secretaries and tell them we are really upset
13 that the process was not followed. I think that's the
14 strongest thing, like Andy said.

15
16 And then as individuals we can contact
17 the people in Washington, D.C. or that work there that
18 are from Alaska. And I know that in the past they've
19 cut budgets and done other things, and the best way to
20 get to agencies is cut the hell out of the budget
21 whether it's State, Federal or whatever. That's the way
22 you get to them.

23
24 Madame Chair.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I totally agree
27 with you guys, but I guess I'm a realistic, too. I
28 hate to be pessimistic, but sometimes I think that you
29 do need to comment on some of this stuff, and that's we
30 as the SRC made a working group to get 'er done by
31 December 3rd with a lot of input. And we did write our
32 letter.

33
34 And so I want to know before we go
35 forward, did Tom tell you if we can cc the selected
36 officials.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
39 We are doublechecking with the office.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So we don't
42 know yet.

43
44 MS. PATTON: We don't know yet. My
45 understanding is even indirectly that it would not be
46 allowed, but we are going to reconfirm so that we get
47 that from one of the folks that can check
48 (indiscernible).....

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do we have an

1 answer, Tom. No answer yet. Okay.
2
3 Okay. Moving forward. Will. Did you
4 lose it?
5
6 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, I lost it.
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: When it happens
9 to someone that young, I don't feel so bad.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
14
15 MR. KOEHLER: Oh, I got it now.
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, he got it
18 back. And then Andy.
19
20 MR. KOEHLER: I think it would be a --
21 if the SRC wants to make a point by point analysis of
22 this, I think that would be fine. But I think the
23 message from this RAC should be a really, really strong
24 no, not a no, but we'll look at it.
25
26 Thank you.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So do
29 you -- this letter is very important, guys, and what's
30 in it. We have to have a lot of things that we talked
31 about in it. Do you feel comfortable writing that
32 letter for us? Do we need to look at it before we --
33 at the end of the day?
34
35 MR. KOEHLER: Yes.
36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So we'd like --
38 maybe at lunch, I'm going to appoint a bunch of you to
39 get together with Eva.
40
41 MR. KOEHLER: I'll do it.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Who's all
44 volunteering. Will, Andy. You're pretty outspoken,
45 are you going to be part of this. With this letter.
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Were we going to go to
48 other lunch meeting? Because this is going to be a
49 topic there.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I wonder
2 what's more important right now.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, they're both
5 important.
6
7 MR. KOEHLER: Have them come here.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, let's
10 schedule it differently. What time is your lunch
11 meeting?
12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: 12:00 o'clock.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So we can have
16 ours at one.
17
18 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair.
19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Andy.
21
22 MR. BASSICH: Well, this letter doesn't
23 have -- I guess the only thing we'd have to do is draft
24 this letter and then make sure it circulates to all the
25 Council members. I think if we all agree that we want
26 to send this letter, then it can be circulated and
27 approved by the Council members. I don't think we have
28 the timeline that it has to be done by the end of our
29 meeting right now as long as we agree that we want to
30 send this letter. And Council members are interested
31 in seeing it before -- in draft form before it's
32 finalized and sent out, I think that would meet the
33 needs, because we have until December what, 3rd, 4th or
34 5th. So I would rather not rush it. I would rather
35 see some time spent on this and do it right than to
36 just do something quickly over lunch and maybe miss a
37 key element that we need to include.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'd like to
40 make sure everything that was brought out at this
41 meeting is in it. Everything, and then we don't miss
42 anything.
43
44 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
45 There's a couple ways we can do it. We can meet over
46 lunch and draft that letter. The other option for the
47 Council is to have a motion to draft the letter so that
48 it's clear who the letter would be drafted to, the
49 basic intent of the letter in the motion, and to form a
50 working group, and I can follow up with those

1 individuals of you to refine the content of the letter.
2 I have my notes, and we'll have transcripts from the
3 meeting to include the dialogue that was in there, and
4 then it can be refined at a later date. But we would
5 just need that action from the Council in support of
6 the general content of the letter and what was
7 discussed on the record here today.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. GLANZ: I really don't understand
12 draft a letter. I think you say, hell, no, we don't
13 like it, we don't want it to happen. I mean, let's
14 real. That's what we're all saying sitting around
15 here.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I wish it
18 worked that way.

19

20 MR. GLANZ: I understand that.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Then we'd get a
23 lot done, and we wouldn't have to spend all this
24 volunteer time.

25

26 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. I have to tell you a
27 little story. I brought that up with a bunch of
28 members, and somebody said, well, yeah, it's just going
29 for sporthunting, that don't affect any of us. I said,
30 no, you're right, because the Nazi first they got the
31 -- first they took away the teachers, then they took
32 away the Jews, and the next thing you know they're
33 coming for you. So that's my idea when this shit
34 happens.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But, see, your
37 mind -- look, guys, your mind is on one issue where
38 they're taking away some sporthunting, but it's not all
39 that's in there. There's this thing about bait, using
40 -- there's all these other issues in there. So I can
41 -- if you were in Washington, D.C. and you say, oh, no,
42 but hell no, you wouldn't know what you were talking,
43 that person. They're the ones that does everything.
44 So you've got to have it together here.

45

46 MR. GLANZ: I understand that, Madame
47 Chair. But like you say, they're insulting us here
48 with a lot of these changing the rules and regulations
49 for subsistence uses of national park lands.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Just
2 to.....

3
4 MR. FIRMIN: I have a question.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

7
8 MR. FIRMIN: What's the exact timeline
9 and procedure for this proposed rule to follow up.

10
11 MR. LARSON: Comments can be received
12 through December 3rd. All those comments will go
13 through review. As Jeff indicated, substantive
14 comments are more important than volume of comments.
15 Those will be reviewed in the Regional Office. They in
16 turn will be sent up to Washington for Washington
17 review, and even Department of Interior review. And I
18 would suspect well into next year after that review and
19 process is completed, a decision will come out of that
20 entire review and process.

21
22 MR. FIRMIN: So there will be no other
23 chance to comment after the ROD comes out, or it will
24 just be the record of decision and that's final after
25 D.C. gets their hands on it and blasts through their
26 departments.

27
28 MR. LARSON: You can tell with my body
29 language here I'm a little lethe to say if that will be
30 a decision and whether there's opportunity for comment
31 on that decision. I'm not entirely clear on that.

32
33 MR. FIRMIN: When was the whole process
34 of this start, and why wasn't there comments -- because
35 I'd almost like -- I thought there was a whole lot of
36 due process involved with proposed rules of the Federal
37 Register and why no members of the public were involved
38 before these proposed rules were actually printed. Or
39 I've never seen anything of it, and it seems kind of
40 funny that the first time I've seen it was like today,
41 and, here, you have two months to read this and figure
42 it out your opinion and comments, and that's your final
43 chance. I mean, when was.....

44
45 MR. LARSON: Yeah, I can't, you know,
46 comment on the entire breadth of the state. As I
47 indicated earlier, I went to Eagle and there was
48 spirited debate there within the Eagle community. And
49 it was great insights for me, hearing the local issues,
50 hearing history on the Preserve, hearing about Han

1 practices in that area relevant to bears. It was a
2 pretty spirited public process that we had there. And
3 so I know here in Yukon-Charley we have done our best,
4 sir, to go out and meet with the community.

5
6 MR. FIRMIN: How about Circle. Was
7 Circle ever approached?

8
9 MR. LARSON: I did not make a visit to
10 Circle myself.

11
12 MR. FIRMIN: I personally kind of, not
13 to, I don't know, be offensive either, but I'd like to
14 reiterate what Virgil said, and I kind of find it
15 offensive that it states right in here that the rule
16 will not have a substantial direct affect on any
17 Federally-qualified Indian tribe. Well, I live 50
18 miles from this place and travel there on a fairly
19 regular basis in the summer, and I know the people in
20 Circle and Eagle much more often, because you can see
21 the Park for the riverbank in Circle pretty much. And
22 I just don't think -- just stating that, and working
23 directly for an Indian tribe, and I've never seen this
24 come across my desk, and I know plenty of people that
25 go there and hunt that are tribal members from Fort
26 Yukon and Fairbanks, that live in Fairbanks, but are
27 still tribal members. And to say that there's no
28 direct effect from this on them is kind of offensive.
29 And it's also offensive to say that, you know, being
30 that the Park's only been around for 30 years, and the
31 State's only been around for 50, that our hunting
32 practices have been illegal for years, it's kind of
33 funny that it's only been a rule that was recently
34 made, you know. It's kind of like calling me a crook
35 and insubstantial. It's almost funny that this has
36 finally come across my table today, and I work with
37 this stuff on a regular basis. It's my job, and I also
38 do it voluntarily, so I just had to put that on the
39 table for you guys.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I've got
42 two hands, and you must have wanted to respond to that.

43
44 MR. FORESIC: I could make a quick
45 response there. Yeah, I hope that people -- I hear you
46 loud and clear that some of this language seems stark
47 and could be offensive. That's a message we're getting
48 very clearly. This is a legal document, and nobody is
49 trying to say that any of these practices are illegal
50 or unethical. It's simply a fact of the record that

1 for decades these three hunting practices that we're
2 proposing to prohibit were illegal. They were not
3 allowed under State law for decades. And it was only
4 in the last 10 years or so that these rules were
5 relaxed for preserve lands. So those -- we're trying
6 to.....

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's a matter
9 of interpretation, wouldn't you agree, Andrew? Yeah.

10

11 Donald.

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. Last year we
14 had Joel Hard here, and we were discussing the
15 compendiums, and a lot of these regulations were in the
16 compendium, and we asked him, is the process that's
17 going to continue, to put it in the compendium, and
18 then we can comment on it, and then we get a proposed
19 compendium, then we get a final compendium. And his
20 comment was that he didn't want it to go to rule as it
21 is now. And I'm surprised that you guys are one of his
22 direct people aren't here to comment on that, because
23 now we hear that this is now going to be a fact whether
24 we like it or not. And I think that, as Andy says, if
25 we can send a letter out saying that what's the rush to
26 move this process forward when it's been in compendium
27 and people have been responding to it for years now.
28 Why December the 3rd. That's my point. Why rush
29 through this and not get a complete response from the
30 public. I know there's not a lot of people in Eagle
31 that are responding, and there probably won't be a lot
32 of people at the November meeting, but at least we have
33 a process that gives us a voice, and I've got to say
34 that's a good thing, you know, that you guys are going
35 to some to Eagle. But like Andrew says, you know,
36 where is the public meeting in Circle and Central.
37 Because all these people are users of the resources, or
38 were.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil and then
43 Will.

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madame
46 Chair.

47

48 Is there -- I don't even know if you
49 guys have any idea whose idea all this was to begin
50 with, but is there someone like Joel Hard, he's the

1 deputy director or deputy regional director or
2 something. Number 2 person, right? Is he available,
3 or the number 1 person so we can ask them.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Direct
6 questions.

7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Directly. Direct
9 questions. Can we get them on the phone.

10
11 MR. LARSON: Public servants are just
12 that, and, you know, per Don's comment there, yes, they
13 are available.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think we
16 should have them available right now.

17
18 MR. LARSON: Well, if that was the
19 tease out there on the question or the probing on the
20 question, for clarity there, I do not know if they are
21 available, you know, at this hour. But I thought the
22 question was intended, are they available to answer
23 some of these questions, and, Madame Chair, I would
24 presume as my phone, as any public servant's phone,
25 yes, they are available to be reached.

26
27 Virgil, to your question, are they
28 available right now, I have no idea.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Maybe we should
31 check. Can we do that? I think the Council's
32 interested.

33
34 MR. ROBERTS: I think we should just
35 call them right now and not ask people that are working
36 below them. Just call them right now and put them on
37 the spot, right on the teleconference right here.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All agree.

40
41 (Council nods affirmatively)

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yep, I think we
44 should try to get them on the phone.

45
46 Oh, Will, did you have anything else
47 right now?

48
49 MR. KOEHLER: No.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. I have a
4 motion for writing that letter if you'd like to follow
5 that course while we're trying to get someone on the
6 phone.
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We could do
9 that, but if we have any additions after getting them
10 on the phone, we could still do that, right?
11
12 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, it's up to you. I
13 just wanted to let you know I'm prepared to make a
14 motion for writing that letter at any time it suits
15 you.
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do you want to
18 do it now, guys.
19
20 MR. KOEHLER: One question.
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go ahead.
23
24 MR. KOEHLER: One question. In that
25 through the motion do we have to specify in the motion
26 now who we're sending that letter to.
27
28 MR. BASSICH: I've got a pretty broad
29 range here.
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. We're
32 trying also to get an answer if we can cc our elected
33 officials. Do we have an answer.
34
35 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
36 We did get an answer to doublecheck on that. cc'ing is
37 also not allowed to elected officials. It would be an
38 indirect way of corresponding, or making that.....
39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I've got
41 a fun question for you then. Can I, Sue Entsminger,
42 who is a member of a RAC, who has access to that
43 letter, can I say, okay, I went to send this to -- me
44 personally, Sue, is going to send -- I've got a copy of
45 this letter, and I'm going to send it to them.
46
47 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
48 The Council members as a representative of the
49 Council.....
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Cannot.
2
3 MS. PATTON: Cannot individually
4 represent the Council. Each of you as individuals
5 representing yourselves or representing your other
6 capacity either with the tribe or your community, can
7 draft your own letter.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But doesn't
10 that RAC letter become public domain?
11
12 MS. PATTON: The RAC letter does become
13 public domain. It's a public letter, but it cannot be
14 directed to the elected officials, you know, as a RAC
15 member representing the RAC to forward it to those
16 elected officials.
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But somebody
19 else could.
20
21 MR. BASSICH: We have personal rights
22 are all the same, but as a RAC representative, anything
23 affiliated with RAC business, we're not allowed to.
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So short
26 answer, me providing that letter just from me is no.
27
28 MR. KOEHLER: No, I don't believe
29 that's correct. What she's saying is that you cannot
30 have the letter addressed to an elected official, but
31 there's nothing saying that you can't -- we can draft
32 the letter and then send it to the elected officials,
33 as long as it's not addressed to them.
34
35 MS. PATTON: I just want to try to
36 clarify for the Council as well. If you are acting on
37 your own, then you are representing yourselves, or what
38 other capacity that you are officially representing.
39 You cannot as a Council member act on your own and
40 represent the Council. Those actions have to come as
41 an Council in a public forum. If that helps clarify.
42
43 MR. BASSICH: Sue Entsminger from
44 Mentasta, Alaska is allowed to contact her
45 representative in any manner she sees she wants to, but
46 once you start contacting them on behalf of the RAC or
47 as a RAC chairman or a RAC Council member, you may not
48 do that. That's my understanding.
49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So

1 somebody from Mentasta, not Sue Entsminger, to a copy
2 of that letter, they can send it, because it's a public
3 document. Okay.

4
5 So are we prepared -- do we want to
6 have.....

7
8 MR. KOEHLER: Could we have a recess so
9 we could take a look at that list to see who we're
10 sending this to.

11
12 MR. BASSICH: Well, that can take place
13 during the debate.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do you want to
16 have a motion now, or do you want to talk to Joel Hard
17 or somebody from Anchorage office first.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let's have a motion
20 first.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Motion first is
23 suggested.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 I hope this helps and I hope we don't get wrapped
27 around the axle. I'm going to try and keep this fairly
28 clear.

29
30 The motion is to write a letter to OSM,
31 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service,
32 and that would include all of the parts of the Federal
33 agencies on the Federal Board, the State of Alaska, the
34 Secretary of Interior, and the Secretary of
35 Agriculture, to formally and aggressively object to the
36 circumvention of due process -- public process and
37 circumventing of the agreed upon master MOU between the
38 State of Alaska and all Federal agencies in regard to
39 the new regulation for fish and wildlife. And part B
40 of that would be further we request that the proposed
41 regulation be rescinded and all agreed upon procedures
42 be followed to further this regulation.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.

45
46 MR. KOEHLER: Could I make an amendment
47 to that motion, that I think since this is a violation
48 of public due process, that I think the public should
49 be made aware of this, and this letter should be cc'd
50 to some newspapers within our region and in the State.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm not suer if
2 that comes under lobbying or not.

3

4 MR. KOEHLER: No.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

7

8 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's all covered in
9 the memorandum of understanding who gets the public
10 noticing and all that stuff. That's all part of the
11 Administrative Procedures Act. The First Amendment to
12 the United States Constitution.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So the motion
15 -- you were proposing an amendment, and you're saying
16 it's not necessary?

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
21 have a motion on the floor. Discussion.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Yes. So I guess just to
24 support it, basically I'm going to reference all of the
25 previous discussion on this topic, and basically this
26 letter is there to object to the procedures taking
27 place that have been circumvented, and not so much to
28 really talk about in this letter each individual bullet
29 point that we object to. It's more on the
30 circumvention of the procedures that are agreed upon
31 between the Federal agencies and the State of Alaska,
32 and requesting that this be rescinded, this regulation
33 be rescinded until such time that the proper procedures
34 for submitting a new regulation for fish and wildlife
35 be taken place.

36

37 Madame Chair.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: More
40 discussion. Virgil.

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, the proper
43 procedure is for it to go through the Federal
44 Subsistence Board, and so that's what needs to happen,
45 not just make up rules.

46

47 Madame Chair.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Other
50 discussion.

1 MR. BASSICH: I guess if I may, just to
2 help us with the procedures, the way we would do this
3 would be a few members of the Council here would sit
4 with Eva and help draft this letter, and then hopefully
5 this letter could be submitted to all the Council
6 members in a draft form for comment or whatever. And
7 then once it's approved by the Council -- well, we
8 would be approving sending this letter, but the ability
9 to make comment on the letter would still go to all the
10 different RAC members before we would submit this
11 letter.

12
13 So just trying to help with how we
14 would do this. So this motion is basically agreeing to
15 send the letter. It's not necessarily going to contain
16 -- the motion's not going to contain all of the content
17 of the letter. I just want to be very clear about
18 that.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
21 discussion.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But I still
26 want to take note we're requesting you guys to call and
27 we'd still have some questions for someone in the
28 Anchorage office.

29
30 MR. HARD: Madame Chair.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, do I have
33 someone on line.

34
35 MR. HARD: Madame Chair. This is Joel
36 Hard with the National Park Service in the Regional
37 Office.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, thank you
40 for coming on board. I think Barbara probably sent you
41 a text message.

42
43 MR. HARD: Yeah, I got pulled out of a
44 different meeting to come address the Board -- or
45 address the Council. I'm happy to do so.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. There's
48 been some questions, that we are very concerned that
49 just the Yukon-Charley people are presenting this
50 proposed rule, and a lot of discussion came up here

1 this morning. So there's some more questions that
2 people wanted to ask.

3
4 Who's first.

5
6 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: Procedurally we have a
11 motion on the table and really we either have to table
12 or we should vote on that and then take care.....

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: This could
15 still come under discussion on this. Right now we have
16 a motion to write a letter on the floor, and we're in
17 discussion on that motion, and it's regarding the
18 proposed rule and how we're handling it. And I'm going
19 to look at this as discussion with you.

20
21 So questions from the Council to some
22 of these concerns we said earlier. Who's first. Bill.

23
24 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Joel, this is Bill
25 Glanz.

26
27 Say, we were just wondering why there's
28 such a hurry on this, being December 3rd, where this is
29 the only meeting we have a chance to discuss this, and
30 we'd like to see if we can get an extension on that to
31 begin with.

32
33 And then we really don't really agree
34 with the changes they're making on them, mainly with
35 the subsistence stuff. They were scratching out and
36 lining out stuff where I can't even see why it was done
37 there, but anyhow, thanks for calling us.

38
39 MR. HARD: Through the Chair. Let me
40 just quickly respond to that, you know, in a way that,
41 you know, saves a little bit of time for you folks.

42
43 Obviously there's a comment period
44 underway where there's 17 public meetings for people to
45 issue comments, and we encourage everybody to do that.

46
47
48 The Park office in Yukon-Charley, Gates
49 were asked to present these as updates to agency
50 business to RACs and SRCs around the State, and so

1 that's why you don't see a regional presence there.

2

3 There will be likely a presence by the
4 Regional Office at a number of the public meetings. I
5 just attended the first one myself in Palmer last
6 night.

7

8 But let me just describe that this is
9 not something that's been rushed through. For the
10 better part of five years we've been working with the
11 State over some narrow issues in which we have some
12 disagreement by policy and by law. And what we've done
13 in the past is tried to address those in a temporary
14 fashion through the compendia process. And we've been
15 criticized for doing that. We've been criticized that
16 we should be using the rulemaking process. I've had
17 personal conversations with Board members, Board of
18 Game members, as well as the State of Alaska, trying to
19 make people clear that it's our desire that the State
20 would resolve these differences through a discretionary
21 provision of the Intensive Management Law in particular
22 for some of these harvest liberalization issues,
23 because if we go through a rulemaking, a Federal
24 rulemaking, that's a permanent fix. And so we've taken
25 our time about getting to that. We have four years of
26 temporary closures with continual criticism that we
27 should be moving forward with a rulemaking.

28

29 And so in January I presented the
30 proposal that you see now to the Department of Interior
31 for approval. And that took from January to September
32 to get approved. And so we're in the process that
33 we're in, and I don't get to control all of that, but I
34 have to respond to it. And so we've taken a very
35 aggressive approach to get that out in public meetings
36 to the public and engage them.

37

38 It's not a final rule by any stretch of
39 the imagination. We want the public's input so we can
40 improve upon it. But it is in response to criticisms
41 that we should be using this very process instead of
42 temporary closures to resolve legal and policy
43 differences with the State of Alaska. So I hope that
44 explains it, or at least gives context.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Will.

47

48 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you, Joel for
49 taking time to speak with us here.

50

1 I think what we're really seeing here
2 that is disturbing the RAC is the whole nature of the
3 regulation and the way it's being put forth. The
4 regulation itself takes a lot of consultation with the
5 State. It takes a lot of those requirements out, at
6 least according to -- at least by my understanding of
7 reading it here. And the way this regulations has been
8 put forth with no -- without following the basic
9 process of procedure of communication with the State,
10 specifically through our master memorandum of
11 understanding, that disturbs us.

12
13 And in this particular setting, we've
14 had the desire to speak to someone like yourself,
15 someone at the top of the Park Service instead of this
16 issue, which is a statewide issue, being brought -- or
17 regionwide issue, being brought forth and represented
18 by two individuals who work out of one park, which is
19 only a small part of our region.

20
21 So I guess what we're seeing here, and
22 forgive us if we're misunderstanding the intention, but
23 it appears to be circumventing the public process,
24 especially with communication with the State. And it
25 appears to be kind of disrespectful to the RAC system
26 that we have, just because this is a regionwide issue
27 that is well-known, some of the topics involved inside
28 of it, and the way it's being presented, well-known to
29 be, you know, hot topics of discussion. And with this
30 broad regional rule coming out, we think that should
31 have been represented by someone from the Regional
32 Office.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MR. HARD: Through the Chair. That's a
37 fair criticism. And I will take that to heart.

38
39 I will say that we did not present it
40 to the RAC or RACs in a more preliminary way, because
41 it addresses a sporthunting activity, and it's not part
42 of the Federal process.

43
44 But let me get back a little bit to the
45 consultation part of the discussion, and the criticism
46 in particular, and it's something that I take very
47 seriously. I've been in this chair for a little over
48 two years, and have been interacting with the State of
49 Alaska on this discussion between how management of
50 wildlife by their laws enacted by the Legislature and

1 our expectations established by Congress and the policy
2 of the National Park Service have differed. And those
3 have not been easy consultations and discussions.

4

5 But in late 2013, because we couldn't
6 come to agreement at the local level, and by that I
7 mean by the Regional Office here, formal interactions
8 were closed by the State of Alaska. I have
9 interactions by the director of Wildlife conservation,
10 but the deputy commissioner, and the commissioner
11 herself that refuse to have a dialogue on these issues,
12 and interacted with the Washington office of the
13 director.

14

15 And in the interim period, we have
16 reached out to the State to resolve issues regarding
17 compendia and other issues, but there was a conscious
18 and stated position by the State of Alaska that they
19 wanted to wait to interact with the regional director,
20 who was delayed getting to Alaska until very early
21 October. But as soon as the regulation was approved by
22 the Department of Interior, he reached out to the
23 Department from Washington and began a discourse with
24 them.

25

26 But I was essentially prevented from
27 doing so, but that does not halt the responsibility of
28 an organization to move forward on requirements of law
29 and policy. And I will say again that I have a number
30 of communications from the State requiring or stating
31 or demanding that we use the rulemaking process to
32 resolve these differences.

33

34 And so it's not sufficient to put the
35 burden of consultation solely on the National Park
36 Service or to blame the National Park Service for the
37 lack of communication. That there are two parties to
38 that.

39

40 I wish they had not deteriorated. It's
41 important to me that we maintain those conversations
42 and those consultations, and we don't take that
43 lightly. I have not taken that lightly. But I can't
44 stress to you that this has been a difficult subject
45 for people, and they felt.....

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Joel, if I can
48 interrupt, this is the Chair, Sue.

49

50 I want to point out that what came as

1 part of this meeting that you did not hear is a concern
2 that between the State and the Federal people working
3 together some of this stuff is regional, it's not
4 statewide, some of the issues that are contentious.
5 And we feel like you're better off working -- start
6 working with the people in the communities, in the
7 rural areas, or the regional areas. And I don't think
8 that was done like it could have been. I think there's
9 a lot of things going to be missed, because this has
10 been gone to the top first and not, you know, like the
11 Board of Game and Park Service going, and you working
12 with the Commissioner and that. If we were working
13 with the local Fish and Game Advisory Committees and
14 the local Fish and Game people, and then the local
15 people in those, you know, local Federal people, you'd
16 get a lot more done than starting at the top. And I
17 think that's where this also has failed. And I wish
18 you'd have heard some of that discussion here this
19 morning.

20

21 Will.

22

23 MR. VINCENT LANG: This is Doug Vincent
24 Lang. If I could just say something in response to
25 something I just heard.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
28 ahead. Doug Vincent Lang is the.....

29

30 MR. VINCENT LANG: Wildlife director.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER:director
33 of wildlife for ADF&G. Go ahead, Doug.

34

35 MR. VINCENT LANG: We haven't cut off
36 communications on these issues. Instead what we have
37 asked is in response, request for further communication
38 is some (indiscernible - breaking up) back to the call
39 for metric that we've had from day one on comments,
40 provided over 200 pages of comments the last several
41 years on these regulation package in front of us. And
42 rather than erring to more discussion, we've suggested
43 that an appropriate way to begin those discussions
44 would be to have the Park Service provide us meaningful
45 responses back to our previous comments, because if
46 it's just talking about philosophies without some
47 metrics to guide those discussions, we haven't seen a
48 lot of value in that. But we have not closed
49 communication with the Park Service on these. Instead,
50 we've just simply asked for responses to those metrics.

1 And the second one I'll take on is that
2 these are not (indiscernible - breaking up) some of the
3 regulations that are being crafted here are not
4 predator control program. If they target predators,
5 because they're on predators, but they are not predator
6 control programs. Just because there's a regulation
7 that involves the take of a bear or a coyote does not
8 mean that that regulation is predator control. And, in
9 fact, you know, the taking of bears out of dens, which
10 was requested by local users in the area to accommodate
11 a customary and traditional practice, and that they
12 will pass that culture and tradition on, does not make
13 it a predator control program. If in fact it was, we
14 failed miserably as a State, because the total harvest
15 has been less than five bears over the three or four
16 years that that program has been in place.

17
18 So it's a mischaracterization to say
19 that the State is actively promoting predator control
20 what Joel calls sporthunting regulations. In fact,
21 they're general hunting regulations, they're not
22 sporthunting in the State of Alaska. They're general
23 hunting regulations whereby people practice customary
24 and traditional practices underneath those hunting
25 practices.

26
27 So I just wanted to make it clear that
28 we are open to further dialogue with the Park Service
29 on these, that as part of those discussions, we need to
30 have responses, meaningful responses to our past
31 requests for metrics that would help guide those
32 discussions.

33
34 Thank you, Sue.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
37 Doug.

38
39 Will, did you have your hand up just a
40 second ago.

41
42 MR. KOEHLER: He swept me away.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.
45 Andy.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. This is Andy
48 Bassich.

49
50 I would like to know if there's a

1 process in which -- what this Council is concerned
2 about is the speed and the lack of consultation and our
3 ability to comment on these regulations as a Federal
4 representatives or Federal Council members here. We're
5 trying to represent Federal users on Federal lands and
6 locally rural people.

7
8 And what we're feeling like is that
9 this -- we haven't been given a chance as a RAC to
10 really fully look at this and have a reasonable
11 timeframe to comment on it. We're meeting right now.
12 We won't be able to comment formally on this again as a
13 RAC. And what we're asking for is that this be
14 rescinded and that the proper memorandum of agreement
15 as far as procedures be followed. We don't feel that
16 this is something that has to be on such a fast track
17 to be passed.

18
19 And we feel like you've done a good job
20 of stating your position, and I'm speaking as the
21 National Park Service, in having temporary closures for
22 the last three or four years. And we don't see why we
23 would need to all of a sudden have this regulation put
24 in place without due process throughout the region,
25 especially throughout the region to have a full
26 dialogue on this, both with the State and with local
27 representatives.

28
29 So I guess what I'm asking is, is there
30 a process for you to delay the procedures that are in
31 place right now so that you can return to the proper
32 procedures for public comment.

33
34 MR. HARD: Through the Chair, this is
35 Joel. Is that a question for me, correct?

36
37 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry, did
40 you hear the yes.

41
42 MR. HARD: No, I didn't. I'm sorry,
43 Madame Chair.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: My apologies.
46 I had my mic turned off and you can't hear it. Go
47 ahead.

48
49 MR. HARD: Through the public comment
50 period we will receive comments. And I'm aware of a

1 previous letter written I believe by a Subsistence
2 Resource Commission requesting that the reg be
3 rescinded. I'm not in a position to tell you whether
4 that would be rescinded or not. I would recommend that
5 if you feel that a letter is necessary to convey that
6 expectation to the Secretary, that that letter should
7 get sent and be evaluated and responded to.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You might have
10 evaded what really you know. This is Sue.

11

12 What is the likelihood that it would be
13 rescinded? Can you answer that or not.

14

15 MR. HARD: I can't answer that
16 question.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Who could.

19

20 MR. HARD: The Secretary of the
21 Interior can I suppose.

22

23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Maybe we should
24 call him.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's been
27 suggested we call the Secretary of Interior.

28

29 MR. HARD: Let me clarify. Let me
30 clarify. You know, I believe strongly the National
31 Park Service has exercised due process, and this
32 regulation was proposed and evaluated by the Department
33 of the Interior and approved by the Secretary to go
34 through the process it's in. It's not my decision to
35 withdraw it.

36

37 And the public by their comments about
38 the merits of the rule or the process under which the
39 rule was presented to the public is subject to support
40 and criticisms. And those need to be heard.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Will, did you
43 have something.

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have a question.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I keep telling
48 everybody I get senioritis. If I don't ask the
49 question, I might lose it.

50

1 Earlier the Yukon-Charley Staff said
2 that you'll analyze this, and you have to have some
3 sustan -- I can't even say it, substantive comments.
4 Can you explain that.

5
6 MR. HARD: Well, substantive comments,
7 Madame Chair, are comments that help us to refine the
8 rule and improve upon the rule, or to consider our
9 position on the rule. People smarter than me are
10 probably going to do that.

11
12 But, you know, I guess I would say,
13 having been through the closure process for the last
14 four years, I remember the first year we presented, the
15 determinations was made for the closures in written
16 form to give the public an impression of what the
17 public -- or what the Park Service is contemplating.
18 And in a subsequent year we were criticized for that,
19 so we didn't present written determinations of need as
20 we engaged the public on proposed closures, and we were
21 criticized for that. So then presented written
22 determinations of need again to help inform those
23 conversations better.

24
25 From the beginning we've been
26 confronted with something that is difficult for us to
27 reconcile the conflict. And we've been responding to
28 the State and public expectations for how we move those
29 conversations forward in thoughtful ways.

30
31 And this rulemaking is aggravating for
32 some people, it's not aggravating for others. But it's
33 a proposed rule, and much like the determinations of
34 need in the earlier closures, it gives the public, it
35 gives you and it gives others a very clear impression
36 of what is in the National Park Service's mind as it
37 proposes how to move forward. But it's not a certain
38 rule, it's not a finished rule, and it needs and
39 demands public input to decide how it can be improved,
40 or if it could be withdrawn by higher levels of
41 authority.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. What this rule
46 room would do is overturn a regulation recently passed
47 by the Federal Subsistence Board. It seems to me like,
48 and maybe I'm naive, but if you're going to change
49 Federal hunting regulations in the State of Alaska on
50 Federal lands, whether it be Park Service, BLM, or what

1 Federal lands they are, or refuge, you submit a
2 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board. So my
3 question is this. Why didn't the Park Service submit
4 proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board and use that
5 process, because to me I think that's the reason why
6 the RAC -- we even have RACs is to develop these
7 regulations pertaining to harvest of fish and game on
8 Federal lands for rural residents. So why doesn't it
9 go through the Federal Subsistence Board rather than
10 just making up rules or proposed rules.

11
12 MR. HARD: Councilman Umphenour,
13 through the Chair. I guess I'm not understanding which
14 rule you're talking about. There have been no Federal
15 rules affected by this. If, for example, and it might
16 be brown bear baiting that you're referring to, but
17 brown bear baiting I don't believe is authorized -- or
18 was authorized by the Federal Board on Park lands, and
19 this is a Park-specific rule. If that did happen and
20 the Park Service had a problem with a Federal
21 rulemaking, they would go through the Federal process
22 to try to deal with that.

23
24 But let me be clear that just because
25 we have a position or have developed a position in
26 opposition to what is a general or a sporthunting
27 regulation in State rules does not necessarily mean
28 that we would have the same position for a more
29 narrowly focused Federal season for Federally-qualified
30 subsistence users. And let me give you an example of
31 that.

32
33 You know, there was a provision some
34 time ago in Southwest Alaska where I worked for a fair
35 bit of time, to allow fishtraps. And that was a
36 concern by the Park Service, and it was a concern for
37 the State of Alaska, because of the long history of
38 fish traps. But by working through the process with
39 local people, a provision was allowed for selective
40 harvest of fish using fishtraps as long as natural
41 materials were used, that the traps were attended,
42 harvest was selected, and then the trap was withdrawn,
43 and the natural materials removed from the water body.
44 And that was acceptable to local people, and it was
45 acceptable to the Park Service, and I think even
46 acceptable to the State of Alaska.

47
48 And so those are the ways to work
49 through a more narrowly authorized opportunity for
50 people in rural areas on Federal public lands.

1 And, you know, with the black bear
2 denning example in the Koyukon country, while that had
3 been proposed by a rural user, it wasn't confined to
4 rural users. It was allowed as a general hunt for all
5 State residents. Had there been an opportunity to more
6 narrowly define that on Federal public lands, that
7 might not have been problem. But what we did was we
8 closed that in the Park area, and then interacted with
9 local people in the area villages to understand if they
10 wanted to present a similar opportunity through the
11 Federal process to make sure a traditional means met, a
12 need was met. But no such effort has been undertaken
13 yet by those villages.

14
15 And so those are the ways that I think
16 we need to work through these issues. And it's just --
17 it's never as easy as you would like it to be.

18
19 MR. VINCENT LANG: Sue, this is Doug
20 Vincent Lang again.

21
22 I think to add to what Virgil was
23 talking about, Wildlife Proposal 14-50 at last year's
24 Board meeting, Federal Subsistence Board meeting, was
25 passed by the Federal Subsistence Board to allow the
26 taking of brown bears over bait in Unit 25D. And I
27 think that the proposed rule set out there by the Park
28 Service would then supersede that on National Park
29 Service land.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, that's
32 something -- a question that we have.

33
34 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes.

37
38 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 This is Jennifer Yuhas, and I'm taking a break from the
40 Southeast RAC meeting.

41
42 In regards to Virgil's question and Mr.
43 Hard's follow up, one thing the follow up is neglecting
44 is that many of the rural users operate under the State
45 regulations, but Mr. Lang has already pointed that out.
46 In the absence of a Federal regulation, they're still
47 preempting the Federal process when those users are
48 coming under State regulation. Precluding that State
49 regulation, in the absence of a corresponding Federal
50 regulation, we're leaving all those users hanging until

1 such time the process allows, probably a two to three-
2 year period, introduction and passage of a new
3 regulation to be created for them. The process that
4 was neglected is going to the Federal Subsistence Board
5 and first asking for non-Federally-qualified to be
6 excluded. That would have been the correct process.

7

8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
11 you, Jennifer.

12

13 There's a great example of how it's
14 confusing to have two systems.

15

16 Just a quick question to Joel Hard.
17 You don't have the authority to extend the public
18 comment period; is that correct?

19

20 MR. HARD: You know, I don't know the
21 answer to that question. I have typically extended
22 comment periods through the compendia process.
23 Actually I do have that, because we automatically
24 extended the comment period when we promulgated this --
25 or when we proposed this reg. We extended it by 30
26 days in the onset, so I do have the authority to extend
27 it as I understand it, and have already done so.

28

29 And I would also just like to clarify
30 the record, that in Unit 25C where the authorization
31 for brown bear baiting was authorized, it involves no
32 National Park Service.....

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You mean 25D.

35

36 MR. HARD: 25D. Involves no National
37 Park Service land as I look at the map.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's correct.
40 But it does involve U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
41 land, which looks like a ball rolling in our direction,
42 which we have seen in the past. And not directed at
43 you personally, but at the system, how it works.

44

45 All right. Do we have any other
46 questions.

47

48 I did find something out here, that the
49 Secretary of Interior is in Anchorage right now. Do we
50 want to have our letter ready get the Secretary of

1 Interior on line?

2

3 MR. GLANZ: I don't see why not.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: This is a big
6 issue, you guys.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Yes, it is.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

11 Andrew.

12

13 MR. FIRMIN: I have a question for
14 Joel. This is Andrew Firmin of Fort Yukon.

15

16 And I had kind of a request that it
17 said there was -- it says in the proposed rule that
18 there's going to be no substantial direct affect on any
19 Federally-qualified tribes. And I kind of disagree
20 with that. And I notice in your list of public
21 meetings, there's one in Eagle, but there's nothing
22 with a lot of the primary users that live in Circle,
23 Central, Circle Hot Springs area. I would like to see
24 some type of meeting and tribal consultation process
25 there.

26

27 And being a tribal employee also for
28 Fort Yukon, I'd at least like to see a letter saying,
29 hey, would you guys like to comment on this, but it
30 just kind of said, nah, it won't affect them, so nobody
31 bothered to even ask. You just said we're too far away
32 on the map, but you're asking -- you're having public
33 meetings in Kenai, which is clear across the State. So
34 it just kind of seems that there's probably people that
35 are more everyday users in the area that aren't -- I'd
36 like to see something done for -- at least ask Fort
37 Yukon if they would like to have a chance to comment,
38 or see if there would be information given for them and
39 Circle. If that's not out of the question for you to
40 be able to do.

41

42 MR. HARD: Through the Chair.
43 Councilman. That's not out of the realm of possibility
44 by any stretch.

45

46 I would like to say that letters went
47 out to all recognized tribes in Alaska. We received
48 some comments back from people requesting additional
49 meetings. In fact, just this week received one from
50 the Village of Allakaket to have a tribal consultation.

1 But those letters did go out, and as this comment
2 period progresses, I'm sure we'll have additional
3 meetings.

4
5 But I'll certainly take your comments
6 and incorporate them, and make sure that we're reaching
7 out to your tribal entities and making sure that you
8 have an opportunity to engage with us.

9
10 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you. I would like
11 to see that happen, because I know a lot of the tribes
12 out there have minimal staff and people to follow up on
13 all the different rules and regs that come out, and not
14 all of them have people to sit down and go through
15 every one that comes across their desk.

16
17 Maybe a friendly reminder would be
18 nice.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Joel, one hard
21 question again. Would you consider extending if you
22 can extend maybe until our next RAC meeting.

23
24 MR. HARD: Madame Chair. You know, I
25 am receiving input on this reg from many, many
26 different directions, and I'm going to evaluate all of
27 that information with other people in the Department
28 and people within the Bureau before a decision like
29 that is made. And I won't be the one that makes it
30 independently, so your preference is loud and clear,
31 and I will take that back and evaluate it along with
32 every other, you know, person making a request, and
33 we'll make a decision.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. There's
36 nodding of heads around the table here. Any other
37 questions.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Or suggestions
42 or how we should go about this, because right now we
43 have that motion on the table to write the letter based
44 on all of our comments here today. So any more
45 discussion on this motion or amendments to.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Joel, I guess
50 we're going to continue on. I don't know that we have

1 any more questions for you. You can listen in if you
2 like.

3

4 MR. HARD: Well, Madame Chair, thank
5 you for the opportunity to engage. I'm sorry I'm not
6 up there. I'm sorry the Regional Office was not up
7 there. We've been thoughtful about trying to reach out
8 in a public way, and in this case it appears we didn't
9 meet expectations, and I apologize for that.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I guess I have
12 one last question. Would you recommend on this
13 extension of the deadline, even if you're not the final
14 decisionmaker? Would you recommend that it be
15 extended.

16

17 MR. HARD: Madame Chair. I made a
18 decision early on to extend it 30 days. Or proposal,
19 you know, to leadership to extend it 30 days, because
20 of when it was submitted to the public. I had actually
21 submitted this for approval in February, January or
22 February, and it took a long, long time for them to
23 understand it and ultimately approve it. And it got
24 approved at a very time of year where you never want to
25 present these things for the public, during hunting
26 season. And so I took that to leadership and
27 recommended that we extend it 30 days, and we did. And
28 think I'd like to see how that shapes out before I make
29 a subsequent recommendation.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: How what shakes
32 out.

33

34 MR. HARD: The comment period and the
35 comments received. How many -- how often people
36 present to us that they didn't have sufficient time, et
37 cetera.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, the
40 hardest thing for us, Joel, that I want to leave with
41 you is that, you weren't part of the discussion, is all
42 of the things that are in it, some of them are very
43 different in content, like the baiting versus
44 harassment of hunters. They're very different, so that
45 makes it a little hard, because a lot of times what
46 we're talking about in one person's mind is one thing,
47 and in another person's is another thing that's in
48 there. There's six different topics in there. So
49 that's another problem about this type of process is
50 mixing and matching topics that you may or may not

1 agree on.

2

3 MR. HARD: I understand. Madame Chair.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

6

7 Andy.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Yeah. From
10 my perspective, I think what's important to me about
11 extending this to a longer comment period is that this
12 has a lot of very complicated possible negative impacts
13 both to Federal rural users and to possibly State non-
14 rural users. It's actually a lot more complicated than
15 what it appears. And it's going to take a little bit
16 of time to really fully understand this. And the fact
17 that the RAC basically receives this a day or two
18 before the meeting to look at and we have a large
19 agenda here, too, to look at a lot of different things.
20 It's very difficult for me to walk away from this
21 meeting knowing that this is my one chance to make a
22 comment on this as a RAC member before it's probably
23 going to either be implemented or not.

24

25 And I think that from my perspective,
26 the most important thing right now is that we extend
27 this, give people a chance to fully understand it,
28 gives you a better feel for all the different entities.
29 It sounds like you've already missed the boat on
30 contacting thoroughly crucial players in it, Fort Yukon
31 and other communities. I wonder how many other
32 communities would be really interested in this if they
33 really know what's at stake here. So my recommendation
34 would be to extend it so that the RAC has another
35 opportunity to make comment on this, and other
36 communities that are going to be impacted potentially
37 by this, have a reasonable amount of time to fully wrap
38 their head around the long-term implications of this,
39 because they're fairly substantial and very complicated
40 as Jennifer Yuhas pointed out in her comments.

41

42 That's all I have.

43

44 Thank you. Madame Chair.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
47 response there. Probably not.

48

49 MR. HARD: Well, the recommendations
50 are heard loud and clear.

1 Madame Chair, thank you.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
4 really appreciate that.
5
6 All right. Any other questions, guys.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We have
11 a motion on the floor, and it's about lunch time.
12
13 MR. BASSICH: Would you like me to read
14 it again?
15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, let's
17 refresh our brain.
18
19 MR. BASSICH: All right. Thank you,
20 Madame Chair.
21
22 The motion is to write a letter to OSM,
23 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service,
24 State of Alaska, the Secretary of Interior, Secretary
25 of Agriculture, to formally and aggressively object to
26 the circumvention of due public process and
27 circumventing of the agreed upon master MOU between the
28 State of Alaska and all Federal agencies in regard to
29 the new regulation for fish and wildlife. Part B of
30 that would be further we request that the proposed
31 regulation be rescinded and all -- until all agreed
32 upon procedures be followed to further this regulation.
33
34 Madame Chair.
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
37 discussion.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Question's been
44 called for. All in favor say aye.
45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.
47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.
49
50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Passes
2 unanimously.
3
4 Okay. There was one other subject you
5 whispered at me about let's have a formal
6 recommendation?
7
8 MR. BASSICH: Well, then I was just --
9 sorry, Madame Chair. I was just asking that we
10 formally request that this be extended, this comment
11 period be extended, but I think we hear loud and clear
12 that it's up to Joel to make that decision, and I think
13 we can -- I think this letter will be a formal request,
14 take a form of a formal request to extend this as well.
15 We're asking for it to be rescinded. Maybe we could
16 put in the letter as well or extended comments.
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, we just
19 passed what we had in it. Now we'd have to -- I think
20 we just have to make a formal request. If you want a
21 formal request to recommend that the extension --
22 extended comment period, we should do that separately.
23
24 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Would you like a
25 motion for that, Madame Chair?
26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
28
29 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I hate doing them
30 off the top of my head.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And then to our
33 next meeting I would recommend. Do you agree? Okay.
34
35 MR. KOEHLER: 30 days after our next
36 meeting so we have time to take it (indiscernible -
37 microphone not on.)
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: He's saying 30
40 days after our next meeting.
41
42 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I make a motion to
43 write a letter to, well, I'll say it again, OSM, Fish
44 and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, State
45 of Alaska, Secretary of Interior, Secretary of
46 Agriculture to extend the public comment period for
47 this regulation until 30 days after our next RAC
48 meeting, which would be to be filled in.
49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Let's say April

1 1st.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. April 1st.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Because that
6 takes care of it. April 1st. Because there's other
7 RAC members, it's not just us.

8

9 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that, but I
10 wonder if we ought to put BLM in there, too. Of
11 course, they've always been good to the use of the
12 land, but I don't know, you know. But I think this is
13 going to snowball on us, all this stuff here.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is that a
16 friendly amendment?

17

18 MR. BASSICH: That's fine. I think in
19 the original one I had stated and all other pertinent
20 -- well, I don't think I used the word pertinent, but
21 all Federal agencies.

22

23 MR. GLANZ: That probably should be
24 sufficient to put that in there.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: I was just trying to make
27 sure it made it to these particular ones.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do I
30 hear a second.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: I second that, yes.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Bill second it.
35 Do we need any other discussion in this. Refer to our
36 last discussion.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question's
43 been called for. All in favor.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We can
2 break for lunch. 1:30. Okay. We'll reconvene 1:30.
3
4 (Off record)
5
6 (On record)
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Come back in
9 session here. And as you're coming back to your
10 chairs, I just got word that Larry was called back to
11 deal with a program he's working with youths, so he's
12 had to leave and won't be back. So we have everybody
13 else is here.
14
15 Okay. So we're going to go to the
16 people on line, if you want to identify yourself. I
17 understand there might be some new people there.
18
19 MS. TONISON: This is Heather Tonison
20 (ph) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the
21 Regional Office in Anchorage.
22
23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
24 garbled)
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I didn't hear
27 that one.
28
29 MR. JENKINS: Brian Jenkins with Yukon
30 River Drainage Fisheries Association is on board.
31
32 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Alaska
33 Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage.
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sorry. That's
36 three of you on line?
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The next
41 is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arctic National
42 Wildlife Refuge report.
43
44 MR. GLASPELL: Good afternoon, Madame
45 Chair and members of the Council. My name is Brian
46 Glaspell. I'm the Refuge manager at Arctic National
47 Wildlife Refuge.
48
49 And perhaps not everybody's happy to be
50 here this afternoon, but I sure am. I work for an

1 organization with a bunch of Staff that are
2 tremendously hard working and highly trained, and
3 almost to a person long-time Alaskans, and they share
4 your goal of conserving fish and wildlife and the
5 lifestyles that depend on them, so I'm happy to tell
6 you a little bit about the work that we've done over
7 the last year.

8

9 I believe that you all have in front of
10 you a handout that summarizes our work from the last
11 year. Did those get passed around? So I won't go
12 through every detail, because you have this available
13 to read, but I'll cover some highlights and certainly
14 address any questions that come up.

15

16 Just about every meeting I go to people
17 ask about the status of our comprehensive conservation
18 plan. And the answer to that one is pretty simple. We
19 are precisely where we were at a year ago at this time.
20 My Staff has completed the work on that plan and it's
21 currently at the Department of Interior for review. So
22 we're hoping for some movement on that one in the near
23 future. Your handout has some details about changes we
24 made between the draft and the final plan, and again at
25 this time the plan's at the Department of Interior for
26 review.

27

28 So I'm jumping to the second page
29 there, and the description of various research and
30 monitoring activities. And under the heading of
31 caribou, I can tell you last year was a very successful
32 year for conducting the photo census effort across all
33 of the Arctic herds. I believe it was the first time
34 in a long time that the Department of Fish and Game was
35 able to get a qualify photo census all four of the
36 major Arctic herds, and we got a good one of the
37 Porcupine Herd. The estimate is just shy of 200,000,
38 which is probably the largest estimate ever, certainly
39 the largest in recent memory.

40

41 There was a question that came up this
42 morning about the effects of fire on tundra and lichens
43 and caribou habitat. And if you all haven't seen it,
44 there was paper that came out by Dave Gustein and co-
45 authors. He's with the U.S. Geological Survey in
46 Anchorage. And they address that question
47 specifically. They looked at the range of the
48 Porcupine caribou herd, the potential effects of
49 climate change, and the likelihood that fire could
50 impact their habitat and food resource in the future.

1 So if you need help chasing down that paper, we can do
2 that, but it does address that question directly.

3
4 I guess one other thing I'll say about
5 caribou is that we are, as we speak, our Staff are
6 flying caribou telemetry surveys this week and next.
7 We do it every year at this time of year in cooperation
8 with our partners in Canada. And it appears that for
9 the first time in quite a while this year we saw the
10 Porcupine Caribou Herd calve primarily on the Arctic
11 coastal plain within the Refuge, and then send quite a
12 bit of time on the Refuge. They kind of went due south
13 from there, and there's been a large group of them
14 hanging around pretty close to Arctic Village since
15 early fall.

16
17 So moving down to moose. This year for
18 the first time in three years we were able to conduct a
19 North Slope moose survey, and the results of that were
20 somewhat grim. You can see here in the report, flying
21 basically the entire North Slope within the Refuge, we
22 only observe 23 adult moose, and most of those were all
23 packed into one spot in the Kongakut River drainage. So
24 that number was just about 50 percent of the average
25 count over the last 10 years, and those low numbers
26 prompted us to request a special action to close down
27 the subsistence hunt that's already limited to just
28 residents of Kaktovik. And it's our suggestion that we
29 don't reopen that hunt until we see those numbers
30 rebound a bit.

31
32 On the south side of the Brooks Range
33 we began an effort this year that you may recall last
34 year we began talking about -- there was a proposal at
35 your fall meeting last year to restrict the hunt in
36 Unit 25A to just Federally-qualified residents of five
37 local villages. And there was a really excellent
38 presentation by the Department of Fish and Game about
39 the survey and other work that's been conducted on that
40 moose population. And we at the Refuge said that
41 bottom line is we just don't know all we should about
42 moose in that area. There are a lot of questions
43 because that's a migratory population, and it exists in
44 relatively low numbers to begin with.

45
46 So this year we began with a pilot
47 study of the browse conditions, and we'll be continuing
48 that for the next several years, but that's a specific
49 effort to identify other factors that might be keeping
50 those populations numbers low. I think what we saw

1 from the Department of Fish and Game is that it doesn't
2 appear that hunting is the issue, that all things being
3 equal that it really does seem like we ought to see
4 more moose in that area. So we're going to start be
5 looking at food availability and kind of work through
6 the various factors that might be affecting that
7 population.

8
9 You can see from this report here that
10 -- and again this based on work in one reach of the
11 Upper Coleen River. It's a pilot study only, so you
12 wouldn't want to extrapolate these results to the
13 broader area. But what we found is it doesn't appear
14 that the browse availability is really a limiting
15 factor, and that moose density in that area kind of
16 falls squarely in the medium range. It's not
17 particularly low or particularly high given the
18 conditions that -- the habitat conditions that we see
19 there.

20
21 And we have -- for the first week in
22 November we have scheduled an aerial survey of the
23 population in that area, so we'll hope for good
24 weather. And we'll have some new information to report
25 to you next year on that one.

26
27 Under the heading of muskoxen, it's
28 been some time now since we've actually observed
29 muskoxen on the North Slope of the Refuge. We did
30 actually find one this year that was hanging out just
31 east of Arctic Village all by him lonesome. But there
32 clearly aren't enough muskoxen to support a hunt on the
33 North Slope at this time, and no permits were issued
34 for that hunt.

35
36 Sheep you've heard a fair bit about
37 from the Park Service already, and our numbers and our
38 work kind of backs up what they're seeing to the west
39 of the Refuge. It appears that the winter of two years
40 ago really did a number on the sheep. This year we did
41 two different surveys on foot, one near the Atigun
42 Gorge and one in the upper stretch of the Hulahula
43 drainage. And in both instances we observed a whole
44 lot less sheep than that historical average.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did you say you
47 did that on foot?

48
49 MR. GLASPELL: Those two surveys we
50 did. We also in cooperation with the Park Service we

1 did aerial surveys that were based up at Galbraith Lake
2 and covered sheep in that parts of the Gates of the
3 Arctic Preserve, and then to the east in the Refuge.
4 The foot-based surveys -- well, they're described in
5 the document here, but, you know, we basically went for
6 a long hike and glassed sheep on the hillsides.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's pretty
9 limiting I would say.

10
11 MR. GLASPELL: Well, it's a good
12 indicator of what's going on in that particular area,
13 and we've been doing those surveys in the same way for
14 quite a long time, so we have good historical data to
15 compare what we're seeing this year to what we've seen
16 in the past.

17
18 Down under avian species, this year we
19 completed the fifth year in a five-year project that
20 was focused up at the Canning River delta. That's a
21 really interesting project that has a bunch of
22 international cooperators, and the goal really there is
23 to focus on a select number of shorebird species that
24 we know are in decline worldwide.

25
26 And we began the first year of an
27 effort focused on common eider up in the barrier
28 islands off the coast there, mostly to the east of
29 Kaktovik.

30
31 You all may be aware that we have a
32 rapidly growing polar bear viewing industry up in
33 Kaktovik. And we've seen visitor numbers up there
34 increase significantly in each of the past four or five
35 years. This year things appear to maybe be leveling
36 off, and that's probably a function just of the very
37 limited infrastructure they have here. There are only
38 a handful of places to stay and really no visitor
39 infrastructure, but that continues to be a real focus
40 in September of the Refuge's effort up north.

41
42 Big game guiding permits, a lot of
43 activity under that heading this year. We had the last
44 regionwide round of issuing those exclusive use
45 competitive permits on National Wildlife Refuges in
46 Alaska was completed in 2012. but as you're probably
47 aware there's an extensive review and appeal process
48 that applicants are eligible for, and I just wrapped up
49 the couple remaining appeals on Arctic Refuge about a
50 month ago. So those new permits will be issued in the

1 coming year, and they're issued for a five-year term
2 that's non-competitively renewable for another five
3 years, so they're essentially 10-year permits as long
4 as the permittee follows all the conditions of their
5 plan of operations in their permit.

6
7 We also advertised three areas that
8 were up for -- that had completed their 10-year terms
9 just about two months ago, and we'll be conducting the
10 review and ranking for all those applications, and
11 issuing permits next year for those three areas as
12 well.

13
14 And down at the bottom there under law
15 enforcement, we hired a new law enforcement
16 officer/pilot this year. He came on in late July, and
17 we had him out on the Refuge within a week flying
18 around and getting the lay of the land in advance of
19 the start of the sheep season.

20
21 And somewhat in contrast to what we
22 heard from residents on the ground, what we saw from
23 the air this year, was a pretty significant decrease in
24 the overall amount of hunting activity and the number
25 of individual hunters out on the ground. And that kind
26 of applied across the board for sheep and caribou and
27 moose. And it's a little early to speculate on why we
28 saw those changes. Clearly sheep numbers are down, and
29 word probably got out about that and affected the sheep
30 hunting activity.

31
32 I guess I need to talk to some more
33 people and find out what's going on with moose and
34 caribou. Like I said, what we saw from the air was
35 significantly in contrast to what I heard from some
36 individuals on the ground, and I'm not sure how to
37 reconcile those differences at this point.

38
39 And then wrapping up on the back of
40 your packet, there are a few things under the heading
41 of outreach and environmental education. This year we
42 once again had a Youth Conservation Corps program in
43 Arctic Village, and that continues to be very popular.
44 I went to a presentation late in the summer, and there
45 were third generation Youth Conservation Corps people
46 there now. In fact, the recently elected village chief
47 was one of our original Youth Conservation Corps
48 members, and so that's a program we're real proud of
49 and it appears to be doing good things in the
50 community.

1 We also held science camps, which we've
2 been doing for a number of years up in Kaktovik and in
3 Arctic Village.

4
5 I understand there was a request for
6 some additional information about the International
7 Porcupine Caribou Board and the meeting that was held
8 in September, and my boss, Holly Gaboriault is here to
9 tell you about that.

10
11 MS. GABORIAULT: Good afternoon, Madame
12 Chair, members of the Council.

13
14 Yes, I understand you had some
15 questions and wanted an update on the International
16 Porcupine Caribou Board that was just recently held
17 here in Fairbanks. The Board has participated by
18 phone. Usually in the spring they have a conference
19 call, and then in the fall they've been trying to have
20 face-to-face meetings, and this year it was Alaska's
21 part to host the meeting.

22
23 So the Board has four members from the
24 U.S. side and then four members from the Canadian side.
25 On the U.S. side we have Geoff Haskett, the regional
26 director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And
27 then this year one change to the Board was the replace
28 of Mr. Craig Fleener with Mr. Doug Vincent Lang. His
29 nomination was approved and he was appointed by the
30 Secretary to be the second member on the Board to
31 represent the State of Alaska. And then we have two
32 Native representatives, one from Kaktovik and one from
33 the Village of Venetie that are on the Board.

34
35 There was a public meeting that's
36 usually a part of the their meetings when they're hosted
37 in either Alaska or Canada. There's an evening session
38 where the public's invited to come and participate.
39 There were not very many participants this year at the
40 meeting in Fairbanks, and there were comments made that
41 it was poor timing to have the meeting during hunting
42 season. So I think that that's definitely something
43 that's going to be taken into consideration when those
44 dates are set the next time Alaska hosts the meeting.

45
46 Last year when they had their meeting
47 in Canada, there was a request from the Board to find
48 out what this RAC was interested in with regards to the
49 Porcupine Caribou Herd, and so we did provide some of
50 the most recent Board minutes from your meetings -- or

1 Council minutes from your meetings.

2

3 And additionally, one thing that you
4 might be interested in is a three-year report that the
5 Board is working on. They have not started drafting
6 the report, but that was one of the major topics of
7 discussion in their meeting in September, to talk about
8 what would be in the three-year report, to kind of
9 summarize all of the activities and actions that
10 they've taken and participated in over the past three
11 years.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

14 Questions.

15

16 MR. FIRMIN: Do you think it's normal
17 for the caribou herd to winter in two completely
18 separate different places like even right now they're
19 two completely separate different places. And I had
20 another question also. I was wondering -- I'll wait.

21

22 MR. GLASPELL: I don't know if I an
23 speak to normal. I think that the data that I've seen
24 shows quite a bit of diversity in where the herd
25 decides to winter, and how they split up. In past
26 years I think I have seen indications that they have
27 been in four or five really distinct groups. If you're
28 interested in some more detailed information there, I
29 can certainly get that to you.

30

31 MR. FIRMIN: Sure, that would be great.
32 And the other thing I was thinking like the North Slope
33 moose there, do you think that's any -- I don't know, I
34 guess I'm just speculating, but maybe with polar bear
35 and then that ice receding, maybe polar bears are more
36 predation on the younger moose. No guesses on that
37 one?

38

39 MR. GLASPELL: I think grizzly bear
40 predation could reasonably be a factor. You note in
41 your notes there that they saw a quite a few bears
42 there this year, and that's in April when the country's
43 all smooth and white, the bears really stick out, but
44 there's not a whole lot of other stuff to eat either.
45 My guess would be that we're not seeing any polar bear
46 predation of moose just yet, but time will tell, I
47 guess.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
50 questions. Andy.

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I was just
2 wondering in regards to guides and air taxi services
3 that are permitted within the Federal program there,
4 are there restrictions to air taxis, or is it
5 controlled as to how many people? Is it a permitted
6 system, or is it wide open? I don't have much
7 information on that, so maybe you could educate me a
8 little bit about what the process is for that.

9
10 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah, that's a great
11 question. Yes, air taxis and all commercial service
12 providers are required to get a permit in order to
13 operate on the Refuge, but, no, they're not limited in
14 terms of the number that we issue. So any air taxi or
15 air transporter that meets the minimum qualifications
16 in terms of licensing and insurance and so on is
17 eligible to get a refuge permit.

18
19 There are regulations that dictate
20 exactly when and how we can limit the number of permits
21 that we issue for our revenue-producing visitor
22 service, and essentially it would require us to go
23 through a prospectus and bid process like we do for big
24 game guides. And that is something we've begun talking
25 about on the Refuge, because we've seen the number of
26 air taxi permits that we issue go up pretty
27 significantly in years past, and we've been hearing
28 from the guides, hey, you know, we're so heavily
29 regulated, but the air taxis essentially are not. And
30 that's a relevant comment and a significant concern,
31 and something we're digging into.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy, go ahead.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Yeah. Could
36 you provide some of that data on the increase of air
37 taxi services to our coordinator so that we could get
38 some of that information?

39
40 MR. GLASPELL: So you're asking
41 specifically about the number of permits that we issue
42 for air taxis?

43
44 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess maybe a
45 historic -- what I'm looking for is a historic
46 comparison. What was it 10 years ago, five years,
47 what's the increase now or decrease, whatever it is.
48 Just kind of a historical running of where you have
49 been and if there's any information on success of -- I
50 don't know if you're able to track the success of the

1 people that they're bringing in, but what the impacts
2 might be to game species due to the increase or
3 decrease of air taxi services.

4

5 MR. GLASPELL: Well, what I can put my
6 hands on quickly for sure is the number of permits that
7 we've issued, and then the number of individuals that
8 are actually transported by those permittees. And those
9 numbers don't necessarily match up all the time.
10 Information on hunter effort and success and the
11 harvest is something that's maintained by the
12 Department of Fish and Game, and they hold on
13 relatively tight to those data, but we could work with
14 them to put something together so that you have a
15 useful report that covers all of that.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: I think that would be
18 very prevalent for future discussion.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Probably for
21 all Refuges, not just Arctic.

22

23 Virgil.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: On the same subject, I
26 guide on the Koyukuk Refuge and when I make out my
27 report at the end of the end, I have to provide a copy
28 of the State of Alaska hunt record, and then I also
29 provide which shows what animals the person took on the
30 Refuge and where they took them. And then I also on my
31 report, I make a separate sheet with the client's name
32 and how many days he hunted, because we get charged by
33 the client day by the Refuge. And then if he harvested
34 anything and where he harvested it.

35

36 The transporters don't have to do that?
37 I'm not familiar with what their kind of report they
38 have to submit, whether they have to list -- if they
39 get charged by client days like guides do and have to
40 list what animals they took and et cetera. They don't
41 do that?

42

43 MR. GLASPELL: They're required to list
44 how many people they take and approximately where they
45 take them to, essentially so that we can charge for
46 client use day. If they dropped them off on some kind
47 of private in-holding or on waterways where we don't
48 have jurisdiction or something in that nature, then we
49 wouldn't charge them that client use fee. But beyond
50 those basic data, they're not required to report much

1 else to us. Some do, and we've tried asking for
2 additional information in the past, but we've been
3 challenged on that, and it turns out our authority to
4 ask really detailed information about what their
5 clients are doing once they drop them off is pretty
6 limited.

7

8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Thank you. Do
9 you have a copy of this thing? You do?

10

11 MS. GABORIAULT: Yes, we do.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Now who's the
14 person that presents that.

15

16 MS. GABORIAULT: I can do that, unless
17 you wanted to get the other reports for our other two
18 Refuge managers, and then we could all participate in
19 any questions about the.....

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's what we
22 did last. So we'll get the other reports and then
23 bring them up.

24

25 Okay. This is the Arctic National
26 Wildlife Refuge. Any other question.

27

28 MR. FIRMIN: I just had one more. I
29 noticed under law enforcement that it says it indicates
30 a substantial drop in sheep and caribou population
31 sizes. How do you feel about that and Fish and Games
32 request for reconsideration to open Arctic Village
33 sheep management area to everybody. Do you think that
34 will have a factor, any significant factor in the
35 future on that request.

36

37 MR. GLASPELL: Well, that's a good
38 question, yeah. I think as you're all aware that the
39 Arctic Village sheep management area has been highly
40 contentious for quite a number of years. And at this
41 point I think all parties have agreed that it's not
42 necessarily a biological issue, that the -- where the
43 disagreement lies. So it could be that if we're seeing
44 range or Brooks Range wide decreases in the sheep
45 population that that factor, you know, comes up as an
46 issue in the debate. But at present, you know, we've
47 really been talking about issues of trespass and
48 conflict between user groups, not outright competition
49 for a limited resource.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. Last year Hollis
4 Twitchell gave us a report. Did anyone spend time up
5 there like he did the past couple of years, you know,
6 three or four weeks to -- and kind of count how many
7 visitors there were.
8
9 MR. GLASPELL: Both Hollis and our new
10 law enforcement officer, Clay Hamilton, they based out
11 of Arctic Village and they occasionally camped up there
12 at Red Sheep. It's just about 40 miles north, and they
13 flew surveys there almost daily for most of the month
14 of August. So I guess the short answer is, yes, they
15 spent quite a bit of time in that neck of the woods,
16 but they weren't camped right at the strip that's at
17 Red Sheep Creek.
18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. And they saw a
20 bunch of people that were just out there on nature
21 hikes and taking pictures and et cetera again.
22
23 MR. GLASPELL: They saw relatively few
24 people. I couldn't give you absolute numbers right
25 now, but they saw many fewer people than they have in
26 any recent years. We continue to see people that fly
27 into that area to either access it for reasons other
28 than sheep hunting or to access other areas nearby that
29 aren't closed to sheep hunting. And that's confusing
30 for locals in Arctic Village that see all that air
31 traffic and see people parked in that spot, and
32 naturally assume that they're attempting to hunt in the
33 closed area. That's mostly an education and outreach
34 challenge for us. But in terms of totals numbers of
35 people going there, we're talking a handful, like a
36 half dozen.
37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Madame
39 Chair.
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
42 other questions.
43
44 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I have one.
45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Bill.
47
48 MR. GLANZ: Was there any sheep taken
49 from Arctic Village, or taken and reports sent in this
50 year.

1 MR. GLASPELL: I don't know the answer
2 to that for sure. Maybe, Vince, to you know?
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: No.
5
6 MR. GLASPELL: Well, as you all know,
7 we don't often get any kind of harvest reports back
8 from there, and I think last year we issued two permits
9 there.
10
11 MR. GLANZ: With success or just they
12 went up there?
13
14 MR. GLASPELL: With success?
15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Successful or
17 non.
18
19 MR. GLASPELL: I don't believe any
20 sheep were taken by locals out of there last year.
21
22 MR. GLANZ: And that's the reason the
23 State keeps pressing us to change it, because nobody's
24 showing usage of it.
25
26 MR. GLASPELL: Sure.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
29 questions.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The next
34 would be the Yukon-Charley. Somebody wrote Park in
35 there, but there is no Yukon-Charley Park. It's just
36 Preserve.
37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yukon Flats.
39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yukon-Charley
41 River Park and Preserve. What am I reading? I guess I
42 needed more coffee this morning. Now I'm where I'm
43 supposed to be.
44
45 MS. PATTON: But you're correct.
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I know.
48
49 MS. PATTON: I got Park stuff in there.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I found a
2 mistake anyway.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7
8 MR. BERENDZEN: Madame Chair and
9 Council members. Yes, it's Yukon Flats National
10 Wildlife Refuge.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sorry about
13 that.

14
15 MR. BERENDZEN: And I do have an update
16 for you that I think you should have included in your
17 packet.

18
19 MS. PATTON: In the back of your gray
20 folders on the right-hand side.

21
22 MR. BERENDZEN: And just a summary of
23 some of the activities or highlighted activities, one
24 of the things that Yukon Flats is well-known for is the
25 wetlands and the waterfowl/waterbird usage. We did our
26 annual aerial surveys for white wing scoter and lesser
27 scaup again this year, and they nest later than other
28 duck species, so we do separate surveys for them.

29
30 Scoter numbers were right in the
31 ballpark of what they've been in recent years, but the
32 scaup numbers were down about 33 percent lower than the
33 average. So we don't understand that, but one reason
34 we do the survey for these two species is that they
35 have had long-term declines over the years, and they
36 are species that we do have a concern about.

37
38 Moving down to aerial loon surveys, we
39 have a lot of Pacific loons on Yukon Flats Refuge.
40 This year we had -- I'm sorry, in 2013 is the -- we
41 have not summarized numbers for this year yet, 2014,
42 but for 2013 it was 2,890 Pacific loons and 57 common
43 loons, which both of those numbers are right in the
44 ballpark of what's average or normal.

45
46 And moving on to the Stickna (ph)
47 surveys, we initiated bald eagle or Stickna surveys
48 that look at eagle nests as well as hawks and other
49 raptors. And this has been initiated because of
50 interest in eagle and raptor numbers and densities.

1 And we do have good densities on Yukon Flats. And we
2 just wanted to start documenting that.

3
4 The next topic, moose population
5 survey. We a year and a half ago in the spring of 2013
6 did a survey of the western half of the Yukon Flats,
7 essentially 25D West. But we haven't done a survey in
8 25D East since 2007. This fall we're hoping, if
9 whether and snowfall allows, to do both of those areas
10 again, survey both areas for moose.

11
12 The next topic is coarse woody debris
13 work. We have Colorado State University researchers
14 that are looking at carbon storage and other functions
15 of woody debris that builds up on streams. We have
16 some streams in Yukon Flats that have significant
17 accumulations of woody debris, and they're wanting to
18 look into this, identify what impacts or benefits they
19 might provide in the ecological processes of the rivers
20 and streams. And they have initiated a study doing
21 that this year.

22
23 And moving on to the scaup brood
24 production survey. We started this summer doing a new
25 waterfowl brood type of survey. It's on Yukon Flats
26 where there are extensive wetlands and literally
27 thousands of wetlands that have waterfowl using them.
28 We're wanting to get an idea of what the waterfowl
29 production is, and it's been -- there have been
30 attempts to estimate that in the past, but we've never
31 felt we had a really good way of doing that. We tried
32 a new methodology this summer that we felt has merit.
33 We want to continue trying that with a little bit of
34 tweaking, but one complication that we had this summer
35 was that with all the rainfall and runoff, we had
36 wetlands that were not only completely full, but
37 flooded in some places, and didn't provide nesting
38 habitat, so the results of this year's efforts were
39 somewhat variable because of that extra flooding. And
40 we're focusing primarily on scaup again because of the
41 importance of scaup that we provide to the total
42 continental population. But we would also be looking
43 at other waterfowl species with these brood surveys.

44
45 The next topic, rare sighting of
46 breeding hooded merganser north of Fort Yukon. This is
47 a duck species that is rarely documented in Alaska,
48 especially as a breeding species, and so it was
49 documented during these brood surveys, and just, I
50 guess, reinforced that when we're out doing brood

1 surveys, we do learn more about the species, different
2 species' use of the Refuge and what it does contribute
3 to waterfowl from more of a continental perspective.

4

5 The next topic, moose monitoring. We
6 last spring collared -- or, I'm sorry, last year
7 collared 38 cow moose and the intent of that effort was
8 to look at calf recruitment. We have flown several
9 flights through the summer monitoring the moose and
10 trying to identify calves that are with them. In some
11 cases that's been difficult with heavy vegetation that
12 they might be in. But once we have snow on the ground,
13 we will have much better visibility and opportunity to
14 identify what the calf recruitment is. And it's been a
15 concern of Yukon Flats over the years, and something
16 we're trying to get a better understanding of.

17

18 And one side note on this one is that
19 Council Member Firmin asked a question a while back
20 about the ages of the cows. And the two oldest we have
21 are 16 years old, so there are 2 out of those 38 that
22 were 16 years old. And in general older cow moose that
23 what we think would -- or what we understand are
24 typically seen in a lot of other areas.

25

26 And then mapping potential foraging
27 habitat for moose, that's a study that's looking at
28 willow stands across the Yukon Flats, but only mapping
29 where they're located, but getting down on the ground
30 and looking at the productivity and availability of the
31 willow browse for moose. We're focusing in on some of
32 the more important willow species that are more -- are
33 preferred by moose, and looking at the availability of
34 that browse on those willows, what would actually be
35 available to the moose. So preliminary information is
36 that there is a lot of moose browse available, but
37 we're trying to, you know, fine-tune these efforts to
38 make sure that there's still good browse habitat,
39 browse availability for the moose.

40

41 The next topic, sheep survey. We did
42 our annual sheep survey of the White Mountains portion
43 of Yukon Flats Refuge in the Schwatka and Victoria
44 region. And the total of 114 sheep I believe was down
45 a little bit from previous surveys, but the good news
46 of the survey this year was that the ratio of lambs was
47 significantly higher, almost twice as high as what it
48 was last year, 31 lambs per 100 ewe versus 16 lambs per
49 100 ewes in 2013.

50

1 And the next topic, fire. We only had
2 one wildfire this summer, that was a human-caused fire
3 at the mouth of the Sheenjek River on the Porcupine.
4 And it only burned three-tenths of an acre. So we
5 think because of the really wet summer and wet
6 conditions, flooding, et cetera, there was just very
7 little wildfire -- well, almost no wildfire activity,
8 but very little chance or opportunity for wildfires to
9 get initiated.

10
11 Invasive plant control work. We have
12 been working on this topic in some area, especially a
13 couple of the villages, for several years now. And the
14 most significant invasive plant that we're working on
15 is white sweet clover in the Fort Yukon area. And we
16 have great cooperation from tribal council and village
17 and other partners. We think we can keep that under
18 control and hopefully not spread into other areas.

19
20 Salmon spawning. This is about the
21 sonar set up on the Chandalar River monitoring the chum
22 salmon. And the results of the -- and this is done by
23 the fisheries office out of Fairbanks, but we do
24 cooperate and partner with them on that. And the chum
25 salmon numbers they think for 2014 were probably in the
26 ballpark of what they had in 2013, it was approximately
27 198,000 chum.

28
29 And we're also expanding upon this,
30 working with the fisheries office as well as the
31 University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Village of
32 Venetie, working on chum salmon habitat and
33 specifically spawning areas further up the Chandalar.
34 And there's a lot of information we've been learning
35 about their spawning preferences, uses of these areas,
36 and trying to document their usage and conditions that
37 they require, and try to get some baseline
38 documentation on that.

39
40 The next topic, Camp Noshi (ph), we
41 held a youth -- or we participated in the youth summer
42 camp that annually hosts in the ballpark of 60,000 --
43 60 youth, I'm sorry. And we have different activities
44 that we provide to them, including radio telemetry,
45 archery, navigation by GPS, map and compass, and basic
46 plant identification.

47
48 Venetie Lake monitoring, that's another
49 youth summer camp activity where we have been doing
50 that for I think the last four years, and we each year

1 have 10 students who participate, construct nest boxes
2 for waterfowl, place nest boxes, check the other ones,
3 inventory waterfowl on the big lake and do invertebrate
4 collection and fish collection, dragonflies, other
5 insects, and invertebrates, learn to do radio
6 telemetry, GPS, compasses, and so on.

7

8 And we also held an open house in
9 Venetie at the same time, and that was to try to inform
10 the village of some of the activities of science
11 partners working in the area. We had participation
12 from the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council as
13 well as the Fish and Wildlife field office, fisheries
14 office in Fairbanks. And the Venetie Tribal Council
15 partnered with us to sponsor this open house where we
16 provided a barbecue and a lot of activities for
17 residents and youth.

18

19 And just a couple more notes. We had
20 the annual funding agreement with the Council of
21 Athabascan Tribal Governments that funds the annual
22 moose -- or is funding an annual moose management
23 meeting. This year it will be coming up in early
24 December. We look forward to working with them and
25 coming up with some good moose management ideas out of
26 that meeting that we can hopefully implement.

27

28 And we hired two Refuge information
29 technicians this summer that worked for us, very
30 helpful to us with a lot of activities, including youth
31 summer camps and monitoring on the river and so on.

32

33 And the last item that I've got is we
34 just recently got funding from Migratory Bird Program
35 to do bird harvest surveys in several of the Yukon
36 Flats villages. Those villages include Fort Yukon,
37 Venetie, Beaver, Chalkyitsik, and Circle, and Arctic
38 Village. And we will have Refuge information
39 technicians meeting with individuals in those villages,
40 learning about the harvest of birds this past year. I
41 expect it's mostly from spring bird hunting, but I
42 think it will include whatever bird hunting they did
43 for the year.

44

45 And I think that's it for my report.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you. Any
48 questions.

49

50 James.

1 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. I've noticed a
2 large decline in the scooters, and was that -- I didn't
3 see 214 in here. Is that due to the algae bloom in
4 Oregon, or did they go to a different area.

5
6 MR. BERENDZEN: Madame Chair. I don't
7 have an answer for you on that. And as far as our
8 survey numbers this summer, I didn't hear anything
9 about any unusual decline in the numbers. We don't
10 have those numbers summarized yet, so I can't tell you
11 exactly how many, but I think in general the numbers
12 for both scaup and scoter I thought were -- well, scaup
13 had declined in 2013, but I thought they were in the
14 same ballpark. As far as what may be happening to
15 them, I have no idea.

16
17 MR. ROBERTS: You were aware of 6 or
18 7,000 of them dying in Oregon though, weren't you?

19
20 MR. BERENDZEN: I'd heard that there
21 were some mortalities. I had no idea it was that much.

22
23 MR. ROBERTS: Yes, it was the algae
24 bloom, and they lost their ability to keep themselves
25 dry, and they were freezing to death out there. But I
26 noticed a real big decline, because I sit there every
27 spring and wait for these ducks, and they are just not
28 going through like they have been in the last four or
29 five years.

30
31 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you. We will
32 look into that more. You've got me very curious now.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any other
35 questions.

36
37 Andrew.

38
39 MR. FIRMIN: I see it says they've been
40 studying loons since '53. Are they some type of
41 indicator species or something, or what's up with that.

42
43 MR. BERENDZEN: Yes, I -- well, I think
44 they have been used as an indicator species, indicators
45 of water quality and wilderness type areas. But are
46 they recognized specifically as an indicator species?
47 Not that I'm aware of, but they are a species of
48 concern, and there have been declines in the past. And
49 there's just an interest over all to monitor loon
50 populations and try to prevent -- or at least, if there

1 are additional declines, understand what the cause
2 would be.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm getting
5 some history here. Any other questions.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We have
10 none. I guess we'll move on to the next one, and
11 that's Tetlin.

12

13 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: My neighboring
16 Fish and Wildlife. Yes. Thank you.

17

18 MR. BALIS: Good afternoon, Madame
19 Chair. Councilmen. My name is Shawn Balis, and I,
20 too, am plum tickled to be here today. I'm the new
21 manager, recently arrived from McGrath at Tok. I got
22 there early this fall.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And I haven't
25 met you yet, so nice to meet you.

26

27 MR. BALIS: No, I haven't met you
28 either. I just got there not too long ago. I'm not
29 really spun up on what's going on with the Refuge in
30 all aspects, that's why I brought my lead biologist,
31 Dave Burke, who most of you probably know from past RAC
32 Council meetings. So I'll be happy to answer any
33 questions once he's done, so I'll pass it off to him,
34 and he'll give you a good update on what's been going
35 on at Tetlin Refuge.

36

37 MR. BURKE: Madame Chair. Members of
38 the Council. It's a nice sunny day. Love it. It's
39 awesome.

40

41 I apologize. I don't have our summary
42 written up for you guys. I've got a copy here, during
43 a break I'll go get copies, and I'll give them to you
44 guys.

45

46 Pretty much I'm going to focus on what
47 we have subsistence related going on on the Refuge, but
48 I'm going to touch basis a little bit on some of our
49 other work.

50

1 On the Refuge this summer we've also
2 been conducting peregrine falcon surveys, osprey, and
3 eagle surveys. We've been doing this since the 1990s,
4 and continue to do that. We also monitor a lot of
5 songbirds on the Refuge. We do off-road point counts
6 and road-based point counts. And we monitor snowshoe
7 hares as well. So we've had a variety of different
8 projects that are going on.

9
10 Subsistence related, we have a winter
11 Nelchina caribou hunt, which we opened up this last
12 Monday, so it's ongoing right now. The Refuge manager
13 opens that up. It's not currently open to
14 snowmachines. We usually don't open that up until
15 there's at least six inches of snow on the ground for
16 snowmachines. And the hunt continues, can continue,
17 into April. We usually end up closing it down in
18 March.

19
20 This last year there was a total of 36
21 caribou harvested on the Refuge, reported harvested.
22 It was 15 males and 21 females. This was somewhat down
23 from the previous three years, and just from my own
24 personal observations and from some of the
25 conversations I had with subsistence users, the caribou
26 just weren't in huntable areas on the Refuge this year.
27 A lot of the caribou just simply just came through and
28 went on by, and they didn't winter on the Refuge.
29 Success rate was close to 60 percent though of those
30 that went out and tried to harvest a caribou, so it was
31 pretty good.

32
33 We have a winter moose hunt that opens
34 in November and continues through February. This hunt
35 has been going on for a good length of time as well.
36 We recently extended the hunt period. It was just --
37 three years ago it was only for a three-week period in
38 late November and December, and almost no one ever shot
39 a moose during the hunt. So we increased the length of
40 the hunt, and now we're getting a little bit of
41 harvest, not too much. There were four bull moose
42 harvested last year, but that's significantly up from
43 zero a few years ago. The year before last there were
44 three, and I think it was two or three the year before
45 that.

46
47 We're doing some snowshoe hare
48 monitoring as well. We have six transects located on
49 the Refuge. Each transect has 50 plots. The reason we
50 monitor snowshoe hares is just to keep track on the

1 cycle. We've been doing this since the 1990s as well.
2 On the Refuge the hare cycle peaked in 2008. This year
3 the population's basically at the very bottom of the
4 cycle. It's slightly up this year from last year.
5 And, you know, if the several decades are any
6 indicator, we should start seeing a significant
7 increase in snowshoe hares on the Refuge starting next
8 year. So it should start up-ticking. And the reason
9 we do that, snowshoe hares are a keystone species, and
10 they're a really good indicator for other predators,
11 things like lynx, coyotes, fox, goshawks, great-horned
12 owls, et cetera.

13

14 Which leads me to tell you guys a
15 little bit about a new project that we're working on.
16 We're working with UAF and Utah State University as
17 well as Koyukuk, Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge,
18 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve,
19 U.S.G.S., and a few others on a long-term study looking
20 at lynx, coyote populations and their movements in
21 relationship to the snowshoe hare cycle. And the main
22 objectives of this study are to examine space use of
23 lynx along a latitudinal gradient in Interior Alaska to
24 examine how the magnitude and direction of lynx
25 movements are controlled by snowshoe hare abundance, as
26 well as investigate the role long distance movements of
27 lynx play in population connectivity at multiple
28 landscape scales, as well as to investigate the
29 feasibility of using an index of snowshoe hare
30 abundance as a surrogate for monitoring lynx abundance,
31 habitat, and population connectivity.

32

33 And, you know, until recently no one
34 had really put GPS collars on lynx, and now a few
35 people are starting to do that. And what they're
36 finding is lynx are moving long distances. You know,
37 they might move a couple hundred miles, they may move
38 up to 1,000 miles. And so this has implications for
39 subsistence users and just in understanding lynch in
40 relationship to the snowshoe hare cycle in general. So
41 we're going to begin capture efforts this winter, next
42 month, and Bonanza Creek here in Fairbanks as well as
43 Koyukuk, Nowitna, and Gates of the Arctic National Park
44 and Preserve will also be capturing lynx this winter.

45

46 So that's what I have for you guys, if
47 you have any questions, I will love to hear them.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

50 Andrew.

1 MR. FIRMIN: That's really interesting
2 what you said about the lynx, you know, like which
3 direction they were traveling, or just like the first
4 couple that you tagged. Like do you have any examples
5 of where they went.

6
7 MR. BURKE: We haven't collared any
8 yet, so we're curious to know. There's a lot of
9 trappers in Alaska. You know, you talk to them, and
10 they kind of key in on this. I think a lot of people
11 kind of realize that the lynx are moving.

12
13 And what we know from the snowshoe hare
14 cycle, a lot of people are monitoring snowshoe hares,
15 and the way they do this is -- I kind of didn't explain
16 it very good, but they count the poop. You know, you
17 have these transects out in the woods, and you go out
18 and every year you count the poop that accumulates on
19 that transect, and then you throw it off. And that
20 actually gives you a really good abundance estimation.
21 It's really tight correlation between how many snowshoe
22 hare poops you find, and how many hares there are on
23 the landscape. And this is going on in multiple
24 locations in Alaska as well as Yukon and British
25 Columbia, and other places as well.

26
27 And so kind of to get back to the lynx
28 and where they're going, you know, there were people
29 that we had telemetry collars on the lynx in past
30 studies where, you know, they'd collar them say in the
31 Yukon Territory, and then a trapper would catch a lynx
32 500 miles away with that collar on it. And we really
33 didn't have any idea how long it took for the animal to
34 get there.

35
36 You may be familiar with the
37 re-introduction of lynx to Colorado. A lot of those
38 lynx were captured up here in Alaska and Canada, and
39 were put down in Colorado. And just to give you one
40 example, there was a male lynx that was captured by a
41 trapper I think it was like about, I don't know, 100
42 miles from Banff National Park, and then it was
43 released in Colorado down by Durango in the San Juan
44 Mountains. Five years later that same lynx was caught
45 300 miles north of Banff by a trapper. So that lynx
46 went a really long ways.

47
48 And so it's really interesting. You
49 think of these lynx on the landscape as maybe they're
50 just staying in this general area, and some of them

1 probably are, but some of them are really booking. So
2 we want to learn more about that.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. We've been
7 noticing an increase of coyotes into the area. I
8 wonder how much efforts being put into monitoring that
9 movement north of coyotes and what the possible impacts
10 are going to be as far as displacement or competition.

11

12 MR. BURKE: Well, I would be very
13 interested to talk to you about that, because that's
14 kind of a side aspect of this project is any coyotes
15 that we capture we're going to put collars on them as
16 well. We want to look and see if there is kind of some
17 competition between the lynx and the coyotes. What
18 we're noticing at Tetlin, and, you know, I don't know
19 that much about it, but what I'm hearing is most of the
20 coyotes seem to be around the road system. But that
21 might be different where you're at. So we do want to
22 see are the coyotes moving in, and are they just kind
23 of, you know, filling another niche, or are they
24 actually kind of displacing the lynx. So I'd love to
25 talk to you about that and where you're seeing them.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I may take note
28 that in my years of going to meetings, there was a
29 survey done by ADF&G south of Fairbanks. They found
30 that half the lambs, the ewes -- or lambs of sheep,
31 were taken by coyotes. So there's a lot of stuff out
32 there already.

33

34 Will.

35

36 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, I was curious. How
37 are you -- are you live trapping these lynx in box
38 traps, or what's the method?

39

40 MR. BURKE: Yeah, we're going to use a
41 Belisle foot snare. You know, this is our first
42 attempt this winter, so this is going to be new for us.
43 We'll see what works for us, but that's what we've --
44 we've ordered a bunch of Belisle foot snares, and we
45 also have box trap that's made out of PBC pipe and
46 chicken wire that we're going to build, and we're going
47 to try those as well. I'm really curious to see how
48 those work. They've been used in Montana quite a bit
49 successfully. And the one nice thing about them is you
50 don't have to worry about the paws freezing, and you

1 don't have to worry about it being so cold that you
2 have to go out and close all your snares down. You can
3 actually -- you know, the lynx can be okay in that box
4 trap for up to 48 hours is what we've read, because
5 they have access to water through the snow as well as
6 bait. The bait that you leave in the trap. So those
7 are the two methods that we're going to try.

8

9 We may try hounds in the future, too,
10 to use hounds to chase the lynx up trees, and give that
11 a shot as well.

12

13 And just kind of to address you, Madame
14 Chair, as to coyotes, that's another reason for
15 monitoring snowshoe hares. What they found is that,
16 you know, the coyotes are also following the hare
17 cycle, and when the hare cycle crashes, the coyotes
18 prey switch. And when the hare numbers drop, those
19 coyotes go after lambs, so they're switching their
20 prey.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. With my
23 husband's 52 years and my 41, Frank says he virtually
24 never saw a coyote in Alaska that long ago. And it
25 seems like there's more and more and more and more of
26 them. So information that people forget. Yeah.

27

28 Any other questions.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MR. BALIS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. The next
35 on the agenda will be this one. More about regulatory
36 changes.

37

38 Okay. Out in teleconference land,
39 somebody needs to press their mute button, because
40 we're hearing a lot of shuffling paper right now, and
41 we earlier heard a lot of coughing. That might tell
42 you which one it is that needs to mute their mic.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Just a reminder to folks
47 on teleconference, to mute your phones, press star
48 then six. And if you wish to speak, you can press
49 star-six again, and that will unmute.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
4 you. Go ahead.

5

6 MS. GABORIAULT: Thank you, Madame
7 Chair. Again my name is Holly Gaboriault with the U.S.
8 Fish and Wildlife Service from the Anchorage Regional
9 Office. And we are here to present to you some
10 information about what we are considering in terms of
11 regulatory changes that would clarify allowable
12 practices for the take of wildlife on National Wildlife
13 Refuges throughout Alaska.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Before you go
16 on, could you state your position?

17

18 MS. GABORIAULT: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are you a
21 director or what do.....

22

23 MS. GABORIAULT: No, I'm not a
24 director. My position title is refuge supervisor. So
25 I supervise half of the refuges in the State of Alaska.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
28 you.

29

30 MS. GABORIAULT: So what we are
31 considering again are regulatory changes that would --
32 you have in front of you the flyer, I think everyone
33 has a copy of this, and also the questions and answers
34 that were passed out to you by your Council
35 coordinator. And it identifies basically the four
36 areas that we are talking about possibly making
37 changes.

38

39 One would be to clarify allowable
40 practices for the take of wildlife on National Wildlife
41 Refuges; to clarify some public uses, including opening
42 the non-commercial gathering of natural resources to
43 recreational users; and clarifying some of our closure
44 and restriction procedures on National Wildlife
45 Refuges. This flyer really does a good job of trying
46 to -- of capturing those four areas, some on the front
47 and some on the back, and trying to summarize what it
48 is that we are considering doing.

49

50 The main purpose is to clarify what we

1 can and cannot do on refuges with regard to predator
2 control in an effort to clear up confusion and conflict
3 between Federal and State mandates, and to ensure that
4 we are managing refuges in Alaska in line and
5 consistent with our mandates.

6
7 One thing that we wanted to highlight
8 and to reiterate is that the proposed changes would not
9 apply to Federal subsistence, and are not intended to
10 negatively affect Federally-qualified subsistence
11 users. If they do, if you see anything that we are
12 presenting in these documents that might negatively
13 affect Federally-qualified subsistence users, we want
14 to know. Please tell us and help us figure out a way
15 to possibly resolve that.

16
17 We're still early in the process, and
18 we are here to listen and gather input. And we took a
19 lot of notes from the comments that we've heard over
20 the day and a half. This is early in a public process.
21 So at this point our agency does not have a draft
22 document for you to review. We're in the early stages
23 of pre-scoping where we're trying to gather input from
24 tribes and also from Regional Councils like yourself to
25 determine what things we need to consider as we try to
26 finalize a draft.

27
28 Our plan is to have a draft document
29 available for public review and comment by the end of
30 January or early February, which would allow for a
31 public comment process at that point that would also
32 overlap with the Regional Advisory Councils' schedule
33 for winter meetings. What we'd like to offer is to
34 come back for your winter meeting and provide more
35 input at that time when we have a draft document that
36 you'll have in front of you to be able to react to and
37 respond to.

38
39 But at this point we would also like
40 comments, feedback, and any concerns that you may have
41 at this point with what it is that we're proposing.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That was short.
44 Questions. Will.

45
46 MR. KOEHLER: I think this is real
47 similar to what we looked at this morning. I think the
48 difference is, and why I'm a lot less -- I think it
49 will be a lot less -- maybe a lot less heated
50 discussion on this, is just the difference -- basically

1 this is real similar wording to what we were just
2 looking at with the Park Service, but the way you guys
3 are bringing this to us feels like it's moving a lot
4 more in line with the process, if I understand it
5 right. And so I appreciate that.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

10

11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Why don't you just take
12 this before the Federal Subsistence Board as a
13 proposal.

14

15 MS. GABORIAULT: Well, as I stated
16 earlier, Madame Chair, that these proposed regulatory
17 changes would not impact Federal subsistence users, so
18 what we're proposing are changes to the sporthunting
19 regulations, or general regulations, so there's nothing
20 that we are proposing that would change anything that
21 has been previously approved by the Federal Subsistence
22 Board.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy -- oh, do
25 you have a follow up.

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have a follow up.
28 Okay. All the Federal subsistence users have to buy a
29 State hunting license, and they have to go by the State
30 hunting regulations. And so let me just ask you a
31 couple of hypothetical questions then.

32

33 A Federal subsistence user in the
34 Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge. If he wants to go
35 wolf hunting in May under State regulations, can he
36 hunt wolf in May under State regulations, even though
37 he lives in Huslia and he's a Federal-qualified
38 subsistence user.

39

40 MS. GABORIAULT: I cannot answer that
41 question for you. We do have another person that I
42 believe is on the line that may be able to answer, and
43 I'm going to ask Heather if you may have the answer to
44 that question. And if not, then we'll have to get back
45 to you and answer it. I'm not familiar with that area,
46 and our three refuge managers are from different
47 refuges, so they're not familiar either. So I can't
48 answer that question.

49

50 Heather, would you be able to answer

1 it.

2

3 MS. TONISON: This is Heather Tonison
4 for the record, and I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
5 Service in the Regional Office in Anchorage.

6

7 I'm looking at a table here that
8 actually talks about some of the things that are
9 allowed under the Federal subsistence regulations, and
10 also under the sporthunting State regulations, or
11 general hunting State regulations. I'm actually not
12 seeing what that one in particular that there is any
13 allowance that talks to a provision where wolves and
14 coyotes are allowed to be taken during that time under
15 Federal subsistence regulations. And so in that way,
16 what we are proposing is basically that it would not be
17 allowed under State general or sporthunting and
18 trapping to take wolves or coyotes for a period from
19 May 1st through August 9th. So that is what we are
20 proposing, but again that's under the State sport or
21 general hunting and trapping regulations.

22

23 If there is a provision that allows it
24 under Federal subsistence regulations that I'm not
25 aware of, this thing that we are proposing here would
26 not affect that in any way.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I would like to
29 say something. As a person that tries to follow these
30 regulations and know how it works, if the State has a
31 longer season and bag limit, that's what we -- as a
32 subsistence user, then you have to put that in Federal
33 regs. And there's a lot of things that aren't in
34 Federal regs that are in State regs that's differing.
35 And that's the point I believe you're trying to make.

36

37 So once -- to make the short answer, if
38 it's not in Federal regs, it does affect us. And
39 that's the point we've been trying to make all along.
40 So, yeah, it affects. For you to say -- I mean, this
41 is no offense against anyone in particular, but that
42 statement is not correct in that it does affect us. It
43 does affect subsistence. Because a lot of those
44 regulations that are in State regs, that's what we
45 abide by, because it's a longer season. So saying it
46 doesn't affect us is not true.

47

48 MS. TONISON: Madame Chair, if I may.
49 This is Heather Tonison again.

50

1 I did just want to follow up on one
2 thing. There was a concern that has been brought to
3 our attention that is pretty much in line with what
4 you're saying there, and that is something that came up
5 earlier where we're talking about the take of black
6 bears in dens and also the use of artificial light to
7 take black bears in dens. That is something that we
8 have heard that is a concern, and it is currently
9 allowed under the State regulations for customary and
10 traditional use in certain game management units.

11
12 And because that was brought up to us
13 as a potential concern, to show you that we are taking
14 into consideration things like that, and we are
15 genuinely considering that input, we already did push
16 that up as a concern through our leadership, and got
17 confirmation that we would like to allow for an
18 exception to continue to allow that practice under the
19 State regulations so that it does not impact
20 subsistence users.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And this is an
23 example of what we were talking about earlier with the
24 Park Service, where we feel this is how the process
25 with the Park Service should have gone.

26
27 Virgil.

28
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. For some reason
30 you want to call everyone a sporthunter. There's not
31 definition of a sporthunter. We're a hunter. We have
32 general hunting regulations. There's not one word in
33 the State regulation book that says this is a
34 sporthunting book. Nothing. It says hunting
35 regulations, period.

36
37 All these people that live on the
38 refuge, and we've got lots of refuges, that live on the
39 refuges have to buy a hunting license. A State general
40 hunting license. They hunt under general State hunting
41 regulations. There are once in a while, but very, very
42 seldom, the only one I can really think of is when the
43 State's objected to an antlerless moose hunt, say, in
44 the Koyukuk Refuge because of the lower number of
45 moose, because the moose population's declined, and the
46 Refuge has went ahead and opened up an antlerless
47 moose, a cow hunt basically, over the objection of the
48 State management biologist. That's the only time I
49 know of any different kind of hunting on a refuge.
50

1 Now this RAC has been involved, and you
2 were here this morning for that discussion, I think all
3 of you, this RAC has been involved, and I personally
4 have been involved in getting a number of methods and
5 means changed over the past 15, 20 years. And a number
6 of these regulation changes that I've participated in
7 getting changed, this is going to undo them. And all
8 these things went through the public process. That's
9 why I asked why you don't just put a proposal in to the
10 Federal Subsistence Board.

11
12 I think this whole room, I think is
13 nothing more than bureaucratic bullying. That's all it
14 is. It is going outside of the public process, which
15 is submit a proposal to the Board, whether it's Federal
16 Board or State Board, and see if you can beat the
17 public and get your proposal passed. I know a lot of
18 times some of the people in the State Fish and Game
19 oppose regulation proposals that we put in, and we win
20 some, and we lose some. But that's the way the process
21 works. And I don't know why the Refuge Service wants
22 to deviate from that. So that's my -- I'd like that
23 question answer answered. Why do you want to deviate
24 from that? I know you have your special rules that you
25 can -- the bureaucratic bullying, that's what I like to
26 call it, because that's all it is, because you're not
27 going through a public process. Bureaucrats, whoever
28 the bureaucrat is in charge, decides, well, I don't
29 like this, and I don't like this, so I'm going to do
30 this, and I don't care if people like it or not. We're
31 going to public notice it. We're going to write a
32 proposed rule, we're going to public notice it, notice
33 it to the world, and get all the tree-huggers to agree
34 with us in the Lower 48, and we'll ram this down these
35 people's throat that live on the refuge.

36
37 Please answer my question, why don't
38 you use the regular process.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: There's a
41 couple things there I think I could help you out with,
42 Virgil, but let's see how the government does first.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MS. GABRIULT: Madame Chair. I think
47 I'll try to answer the question, and then maybe someone
48 else at the table will have something to add.

49
50 We feel that this is a process that we

1 can use, and that we're not trying to circumvent a
2 public process. We are in the midst of a public
3 process right now. We're in the early stages of trying
4 to draft something. We're asking for your input.

5
6 The things that you're bringing up are
7 exactly the things that we need to hear, and are asking
8 to find out about in advance of drafting anything that
9 we would put out for public review and comment.

10
11 So it is a process that we can use. We
12 could have also used a process to change the
13 regulations for each individual refuge, which would
14 have been a lot more cumbersome if we did that on an
15 individual refuge-by-refuge basis. And we talked about
16 that in the beginning of our conversations and going
17 this route. So this will be a more simplified process
18 and make it easier to understand what it is that we're
19 proposing to do.

20
21 But we need to hear when there are
22 situations that you think we've missed in proposing
23 some of the changes to these regulations that are being
24 used both under the State and the Federal regulations.
25 So if there's something that we haven't considered, and
26 we are trying to consider those areas where there is
27 overlap so we can talk about exceptions, we need to
28 hear about those.

29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: I just want to make
31 sure of that.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: He said sure.

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. A number of
36 these proposals like I said were -- or these
37 regulations were proposed by people setting at these
38 tables. And what they're going to do is shorten
39 hunting seasons for certain animals, wolves for
40 instance. You're going to disallow taking a grizzly
41 bear, or if you want to call it a brown bear, I don't
42 care, over a black bear bait. That's two of them that
43 will get disallowed for use. I can look at your thing
44 and think of more of them. You said you're already
45 going to try to make an exception for like the people
46 in the Koyukuk Refuge and that region. They're the
47 people that actually do go out and hunt bears in their
48 dens in the fall. And, of course, they don't know
49 whether it's a mother bear with cubs or not whenever
50 they're trying to get the bear out of the den. No,

1 they don't.

2

3 But anyway, that's a couple of the
4 things.

5

6 And so the State regulations allow it,
7 but the Federal regulations don't, or there are Federal
8 regulations the season closes sooner, one or the other.
9 Anyway, what you're going to do is take these people
10 that live in these refuges or near the refuges that
11 have to buy State hunting license, general hunting
12 license, to hunt under general hunting regulations for
13 the State, and you're going to -- what this would do is
14 either totally close some of those opportunities that
15 they have, or it's going to shorten their seasons, one
16 or the other. And so I'm definitely opposed to this.

17

18 Thank you. Madame Chair.

19

20 MR. BERENDZEN: Madame Chair. If I
21 may, in response to that, we are requesting that you
22 identify -- we've identified a lot of those areas where
23 those opportunities would be eliminated if they're only
24 allowed through general hunting regulations. And if
25 that's the case, we're trying to identify where we
26 would restore that opportunity for non-rural -- I'm
27 sorry, for rural residents or subsistence use. We're
28 trying to identify those and get through the Federal
29 Subsistence Board process get those opportunities made
30 available to the rural residents.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: His brain's
33 working. So do you have another question.

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: So in other words, what
36 you're going to do -- what you want to do is just
37 promulgate regulations that would discriminate against
38 non-rural residents whenever there's no shortage of
39 those particular species of wildlife and no reason to
40 do that.

41

42 MR. BERENDZEN: Madame Chair. I
43 suppose it could be viewed that way, and that might be
44 a comment that you could submit.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's a good
47 comment.

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. That is how
50 I would look at it, because the regulations that would

1 affect people I know, and personally affect me, that
2 would be that way, there's absolutely no biological
3 reason to do it. There's plenty of those animals out
4 there. The best scientific data that both the Refuge
5 has collected and the State Department of Fish and Game
6 has collected, for an example grizzly bear in Unit 24.
7 I can't remember all the details of the report to the
8 Board of Game when they considered that proposal last
9 year, but I think maybe 25 percent of the harvest
10 objective, if we're lucky, is met each year on grizzly
11 bears in that game management unit. That's all.

12

13 Thank you. Madame Chair.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Others, do you
16 have comments.

17

18 Andy, Andrew next.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you.

21

22 On the back page of your handout under
23 the emergency closures and restrictions, could you just
24 briefly educate me on that? On the right-hand side
25 where it says duration, 60 days, extension beyond 60
26 days subject to non-emergency procedures. Could you
27 kind of educate me on what non-emergency procedures
28 means? I'm not familiar with that. So I'm just
29 wondering what your proposed change as to procedures,
30 how that would be affected by that sentence. If I may,
31 I guess what I don't understand or what I've never been
32 exposed to is what non-emergency procedures refers to.

33

34 MR. BERENDZEN: Madame Chair. My best
35 explanation for that, Councilman, is that in the
36 example of Kenai where they've had brown bear harvest,
37 that they are monitoring that. They're trying to put a
38 cap on the numbers of bears harvested, and they have a
39 hunting season going on. I think that would be an
40 example of an emergency closure. That's my best
41 estimate or understanding.

42

43 It's possible that Heather Tonison,
44 who's on conference call, might have a clearer
45 explanation for that.

46

47 MS. TONISON: Yes, if I may, through
48 the Chair. This is Heather Tonison.

49

50 Basically when we say non-emergency

1 procedures, that would be referring to the next
2 category down, so that would be the other closures or
3 restrictions. So that describes what we're proposing
4 related to non-emergency temporary closures and
5 permanent closures. So when we say non-emergency
6 procedures, basically that just -- if you refer to the
7 next category down, that's what we're talking about.
8 So really the only change there under that first
9 category that you're referring to, the emergency
10 closures and restriction, is that we would be going --
11 proposing going from what it is now, which is a 30-day
12 period to a 60 days, and that actually is more
13 consistent with the process that the Federal
14 Subsistence Board uses as well.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Okay. So maybe to
19 summarize that in layman's term, what you're basically
20 doing is through this change in procedures would be to
21 go from 30 days where you would have to after 30 days
22 re-initiate the process, to going to 60 days or 60 days
23 plus without having to go through the entire process
24 again. Yeah, I have a little bit of concerns about
25 that. I can understand maybe going to a 60-day
26 extension, but maybe have to review it or go through
27 the process again. It seems like you're opening up the
28 door just to permanently close something for five years
29 there -- up to five years it look like, not to exceed
30 five years. And that seems like an awful long time
31 without some kind of review of what the closure was.
32 So I have concerns about that. As feedback to you. I
33 think keeping it at 60 days and then no extensions
34 would be maybe acceptable, but I would hate to see it
35 go from year to year or season to season with no review
36 of why that closure was taking place, or whether it's
37 necessary.

38

39 MS. GABORIAULT: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

42

43 MR. FIRMIN: I guess I have a couple
44 questions. Earlier you said someone brought it to your
45 attention about these regulations. And who's someone?

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Was that
48 specific to the one where they said.....

49

50 MR. FIRMIN: Well, no, she was saying

1 when you brought up this page, and you said someone
2 brought these and others to our attention, I was just
3 -- who's someone. Is it the public, is it your boss,
4 is it Defenders of Wildlife, PETA. Define somebody.

5
6 MS. GABORIAULT: I guess I'm sorry, I
7 don't recall saying that. If I did, I'm not sure what
8 I was referring to.

9
10 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I think the whole
11 proposal change in general.

12
13 MS. GABORIAULT: I think I was saying
14 that someone gave you a copies of these, and that would
15 have been your Council coordinator, was that -- are you
16 talking about that?

17
18 MR. FIRMIN: No, that wasn't it.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I heard
21 someone, and I wasn't sure it was her. I thought it
22 was -- it might have been you. It had to do with the
23 -- maybe it was the gal on line. The bear -- the
24 taking of black and brown bear cubs -- no, wait, which
25 -- something about artificial light I think it was, and
26 someone brought up to your attention about that
27 specific thing. I heard someone right then.

28
29 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, that's what I was
30 referring to, and when.....

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Who was the
33 someone is what you're asking.

34
35 MS. GABORIAULT: I believe the someone
36 was in turn our Staff on refuges -- on the refuge in
37 that area, the Koyukuk/ Nowitna Refuge brought that to
38 our attention internally as we were discussing what
39 these ideas would be. That was the someone I believe
40 she was referring to.

41
42 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Yeah. Because it's
43 always someone brought this or we or something. It's
44 like, well, it had to start somewhere.

45
46 Another question is when you -- I guess
47 Virgil answered it, I guess this is what you meant by
48 sport regs? Because I don't.....

49
50 MS. GABORIAULT: Sport or general, yes.

1 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Because I was going
2 to say, is there a third book I'm missing here.

3
4 So I guess for clarification, basically
5 when the State season goes into effect, that supersedes
6 the Federal season, so that State reg is in effect over
7 all Federal land, correct? Like the state moose
8 hunting season around Fort Yukon opens the moose season
9 on the whole Refuge. So if you, say, closed moose
10 season for the State moose season, then there would be
11 no State hunt. There would only be the Federal hunt.
12 So I guess I'm kind of going back to Virgil's point was
13 if you didn't want to take brown bears over bait on
14 Federal land, why don't you just change it in the State
15 book. Why does it have to be -- or is that -- I guess
16 that was -- is it a State regulatory change? Is it
17 statewide? I'm just trying to figure that out is all.

18
19 MR. GLASPELL: I'll do my best to jump
20 in there. And I guess we all acknowledge that on the
21 ground there is only one hunt, there's only one
22 subsistence, but in practice, let's be honest, we do
23 have two different sets of rules, and that's the
24 challenge here. We've got the Federal ones, and we've
25 got the State ones. And to answer the question that
26 Mr. Umphenour asked earlier, the reason that we didn't
27 begin by bringing something to the Federal Subsistence
28 Board is because we're not proposing any changes to
29 Federal subsistence regulations. And the reason that
30 we don't just change the sport or general hunting
31 regulation is because we can't. As simple as that.
32 So, yes, you're right, that in the absence of a State
33 season and a Federal season that overlaps, you know,
34 you take one of those away, and it potentially affects
35 the opportunity for some users. But it is very much
36 our intention here to prevent that from happening. And
37 that's why we're here today asking for your help.

38
39 And I think the more general answer to
40 who or what that Holly was getting at, is to say that
41 we have been engaged in a very intensive internal
42 process to look at the two books, to look at actual
43 practices on the ground, and to try and understand
44 where something might slip through the cracks, where
45 there's a legitimate hunt practice out there on the
46 ground that would not be protected through the Federal
47 subsistence regulations if indeed this proposed rule
48 were to take effect.

49
50 So I think our interest in hearing from

1 all you is sincere. We've been working really hard to
2 figure out where things don't match up as intended.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Then
5 answer this. We are considering the following changes,
6 and I assume we are, the who we are, is everybody in
7 the Service, prohibiting activities involving predator
8 reduction with the intent or potential to alter or
9 manipulate natural predator/prey dynamics. Who come up
10 with that, because I don't see this. I mean, is that
11 why we're here, because of this statement? I don't
12 think this group agrees with this.

13

14 MR. GLASPELL: That comes directly from
15 the policies that govern how we manage National
16 Wildlife Refuges.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But you're
19 interpreting taking of brown bears over bait, taking of
20 bears using traps or snares, taking of wolves and
21 coyotes during denning season, all of these things as
22 prohibiting, or whatever you're calling this, predator
23 reduction with the intent or potential, and so on. You
24 are interpreting that. We might not interpret it that
25 way is how I see it. We -- I don't know how you can
26 interpret these seasons and bag limits to come under
27 that heading on blanket deal.

28

29 MR. GLASPELL: Where those activities
30 are legitimate subsistence practices, then we should
31 collectively seek to protect them through the Federal
32 subsistence rules. It's only in cases where those
33 practices are specifically intended to manipulate
34 predator numbers that the proposed rule would restrict
35 them.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But how did you
38 decide that's what the intent was.

39

40 MR. GLASPELL: How did we decide that.
41 I guess like I said earlier, and I don't mean to speak
42 for everybody here, so, Holly, you should jump in, but
43 where those are legitimate subsistence practices then,
44 we would hope that they have been protected through the
45 Federal subsistence regulations, and if they're not,
46 then we need to seek to do that.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But it's got so
49 complicated that you would have to go through every
50 season and bag limit in every of your Federal areas,

1 and you'd have to go to the State regs, and then go to
2 the Federal regs and see if once this is gone, that,
3 okay, where does it affect subsistence. And I don't
4 think you have a handle on it. And I don't think the
5 Park Service did either, other than it appears to us
6 that our government is working on taking away more
7 rights of people and fish and game management and
8 seasons and bag limits for other people. That's from
9 me.

10

11 Guys. Virgil.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. If you read that
14 paragraph carefully, prohibiting activities involving
15 predator reduction with the intent or potential to
16 alter or manipulate natural predator/prey dynamics, and
17 associated natural ecological processes to increase
18 wildlife by humans on National Wildlife Refuges in
19 Alaska.

20

21 If you read that and think about it, if
22 you replace the word activities, which is the second
23 word with hunting, because that's the only activity
24 that's going to do that other than trapping,
25 prohibiting hunting or trapping involving predator
26 reduction. That means you're killing a predator,
27 harvesting a predator. Okay. They are wildlife. If
28 you go down to the next to the last sentence, to
29 increase harvest of wildlife by humans, that's a human
30 harvesting wildlife. It's a predator of wildlife, if
31 it's a bear. Most of the time you're harvesting it so
32 they can eat it. If it's a wolf, they're harvesting it
33 so they can use the fur. But it doesn't make sense. I
34 mean, basically you're saying in that first paragraph
35 that you cannot harvest any predators. That's what
36 it's saying to me when I analyze it in that manner.

37

38 Maybe what you need to is be more clear
39 if you mean harvesting predators that would otherwise
40 be killing moose calves, to increase the number of
41 moose calf survival, we're going to prohibit that. If
42 you said that, that would be coming out and saying what
43 you really mean.

44

45 But saying this, you're basically
46 saying you can't kill any predators or trap any
47 predators, period, because it's going to be an
48 increased harvest of wildlife, which they're wildlife.
49 Wolves, foxes, bears, whatever they are, they're
50 wildlife. That's basically what you're saying here, so

1 I know that someone has to wordsmith this stuff and
2 lawyers look it over and all this other stuff.
3 However, you need to write things, and this is how I
4 used to always lecture my former Board members when I
5 was on the Board of Fish, we need to address the public
6 as if they only have an eighth grade education, because
7 a lot of people, maybe that's all they have. They need
8 -- if you're a teacher, you're an instructor, if your
9 students fail to understand what you are attempting to
10 get them to understand, you're a failure as an
11 instructor. And so when you write regulations, if the
12 public that has to use them can't understand them,
13 you're a failure as a regulation writers. Lawyers
14 don't look at it that way. They look at it, I'm going
15 to write this so damn tricky, that if I'm a prosecutor,
16 I'm going to get a conviction. So we need to get down
17 to basics and write things so that the public, the
18 people that have to use them, can comprehend them,
19 understand them, because most of the public wants to
20 comply with the regulations for conservation purposes.

21

22 Thank you. Madame Chair.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andy.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you.

27

28 I'm going to kind of respectfully
29 disagree with your take on that, Virgil. To me, when I
30 look at this regulation, or the proposed regulation
31 changes, it's affecting a change in a methodology for
32 taking a predatory animal, not stopping you from taking
33 them. It's just saying you can't take them in a den,
34 with a light, or you can't take them over bait or
35 something like that, but it doesn't stop you from
36 hunting you. It doesn't top you for if you
37 incidentally see one and it's an open season, taking
38 one.

39

40 So I think you're -- although I
41 understand what you're trying to say, I don't interpret
42 it that way. And quite frankly I see this as a way of
43 creating at least a few islands within the State that
44 some animals might have a fair chance of surviving.
45 And there's a lot -- you know, we talked a lot earlier
46 in this meeting about the onslaught into the rural
47 areas from non-rural areas and the pressures being put
48 on people. And I see this as maybe an opportunity or a
49 chance to maybe slow that stem a little bit, because I
50 don't see -- the way things are set up right now, I see

1 no provisions set up to stop any kind of a
2 professional, whether it be guiding, air taxi, whatever
3 service promoting, going out, seeking out dens, killing
4 bears, and in my personal view, it's probably not the
5 view of you, in my personal view, I think it's a pretty
6 unsporting way to kill an animal, to go into their den
7 and take them out. That's my own personal view, and I
8 know I differ from a lot of people on it.

9
10 So I don't see this as destructive or
11 taking away as many rights. I see it as maybe taking
12 the rights away from certain individuals within the
13 State that don't qualify federally, but I'm hearing
14 that they want to make sure that it's for people that
15 are Federally-qualified rural residents would still
16 have the opportunity to do this. It's not taking it
17 away from everybody, it's just restricting it. And
18 that's part of what ANILCA's for. It's to protect
19 rural practices, rural cultures, traditional ways of
20 living. And that's in real danger right now, because
21 of the way things are going, the way the scales are
22 tipping, and the access that people have to all of
23 Alaska, remote areas now. It wasn't like that 20 years
24 ago, but now with boats, jet boats, snowmachines that
25 can go damn near anywhere, airplanes, there's no closed
26 place. There's no safe place. There's no islands
27 where animals can live or have an ability to survive
28 without human action impacting them.

29
30 That's all I have to say, because I
31 know I'm going to differ from a lot of you, and I
32 respect your views, but I've got to say what I've got
33 to say for long-term conservation.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andrew, then
36 Donald.

37
38 MR. FIRMIN: I've got to agree with
39 Andy on some of that.

40
41 I had another couple things from earlier. You
42 said you guys can't put in a proposal for the State? I
43 mean, State Fish and Game puts in proposals to the
44 Subsistence Board to do away with subsistence fishing
45 in certain parts of the State. I mean, how come you
46 guys can't do that? Against your mandate or policy
47 or.....

48
49 MR. GLASPELL: Madame Chair. I guess
50 technically we can, but I think the Park Service

1 explained a little bit earlier that those attempts to
2 deal directly with the Board of Game on this issue have
3 largely fallen flat. And we discussed this previously,
4 and I think we can fairly say that we've essentially
5 exhausted those administrative options, and the next
6 step is a proposed rule of this sort.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But have you
9 guys put in proposals to the Board of Game.

10

11 MR. GLASPELL: We've asked to be
12 excepted from things that were passed by the Board of
13 Game so that those particular means wouldn't apply on
14 National Wildlife Refuges, and those requests have been
15 denied.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Excepted or
18 accepted?

19

20 MR. GLASPELL: Excepted.

21

22 MR. FIRMIN: On another one, I kind of
23 disagree with the opening of non-commercial gathering
24 of natural resources. While most of the time I don't
25 have a problem with them, you know, drifters or
26 hunters, whatever, if they want to build a fire, eat
27 some berries, well, have it, but how are you going to
28 have them differentiate between private lands, Native
29 lands, and Refuge lands. And there's only so much
30 Refuge land on the stretch of the river where they're
31 going to be at, and then, you know.....

32

33 MR. GLASPELL: Madame Chair. My
34 understanding is that most lands that's now allowed.
35 This is really kind of a housekeeping action where we
36 would -- it's happening anyway, and we would just
37 approve that that harvest of berries or collection of
38 firewood for use, non-commercial use just so that it's
39 consistent with other regulatory agencies or land
40 owners, and they're not going to be in violation, which
41 that's not enforced anyway, but we just, like I say,
42 want to clean it up so it's clear that everybody would
43 be in compliance and no question about it.

44

45 MR. FIRMIN: But they can't like most
46 people just get a permit or they don't do that anyway.
47 I just see this as an opening for non-local users to
48 not only drive their \$50,000 boats and airplanes, now
49 they're going to start building giant hunting camps,
50 too, you know, because I already see them parked all

1 over the place. I mean, why give them a reason to go
2 up the bank and start making a fricking camp out of
3 clearing brush and stuff.

4

5 MS. GABORIAULT: Madame Chair. I just
6 wanted to say that that's the type of comment that we
7 need to receive from you, especially when we have a
8 draft and we're actively receiving comments on the
9 draft. We've had one government-to-government
10 consultation with the Village of Allakaket and heard
11 similar concerns from them.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Andrew, follow
14 up, then.....

15

16 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. I mean, I want
17 people to have a good time when they're out on the
18 land, and I want them to have a good experience, but at
19 the same time, like I said, if they're mostly -- like a
20 lot of the people I see, you know, visually, are on the
21 river, and there's Native allotments, private land,
22 people's camps, people's known camps that maybe
23 registered or not, and then there's other just -- all
24 the natural -- heck, I'm local, and I can barely find a
25 good place to camp, because all the good spots are
26 already taken by somebody else. And just to see
27 somebody, you know, that's non-local start moving in on
28 your place, and then that's just a starting point.

29

30 And the other thing I wanted to say was
31 I don't -- I guess more for clarification, what your
32 object of this to do is basically to disallow or ignore
33 some State regs on Federal land, correct? It looks
34 like. Is that basically the end game?

35

36 MR. BERENDZEN: Well, some of the --
37 Madame Chair. Some of the methods and means that are
38 proposed and in some places utilized where they are
39 utilized extensively by non-rural residents, I think
40 that's more the intent, but, yes, it is.

41

42 MR. FIRMIN: Because the one, like the
43 taking brown bears over bait is fairly new. I don't
44 think anybody's even harvested a brown bear over bait
45 that know of yet and that's a fairly new reg, and to
46 see it trying to be taken out of the regs is something
47 odd. And I would like to add to that, why don't you
48 take the whole Unit 25 right out of this book, there
49 ain't no moose out there. Why let people hunt up
50 there. You want to have the natural prey dynamics,

1 will, take half of the hunters out there. They're the
2 biggest predators. They're the ones shooting all the
3 moose. They're shooting half of them, decimating the
4 caribou and every other game animal up there. Why
5 don't you take all them hunters right out of the
6 equation right them, and let them naturally coexist
7 with the people that actually live there. I mean, I'd
8 like to see more than just predators taken out of
9 there. Why not disallow the non-resident moose hunting
10 season. There would cut 20 people, 30 people right out
11 of 25D right there along. How about the whole Unit 25
12 I mean, you know.

13

14 I haven't seen a caribou in 10 years.
15 I'm sure there's plenty. I see lots of horns back at
16 the airport. I mean, that was part of my other
17 question earlier. Why aren't they crossing the river
18 any more. Where are they going and why aren't they in
19 their natural migration patterns, and the common belief
20 is because they get to the river there's a bunch of
21 people that get flown in back there, 10 miles off the
22 river shooting all the frontrunners and all the big
23 bulls, and the other half scatters back in the brush,
24 and the other ones wander all the way around into
25 Canada. And that's a lot of the common thing, they're
26 just -- I mean, I was saying that earlier about the
27 Forty-Mile Caribou Herd, they don't even know where to
28 go, they're running in circles over there highway to
29 highway, because there's so many people shooting at
30 them, they don't know where to go.

31

32 I'd like to see more than just
33 predators. I mean, why not take out some of the other
34 predators, and the biggest one is people. And then
35 leave the Federal subsistence users alone. They're the
36 ones that depend on it.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead and
41 respond, and I have a response to that, too.

42

43 MS. GABORIAULT: Madame Chair. Just I
44 wanted to mention that the National Wildlife Refuge
45 System Improvement Act identified priority public uses
46 that we would allow on National Wildlife Refuges
47 nationwide where it's compatible and consistent with
48 the reasons for why those refuges were established.
49 And one of the priority public uses on National
50 Wildlife Refuges where it is compatible and appropriate

1 is hunting. And so we don't want to eliminate all
2 hunting opportunities for people on refuges. The idea
3 behind this is to eliminate those means and methods
4 that are being used that are inconsistent with our
5 mandates and policies.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So why is a
10 black bear okay over bait and a brown bear not.

11

12 MS. GABORIAULT: Madame Chair. That's
13 one of the things that we're trying to get information
14 from you and from the public about. It's identified as
15 one of those items that we're not sure. We want to
16 hear more. Should we include brown bears and black
17 bears together and have this say, taking brown bears
18 and black bears over bait, or should it just be one or
19 the other. So that's one thing that we're also
20 interested in getting information from the public
21 about.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You're next,
24 Virgil, but I'm going to testify that I was bear
25 baiting last year for the very first time. And my
26 brother killed a grizzly bear over bait. And I will
27 tell you that when you're sitting on a bait station,
28 and black bears are coming in frequently, and you're
29 sitting there and a grizzly bear comes in, it's two
30 different stories. They are very, very, very fast and
31 quick and concerned about coming in. And so getting
32 the grizzly bear over the black bear is far less
33 opportunities from what I had seen on several bait
34 stations. And the occasional grizzly bear would come
35 in on almost every one of the bait stations we have
36 out.

37

38 And the other thing I learned, and my
39 husband had learned is that we knew there was a lot of
40 bears in our country, but we didn't know that many.
41 It's incredible how many more bears you see in the
42 woods on a bait station than you would ever see walking
43 around in the woods.

44

45 So for me, my input to you about just
46 in particular brown grizzly bears over bait is why, one
47 of my friends always called it hand wring, why worry
48 yourselves silly now. And if it's a problem, then you
49 do something about it. But I can see opportunity,
50 first, like you brought out, get rid of all the hunters

1 then if that's the case. Well, if they were brown bear
2 baiting, which 25D was approved by the Board of Game
3 and by the Federal Subsistence Board, why not allow
4 that to happen? ANILCA protects changing of times for
5 methods and means, and for seasons and bag limits, so
6 why do we have to start hand wringing that everything
7 is horrible? I'm going to stick -- I would say that
8 the grizzly brown bear over bait is one thing I would
9 be concerned about, that that becomes both in the Park
10 Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service a proposed
11 and final rule.

12

13 I think that each one of these other
14 things that you have on here has to be taken up singly
15 by people that understand it. That's the one thing I
16 know about, wolves in May, I've testified hundreds of
17 times on, that those hides are just fine. You can make
18 things out of them. They don't have the undermat. The
19 hair length is still long. You can still make things
20 out of them. So there's a few of these things I would
21 like to put my input on. So right now that's it.

22

23 And then another thing that I want to
24 bring out. When ever you look at these maps, and you
25 look at the State land, you look at the Federal land,
26 and then you look at the Native land, the Native land
27 is under State regulations. So when you start making
28 all these new regulations differing from State to
29 Federal, now you have innocent people thinking, oh,
30 yeah, look, I can do this here, and then, no, you
31 can't. It's been taken away from you by some proposed
32 rule in the Federal register. So those are the kind of
33 things I would stay away from. I would love to see the
34 State and the Federal people get a little more in
35 tuned.

36

37 And this process is sounding a little
38 bit better than what we went through with the Park
39 Service, but I just think it's -- doing this to the
40 user is criminal, to have all these mixed bag
41 regulations.

42

43 Next is Virgil.

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madame
46 Chair.

47

48 Okay. I don't know how many people
49 know it, but I own a meat and fish processing business.
50 And so we cut up -- we do lots of custom processing of

1 wild game, including bears.

2

3 I'm a guide. I guide on the Koyukuk
4 National Wildlife Refuge. I also guide on the BLM land
5 that is adjacent to it. I guide on State land that's
6 adjacent to the Refuge, or in the Refuge, and some
7 Native land. So I've got four landowners right there
8 where I guide. Refuge, BLM, State, and Native/ private
9 land. So to add a little bit to what Sue just said,
10 we're going to have different regulations on each piece
11 of land, except for the Refuge right now. Okay.

12

13 Back to what I said, we have a meat
14 business. One of Sue's clients, I guess it was her
15 client, killed a grizzly bear.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: My brother.

18

19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Your brother. No, I
20 mean a couple years ago when you brought me the grizzly
21 bear meat.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That was mine.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. You shot it.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That was a
28 subsistence bear.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So what did I do
31 with her bear? I made it into Polish sausage.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Summer sausage.

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Summer sausage.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And hot dogs.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: And hot dogs. I guide
40 out of Kaltag as well. That's primarily on Native
41 corporation land or on BLM land. And we kill grizzly
42 bears. You get a big old grizzly bear in the spring
43 right after it comes out of its den, and the hind leg
44 on one of them's going to weigh damn near as much as
45 the hind leg on a moose, you get a big bear, over
46 eight-foot bear. And so I make the whole darn thing
47 into polish sausage or summer sausage, ship it back to
48 the village. People eat them. So I just wanted you to
49 be aware of that.

50

1 And the bears are in a lot of the
2 terrain that we have, such as 25D, up in Yukon Flats,
3 bears are not easy to get in this brushy country. Like
4 Sue just said, she didn't realize there's so many bears
5 around until they started baiting bears.

6
7 I hate to see the Federal subsistence
8 users restricted, and I hate to see the other users
9 restricted as well. And as far as it concerns a lot of
10 people, all of you understand it, but some of the RAC
11 members and a lot of the public doesn't understand.
12 You have total control over what a guide that operates
13 on a refuge harvests. You tell him how many moose
14 hunters he can take, how many bear hunters he can take.
15 That's all in his operations plan, and he can't deviate
16 from it, because you'll take his permit away. So
17 that's totally regulated anyway.

18
19 I'm done. Madame Chair.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Don.

22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

24
25 And I want to thank the Fish and
26 Wildlife Service for extending this process and making
27 it somewhat easy for us to understand. But I have one
28 suggestion that would make it crystal clear. Instead
29 of this Togiak National Wildlife picture in the front
30 of your process, take that space and say, will not
31 affect Federal subsistence users, and that will clarify
32 for a lot of people where you're coming from. And the
33 Park Service didn't do that, and that just seems like a
34 no-brainer to me. And get rid of the colored picture
35 and just put in bold print, and that will.....

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But, Donald, it
38 does affect subsistence.....

39
40 MR. WOODRUFF: I know. But that's what
41 they've been telling us.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I know, but I
44 have trouble with saying it doesn't affect when it
45 does. We think it doesn't affect, but we -- you think
46 it doesn't, but we think it does. And it does when you
47 start pulling out the regulations that this is
48 affected, and then you look at each book and see which
49 one it isn't in there or it is. There's how it affects
50 us.

1 MR. BERENDZEN: Madame Chair. As far
2 as direct effects to subsistence users, yes, we've
3 identified, like we've discussed, some differences
4 between the general hunting regulations and subsistence
5 hunting regulations. And where those differences have
6 been identified, we are committed to making allowances
7 for those through the Federal subsistence regs.

8
9 One thing I'm not sure was clear when
10 you were talking about brown bear hunting over bait in
11 25D for example, that's been -- that regulation's been
12 approved through both Federal Subsistence Board and
13 State Board of Game. What this action would do would
14 restrict it from -- would restrict the non-rural
15 resident users from hunting brown bear over bait
16 through the general regulations. But the Federal
17 subsistence regulations would still authorize rural
18 residents to do the brown bear hunting over bait. I'm
19 not sure if that was clear for you.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, it was
22 totally clear for me. Totally clear. I understand
23 that, but you also -- maybe what he didn't understand
24 what I was trying to say is there's -- that would be an
25 opportunity under the general hunting season for
26 somebody to take a bear up in 25D that might have been
27 hunting moose up there, and by taking a bear -- you
28 can't -- how do I say this. My husband has said this
29 forever, so I'll repeat his own words. If you're going
30 to hunt ungulates, you must hunt what eat them also.
31 And you guys want to call it predator control. I just
32 call it game management. That's the difference in the
33 way I think and some of the government people think.
34 It's game management when you have relaxed hunting
35 seasons on predators when you're hunting moose, that's
36 not particularly called predator management to me. You
37 need to be taking both animals. If one is being taken
38 more than the other, like moose are being killed more
39 than bears, then we're not doing our management right.
40 Or wolves or whatever.

41
42 And the other thing that I think should
43 be mentioned here, our Federal government was poisoning
44 wolves with strychnine back in the 40s and 60s. And
45 probably a lot of bears died because of that. And
46 everything else that ate them is what I'm told. And I
47 think that's why we had more strict bear regulations in
48 the past. And I think now that there's a lot more
49 bears out there, I think that's why we're seeing more
50 relaxed bear seasons, and wolf seasons.

1 So to me, instead of just getting rid
2 of all of it, just give it some time, and see as time
3 goes on if that doesn't work, then you restrict. But
4 you don't just dump the whole thing in the beginning.

5
6 And I appreciate what you're saying,
7 Andy. I, too, like to see places where I don't have to
8 go hunt with thousands of other people. I stay away
9 from that. But we have to be realistic, too, that
10 we're not the only ones out there. There are other
11 people out there, and we need to respect each other.
12 That's really important.

13
14 Andy, then Andrew.

15
16 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I want to thank
17 you for your comments on the fact that we have to -- if
18 we're going to hunt ungulates, we have to hunt the
19 things that eat them. I agree with that
20 wholeheartedly, and I agree with your statements there.
21 I think that's wise words. And good words to guide
22 future management. I think those were really good
23 comments.

24
25 I'm just going to make a brief
26 statement, and then I'm done speaking on this. But in
27 1999 and the early 2000's, Virgil, myself, a number of
28 other people saw the long-term decimation of Chinook
29 salmon on the Yukon River. We saw the warning signs,
30 we saw what was in place. We saw how things were being
31 harvested. And we knew intuitively that the day, like
32 this year was going to come unless there was a change.
33 And that's the way I feel about this subject with game,
34 too. I see everything opening up, very little control,
35 population explosion, the advent of the Cabela's hunter
36 in Alaska who has been taught no ethics, no ability to
37 take care of game out in the field for extended periods
38 of time, no training. That's the vast majority of most
39 of the hunters that I see coming into my country, and
40 it pisses me off.

41
42 That's all I've got to say. But the
43 two are side-by-side, the fish, what we saw 10 years
44 ago or 15 years ago. Now we're dealing with it. I see
45 the exact same thing here. It's going to get
46 decimated, because there's no control.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
49 Andy.
50

1 Andrew.

2

3 MR. FIRMIN: I guess I still need
4 clarification on one thing. And what Sue brought up
5 earlier about predator management if that's -- can't
6 say that in the Federal regime, but that was one thing
7 I've always thought, is if you want to be able to
8 harvest a moose, you have to go shoot a bear first, or
9 you don't get your moose ticket. And part of the
10 reason some of the regulations are more lax in some
11 areas or not is because I have to go out and pick up
12 everybody's slack that comes and shoots and cuts the
13 head off and drives away with, and then leaves me to
14 clean up the mess and everything else that goes along
15 with it.

16

17 But for clarification's sake, if these
18 are taken off the sporthunting book, general
19 regulations, is that going to be -- which is what
20 governs tribal property and private lands, is that
21 going to mean that I can't do that on tribal lands any
22 more?

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No.

25

26 MR. FIRMIN: But how are you going to
27 discern between one of the other.

28

29 MR. BERENDZEN: Madame Chair. These
30 restrictions or regulations would only apply to Federal
31 lands, National Wildlife Refuges.

32

33 MR. FIRMIN: But if you take it -- so
34 you're not taking it out of the State book, you're
35 prohibiting it from Federal lands.

36

37 MR. BERENDZEN: Correct,

38

39 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Well, I can agree
40 with a lot of that then. Got enough people in my back
41 yard.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

46

47 Bill.

48

49 MR. GLANZ: I had one thing. Yesterday
50 they had some woman running for State senator was in

1 here, and she was dumber than a rock.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Be careful.

6

7 MR. GLANZ: But anyway, but that's the
8 main problem with what went on in this country probably
9 30, 40, 50 years ago. Politicians were trying to run
10 it instead of knowledgeable game managers like you
11 guys. So, I mean -- that's the only statement I'd
12 make, it that if you guys see a need, there's got to be
13 something in there. So that's the only way I still
14 think like.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You might owe
17 her an apology.

18

19 MR. GLANZ: I don't think so.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. GLANZ: I think we could all --
24 like me, we could all have all the moose and fish you
25 want to eat. Of course, they're cows, and you keep
26 coming -- well, never mind.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry.
29 James.

30

31 MR. ROBERTS: I was looking at this and
32 the one that I didn't really like was the use of
33 snares. I like to use it as an option, because
34 sometimes you don't have time, so you leave your camp,
35 you've got to go run to town. And you've got a bear,
36 he's going to come in, and he's going to tear the whole
37 place up. I'd like to have the ability to use a snare,
38 or get permission to use a snare to stop this from
39 happening, because some of these gears are rally smart,
40 and they're wise to humans, and, you know, that's a
41 tool for people that live out there to protect their
42 property, and I'd like to have that option open.

43

44 And as far as taking sows and cubs, we
45 all have different values, you know, we all come from
46 different places, but the place that they do this, they
47 do not get fish. And that is a main staple for these
48 people in the winter, and that's their customary trade,
49 barter value. If I want bear grease, I will send fish
50 over there for it. So, you know, don't look at it

1 like, oh, poor bear. Look at it as, poor human, you're
2 taking food away from him.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

5

6 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you for the
7 comments. And we recognize that and appreciate that.
8 And for a rural resident, subsistence users, we want to
9 ensure that every opportunity is still there to do
10 those customary and traditional practices. And I
11 really appreciate all the comments we've gotten today.

12

13 Great comments.

14

15 Please submit them. They're helpful.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I thought they
18 were submitted right here, right now.

19

20 MS. GABORIAULT: We're definitely
21 taking notes, so they're duly noted.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And what you're
26 hearing here today, you're going to draft more
27 regulations that we're going to look at again. Draft,
28 proposed or whatever.

29

30 MS. GABORIAULT: Right, Madame Chair.
31 So our timeline is to come up with a draft that we
32 would have available for public review and comment,
33 hopefully by the end of January or early February, so
34 you would have it in time for our upcoming winter
35 meetings. So that's kind of the timeline, but the
36 process is still going to be a long one that you will
37 have the opportunity to provide comment multiple times.
38 That would be the next opportunity, when you have a
39 draft to review and look at.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And that's not
42 going in the Federal Register.

43

44 MS. GABORIAULT: Well, It will be as a
45 proposed rule. It will roll out similarly as the Park
46 Service's proposed rule and draft. So there will be a
47 draft proposed rule as well as a draft environmental
48 assessment that will go along with that. So both of
49 those documents will be available in the same way.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I
2 misunderstood you. I thought we were seeing a draft
3 before it ever went there at the next meeting.

4
5 MS. GABORIAULT: That will be the
6 draft. We don't have a draft at this time that's
7 completed to provide to you for review.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Maybe it's a
10 different language than I understand. What you come
11 before us will be in the Federal Register?

12
13 MS. GABORIAULT: At that point, I
14 believe your next meeting is coming up in March of next
15 year, so it should be out for public review and comment
16 at that point.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The answer's
19 yes.

20
21 MS. GABORIAULT: Yes.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, I thought
24 it was just going to be a draft, we're going to look at
25 it again before it ever goes out to the proposed rule.

26
27 MS. GABORIAULT: Well, it will still be
28 in draft form, and then at that point we will also be
29 kicking off public scoping meetings. And actually I
30 wanted to bring that up, because I heard some comments
31 earlier this morning about some suggested places where
32 we should be having meetings with the public. We're
33 trying to identify those locations, so we have not done
34 that yet. So there will be another -- many
35 opportunities after that draft comes out, public
36 scoping meetings will be available for people to
37 provide comments, but we wouldn't be looking at a final
38 proposed rule until probably 2016.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
41 else.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
46 Thank you.

47
48 MS. GABORIAULT: Thank you.

49
50 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: A request for a
2 break. Take 10, 15-minute.

3
4 (Off record)

5
6 (On record)

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, you guys,
9 let's get back to our chairs. Okay. Let's get back
10 here. Virgil got his coffee, but he now is getting
11 waylaid again.

12
13 All right. Next on the agenda is ADF&G
14 reports. Who would be first for Fish and Game. Rita.

15
16 MS. ST. LOUIS: Good afternoon, Madame
17 Chair and members of the Council. For the record my
18 name is Rita St. Louis. I work for Alaska Department
19 of Fish and Game here in Fairbanks.

20
21 And first of all, thanks so much for
22 your service to the issues. I personally really
23 appreciate all the work you do as volunteers.

24
25 Anyway, I'm here to tell you about a
26 very, very brief update on wood bison. Hopefully all
27 of you got the Wood Bison News in your mail somewhere.
28 And if not, let me know, and each of you has a copy,
29 and there's some in the back. But if you want to be
30 left on the mailing list, I'm happy to do that, too.

31
32 Finally the day is approaching us that
33 we're actually going to be able to release wood bison,
34 and the target date.....

35
36 (Applause)

37
38 MS. ST. LOUIS: Yeah. Thank you. The
39 target date is March or April of next year, 2015. And
40 we say March or April, because as always it depends on
41 the weather when we take them out to the Refuge. It
42 isn't to the Refuge, the Lower Yukon/Innoko. It is not
43 the Innoko Refuge.

44
45 These bison are descendants from the 66
46 that were brought from Canada in 2003 and 2008. Now
47 there's roughly 140 bison at the Alaska Wildlife
48 Conservation Center right now.

49
50 These bison are going to be taken out

1 to the airport at Shageluk in the Lower Yukon/Innoko,
2 or Innoko/Yukon I should say. We're planning to take
3 40 to 100 bison out. The State has set aside enough
4 money to take two planeloads of bison. Those are those
5 C-130 Hercules cargo planes.

6
7 And we're hoping to get other partners
8 to help take more loads out, and we're hoping to get
9 four more loads. And the extra four loads will be
10 \$92,000 roughly to carry them out there, and we
11 actually have one partner for use for the equivalent of
12 one load, but I'm not sure how the rest of that's
13 going, because I'm kind peripheral to that part of the
14 equation.

15
16 We'll be taking mostly young animals,
17 young bulls, young cows. And we'll be taking some
18 older females for sure, because these animals are
19 matriarchal and they rely on the old cows to tell the
20 young ones what to do, so we kind of need that going
21 on. There may be a few older bulls taken out,
22 depending on how many loads we can take. Of course,
23 the old bulls are grouchy, so you cannot take as many,
24 and so we are not planning to take as many bulls as
25 other animals.

26
27 I'm trying to hurry, so I hope I don't
28 leave too much out.

29
30 As you probably all know, wood bison
31 have been down-listed from endangered to threatened.
32 And in May of 2014, this year, the final rule was
33 published in the Federal Register to make wood bison a
34 non-essential experimental population, which we a lot
35 of times refer to this as the 10(j) rule. That's what
36 you've heard.

37
38 But anyway some of the main provisions
39 of this 10(j) rule is that critical habitat cannot be
40 set aside for these animals. And they will be able to
41 be hunted under sustainial [sic] principles. So that's
42 one of the thing the 10(j) rule will allow.

43
44 We have been out to the villages of
45 Grayling, Shageluk, Holy Cross, and Anvik, thank you,
46 and have met with the people, and there are a lot of
47 concerns that these people have. And from village to
48 village to village the same concerns all kind of came
49 up. And so we actually wrote out some questions and
50 answers, and I gave those to you, too.

1 Just two examples of concerns that
2 people have is will they compete with moose? Will
3 moose not be able to live with bison. And as you know,
4 bison and moose have different niches, and they've
5 evolved together over centuries, so, yes, they can live
6 with bison.

7
8 Another sample of a concern is are they
9 dangerous. Could I walk out on the trails and not be
10 attacked by a bison. Those concerns have been
11 addressed in these question/answer. And you might be
12 interested in those.

13
14 A management plan is being developed.
15 It's just in kind of the early stages. And local and
16 non-local hunters and landowners and local villages and
17 State and Federal agencies are all being represented in
18 this, in getting this management plan together, but as
19 I said, it's in the beginning stages. We meet again in
20 November, and hopefully have our teeth into a little
21 bit better plan by then.

22
23 And then the final thing I wanted to
24 tell you is Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center has
25 teamed up with an outfit called Bear Trust
26 International, and there's a pretty nice educational
27 packet that's been put together for I think it's mainly
28 seventh and eighth graders, and it's a pretty nice
29 school packet that people are interested in.

30
31 And another thing is we did have to
32 cull some of the male bison, the big bulls, because we
33 were getting over-crowded. And it's the big bulls that
34 have already had a chance to breed that we culled. And
35 it's the big bulls that, you know, tear up fences and
36 tear up one another and so forth, so they were the
37 logical ones to take. All the meat was given to
38 charities. A lot of the hides and I think nearly all
39 of the skulls have been kept for museums and
40 educational purposes and so forth. But two of the
41 skeletons were actually disassembled by a teacher, and
42 he's disassembled and numbered them, and you can take
43 these skeleton packets and send them to a school and
44 they reassemble the bison and it's kind of cool that
45 they've done that.

46
47 That's the end of my presentation, but
48 I'm happy to answer any questions.

49
50 Thank you.

1 MR. ROBERTS: I have some concerns as
2 to how are you going to feed all these fenced bison.
3 Are you just going to turn everybody into farmers,
4 because one guy I talked to, he fed his bison herd 1400
5 bales a hay, and these are the big bales, just to keep
6 them alive and healthy.

7
8 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair.
9 Thank you. Indeed you're right, a captive herd is very
10 expensive to feed because all the bison at Alaska
11 Wildlife Conservation Center are captive, and indeed we
12 feed them hay, and it costs a lot of money to feed
13 them.

14
15 The bison that are going to be turned
16 loose are going to be turned loose on the landscape.
17 They will -- when they are taken to Shageluk in the
18 airplane, they'll be taken to a fenced-in pasture for
19 roughly probably no more than four weeks. It's called
20 a soft release. They're put into this pasture just to
21 kind of settle down, because imagine these poor animals
22 being thrown into a transport plane and all of this
23 noise. They're terrified when they get off the plane.
24 If you just open the gates and let them know, who knows
25 where they would go. So we'll put them in a pen, it's
26 called a soft release. And then after the snow melts,
27 they'll be -- a little bit before the snow melts
28 actually, they will be released and that's where they
29 will live, but they'll live on the landscape and
30 they'll eat the food of the landscape. We won't give
31 them hay any more.

32
33 Does that answer your question.

34
35 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah. But, you know,
36 like you get deep snow, you get a real hardship, is the
37 State going to be asking for 4 or 500 bales and half a
38 million dollars to haul it out. That's just what I was
39 wondering about.

40
41 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair. I
42 hope not. If the first year there's a horrible snow
43 year and the bison have not learned the good places to
44 go yet, we probably will feed them some hay to keep
45 them going until they get going on their own, because
46 it would be a tragedy to spend all this 20 years and
47 money and lord knows what and take them out there and
48 have them all die the first year because of deep -- you
49 know, unusually deep snow. But in general, no, we're
50 not planning to.

1 We are going to radio-collar the
2 animals and they're going to be closely monitored, very
3 closely monitored for at least a year, and then
4 gradually, you know, less often.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MR. ROBERTS: I'm in favor of this
9 project, and I think it's a nice resource for people,
10 and, you know, hopefully they'll expand to other
11 communities and other areas.

12
13 The one concern I had was if you do
14 have to feed them, I know there's a lot of moose down
15 there, and you're going to have moose and bison right
16 in these hay piles, so what is your plan to do to all
17 the wild moose that are coming in.

18
19 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair. You
20 mean for the hay piles?

21
22 MR. ROBERTS: Yes.

23
24 MS. ST. LOUIS: These bison will be in
25 a corral and then released slowly through the corral.
26 And the, quote, hay piles, you know, they would
27 probably last for a week or two, because green-up
28 comes, and the danger of moose coming to eat a lot of
29 that hay is probably close to zero, because of the
30 human activity. See, these bison are kind of used to
31 people right now and I don't envision a moose coming in
32 to eat the bison hay appreciably at all.

33
34 MR. ROBERTS: No. Theoretically say
35 you had to haul in 10 planeloads of hay in the
36 wintertime after you've released all these guys. Are
37 you going to herd them back up and hay them up, or are
38 you just going to drop hay where they're at.

39
40 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair.
41 That's a question that I really don't know the answer
42 to. I think it would depend on the situation. It
43 would depend on where the bison are, now deep -- and
44 the only time we'd be giving them hay would be like
45 sort of triage, last-minute emergency measures. We're
46 not planning to feed the bison once they're released.
47 That's not part of the major plan. That's sort of like
48 a back-up, if that's the only chance of keeping them
49 alive, like the first years, until they, as I say,
50 until they learn where the high ground is, and the

1 wind-swept places are. So it isn't as though there
2 would be a lot of hay out there that moose will
3 discover, oh, goody, we have a bunch of hay we can rely
4 on. I just don't see that as a probability as all.

5
6 MR. ROBERTS: But it's a possibility
7 though, right? I mean, I'm not trying to beat.....

8
9 MS. ST. LOUIS: I don't even really
10 know, so I'm just.....

11
12 MR. ROBERTS: I mean, I'm not trying to
13 down-play it here or anything or beat you up.....

14
15 MS. ST. LOUIS: Oh, I know you're not.
16 I just don't know.

17
18 MR. ROBERTS:but I'm just
19 concerned, you know.

20
21 MS. ST. LOUIS: Yeah, I just don't
22 know, so that's my answer, is I don't know.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MR. FIRMIN: What are the possibilities
27 of them getting relocated in other areas, or is that
28 just the one area, or what would be the timeline for
29 releasing them in other areas, like the Minto or Yukon
30 Flats like they'd planned previously, or are those
31 completely out of the question now.

32
33 MS. ST. LOUIS: As you know, ADF&G
34 previously proposed reintroducing at the Yukon Flats
35 and Minto Flats, but the Innoko region was chosen
36 because of the quality and quantity of habitat and
37 support of local people, and lack of landowners
38 concerned about conflicts with other land uses. So at
39 the moment the State is planning no more releases right
40 now.

41
42 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Well, let me
43 rephrase that for you. Doyon and the Fort Yukon Tribal
44 Government didn't want them in the Yukon Flats, but
45 regime change, and that was why I was saying if maybe
46 people are more open to it now, or
47 Doyon's done drilling there. They don't have it in
48 their long-term plan any more. Why wouldn't, and if
49 they were open to it, why couldn't they make those
50 releases happen in the future, I guess is -- I'd still

1 like to see them in the Yukon Flats where they were
2 originally planned to go, but I was just curious as to
3 what would be the work-through I guess if it's --
4 that's probably another 20 years out though I would
5 imagine.

6
7 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair. The
8 only thing I know for sure is we don't plan another
9 release to those other places now. Now, whatever
10 happens in the future, success of the bison, change in
11 concerns, I'm certainly not going to say it will never
12 ever happen, but the State has no plans to release them
13 now.

14
15 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you.

16
17 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I would hope if
20 they're anything like that lone wolf, they'll be there.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
25 other questions. Andy.

26
27 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Well,
28 congratulations, Rita. I know it's been a long, long
29 slog to get this done.

30
31 MS. ST. LOUIS: Yeah, it has.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: And I was really pleased
34 to hear that this is going to happen.

35
36 I guess I didn't really have a
37 question, just something that I wanted to share. You
38 know, the bison have been released over in the
39 Whitehorse area for quite some time now, and they're
40 actually doing extremely well. In fact, almost too
41 well. They're having some issues with bison being run
42 over on the highway.

43
44 But one of the things that I've heard
45 from the people that do go hunt them is that they have
46 found that they learn extremely quickly where to go and
47 also how to avoid humans. And for most of the people
48 that hunted them early on, they were quite successful.
49 And from what I'm hearing now, they're still
50 successful, but these bison have learned how to avoid

1 human beings very, very well. So once established, it
2 sounds like they're able to take care of themselves,
3 because they're a relatively intelligent animal, and
4 seem to figure out how to protect themselves from all
5 predatory animals pretty well. So maybe they will
6 spread like that wolf.

7
8 And I was going to just offer to you,
9 Rita, you know, if the lane was to accidentally fly over
10 Eagle and have a forced landing or Fort Yukon, a forced
11 landing, and somebody left a door or two open, I don't
12 think there'd be a whole lot of complaining, at least
13 not from our area.

14
15 But, anyway, congratulations. I can
16 remember talking about this when I first came on the
17 RAC many, many years ago, and it's nice to see
18 hopefully a success story happening here, for the
19 people of the region, too. It's another resource meat
20 that I'm sure is going to benefit them in the future.

21
22 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair.
23 Thank you.

24
25 I just wanted to mention of some of the
26 bulls that we did cull, and these, of course, are the
27 bigger animals, so keep that in mind, not the smaller
28 ones, but the biggest bull we culled had, counting --
29 we had Virgil's shop process it for charity, but bones
30 and meat alone, the head was gone, hide was gone, guts
31 were gone, 1200 pounds. A lot of good eating.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Will and
34 then.....

35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think it was 1300.
37 I'm not sure. I know it was huge.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We'll
40 give you another 100 pounds.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MR. KOEHLER: I just kind of along
45 those same lines, I wanted to make just a small
46 correction with what Andy said. He said they're having
47 trouble in the Yukon with maybe being almost too many
48 bison, and that they were running over them. I don't
49 think you run over these bison. You run into them.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. Madame Chair. I was
4 going through the Yukon Territory one night, and I saw,
5 crap, somebody hit a buffalo. It was laying right
6 across the road. So I stopped, and I got out to go
7 check it out, and I thought he was still steaming. He
8 was still breathing. He got up, I got back in the
9 truck.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Two of those
14 bisons actually lived by Northway for one winter from
15 there, which made life quite fun.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: A quick question.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, go ahead,
20 Andy.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Rita, have
23 you contacted the army or the air force to assist with
24 maybe some of this transport through a donation or
25 through a training exercise or anything like that. It
26 seems like it might be a good avenue for some kind of
27 military training or something like that as well.

28

29 MS. ST. LOUIS: Yes. Through the
30 Chair. I know that has been explored, and I don't know
31 the details, except that I know that we are obliged on
32 some level to allow.....

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go through the
35 bid process.

36

37 MS. ST. LOUIS: Give business to
38 commercial people as opposed to the military. But how
39 that all shakes out, I don't know.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil. I
42 forgot your name.

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: The Alaska Air Carriers
45 blocked that. They would rather have those C-130
46 pilots in the air national guard just fly them out and
47 waste gas than do something constructive.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right. All
50 right.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, I'm serious.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Okay.
4
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: And the Governor just
6 needs to get some moral courage and tell the guard, fly
7 the damn C-130s and haul the buffalo out. That's all
8 it would take.
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Too bad you're
11 not the governor.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I do want to
16 remember Randy. He worked on that for several years,
17 and so did Craig Gardner, right? There's been a lot of
18 Fish and Game guys down the line that's worked on this,
19 so God bless them.
20
21 Okay. Anything else.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
26
27 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you for your
28 time.
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
31 Rita. It's exciting to see.
32
33 Is there anyone else here from ADF&G
34 that has a report.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: How about on
39 line.
40
41 MR. CRAWFORD: Madame Chair. This is
42 Drew Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and
43 Game, Federal Subsistence Liaison Team in Anchorage.
44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right. Go
46 ahead, Drew.
47
48 MR. CRAWFORD: I just wanted to say
49 that Jess Estensen, the Yukon River fall season area
50 management biologist participated yesterday in the co-

1 presentation of the 2014 Yukon River salmon season
2 summary, and Rita St. Louis just provided you with an
3 oral update on the wood bison.
4
5 And that's all we have for the fall
6 2014 meeting.
7
8 Over.
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
11 Drew. Okay.
12
13 BLM reports.
14
15 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. We did not
16 have any request from BLM to present any information at
17 the meeting.
18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay OSM.
20
21 MS. PATTON: And, Madame Chair, before
22 we continue on with the OSM updates, I did want to step
23 back really.....
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Rita. Excuse
26 me.
27
28 MR. KOEHLER: Rita, I'm sorry, what
29 time do we need to be here in the morning for the.....
30
31 MS. ST. LOUIS: 8:15.
32
33 MR. KOEHLER: 8:15. Thank you.
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: They're having
36 a Forty-Mile Caribou meeting tomorrow. Okay. I
37 apologize.
38
39 MS. PATTON: That's good.
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thanks again.
42
43 MS. PATTON: Yeah. So we have many
44 Council members here that are also on the Forty-Mile
45 Caribou Herd Working Group, so their work continues
46 tomorrow.
47
48 Before that, we wanted to acknowledge
49 Donald Woodruff. Again as we mentioned yesterday, the
50 Office of Subsistence Management and Board recognize

1 the dedicated work of all the Councils that serve on
2 the Regional Advisory Councils. A lot of time,
3 dedication, knowledge, work back in your communities,
4 and time served. We do 5, and 10, and 15, and we have
5 20-year members as well that have served on the
6 Councils from the inception. And we want to honor
7 Donald Woodruff for five years of dedicated service to
8 the Regional Advisory Council.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Donald.

11

12 (Applause)

13

14 MR. WOODRUFF: I'd just like to thank
15 everyone. And primarily respect for each individual's
16 opinion is what makes this whole function work. And
17 that doesn't just include the Council members. It
18 includes all the agencies that we interact with, and
19 that's one of my primary goals, is to respect
20 everyone's opinion, even though we disagree, and try to
21 work together and move forward.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
26 Donald. That's great.

27

28 Is there anything else from OSM.

29

30 MS. PATTON: We have just a really
31 brief update from OSM, and then, so I don't forget,
32 also just one action for the Council to go back and
33 revisit the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
34 letter. We did get the bycatch numbers that the
35 Council wanted to consider for the letter. So I'll do
36 really briefly the OSM update and then we can revisit
37 the details for the North Pacific letter.

38

39 Primarily for OSM, as the Council is
40 aware, the program has been dramatically under-staffed
41 for the last couple years. It's taken a process of
42 getting approval for replacing many key positions on
43 the program. Some of those have come to fruition now.

44

45 We do have a new deputy director at
46 OSM, and that is Chuck Ardizzone who many of you know
47 was the Wildlife Division chief at OSM for many years.
48 So Chuck has come on as the deputy director.

49

50 We have a new Fisheries Division chief.

1 That position has been vacant also for over a year.
2 Stewart Cogswell comes to OSM, a 20-year Service
3 members with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from
4 Wisconsin. He has worked on collaborative State,
5 tribal, and Federal fisheries management in the midwest
6 region, in the Great Lakes. Stuart was hoping to be at
7 this meeting. There's multiple meetings going on this
8 week, ended up at a Kuskokwim meeting. So he hopes to
9 meet the Council. He'll be working, of course, Yukon
10 issues in the future.

11
12 We, unfortunately, have lost David
13 Jenkins, took a position -- our policy coordinator,
14 David Jenkins, many of you know was working extensively
15 on the rural determination process and other bit
16 processes, has moved on to a position with the Forest
17 Service. So that position is now vacant, and we'll be
18 seeking someone to replace David.

19
20 We have long since not had
21 anthropologist positions that were vacant in OSM. We
22 just have a new person who has come on, Robbin La Vine,
23 who comes to OSM from the ADF&G Subsistence Division.
24 She's worked there I believe for five years. Prior to
25 that Robbin worked with Native Village of Eyak, and she
26 worked with the Bristol Bay Native Association through
27 the Partners Program as an anthropologist for the
28 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. So we're
29 happy to have Robbin on board. That position has been
30 vacant for a couple years.

31
32 And we also have a vacant Anthropology
33 Division chief that's been vacant for over a year.
34 That position has not been hired yet, but there is
35 approval to fill that position as well, and have more
36 support for the social and cultural aspects of
37 subsistence management.

38
39 Two Council coordinator positions.
40 We've long since had a vacancy, and one of the Councils
41 has been served by people filling in for some time. We
42 had a recent retirement of Alex Nick who worked with
43 the Y-K Delta Regional Advisory Council for many years.
44 Those positions have not been filled, but are approved
45 to be filled soon.

46
47 We have a new communications, outreach,
48 publications person. As many of you know, there's a
49 lot of web information to keep all the public
50 information updated on the website, the production of

1 the meeting books, which I think a lot people
2 recognized the absence of that communications and
3 outreach person for over a year as well. So all of us
4 have been trying to fill in. So Deborah Coble comes to
5 us from -- she was working out of Fairbanks for a long
6 time with I believe the army.

7

8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She out at Greely.

9

10 MS. PATTON: At Greely. Has a lot of
11 experience on publications, so she'll be helping us out
12 greatly. Very interested in outreach.

13

14 And I think that's it for the time
15 being.

16

17 Budgets continue to be a challenge, but
18 I would encourage the Council, as has been requested by
19 many Councils, and by many Council members here, the
20 importance of meeting in rural communities and serving
21 rural communities having a direct connection between
22 the Council and the communities. So travel, meeting in
23 rural areas will be considered. Our director sees the
24 importance of that, so submitting that request, and
25 it's hoped that at least every other meeting could be
26 held in a rural community, or at least begin to do that
27 on occasion. It's been a long time since this Council
28 has had an opportunity to meet in the rural
29 communities, so that is a priority that they're hoping
30 to be able to address, even with the limited budgets.

31

32 Anything else, Tom, that I missed.

33

34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (On
35 teleconference, indiscernible)

36

37 MS. PATTON: Do we have somebody that
38 wanted to chime in there as well on line?

39

40 MR. BASSICH: This Deborah Coble, would
41 she be a person that would be the person that would be
42 the point of contact if we were to try and organize
43 some sort of a hunter education or any kind of
44 outreach. Is that the person.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Right. And I'm still the
47 conduit for, you know, helping develop and make that
48 happen. She would be then the person that we'll work
49 with next to figure out the avenues where that outreach
50 and education can happen.

1 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.
2
3 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is that it.
6
7 MS. PATTON: Any questions.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MS. PATTON: Should we revisit the
12 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council letter
13 briefly.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do you need to
16 hand it out.
17
18 MS. PATTON: This is quite lengthy.
19 It's just the -- I'll read the section that -- the
20 recommendations Becca was referring to on the bycatch
21 numbers.
22
23 So just a refresher. Yesterday the
24 Council has made a motion and approved to write a
25 follow-up letter to the North Pacific Fisheries
26 Management Council. Your letter to the North Pacific
27 Fisheries Management Council last year is in the book
28 starting on Page -- where was it there -- on Page 67.
29 And the Council wanted to revisit many of the issues
30 that were brought forth.
31
32 In last year's letter there wa a lot of
33 discussion to bring to the attention of the North
34 Pacific Fisheries Management Council the conservation
35 actions of Council members here and communities all
36 along the Yukon River to conserve Chinook; also
37 bringing to the attention of the Council the importance
38 of chum; and asking for continuing measures to reduce
39 bycatch.
40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: 67. 6-7.
42
43 MS. PATTON: 67. So that's your letter
44 from last year that was delivered to the Council for
45 their -- to be in their meeting books for the June
46 meeting for consideration.
47
48 If the Council would like to have any
49 further discussion on the record now about additional
50 conservation actions, and efforts to conserve Chinook,

1 importance of chum and other subsistence, we can add
2 that to this year's letter.

3
4 And then the recommendation. So YRDFA
5 has been working riverwide, many of you participated in
6 the preseason meeting on the conservation efforts, and
7 drafted a letter themselves along with Bering Sea
8 Fishermen's Association, Tanana Chiefs Conference,
9 Kawerak, and the Association of Village Council
10 Presidents, and all had come to consensus requesting a
11 bycatch reduction. And I'll read that section that she
12 was referring to that she was asking if the Council
13 wanted to support a specific request for reduction in
14 bycatch.

15
16 And that is to reduce the overall hard
17 cap and performance standards under the current
18 Amendment 91 structure, reduce the overall hard cap
19 from 60,000 to 20,000, and a performance standard cap
20 without incentive programs from -- it's 47,591, which
21 is what the current cap is, to 14,500. So this is the
22 consensus that all of these groups have come to based
23 on YRDFA's work in the background of tracking that. If
24 the Council is interested in also supporting those
25 bycatch reduction numbers.

26
27 The letter last year that the Council
28 drafted was primarily discussing the actions of the
29 communities along the Yukon River and the hardship
30 posed. by the reduction in opportunity for harvesting
31 Chinook.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: So, Madame Chair, I think
34 what I'd like to do is propose that we include these
35 numbers that Eva just gave us to be included in our
36 letter to North Pacific Management Council as far as
37 what we are also in support of. And so that would put
38 us alignment with YRDFA and other organizations that
39 have taken this up, and we would all be pretty much
40 asking for the same thing, which I've noticed at those
41 Council meetings that I've gone to, the more unified
42 everybody are, the stronger your position, and better
43 chance you have. So that's my recommendation, is to
44 just add those numbers into the letter to bring our
45 letter up to date with new information from Becca on
46 where they are in their process.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Council
49 members, any -- can we all agree to that.
50

1 (Council nods affirmatively)

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
4 don't need a motion. We all agree to add those
5 numbers. Okay.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
8 So as I'm drafting the updated letter, I'll probably be
9 contacting many of you for additional detail to include
10 from your experience this summer in that letter. And
11 then again we'll be sending it around to everybody for
12 your review and edits on it.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
17 relying on you for any other letters or unfinished
18 business that we need to review. Have we covered them
19 all.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Yes, we've covered all the
22 letters. Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
25 right. So now we're for future meeting dates. Confirm
26 our date and location of the winter 2015 meeting, on
27 Page 195.

28

29 MS. PATTON: So on Page 195 you have
30 the upcoming winter 2015 meeting. And then I've just
31 handed out the fall 2015 meeting that has the dates
32 that other Councils have chosen. So we can pick weeks
33 that are available for that timeframe.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So for the 2015
36 we have Eastern Interior, or we're Fairbanks, and I see
37 Western Interior, we have an overlapping day. Is that
38 all.....

39

40 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. That was
41 discussed at the last meeting that the Council was
42 interested in having one day of a joint meeting with
43 the Western Interior Council to share discussion on
44 common issues, and then meet individually on either
45 side on the other end.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. so all
48 of that is taken care of. And we've just got to do the
49 fall. And looking at the handout, we need to pick some
50 dates. Any suggestions.

1 MR. KOEHLER: I have a suggestion, for
2 the fall meeting we're looking at?

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes.

5
6 MR. KOEHLER: The only -- this week
7 here, October 25th through October 30th is probably the
8 only one that will work for me as I don't -- like this
9 year, I just came out on Sunday. And I'm fairly
10 occupied before then.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think it
13 works best for me, too, because sometimes the SRC
14 meetings, it's better up there in front of them.

15
16 Others. Do we have -- James.

17
18 MR. ROBERTS: With all due respect to
19 the Eagle residents, I'd like to have a meeting on
20 Thursday and Friday. I mean, I don't want to cause
21 undue hardships for Andy and Donald to miss their
22 plane, but Tuesday and Wednesday is just -- I'd rather
23 spend a weekend here for the meetings.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Well, it was brought up
26 in times past that we can have meetings on the weeks,
27 too, so we could always have Friday/Saturday meeting.
28 I know none of you in the audience would like that, but
29 that's another day to do it, and then it's just one day
30 down.

31
32 At this point in time, Sue, it doesn't
33 really matter to me when you have it, but if it starts
34 getting too late in the year, I won't be able to make
35 it because of the ice usually on the river. Then I
36 can't usually fly out from my place that time of year,
37 but that doesn't really matter. So do what the
38 Council feels it needs to do, and we'll do our best to
39 be here. At least I'll do my best to be here, whatever
40 dates you pick.

41
42 It's always a challenge. I know you
43 guys are coming out of the field and we're icing up.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: James.

46
47 MR. ROBERTS: Well, with all due
48 respect to Mr. Koehler, I don't have a problem with the
49 29th and 30th of October.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
2 agreement.
3
4 (Council nods affirmatively)
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.
7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: 29th and 30th?
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: 29th and 30th,
11 Eastern Interior RAC meeting.
12
13 MR. KOEHLER: We could all dress up for
14 Halloween characters.
15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I was going to
17 say, aren't you going to miss the kids at home trick-
18 or-treating?
19
20 MR. KOEHLER: No, I think I'll make it
21 home in time with the candy, and they won't eat it all
22 up before it's Halloween.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You'll need to
27 see all those little guys coming in your house. All
28 right.
29
30 And then the place. So what are we
31 looking at for moving around.
32
33 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
34 If the Council would like to meet in a rural community,
35 do you want to give that some thought as to what
36 community has pressing issues where think might be a
37 good place or effective to meet. You can make those
38 recommendations, and we'll put in the requests to be
39 able to travel there.
40
41 MR. KOEHLER: You guys could come out
42 and see me.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think that's
47 a great place. Will's ranch. I'll bet you've got the
48 accommodations.
49
50 MR. KOEHLER: I'll loan you my tent.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: On the 29th and
2 30th, that sounds like fun.

3
4 Any suggestions where you want to have
5 it.

6
7 MR. BASSICH: Eagle has a new hotel.
8 Unfortunately the road's not being maintained after the
9 15th, so there's no guarantee of road access as we
10 learned at our last Eagle meeting, for those of you who
11 remember that one.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Didn't
14 you have to drive a lot of people out?

15
16 I'm not hearing anything. Oh, Andrew.

17
18 MR. FIRMIN: I just kind of brought
19 this up somewhat, because I was thinking if there's a
20 contentious issue or something that's -- that we know
21 is on the radar, or maybe if we know it's going to be a
22 quiet meeting, why not go to a village since we haven't
23 had one there in a while, or what did you call it
24 there, do your budget comparison or whatever and see.
25 See, go find which villages we can actually go to that
26 have airports and accommodations and a store, and all
27 that kind of stuff, or even on the road system. Like
28 Nenana was always a -- seemed like it was a good place.
29 And I know we've tried having one in Tanana a few times
30 and never made it out there due to a few other reasons.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I was at Tanana
33 once.

34
35 MR. FIRMIN: Or Fort Yukon one wasn't
36 too bad.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Fort Yukon was
39 good. Tanana was great I thought.

40
41 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I don't think --
42 maybe that was before my time, but we tried having
43 another one out there and it was -- I don't think we
44 made it out there, because the store.....

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We didn't make
47 it there.

48
49 MR. FIRMIN: Or places to stay or
50 something.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Something
2 happened, yeah.
3
4 MR. FIRMIN: But I think just having it
5 on the radar, if we know something's coming up that,
6 you know, not everybody could fly out or like, you
7 know, James was saying, too, not a lot of people can --
8 they might not say it, they might not want to come
9 here, and they'll speak differently here in a public
10 forum, like who the heck are all these people, but, you
11 know, you visit them on their home turf, they're more
12 likely to say something or speak their mind or be more
13 open to you and what we're there for.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did you have
16 something, James?
17
18 MR. ROBERTS: I was just in favor of
19 Fort Yukon.
20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, it was a
22 long time ago we were in Fort Yukon. I think we've
23 been to Beaver. I don't remember the last place we
24 were before we started coming here.
25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: It was Fort Yukon.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, was it Fort
29 Yukon? Was this the last place?
30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. The last place
32 we went to in a village I believe was Fort Yukon, and
33 we got weathered in for two days, remember?
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I do remember
36 that part.
37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. And the liquor
39 store lost its liquor license.
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Goodness.
42 Goodness gracious. Okay, guys.
43
44 Well, I don't -- so, Andy, what you're
45 saying is -- or, Andrew, that maybe we should just not
46 pick a place right now until we can know if there's
47 something on the horizon?
48
49 MR. FIRMIN: I was just thinking cost
50 comparison, and if there's something in the radar that

1 we know is going to be an issue where, you know, I
2 mean, how much public testimony did we have at this
3 meeting, one? You know. And then there's your youth
4 liaisons. I know last time we were in Fort Yukon, they
5 brought a whole class and sat in there for half a day
6 in the meeting. And I just think you get more out of
7 it when you go to a village, and I just, you know, keep
8 it open in case there is something that comes up
9 between now and then that -- I don't know if the
10 winter, I imagine a fall meeting would probably be
11 better, but that's just something to keep in mind, like
12 if we have issues that come up, maybe we would want to
13 go to a village or something like that. Something of
14 that nature. I'm not saying let's go to Fort Yukon
15 today.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: My first
18 meeting was in Circle Hot Springs.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. One thing to
21 consider is that Board of Game, State Board of Game for
22 our region, the proposals -- or the meeting will be --
23 let's see, the proposals will be due the first of May
24 2015, and for the Board of Fish they will be the 10th
25 of April 2015, and so the meetings will be probably the
26 Board of Fish meeting will probably January of 2016,
27 and the Board of Game meeting will probably be the end
28 of February or March of 2016. I think I'm correct on
29 that. So this meeting that we have there, we will need
30 to address both Board of Fish and Board of Game
31 proposals for our region I believe I'm correct.
32 Correct me if I'm wrong. So that's going to be --
33 we're going to have stuff on our plate that we're going
34 to want to be discussing.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are you saying
37 we might need a three-day meeting.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't know, because I
40 don't know what proposals are going to be up. But
41 we're going to have a bunch of proposals to address,
42 both, and it will be our last chance to do them both
43 for Board of Fish and Board of Game I believe. I could
44 be wrong, but I think I'm right.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, we can
47 talk about that in March I guess.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
50 we can also, you know, if the date works well for

1 everyone, have, you know, to be determined in terms of
2 the location, and if there's issues that come up
3 between now and the winter meeting that the Council's
4 aware of a community that would like or benefit from
5 the meeting occurring there, we can revisit that and
6 make a decision of where it would be at the winter
7 meeting.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sounds good.
10 To be announced.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I'd just like to
13 caution that some villages would need a fair amount of
14 head's up to be able to prepare for a larger group like
15 that to be there.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, this is
18 the fall meeting, and we'll be meeting in March, so
19 we'll have time to.....

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I'm just letting
22 you know.

23

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What date in
25 March.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: March is --
28 which one, the fall or the spring. March 4, 5. Okay.
29 Let's just to be announced for the fall.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Virgil, do you remember
32 when we have our Panel meeting. That's.....

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Turn your mic
35 on, please.

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: We normally have the
38 panel meeting the last week of March normally.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: They changed the last two
41 meetings. The last two years we've been having it the
42 first week of March. That was always my contention. I
43 always wanted it late in the year, because who wants to
44 sit in a meeting all March, in the best time of the
45 year, and then they moved it to the beginning of March
46 instead of the end. The last two years it's been the
47 first week of March.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, we can.
50 No one in the audience knows?

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Fred might now what it
2 is.
3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Nobody in the
5 audience knows? Well, this is kind of set, because
6 we've got the Western Interior and the Eastern Interior
7 in an overlapping meeting which has been agreed upon,
8 so we're kind of stuck I think, wouldn't you agree.
9
10 MR. BASSICH: I can go check that for
11 you. I don't have my computer here, but I can -- I'm
12 kind of thinking it's that first week of March.
13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
15 don't know for sure. Is it on the internet?
16
17 MR. BASSICH: It should be.
18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I've got a
20 computer.
21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Fred's looking it up.
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Someone's
25 looking it up for us?
26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Fred is. He's on the
28 panel.
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
31 We've got one person looking it up. Yeah.
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: Here he comes.
34
35 MR. BUE: I don't know who was looking
36 up what, but I'm just looking at my notes. Yukon Panel
37 this spring was in March, the week of the 23rd through
38 the 28th of March. If that's an indicator of what it's
39 going to be next year, I don't know. Madame Chair.
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So CRS.
42
43 MR. FIRMIN: It says on the website
44 usually the last full week of March, and it just has
45 the December meeting listed on the website.
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Not a
48 problem. Alrighty.
49
50 Did we -- Vince, were you waving your

1 hand for.....

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: You picked that week in
4 March because of the TCC convention.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, we're
7 good with it right now, so all is well.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And the only other
10 thing is your fall meeting you'll be dealing with
11 wildlife proposals, which you talked about at length
12 this morning. (Indiscernible - away from microphones)
13 addressed a proposed rule.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: A long meeting.
16 We might need three days. We'll know more in March,
17 correct? Yes. Okay. That decision can be made in
18 March.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Three days?

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's possible.
23 To be announced.

24

25 Closing comments. Anyone have any
26 closing comments. The last time we tried this,
27 everybody got their coats on and left.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I didn't know
32 if it was important to you. Will.

33

34 MR. KOEHLER: I had one closing
35 comment, just kind of an observation that I made while
36 looking through the -- well, listening to the reports
37 from the agencies.

38

39 I think we threw a lot of heat today at
40 particularly the Park Service and the U.S. Fish and
41 Wildlife Service, but we also made -- early on in the
42 meeting we all made a lot of talk about how we wanted
43 to get the youth involved. And I just wanted to make
44 an observation that of the agencies, the Park Service
45 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been really
46 -- has done a lot to get youth involved whether through
47 these camps, cultural camps that they're partnering
48 with -- and I think that should just be addressed. I'm
49 going to be -- or just be brought back to our people.
50 I know that when I go back to my area, I'm certainly

1 going to bring back the concerns that we have from the
2 Park Service, and then some of these proposed rules of
3 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on refuge area. But
4 I'm also going to bring back to the people who I'm
5 supposed to represent, bring back to them the fact that
6 these agencies are also doing some -- they're doing
7 some things that we may or may not like, or may not
8 agree with, but there are -- these agencies are also
9 doing some things that we at least say to ourselves are
10 really, really important, but we are not really doing
11 that much about it. I see these agencies are doing
12 things about it. Agencies and tribal organizations,
13 and so I'd just like to bring that to attention, that I
14 think when we go back to our people, that we should be
15 communicating that, that these agencies aren't all
16 doing -- all their actions are not something we
17 disagree with. So just thank you guys for doing that.
18 And I'd just like to make note of that.

19

20 That's all.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. But I
23 will say that we don't get paid, so maybe I'm falling
24 down on a job taking some things back sometimes. I
25 wish I had more time to go to more of the meetings,
26 that I could take more back to the people that way.
27 Sometimes it's hard to do that. But I try to attend as
28 many as I can.

29

30 Other closing comments. Andrew.

31

32 MR. FIRMIN: I thought we had a great
33 meeting again. They always turn out good in lands. I
34 like to see we had a full quorum here and a lot of good
35 Staff and they put up with us the whole time.

36

37 Another note, I just got another email
38 for a resolution from AFN for the Park Service
39 addressing that issue I could share with you guys
40 later.

41

42 And I don't know, a lot of these
43 issues, I like to see people working together on them,
44 and I'm glad to be a part of the process.

45

46 Good to see everybody again, too.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, than you.

49 Andy.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: I just want to say thanks
2 to Eva. She does a really great job both at the
3 meetings, but especially when we're not at meetings. I
4 can almost count on an email at least once a week from
5 her with some more information for me to read, which
6 sometimes I do and sometimes I don't. But I do
7 appreciate her involvement in keeping us up to date
8 extremely timely. When it comes into her office, it
9 shows up at least on my computer, and I really
10 appreciate all your efforts. It's important to have a
11 really good coordinator and someone who's informed and
12 can kind of help steer us when we get lost, when we get
13 spun around the axle, bring us back, and keep us
14 informed. So, thank you.

15
16 And then thank you for all of you who
17 take the time to come here and share your experiences
18 and your knowledge with us. I always learn a lot every
19 time I come, and it's quite obvious at this meeting we
20 need a lot more to learn about some of the procedures
21 and protocols for getting things done, but I think we
22 made a lot of headway at this meeting with that, so
23 appreciate it.

24
25 And, of course, Council members, it's
26 always really good to hear everyone's perspectives. I
27 learn a lot every time I come.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: James.

30
31 MR. ROBERTS: I'd like to thank
32 everybody that attended and listened. I sure learned a
33 lot again. I look forward to learning more, and I was
34 thoroughly confused at a few times, but I feel that if
35 you're not confused, you're not trying hard enough, so
36 thank you, everyone.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
39 James.

40
41 Bill.

42
43 MR. GLANZ: Well, I'd like to echo
44 everybody's thoughts on that also. It's been a good
45 meeting.

46
47 And I was going out with about a half a
48 dozen Federal game books there, and Fred Bue's, oh,
49 you're getting fire starter? And I said, no, I think
50 I'll have enough when I get home.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did you have
4 anything.

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, us two old timers
7 sitting in here, Tom and I have been going to meetings
8 together for over 25 years now, arguing about these
9 mainly fishing issues, but once in a while hunting
10 creeps in there.

11

12 But I think we had a pretty good
13 meeting. I think -- I'm hoping that the Refuge,
14 Service understands our position on this potential
15 proposed rule, and like Don said, people can have
16 different opinions and disagree, but we need to be
17 respectful to each other and treat each other decent,
18 maintain our integrity, and we can disagree, and then
19 one of us will win and one will lose, but there's
20 always going to be only one winner.

21

22 Thank you. Madame Chair.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And I always
25 have to add for Virgil, for those who don't know him,
26 he might raise his voice, and you think he's angry, but
27 it's not. He's just getting his point driven home.

28

29 MR. GLANZ: I'm the same way.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I really
38 appreciate all of you volunteers here in this room, all
39 of you that come to these meetings, and put all of your
40 heart and soul into it. It affects your lives, and
41 it's really great to see these three youngsters here.
42 I remember when I started I was about Will's age. So I
43 really do appreciate it.

44

45 And hopefully everybody in the
46 audience, when we disagree, we understand that it isn't
47 anyone personally, it might be the organization that
48 you're working for that we have a big disagreement
49 with. So thank you guys very much.

50

1 And, Eva, ditto to Andy. You do a
2 great job for us.
3
4 Thank you very much.
5
6 Anyone else.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry?
11
12 MR. BASSICH: Do we need a motion to
13 adjourn?
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We probably
16 should. Is that a motion.
17
18 MR. GLANZ: Make a motion we stand in
19 recess until next spring.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 MR. GLANZ: I make a motion to close
24 the meeting.
25
26 MR. BASSICH: Second.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in
29 favor.
30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Meeting
34 adjourned.
35
36 (Off record)
37
38 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

