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1 EASTERN INTERIOR SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
2 PUBLIC MEETING  
3 VOLUME 2  
4 Fort Yukon Community Hall  
5 October 7, 1999  
6 9:00 a.m. o'clock  
7 Fort Yukon, Alaska

8  
9  
10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:  
11  
12 Charles Miller, Chairman  
13 Nathaniel Good  
14 David Murphy James  
15 Gerald Nicholia  
16 Knowland Silas  
17 Lee Titus  
18 Calvin Tritt  
19 Lincoln Tritt  
20  
21 Vince Mathews, Regional Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 9:08)

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Let's call this meeting back to order, please. We're at training session. Quite please. Thank you.

MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff Committee member. In your materials you should have the agenda for the training session. It was originally announced and scheduled for November but it has been postponed as Peggy stated yesterday. And I'll briefly go over this format and the topics -- well, I won't go over the topics just the format.

On the first day in those large boxes, the large boxes are to indicate that's general session, which means all the councils and Staff will be in the same room listening to the same speakers, and the general session is to give you a broad overview of the discussion of the topics listed. And the agenda was created from solicitations from all the Regional Council Chairs, we called the chairs and asked them what topics should be addressed and that's what the agenda consists of. There were approximately 39 comments made on topics for the agenda, of that number, 29 of those came specifically from the Regional Council Chairs and the rest came from Staff, Federal Staff, regional council coordinators, regional teams and other Federal Staff.

On the second day of this agenda, when you go into those smaller boxes, that indicates work sessions or break out sessions. These will be in smaller, separate rooms, and these will give you more specific detail on the topics that were covered in the general session. This would be the time to ask questions that are relevant to your respective areas.

Excuse me, on the first day there will be a luncheon speaker, and so lunch is at the same place of the meeting. On the second day, lunch is on your own so you can have lunch wherever you wish to.

And on the following, the second day in that large box, there is for regional council caucuses. And that should have also happened on the evening of the 15th at the call of the respective regional councils. If you want to caucus just with your own council you may do so or if, for instance, in yesterday's discussion, you discuss meeting with the three Yukon councils, that's the time that's been reserved

50 specifically for that kind of discussion to occur. The rooms

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1 will be reserved the evening of the 15th for councils if they  
2 wish to caucus and meet with other councils or meet with  
3 their own councils.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Excuse me, Ida, what are  
6 the dates on this, is it January?

7  
8 MS. HILDEBRAND: I'm going to go through that  
9 at the end of this.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Oh, okay.

12  
13 MS. HILDEBRAND: The date hasn't been set  
14 yet, we're soliciting information from the councils.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I was just wondering, you  
17 said the 15th, and.....

18  
19 MS. HILDEBRAND: Oh, I'm sorry, this was the  
20 night before the actual session begins.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

23  
24 MS. HILDEBRAND: And on the third page you  
25 begin again in the morning on the third page with two  
26 breakout sessions. And some of the breakout sessions are  
27 different topics, some of them are exactly the same topic  
28 being discussed in two different locations so you might want  
29 to let your coordinator know which of these workshops you're  
30 interested in attending, just for material preparation  
31 purposes.

32  
33 On the third day after the very first -- the only  
34 breakout session in the morning, go back into general  
35 assembly, and in the general assembly, is back again, all in  
36 the same room and it is for the beginning of the wrap-up.  
37 There'll be time for -- the floor will be open for comments  
38 from everybody regarding the workshop or whatever.

39  
40 And back to the first day -- the evening before the  
41 first day, rooms will be -- there will a reception for the  
42 councils, hopefully councils and Staff will have time to meet  
43 with each other or to begin to discuss issues that are of  
44 concern to their respective regions. And in the breakout --  
45 as I said in the breakout sessions, for specific questions,  
46 but any councils that wish to caucus with other councils, you  
47 should let your coordinator know so there will be some  
48 contact between the coordinators to let the other councils  
49 know which councils you'd like to meet with.



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1 And the topics on the agenda, if anyone believes or  
2 feels that there's something that should have been addressed  
3 and isn't on here, I suggest that you let your coordinator  
4 know what topics or burning issues aren't reflected on the  
5 agenda. And also, that's one thing that we're wanting from  
6 the councils, and the other is recommendations of dates since  
7 it was changed from November. On the dates available or  
8 suggested, we suggest January 25 to 27, February 1 through  
9 the 3rd, February 8th through the 10th or January 18th  
10 through the 20th. And I'm saying it quickly but we'll go  
11 back to them. Another thing to consider is the Board of Fish  
12 is going to be meeting January 15th through the 24th, and so  
13 far, I've just had response from one council on their  
14 suggested date, but in those dates or other dates, but that's  
15 basically the window we're looking at.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any questions? Thank you,  
18 Ida.

19  
20 MR. NICHOLIA: When is the Board of Fish  
21 meeting?

22  
23 MS. HILDEBRAND: Board of Fish meeting in  
24 Juneau, January 15th through the 20 something, 24th. They  
25 also have one in February 14th through 25 in Sitka. But that  
26 last one did not conflict with these dates, I believe, we  
27 established. But before, if not at this meeting, very soon,  
28 I would encourage you to let Vince know what's the preference  
29 for this council because each council has to state something  
30 and from that we'll determine the actual date.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: Would it be easier to discuss  
35 that right now because when I started -- if you guys start  
36 calling me on it then I have to call others and then we get  
37 into.....

38  
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, what was the date?  
40 You said one council already picked a date?

41  
42 MS. HILDEBRAND: Kodiak/Aleutians and they  
43 prefer January 18 through 20.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That sounds fine with me,  
46 I don't know how the board feels about it.

47  
48 MR. NICHOLIA: 18 through the 20th?

49

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Does that date work?

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1 MR. NICHOLIA: It would be in Anchorage?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: (Nods affirmatively)

4

5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, we're in.

6

7 MS. HILDEBRAND: Okay, that's my report.

8

9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, thank you, Ida.

10 Okay, so regional council comments or recommendations.

11 Vince.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: I think that moves us into the  
14 report segment. And I've looked over the Chair's report,  
15 explained to Knowland and to others, it's just basically the  
16 Chair's attendance or his designee attends the Federal  
17 Subsistence Board meeting. Before that meeting there is a  
18 joint meeting of all the 10 chairs. So this is the time for  
19 Chuck to talk about what he, you know, learned from the joint  
20 Chair's meeting. Now, let's see you didn't -- Nat went in  
21 your replacement, right?

22

23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, that's right. So now that  
26 I remember, there was no representation at the 10 Chairs  
27 meeting.

28

29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I was there that night.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, that's right, you were  
32 there for that and Nat filled in afterwards.

33

34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, basically.....

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Go ahead.

37

38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Basically the one point we  
39 went over that was -- that was the co-management process that  
40 we'd been working on and according to a lot of the chairs, I  
41 guess they had some problems with the concept that we came up  
42 with, so I guess that's about it. There was some questions  
43 regarding that.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: I thought you mentioned on that  
46 that they thought it was good to have a co-management?

47

48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, they liked the idea.

49

MR. MATHEWS: But they wanted to do it region

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1 by region?

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: That the wording that Eastern  
6 came up with, they felt that they would do it region by  
7 region, even though the Board enforced your concept, they  
8 would take it up individually, in the regions, I think. I  
9 wasn't there at the meeting but I think that's the summary  
10 you gave me and I heard from others.

11

12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: So that doesn't mean that -- I  
15 think what it means is that it's -- you, as a council, have  
16 brought this up to the other 10 regions, you've gotten Board  
17 support for your concept and the regions now will elect where  
18 they want to go with it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Did you want to say  
21 anything about the meeting?

22

23 MR. GOOD: Were you going to say anything  
24 else, Vince -- no, about the Board meeting itself or.....

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think to save on time,  
27 I think the Board meeting itself we'll deal with when we go  
28 over what the Board did. But we don't have to go each  
29 proposal, but we'll give you a summary of how the Board took  
30 most of your proposals on a consent agenda.

31

32 MR. GOOD: Basically I was very pleased with  
33 the results there, overall.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: You may want to mention to them  
36 -- it's all coming back -- we've been fishing too much all  
37 summer, meaning planning for fish. You may want to mention  
38 to them that the Chairs appointed two people to sit in on the  
39 coordination. We've gone over fisheries already but that is  
40 kind of important for the full council to understand that the  
41 fisheries coordination with the State, the Chairs requested  
42 from the Board that there be regional council representation  
43 and two members were elected or selected, Willie Goodwin from  
44 Northwest Arctic and Dan O'Hara from Bristol Bay. So they've  
45 been attending any time there's been a meeting on  
46 coordination with the State government, the Fish and Game and  
47 Commissioner's office and stuff like that. So they've been  
48 representing the 10 regions.

49

In addition to that, Dan and Willie have requested

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1 that they attend meetings where fisheries is discussed for  
2 general overview and et cetera, so they could learn the  
3 concerns of other regions. So I think that's where that  
4 stands right now and that's -- that's important to show that  
5 the discussions on fisheries are being with three groups; the  
6 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Federal agencies, and  
7 now with regional council representation. That was something  
8 that came up during the meeting with the Board, the Board  
9 supported it and then the Chairs had to work out who would be  
10 going.

11  
12 Those are the key things that I remember from the  
13 meeting. We've already discussed how we were able to reach  
14 consensus on overlapping proposals with Southcentral. Chuck  
15 attended several meetings. Nat attended with Lee, the  
16 Southcentral meeting. Those are kind of important not to  
17 forget, but just to point out because that's how you work  
18 these things through otherwise, generally, the Board would  
19 defer action until the councils came to some kind of  
20 compromise. You guys already did that ahead of time on  
21 several proposals. That's all I can remember from the  
22 meeting.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Do you want to add  
25 anything?

26  
27 MR. GOOD: Well, I think we'll be going over  
28 the results of the decisions on the proposals later and that  
29 will actually cover what was a matter of representing all of  
30 those at that point. So I was quite pleased with the  
31 results, overall.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Anything else, Vince?

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: Not based on the Chair's  
36 reports because I don't think you -- did you attend any other  
37 meetings? It's going to change when we move ahead here that  
38 the Chair will probably be attending different meetings and  
39 then reporting. But right now I don't think there was any  
40 other activity, but again next year it will be different  
41 because you will be doing a lot of negotiation over the  
42 summer on fisheries issues.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: What's that about the art  
45 book for regulatory booklet, you have that in there a couple  
46 of times?

47  
48 MR. MATHEWS: What now?

49

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Art work for the regulatory

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1 book?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, the reg book, oh, right.  
4 That, you requested -- we can -- well, we'll cover it now and  
5 then if you want to do something in your annual report. You  
6 sent a letter to Tom Boyd requesting that, you know, you  
7 would like the art work to be more reflective across the  
8 whole state, that it, for the past few years, has only been  
9 art work that more depicts northern groups, not Athabaskan or  
10 other groups. That you suggested there could be some kind of  
11 art contest or some way of getting different art work on the  
12 cover of the book, I don't have one here at the moment. And  
13 we've not received a response from Tom on it. You did,  
14 somewhat, talked about it, I think with the other Chairs but  
15 there wasn't any -- there wasn't a lot of time to do it. But  
16 this is the present art work and you just kind of suggested  
17 that maybe there be a way that there be kind of a contest.  
18 People would submit drawing or art work or whatever the  
19 parameters are that -- and then at the 10 Chairs meeting you  
20 guys would select one or two and then that would become the  
21 -- one of those would become the art work for the following  
22 year. We've gotten no response so I don't know how else to  
23 tell you on that other than that you may want to put it in  
24 your annual report if you so desire to move it forward, not  
25 that the Board would do anything, because it's more within  
26 the program, but it would get their attention on your  
27 request.

28

29 So I've received no correspondence from the other 10  
30 Chairs nor from the Board itself on this.

31

32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, David, just asked if  
33 we could hold off on the Yukon Flats local Fish and Game  
34 advisory committee open discussion until after lunch. They  
35 wanted to go into the office this morning, is that what you  
36 were saying?

37

38 MR. JAMES: Yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. So we'll hold off  
41 until after lunch for that. So we move down to Regional  
42 Council member's reports and concerns. Is there any concerns  
43 that the Council would like to voice now?

44

45 MR. NICHOLIA: I pretty much voiced most of  
46 my concerns yesterday.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: This is kind of time that if  
49 you're a member of a committee, if the committee wants to

50 bring something to the attention -- this would be the time

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1 and then this may be a time if Bob -- I don't see Bob this  
2 morning, but sometime or another he was going to talk about  
3 the community harvest quota system, the planning of it for  
4 Yukon Flats villages, but I don't see Bob here now. But the  
5 State has looked into that and they presented it to the  
6 committee the other night.

7  
8 MR. D. JAMES: Well, Bob will be here  
9 shortly, he's still tanking up on coffee, but he's up and  
10 walking around.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Was there someone who was  
13 going to talk on the Fortymile caribou?

14  
15 MR. MATHEWS: I think Ruth is. Craig Gardner  
16 was going to try to make it in but weather prevented it. And  
17 you have that in your material under agency reports and maybe  
18 Ruth knows better exactly where it is but it is under agency  
19 reports, the plan, about halfway through the -- under Tab D  
20 as in Delta.

21  
22 MS. GRONQUIST: Vince is right, I'm going to  
23 stand in for Craig today, and try to fill his shoes. My name  
24 is Ruth Gronquist. This is located under the advisory  
25 committee reports because I'm going to talk about the harvest  
26 plan but first I'm going to give you a few updates. As Vince  
27 said, Craig tried to make it in yesterday but the weather  
28 prevented him from making it here.

29  
30 First I'd like to thank the Eastern Interior Regional  
31 Advisory Council for being part of the Fortymile Caribou Herd  
32 Management Planning process starting with Jeff Roach and now  
33 with Nat Good. Pete DeMatteo and I also are members of the  
34 Fortymile team and Nat has worked on the advisory committee  
35 coalition that has built the harvest plan. Well, Craig asked  
36 me to do a quick herd update for you guys. The herd has  
37 grown between 12 and 15 percent per year since the inception  
38 of the plan in 1995. The post-calving estimates for the  
39 Fortymile herd this year is 33,000 animals. We hope that as  
40 the herd continues to increase we'll start seeing it back in  
41 the White Mountains again and eventually into the Yukon.  
42 Having the Fortymile herd grow has lots of bennies, including  
43 that it will reduce competition for other caribou -- on other  
44 caribou herds such as Porcupine and those that travel within  
45 the Haulroad Corridor. Craig also just completed the comp  
46 counts within the last week or so and he says things are  
47 looking very good, 37 calves per 100 cows, and there are lots  
48 of young bulls and cows in the population that he was saying.  
49 A lot of cows that will be of breeding age. So he expects

50 that we'll see an even greater acceleration in the growth of

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1 this herd over the next few years. He caught 15 calves and  
2 their average weights were 130 pounds which is pretty good  
3 going into the winter.

4  
5 The wolf work is going well. We really appreciate  
6 the leadership and counsel we've gotten from Tanacross and  
7 from the First Nations as well as many others. The wolf  
8 population within the summer range has been reduced by 80  
9 percent with 13 packs being treated, we originally targeted  
10 15 so there's still two to be treated. And what I mean by  
11 treatment is the sterilization and then the translocation of  
12 wolves older than 11 months. Within those 13 packs that were  
13 treated the pairs -- the good news is the pairs are still  
14 holding their territories and have had no pups so the  
15 sterilizations have been successful. There are five adjacent  
16 packs that we have been using as a control and all those  
17 packs had puppies. The packs number between six and 12  
18 members and since these treated packs are holding their  
19 territories there's been no movement of these other animals  
20 into that area.

21  
22 We really appreciate the help of the communities who  
23 have accepted wolves. I don't know that I can remember all  
24 of them but some of them are Anakatuvuk, Wiseman, Ruby, North  
25 Slope communities. What we found is that moving three to  
26 five wolves to any one place works well. It's not too many  
27 wolves to have an impact but it does seem to be benefitting  
28 the trappers in those areas.

29  
30 Now, as Vince mentioned, it is under Tab D as in  
31 Delta, that there is a summary of the harvest plan and the  
32 plan itself. This plan will be the guide for developing a  
33 regulation proposals that goes before the Board of Game to  
34 begin opening the harvest up again. Now, the revolutionary  
35 thing about this harvest plan is that it was built by -- it  
36 was developed by subsistence hunters and other hunters  
37 through an advisory committee coalition. And the advisory  
38 committees that participated in this were Central, Eagle,  
39 upper Tanana Fortymile, Delta and Fairbanks. And the upper  
40 Tanana Fortymile, which most of you probably know includes  
41 Dot Lake, Northway, Tetlin, Tanacross and Tok. The plan was  
42 also developed with input from the Fortymile team itself and  
43 any interested public that commented at these meetings and in  
44 cooperation with Yukon which has a parallel regulatory  
45 process.

46  
47 The plan is drafted as a six year plan with an  
48 opportunity to make adjustments to it every two years such as  
49 adjusting the quota or the seasons or the bag limits. The

50 most important aspects of the harvest plan are to maintain

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1 herd growth at about 10 percent and to benefit the hunters  
2 because the feeling is that the hunters were the first ones  
3 in line giving up something when this plan was implemented.  
4 The quota for the first year, the first hunting season is  
5 proposed to be about 1,100 caribou which is a big difference  
6 from the current 150. Sixty-five percent of those will be  
7 allocated to Alaska and the rest will go to Yukon. It's  
8 unlikely that there will be caribou to harvest in the Yukon  
9 in the first few years so Yukon is going to turn those  
10 caribou right back into production of the herd. And just a  
11 little comment here, the advisory committees have worked  
12 really hard to consider all of the communities within the  
13 Fortymile area within the plan. The allocation is  
14 additionally divided between the three main areas that the  
15 Fortymile -- by which the Fortymile herd is accessible. The  
16 Steese/Central area, the Taylor Highway/Tok area, and the  
17 Salcha Goodpasture area. And if you're interested in those  
18 percentages they are in the plan but I could also go over  
19 those later if you want. Then 25 percent of that entire  
20 allocation will be saved for the winter hunt which is  
21 primarily a local -- or a rural subsistence hunt. The bag  
22 limit will remain -- well, it's going to be one caribou,  
23 currently it's one bull. But the ACs have proposed that it  
24 be one caribou. There's a lot of talk about the possibility  
25 of multiple bag limits but the local folks that were involved  
26 in the planning dismissed that, they want to start  
27 conservatively, and again, there's the possibility of  
28 changing things like the bag limit every two years or so.  
29 The season will stay the same for now remembering that there  
30 is an exclusive season for Federal subsistence hunters, the  
31 two weeks at the end of November. There will also be --  
32 they've written in a mechanism for temporary closures at the  
33 roads in case there are crossings of large numbers like in  
34 excess of 500 animals. So it still leaves an opportunity for  
35 people to harvest along the road, but if there are large  
36 numbers of caribou crossings it would give them an  
37 opportunity to pass unmolested.

38  
39 And what we want from the Regional Advisory Council  
40 besides updating you on these things is any additional input  
41 and hopefully a letter of endorsement to the Federal  
42 Subsistence Board and the Board of Game endorsing the harvest  
43 plans that the ACs have developed. And then in your February  
44 or March, whichever month the 2000 meeting is in the  
45 regulation proposal would be ready and would be available for  
46 the Council to look at and make additional comments on and  
47 hopefully again will be before you asking you to support that  
48 proposal to the Board of Game.

49

So any questions? Comments? Any additions from Nat

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1 or Pete?

2

3 MR. JAMES: Ruth, it's sounds like, you know,  
4 it's good to hear some good positive -- a good program that's  
5 going on and protecting our resources there and the local  
6 people would then be able to do a large amount of hunting  
7 there. This Fortymile herd, it's a big herd and it's close  
8 to a big area, especially into Canada and we mentioned Canada  
9 will turn around -- if you said, Canada, we got a program in  
10 place with no hunting over or are they.....

11

12 MS. GRONQUIST: That's right. They currently  
13 are not harvesting. The First Nations are the only ones who  
14 have an opportunity to harvest from this herd in Yukon right  
15 now. There aren't very many Fortymiles that are making it  
16 into Yukon so they, additionally, on a voluntary basis, have  
17 said they're not going to harvest from there. They don't  
18 expect to see large numbers, we don't expect to see large  
19 numbers of caribou getting into Yukon for awhile yet. And  
20 the herd is growing but it's not at the numbers it was. I  
21 believe it's at about 60,000 animals that they start seeing  
22 significant numbers or have in the past seen significant  
23 numbers into Canada. So they probably -- rather than  
24 shifting their 35 percent to Alaska, they want to maintain  
25 that as their contribution back into herd growth. That  
26 doesn't, perhaps, answer your question, but they are  
27 currently voluntarily not hunting. There isn't much  
28 opportunity but what opportunity there is, the First Nations  
29 have said they're going to forego.

30

31 MR. JAMES: So that's on Yukon Territory --  
32 so the herd doesn't go very far into it -- the only people  
33 that's from Beaver Creek, that lives in that area?

34

35 MS. GRONQUIST: I'm not sure how far they  
36 went last winter, do you remember Nat?

37

38 MR. GOOD: Well, actually, going over by  
39 Beaver Creek has been Nelchina herd. But for the past two  
40 years they've swung north to be up with the Fortymiles were,  
41 wintering purposes. The Fortymile, generally, when it  
42 crosses the border is further north of Beaver Creek, more --  
43 but they would be -- uncertain as to exactly what access  
44 routes they do have in Canada on the other side of the line  
45 but they'd be further north. However, I think you've done an  
46 excellent job on reporting on this, Ruth, I'm glad I didn't  
47 have to.

48

49 You know, when you said this is a big herd, this herd

50 has been recorded as high as 500,000 animals. And I would

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1 not want to say that Fort Yukon here won't be harvesting  
2 those animals in the future as well. So I think this is  
3 quite the event we've produced here. It's going to have an  
4 impact throughout Eastern Interior and provide a tremendous  
5 amount of meat for subsistence hunters.

6  
7 MS. GRONQUIST: In the past I think we've  
8 brought in maps to show you the former range and the range  
9 that we expect they might span back into but I didn't happen  
10 to bring one today.

11  
12 MR. JAMES: We remember stories from my mom  
13 and dad and elderlies about that Fortymile herd there. My  
14 dad used to go up there and hunt that herd when it used to be  
15 a large amount of population up there by Eagle, up there. My  
16 other comment is on your -- was there a large fire a burn  
17 policy up there by Charlie River?

18  
19 MR. GOOD: There has been. And in fact there  
20 is in place, such a policy.

21  
22 MR. JAMES: And how did that affect that  
23 herd? Did it have any affect on the herds or.....

24  
25 MS. GRONQUIST: Are you talking about the  
26 fire this summer that was within the Fortymile?

27  
28 MR. JAMES: Yeah. Yeah, this summer and last  
29 summer, the year before?

30  
31 MS. GRONQUIST: Yeah, I think Craig would  
32 probably be, and maybe you have some input, too, Craig would  
33 probably be better able to answer that but I would know that  
34 there was some winter range that was burned in those fires.

35  
36  
37 MR. GOOD: One of the problems they run into  
38 is the fires, they do restart the range again, essentially,  
39 but the fire initially burns down the moss and things and  
40 destroys it. But then it comes back again without the brush  
41 and they do rely on moss and likens, things like that. So  
42 initially it does damage but over a long period of time it  
43 will bring range back for the caribou.

44  
45 MR. JAMES: Oh.

46  
47 MS. GRONQUIST: There's probably plenty of  
48 range still out there.....

49

MR. GOOD: Yeah.

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1 MS. GRONQUIST: .....for the Fortymile. But  
2 it's a good concern, we're watching it.

3  
4 MR. GOOD: One other thing. I think I've  
5 mentioned to some of the people here that there is a big  
6 development, gold wise, north of Delta, which does impact the  
7 calving -- or can possibly impact the calving grounds. I  
8 think the team has done a great job of working with the  
9 mining companies, attempting to keep from interfering with  
10 calving or any unintentional disbursal of the herd by  
11 helicopters, things like that. There's been a lot of work  
12 there. This team has done some tremendous things in bringing  
13 this Fortymile Caribou Herd back. It goes beyond many of the  
14 things on the report. People have been very dedicated to it  
15 and taken steps far beyond what you might have expected.

16  
17 MS. GRONQUIST: Yeah, thanks for bringing  
18 that up, Nat. That is something we worked really hard on  
19 this winter, was communicating with all of the -- well, with  
20 the helicopter companies as well as all the mining  
21 exploration companies and go amazing compliance with our  
22 request to not be in an area where there were calving or  
23 post-calving aggregations of caribou. And they really -- we  
24 had a web site they could check every day to see where the  
25 post-calving aggregations were. I would meet people at  
26 soccer games, at outings on Eagle Summit and they would -- we  
27 would find out that they were from mining companies or  
28 helicopter companies and, oh, yeah, they knew and they were  
29 very excited about being part of helping the Fortymile herd.

30  
31 MR. L. TRITT: Man talk about talking things  
32 to death there. The thing about this, too, is you said you  
33 were working with people from Tanacross and the First  
34 Nations, what did they have to say about it?

35  
36 MS. GRONQUIST: Well, there's a lot of  
37 history to this -- you like you want to interject Nat.

38  
39 MR. GOOD: Well, I'm going to note that one  
40 of the biologist that came and talked was initially -- is a  
41 member of the First Nations in Canada and had been involved  
42 with this and was very much a part of getting this going.

43  
44 MR. L. TRITT: In the early days when they  
45 were poisoning all those animals up in that area, that's  
46 where all that rabies came from, you know. I mean when they  
47 introduced these -- dumped this into the wilderness, they had  
48 this impact on it, psychologically and every which way else.  
49 And so I'm -- and personally I don't like this. So are you

50 going to do anything to cut down on it or find another way

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1 to, whatever.

2

3 MS. GRONQUIST: I recognize that there's a  
4 lot of concern and that there hasn't been -- it hasn't been  
5 an easy road to make the decision of how to help the  
6 Fortymile recover.

7

8 MR. L. TRITT: Like we said before, you need  
9 to control the population instead of the animals.

10

11 MR. GOOD: Another comment here, we mentioned  
12 earlier about a means of controlling the animals by having a  
13 bounty on wolves. A very controversial sort of thing. But  
14 initially in this program that was where it began. There was  
15 a group out of Fairbanks that was raising money to pay a  
16 bounty to trappers. And those trappers could bring in pelts  
17 from this area and turn them in for \$500 each, and initially  
18 that was how this was really began, with the trappers. But  
19 the follow-up with this alternate, has really made it  
20 possible for this all to happen. Now, this is more of an  
21 interim process as this herd gets started, those wolves will  
22 be replaced by producing wolves and the whole herd will be  
23 gone. We'll see more wolves throughout the area because  
24 we'll have more caribou to feed wolves. The wolves produce  
25 at a very rapid rate, there will be no sign of what we have  
26 done there, it will be over and gone and only remembered by  
27 us.

28

29 MR. L. TRITT: And like I said before, when  
30 you drive from Fairbanks to Anchorage, when you look around  
31 along the highway, there's Sno-Go tracks all over the damn  
32 place. And a lot of these recreation people, they use where  
33 there's less snow, and that's where the -- that's the kind of  
34 snow that the caribou use to get away from the predators.  
35 And if they're already on that side, they get stuck in this  
36 deep snow and that's where they get them.

37

38 MR. GOOD: Well, in this particular area you  
39 don't really have to worry about it. The only place where  
40 you have real -- any form of access in the winter time by  
41 snowmachines would be off the Fortymile Highway which is no  
42 longer -- road maintenance ends October 15th. The only way  
43 you can even get up the road is on a snowmachine. The rest  
44 of the winter, they're pretty much invulnerable. There are  
45 no real access -- the people from Fairbanks and Anchorage,  
46 really, they could never get at these animals.

47

48 MR. L. TRITT: No, I'm just saying that if  
49 you keep the caribou in good condition they'll reproduce on

50 their own, you know, they'll get healthy on their own.

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1 Because they're not that disadvantaged.

2

3 MS. GRONQUIST: This herd needed to escape  
4 the predation on calves that was stagnate and slightly  
5 declining when we started -- when the First Nations and the  
6 people from the Fortymile area came to us and said do a  
7 couple of things, manage this thing together instead of the  
8 three or four different agencies and see what you can do to  
9 help this herd recover.

10

11 MR. L. TRITT: Well, it's just something to  
12 keep in mind.

13

14 MS. GRONQUIST: Yeah.

15

16 MR. L. TRITT: That's just my opinion.

17

18 MS. GRONQUIST: Well, we're expecting this  
19 herd to pretty much grow on its own from here on out. And  
20 we're already seeing that there's been some relief for moose  
21 from predation by wolves so we're looking toward all of the  
22 wildlife in the area benefiting.

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Pat.

25

26 MR. SAYLOR: I'm Pat Saylor from Healy Lake.  
27 I'd just like to comment on some of the things she's been  
28 saying and I've been hearing. The caribou from the  
29 Fortymile, they've come down this hall to the Healy River  
30 which we haven't seen them in that area for quite awhile and  
31 a few of them were taken, you know, and we were happy to see  
32 that. In February, they'll probably even get closer. The  
33 local residents have been working on some trails to get back  
34 into those hunting grounds because once you get above  
35 timberline you can go just about anywhere.

36

37 And about the wolf sterilization, our community  
38 opposed that. Because of our belief in messing with the  
39 wolves or the animals and the way we believe, some type of --  
40 we're against. We were for snaring, I think snaring would be  
41 the way to go after these wolves. So you're paying so much  
42 for a helicopter to fly around and do this and that, even if  
43 10,000 in an area like that, back in the brush for trappers,  
44 that will support four or five families, I think. Since  
45 everybody fought so hard for the snares, if they're going to  
46 spend that kind of money, if they gave \$700 a snare to every  
47 trapper in that area you would see a reduction in the wolf  
48 population because a trapper don't got much money and most  
49 likely wouldn't be trashing, you know. If you had them kind

50 of snares you could get the job done. We were opposed to

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1 that, and we still are. And if they give us a chance we've  
2 got some people in our community that hold the record for  
3 catching the most wolves in the entire state of Alaska, so we  
4 have somebody that could train our young people, the ones  
5 that don't know so much about that animal. But the market  
6 for the fur is not there. But if there is, then we got the  
7 equipment to do it and we can do the job.

8  
9 We'd like to see the Fortymile caribou back. Our  
10 little village originates from the caribou herd. My  
11 grandmother was born in the middle fort around Joseph  
12 Village, that's the winter hunting grounds of the Healy  
13 River, the upper Tanana is border, the Gwichin and these  
14 people from Circle. We also have relations in Circle, I  
15 finally found out, our last elder, Edwin Demmet's (ph) father  
16 related to Nathaniel's and the John's in Circle. And the  
17 deeper you dig the more you find out.

18  
19 That's all I have to say there. I'm glad to have  
20 time to speak on that.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Pat. Go ahead  
23 Calvin.

24  
25 MR. C. TRITT: I just want to make a comment.  
26 There's a saying that goes, never full around with Mother  
27 Nature. From the beginning since I was appointed to this  
28 seat I was opposed to sterilizing to wolves and I'm still  
29 opposing it. I just want to make that clear.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any other  
34 questions? Go ahead, Vince.

35  
36 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if I understand  
37 this correctly, I haven't tracked this as closely as others,  
38 that the timing of this, under the assumption that you meet  
39 in February -- I mean in March, if you meet in March, you're  
40 only opportunity to really support or change or do anything  
41 with this plan is today. Because if you meet in March the  
42 Board of Game will be in session or will be done. So that's  
43 my understanding is that we're at a point here of if you want  
44 to take action this is the point where you need to take it  
45 and not at the next meeting, unless you plan on meeting in  
46 February, but that would be difficult to -- it wouldn't be  
47 impossible but it would be a bit more challenging to get that  
48 to the Board of Game if you did request anything different or  
49 whatever.



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1                   CHAIRMAN MILLER: The plan looks good to me,  
2 personally. I've read through it and I've sat in on some of  
3 the meetings they had. The only concern I've got is with the  
4 increase of the wolf population in surrounding areas. I've  
5 noticed in our area we got two packs that have grown  
6 tremendous in the last year, and I was just wondering if this  
7 had something to do with what you guys have done with the  
8 other packs or I guess Craig, really is the one I really  
9 should be talking to?

10  
11                   MS. GRONQUIST: Probably, he'd have a better  
12 idea.

13  
14                   CHAIRMAN MILLER: You know, I just got some  
15 concerns about the surrounding areas like the Creek area, the  
16 packs have really grown. The Sand Lake pack's really grown.  
17 And there's -- you know, it's just -- I was just wondering if  
18 this had something to do with removing the wolves from the  
19 other areas?

20  
21                   MR. GOOD: I rather doubt that, you know,  
22 it's just that they haven't had any form of control and  
23 obviously we haven't had very many trappers working the area.  
24 One thing that we might mention is that the plan itself is  
25 just about over with, and putting this harvest plan into  
26 place means that the plan is finished, that there won't be  
27 any further fixing of wolves. This is -- we're at the end of  
28 it right now and we'll be at a stage where we evaluate what  
29 happens and evaluate it in terms of what happens in the  
30 future. We'll be able to determine and all of us, to look at  
31 that, and say, look, this is what we accomplished, this is  
32 what it took, do we want to try this again anywhere else or  
33 not? And I think that this committee, this Council is going  
34 to be looking at that again, too, to determine whether this  
35 was a proper avenue for us to take and something to use again  
36 in the future.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN MILLER: I mean like I just stated  
39 earlier, we haven't had this problem before. It just seems  
40 that since they started this sterilization, you know, the  
41 populations in the surrounding areas are growing. I mean  
42 I've lived there for 30 years, so, you know, I've hunted and  
43 trapped that area a lot and we've hardly had any wolves, or  
44 you know, a really big influx of them like we've had in the  
45 last two years.

46  
47                   MS. GRONQUIST: I think Nat hit on a couple  
48 of things, one is, I don't know what kind of trapping  
49 pressure you had on those packs in the past but I think

50 trapping pressure is definitely down with the price of wolf

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1 pelts being down as well.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Do you have something,  
4 Gerald?

5

6 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I think anytime that you  
7 try to coral or catch one species in any given area, it's  
8 going to drive some of them out of that area from all the  
9 chasing, helicopters or however you do it. But it's good to  
10 see something -- it's good to compromise one species for  
11 another species even though you're messing with Mother Nature  
12 or doing that because there's going to have to be compromises  
13 given in this day and age because if we try to let nature  
14 take care of itself it's just not going to take care of  
15 itself. There's too much pressure on it, there's too much  
16 want for the actual need that's there. And we are going to  
17 have to compromise a little bit here and there, against our  
18 traditional beliefs and stuff to do some kind of things like  
19 these in this day and age. But there's no going back. We  
20 know there's no going back.

21

22 And if this Board needs to entertain a motion to  
23 support this Fortymile plan -- Caribou Herd Plan, I'd move to  
24 adopt a motion to support it.

25

26 MR. GOOD: I'll second it.

27

28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any more  
29 discussion?

30

31 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, I just want it to go  
32 down on record that I'm opposing all sterilization and I  
33 don't want nothing to do with it.

34

35 MS. GRONQUIST: Yeah, I just want to  
36 reiterate that what we're asking you guys to look at is the  
37 harvest plan itself. The Fortymile plan is, with all its  
38 good parts and bad parts, is already endorsed, it's in the --  
39 practically in the fifth year, which is the final year.....

40

41 MR. GOOD: It's almost done.

42

43 MS. GRONQUIST: .....so it's really the next  
44 step that we're looking at here and that is reintroducing a  
45 harvest that will help the heard to continue to grow, yet  
46 benefit the users of that herd.

47

48 MR. GOOD: One other thing I might note is in  
49 looking at that harvest plan and coming up with a harvest

50 plan, we were very careful. See the people along the Taylor

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1 Highway and in the eastern areas are the ones who have given  
2 up the most here, they were helped out by the fact that the  
3 Nelchina herd's been coming across and there's been a  
4 Northway hunt, but those subsistence hunters in that area  
5 have given up the most and what's happened in the early part  
6 of the hunt is many animals were taken along the Steese  
7 Highway causing emergency closures to make sure that those  
8 people got their animals. So when setting up this harvest  
9 plan, we were very careful to make sure that the herd would  
10 be available to the subsistence hunters in the eastern areas.  
11 We were particularly concerned about them and this harvest  
12 plan does protect them. So I think this is a very, very good  
13 plan.

14  
15 At one time the harvest was 450 animals. During the  
16 plan's time period it is 150 animals and now we're going to  
17 over 700 animals right off the bat and we have, indeed, also  
18 discussed in what would appear to be a fairly near future,  
19 harvest involving say any two caribou or something along  
20 those lines including increasing the harvest. And eventually  
21 Eastern Interior may also be looking at it from their own  
22 perspective and determining what we want for subsistence  
23 hunts in those areas as well, increasing them. But we have  
24 been in cooperation with the plan as far as the harvest goes  
25 up to this point and we want to stay there right now. In the  
26 future we will be considering that again.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, I don't think there's  
29 any problem with the harvest plan. But I agree with Lincoln,  
30 that, you know, it's just the means to get there is what we  
31 don't agree with.

32  
33 MR. GOOD: I'll withdraw my second if you  
34 withdraw your motion and just make it in support of the  
35 harvest plan here?

36  
37 MR. NICHOLIA: Okay.

38  
39 MR. C. TRITT: I would support this if you  
40 keep the sterilization out of it, and the motion.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, that's already done.  
43 I mean all we can do.....

44  
45 MR. C. TRITT: I mean in the future, from  
46 here on.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I guess that's another plan  
49 for another day.



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1 MS. GRONQUIST: Hopefully way off in the  
2 future if at all.

3  
4 MR. C. TRITT: Somebody made a good comment  
5 yesterday about politics. When we go out and start doing  
6 something, the politics gets in there and we will get  
7 confused all over again. Like the sterilization. I'm  
8 opposed to it because it's our way, this is why we're here.  
9 We're trying to protect our cultural, our way of life. If we  
10 give up one thing then we have to give up -- something will  
11 come out and we have to give that up. So it's -- like they  
12 say, subsistence, I don't consider myself a subsistence  
13 hunter, I'm just a traditional person out there just doing --  
14 continuing the culture.

15  
16 So when we go around and mess around with nature,  
17 they've been surviving for all these million of years before  
18 we even showed up. They know how to survive. And I truly  
19 disagree with it.

20  
21 MS. GRONQUIST: I don't want to.....

22  
23 MR. C. TRITT: I'm not arguing with the  
24 planning but when you start fooling with Mother Nature that's  
25 when I -- I disagree with that.

26  
27 MS. GRONQUIST: I don't want to derail the  
28 discussion too much but the Council composition has changed  
29 a little bit since the plan was first put before the Council.  
30 So you don't have all of the history and maybe at a break if  
31 you'd like to talk with Nat, Pete and I, we can.....

32  
33 MR. L. TRITT: I think we got a couple of  
34 years of history over it so.....

35  
36 MS. GRONQUIST: Yeah, exactly.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go up and state your name  
39 for the record, please.

40  
41 MS. FRIEND: My name is Connie Friend and I'm  
42 with Tanana Chiefs. I think there might be a solution to  
43 this and I'd like to just speak for our villages in the upper  
44 Tanana a little bit. We have a really difficult time with  
45 the sterilization issue and many of our villages opposed it.  
46 Some accepted it. And I think it was due to a political kind  
47 of position that was taken. But anyway, those who opposed it  
48 continue to have concerns, and what I'm thinking is that this  
49 might be, in the future, used as a model for other herds and

50 other times. And I think it's -- you know, everyone from our

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1 area agrees that it's a really fine model and there are a lot  
2 of good points to it but the sterilization issue is still an  
3 issue for many of us and so what I'm wondering is that if  
4 this Council could maybe even decide among yourselves, you  
5 know, how many of you are opposed and if it's more than less  
6 then take a position of endorsing the plan and the harvest  
7 quotas and so forth, with caveat, you know, that in the  
8 future you would like to see some other options applied and  
9 not only -- especially for respect for the traditions of the  
10 people and also, you know, in our area, a little of that  
11 money for snares and to help people feed their families would  
12 have been really good. And I think that more and more the  
13 government is looking to the tribes and agencies are looking  
14 to the tribes to provide a lot of the information, and that  
15 needs to be flowing both ways. You know, the tribes are  
16 building infrastructure and it's not easy and this would be  
17 one way where everybody could be, you know, gain something.  
18 So for the future that might be an option you might want to  
19 consider.

20

21 Thanks.

22

23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Lee.

24

25 MR. L. TITUS: I think we're discussing  
26 something that's over and done with. And I think we should  
27 go back to the main motion and find out the intent of the  
28 motion. I think the motion had to do with the harvest plan?

29

30 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, it had nothing to do  
31 with the sterilization, just to back up the harvest plan.  
32 We've been through this for the last two or three years,  
33 talking about the sterilization, we want to get away from it.  
34 We should just approve this plan and get it over with.

35

36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead Knowland.

37

38 MR. SILAS: I would have opposed it if I had  
39 got on earlier. You know, like Lee said, it's over and done  
40 so call for the question on the motion.

41

42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, question's been  
43 called. And the motion is to accept the harvest plan?

44

45 MR. NICHOLIA: That was my intention.

46

47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, all in favor of the  
48 motion signify by saying aye.

49

IN UNISON: *Aye.*

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed, same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: The ayes have it.

6

7 MS. GRONQUIST: Thank you.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: The proposal is that a letter  
10 will be sent to the Federal Subsistence Board and to the  
11 Board of Game in support of the plan?

12

13 MR. NICHOLIA: Yes.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, moving on now to the  
18 State local Fish and Game advisory committee meetings; does  
19 anybody want to talk about those?

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the discussion was just  
22 to give kind of a brief update on the village quota system  
23 that the State was looking at for some Flats villages. So I  
24 think that's what we may want to go back to.

25

26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, Vince, I think we're  
27 on two different wave lengths here, Vince.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

30

31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Was that the one -- this is  
32 under C, on Page 2?

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Right, it's under C.

35

36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: State local Fish and Game  
37 advisory committee meetings?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Well, if we had representatives  
40 here from that affected committee, Yukon Flats Advisory  
41 Committee, that they may want to talk about it. We can wait  
42 and let it come up under an agency report, the harvest quota  
43 or you could have Bob do it now, whichever.

44

45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, so what's the Board  
46 feel on that? You want to come up Bob?

47

48 MR. STEPHENSON: Sure.

49

MR. MATHEWS: And again, this agenda is made

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1 in July and when you try to apply it in October it gets a  
2 little rigid so I appreciate your flexibility on this, both  
3 to the presenters and to the Council.

4

5 MR. STEPHENSON: I'm Bob Stephenson with the  
6 Division of Wildlife and Conservation, and the Fort Yukon  
7 area biologist, and I apologize for not being here a little  
8 earlier. Last fall the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee -- or  
9 excuse me, in 1998, the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee  
10 submitted a proposal to the Board of Game to establish some  
11 type of community harvest quota system for moose and caribou  
12 in the Yukon Flats region. The Board of Game discussed the  
13 proposal, the advisory committee representative and asked the  
14 Department to work on developing a frame work for this system  
15 and try and figure out how we could set up a hunt with a  
16 different bag limit and probably different seasons than our  
17 general hunting seasons.

18

19 So last year we've been working with Division of  
20 Subsistence, the Chalkyitsik -- community of Chalkyitsik and  
21 with the Department of Law's representative to the Board of  
22 Game to try to find a way to do this. And as you know, for  
23 many years, I think, one of the problems with our existing  
24 system is that in a lot of communities certain hunters may  
25 take more than one moose for -- and distribute that in the  
26 community and so our system of one moose per license holder  
27 isn't really a good fit. And in addition to that, the way  
28 for a small community like Chalkyitsik, although they harvest  
29 most of their moose in the fall, in September, they also have  
30 a need and like to take some moose during the winter or at  
31 other times of the year for a variety of reasons. So we try  
32 to find a way to accommodate that and build a local system  
33 in.

34

35 And the concept we're working on now is to create a  
36 community bag limit and a subsistence registration hunt for  
37 moose in a part of 25(D) and 25(B) which would be the Yukon  
38 Flats and the upper Black River. And another part of the  
39 situation is that last fall the advisory committee, the Yukon  
40 Flats Advisory Committee, asked us to work with the community  
41 of Chalkyitsik in a pilot program to try to flush out this  
42 system so that's what we've been doing and I think we've been  
43 going about it with the assumption that if we can build a  
44 good frame work and build a mechanism to have this kind of  
45 hunt, it's likely that we could -- other communities who  
46 would be interested in the future and we can transfer this  
47 model to them. So for right now it's a one community focus  
48 and that's what we've been working with.

49

There's a -- the basis for the regulation is likely

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1 to be in Alaska statute, and I'll read it because it does  
2 underlie this legal area we're going to work in. Alaska  
3 Statute 16.05.330(c) says that the Board of Game may adopt  
4 regulations providing for the issuance and expiration of  
5 subsistence permits for areas, villages, communities, groups  
6 or individuals as needed for authorizing, regulating and  
7 monitoring the subsistence harvest of fish and game. So what  
8 we've done is we meet with the village council and discuss  
9 this with people in the community to see how we could set up  
10 a separate, basically a registration permit with a different  
11 bag limit that would be administered locally. Have the Board  
12 create, for instance, a community bag limit of maybe 20 moose  
13 for Chalkyitsik, with a separate season that hopefully could  
14 open earlier than our existing State season which is only a  
15 10 day season in September and extend through -- into  
16 November for -- or excuse me, maybe close during the rut,  
17 open again in mid-November, extend into March, something like  
18 that. And what would happen is that the community would  
19 apply for this permit, they would list the households that  
20 wished to participate in the community bag limit. It'd be a  
21 little reporting -- you know, a system for reporting and  
22 monitoring. The harvest would be monitored by, probably in  
23 this case the Chalkyitsik Natural Resource Office, under the  
24 auspices of the village council, and when they got to the  
25 quota then that season would be over. The general hunting  
26 season would continue to be there. So that other people  
27 could hunt during that shorter fall season. We have a fall  
28 season and then there's a short winter season that would be  
29 open to all Alaska residents.

30  
31 So the intent, in this case, would be not to increase  
32 the harvest of moose by a significant amount, anyway, but  
33 rather to accommodate local use patterns and traditional  
34 resource use patterns. So other people could still hunt in  
35 the hunt area which in -- one option we're discussing is  
36 applying this -- describing this hunt area as the area where  
37 the people of Chalkyitsik do most of their moose hunting,  
38 which includes the Black River drainage nearly -- a good part  
39 of it, a little bit of the Porcupine River drainage during  
40 winter, north of the community, it's an area of about 5,000  
41 square miles, it'd be pretty large. And they seem to be  
42 content with that, they think that would fit with what they  
43 really do and with what they need.

44  
45 I guess a couple of conditions -- well, another part  
46 of this would be that as a condition of this hunt, we can  
47 prescribe certain things, for instance, we've discussed with  
48 them the idea of saying that you could not use aircraft  
49 except between established airports to transfer moose meat or

50 hunting gear. We could have a requirement that the moose

00097

1 meat remain on the bone until it's returned. And the reason  
2 for doing some of this, partly, is to really reflect the way  
3 people hunt and also to discourage outside interests in this  
4 particular hunt, I guess. Because under State law we could  
5 not prohibit other groups from applying for this permit. If  
6 they wanted to they could apply. And so we can't just  
7 declare that it's only open to residents of one community,  
8 although, in fact, the hope is that that's the way it would  
9 work, and I mean I think it can actually. So I don't know,  
10 David James is here, if I've missed anything.

11  
12           Anyway, if there's questions I'd be happy to discuss  
13 them.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any questions from the  
16 board?

17  
18                   MR. NICHOLIA: This would just be from  
19 specific area around this region?

20  
21                   MR. STEPHENSON: For now. The first effort  
22 would be. The area could end up being bigger, some people  
23 think we don't need to make it that small, we could have all  
24 20 -- say have 25(D) east and part of 25(B). For this first  
25 round, we would focus on one region -- one area in the state.

26  
27                   MR. NICHOLIA: And it would be around  
28 Chalkyitsik you said?

29  
30                   MR. STEPHENSON: Yeah, the advisory committee  
31 suggested we work with that community to develop the idea.

32  
33                   MR. NICHOLIA: And then this would help the  
34 people meet their subsistence needs?

35  
36                   MR. STEPHENSON: Correct, yeah. To  
37 accommodate both the way they hunt, the way they distribute  
38 meat and the times they hunt, and to give them a longer  
39 season and a bag limit where one hunter could take more than  
40 one moose for the community rather than being limited to one  
41 per license holder. That would be up to the community to  
42 distribute this, that harvest among their hunters, arrange  
43 for groups of hunters to hunt together for a number of moose  
44 up to the quota. It would be, well, theoretically, one  
45 person could take all the moose.

46  
47                   MR. NICHOLIA: But that would be like for an  
48 elderly person or a single woman, something like that?

49

MR. STEPHENSON: It would be up to the

00098

1 community and hunters to distribute the meat the way they  
2 felt was best.

3

4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Who would be deciding on  
5 the seasons, the openings, I guess or -- would it be year-  
6 round, would it be X amount of months?

7

8 MR. STEPHENSON: Well, that's something we've  
9 got to, I guess, sort of negotiate with the community and  
10 maybe some legal constraints. What we'd like to do, you  
11 could start with the proposition that if they're going to  
12 take 20 moose, it maybe doesn't matter when they take them.  
13 And this would be because of our biological situation we'd  
14 probably have to stick with bulls in this case, and they  
15 understand that. But if we open it early -- or assuming much  
16 earlier than the general season and it appears we might be  
17 affecting that other opportunity we could get into a  
18 situation where we would be forcing this towards a Tier II  
19 situation. That's kind of some legalistic thinking that I'm  
20 not real good at but we have to be aware of that. But at  
21 least the people in Chalkyitsik and the chief suggested we  
22 not bite off too much this first time. If we can -- and I  
23 think extending the season beyond the normal fall season is  
24 not much of a problem. Opening it earlier becomes a little  
25 difficult. I'm kind of hoping that we could at least have a  
26 late August opening and partly because our situation is that  
27 we have a 10 day fall season for State managed land which is  
28 the land closest to the communities. The reason for that --  
29 and we have an August 25/September 25 fall season on Federal  
30 public land which surrounds that chunk of privately owned  
31 land for qualified rural residents.

32

33 So it's a confusing situation. The reason we have to  
34 have the -- maintain the short season is because we couldn't  
35 limit the participation after the McDowell decision and all  
36 Alaska residents became qualified, so we kept the short  
37 season. If we could make this a longer season and match --  
38 have one season basically for local residents, I think it  
39 would be a lot less confusing and, you know, build some more  
40 respect and participation.

41

42 MR. NICHOLIA: Has this area been impacted by  
43 a lot of hunters in the last three or four years?

44

45 MR. STEPHENSON: It's pretty low, Gerald.  
46 It's a low moose density or it's certainly compared to a lot  
47 of parts of the Interior. It doesn't attract many people.  
48 It's pretty remote. There are a few lakes where people can  
49 land with float planes. The Black River drainage has very

50 few non-local boats that go there. It's a long trip from

00099

1 either Circle or the Haul Road. It's kind of -- in the  
2 waters it's a rough river to run, it will eat up your prop,  
3 et cetera. So the non-local use isn't very high, which makes  
4 this even more.....

5  
6 MR. NICHOLIA: Have you ever thought about  
7 using this plan within our village corporation that way they  
8 could exclude -- you could get your village corporation to  
9 work along with you, they could exclude outside hunters to  
10 only shareholders -- only shareholders could hunt in there.

11  
12 MR. STEPHENSON: I think they could do that  
13 already and I don't know if they've tried to do it. But  
14 there hasn't been -- I've got a feeling there hasn't been  
15 enough non-local activity, although it's a concern, there  
16 hasn't been enough to really make them do that but they  
17 certainly could do that whether we do this hunt or not.

18  
19 MR. C. TRITT: How many moose are we talking  
20 about?

21  
22 MR. STEPHENSON: Well, the one thing we have  
23 to consider, looking down the road, if this idea is going to  
24 work with other communities is try to come up with a formula  
25 that will be fair and sort of consistent among communities  
26 for establishing this bag limit. And one part of it is to  
27 try to figure out how many moose they would like to take or  
28 normally take, and another part is, what can the population  
29 provide? What is the harvestable surplus in the moose  
30 population?

31  
32 MR. C. TRITT: Based on your plan?

33  
34 MR. STEPHENSON: Well, you mean the number  
35 they would like?

36  
37 MR. C. TRITT: The number of moose harvest?

38  
39 MR. STEPHENSON: I think the way we'd have to  
40 run this -- this regulation can always be changed, of course.  
41 If we are able to create this permit hunt, it can be changed  
42 in another cycle. But I think the Board of Game would have  
43 to, you know, agree or establish that bag limit. The one way  
44 we've thought -- discussed to go about it is that a lot of  
45 the work by Subsistence Division and others of looking at  
46 moose harvest in communities in Interior Alaska, it's pretty  
47 common to come up with an average of about a half a moose per  
48 households, overall, if some households use less, some use  
49 more and if we use that formula for Interior communities, in

50 this case we would come up with about 20 moose for this hunt.

00100

1 And some people in a community may not participate in this  
2 for various reasons and there would be additional moose taken  
3 under the general season so that wouldn't be the only moose  
4 that the community would take. But that's just an example.

5  
6 If we use the number of households times .5, we might  
7 end up with a fair quota. Some communities could argue,  
8 rightly, that their use is generally higher and some use less  
9 moose.

10  
11 MR. C. TRITT: Is this kind of an  
12 experimental thing?

13  
14 MR. STEPHENSON: Yes.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Where did you get the  
17 numbers from the households, I mean where did you do your --  
18 were they Interior communities, Fairbanks, Anchorage, where  
19 did you get the numbers from?

20  
21 MR. STEPHENSON: Well, Dave Andersen might  
22 want to address this but.....

23  
24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Because a half a moose a  
25 household seems like a pretty low -- pretty low to me, I  
26 mean, you know, I could use three times that much to feed my  
27 family in a year.

28  
29 MR. C. TRITT: When you go out and hunt in  
30 the fall you're trying to provide for most of the winter, so  
31 half a moose, that's -- but the decision-making, who really  
32 makes the decision on all these details that you're setting  
33 out, the village people or Fish and Wildlife or whoever is in  
34 charge?

35  
36 MR. STEPHENSON: Well, we're working with the  
37 community to develop something that is suitable for them. So  
38 they have, certainly, a say in it and if they don't want --  
39 like what -- you know, like the proposal it probably isn't  
40 going to go anywhere. So it has to be something we work out  
41 together. In the end the Board of Game is going to establish  
42 this permit and make it legal and then we'll work together  
43 with the community to make it work. But it's largely up to  
44 them to accept or not accept what we can do.

45  
46 MR. JAMES: It's a very lengthy process, this  
47 quota system, you know. And I think it's more like really an  
48 education process the first go around in order to motivate  
49 the village. We have people come up with a good plan on how

50 to reach, like this one, on harvest for our subsistence

00101

1 needs. I think one of the biggest item is educating the  
2 community because I'm still learning this process. I'm still  
3 working with you and I'm still learning, picking up pieces  
4 here and there, learning how this -- this new system is going  
5 to work. I understand \*\*Lime Village had a harvest quota  
6 system.

7  
8 MR. STEPHENSON: I believe that's right, and  
9 maybe David or Polly or Dave might know a little more about  
10 that if you want to hear. But there are a few examples. And  
11 there's been some in fisheries, too. I think there's a  
12 subsistence permit for Copper River salmon in Copper Center.  
13 So there's some examples where they've done -- used this  
14 permit and used this statute to go ahead and create these  
15 kind of regulations. And I agree with you, David, we're  
16 learning a lot, too, trying to work through this. It's a new  
17 thing to sort thing but I think it's a good concept, there's  
18 a lot of interest in it.

19  
20 MR. JAMES: I have another question, Mr.  
21 Chairman.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

24  
25 MR. JAMES: We were talking about allocations  
26 are set amount of numbers for individual groups or local  
27 traditional people there, we also need to look outside the  
28 area to where the moose migrate, in the high mountain sides.  
29 And I think a part of your project should be looking into  
30 that area, too, of where the moose come down from the  
31 mountains. You know, they come down to breed, you know, and  
32 if the bulls don't come down to breed from the high mountains  
33 then that could be one of your main -- like it could be a  
34 kink in your population, trying to increase it from certain  
35 -- up to a certain number.

36  
37 MR. STEPHENSON: Uh-huh.

38  
39 MR. JAMES: And that was one of the things  
40 through our traditional meetings we have for local people,  
41 they brought that up that, you know, these bull moose, they  
42 got to come back and breed, if they don't come back and  
43 breed, if they're shot off before they come back -- that's an  
44 area -- that's an issue -- really a problem that we're going  
45 to have to tackle that, too. So that's where the two lines  
46 cross.

47  
48 The other question I have is you mention certain  
49 individuals might not be part of the process, is that

50 individual -- would this be -- would fall underneath that

00102

1 resident hunt?

2  
3 MR. D. JAMES: Yes.

4  
5 MR. STEPHENSON: That's right. There would  
6 be an opportunity for other people to hunt in the existing  
7 season. The people -- households who want to could  
8 participate and sign up under this bag limit. I should  
9 mention, too, another thing we realize is that in all  
10 likelihood the bag limits are going to be separate and if you  
11 hunt under one bag limit, you can't then also hunt under the  
12 other. You would have to pick which one you wanted to go.  
13 You couldn't shoot one moose under the general season, fill  
14 out that harvest ticket and then go also hunt in the other  
15 bag limit. They'd be separate. But I don't think that has  
16 to be a problem if it's set up right.

17  
18 MR. NICHOLIA: I have a question.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.

21  
22 MR. NICHOLIA: If that one hunter harvested  
23 their moose in the regular season and if some elderly lady or  
24 single woman wanted that hunter to hunt in this harvest  
25 quota, then would that be possible for him to hunt for them?

26  
27 MR. STEPHENSON: No, I don't think so. We'd  
28 have to look ahead or the community would have to look ahead  
29 and decide, and individual households and hunters would have  
30 to decide if they want to participate in this bag limit which  
31 hopefully would accommodate in most of the harvesting they  
32 really are doing now. And one part of this effort, I mean,  
33 one benefit would be to get better reporting and so that  
34 we're working with real numbers and they are, too. So that  
35 what they really do is legal and they're responsible for  
36 administering the hunting system. But I think they'd have to  
37 decide how they wanted to organize it. And I think there  
38 would always be a few people, and they may be people who  
39 didn't grow up in Chalkyitsik, it may be a teacher or it may  
40 be whoever is working and living in the community but maybe  
41 wouldn't participate in that hunt under the other system.  
42 But the moose, that resource would go into the community in  
43 various ways.

44  
45 MR. NICHOLIA: So in reality you're just  
46 giving them another door of opportunity to meet their needs,  
47 right?

48  
49 MR. STEPHENSON: Right. And so a different

50 season is part of it and the other thing, that I think is

00103

1 appealing from a local perspective, is a different bag limit.  
2 So we're not going to pretend that we're going to try to have  
3 one moose per license holder, we're just going to have this  
4 whole quota and it's up to the community to decide who and  
5 how many moose are taken by an individual hunter.

6  
7 MR. NICHOLIA: What are you asking for from  
8 this Board?

9  
10 MR. STEPHENSON: I was asked to provide the  
11 information because it does relate to subsistence hunting, so  
12 just to provide information. If you have questions or  
13 opinions?

14  
15 MR. C. TRITT: When's your experience open?

16  
17 MR. STEPHENSON: Well, we're hoping to have  
18 a proposal in for the March 2000 Board of Game meeting which  
19 means here in the next couple months we need to finalize this  
20 proposal. And then everybody is going to have a chance to  
21 criticize it and express their opinion on whether we should  
22 do it or not. The regulation would probably be ongoing until  
23 we wanted to change it unless somebody wants to put a sunset  
24 clause on it or something but I don't know if we would want  
25 to do that. But we hope to give it a try for the regulatory  
26 year, starting next 1 July, is what we hope to do. But we  
27 may run into another snag.

28  
29 MR. C. TRITT: The only thing I'm cautious  
30 about is I brought up sterilizing wolf. Giving up certain  
31 rights that slowly they will take away to where -- I heard  
32 this one person tell me, he's from down the highway, that if  
33 he has a moose that's walking around behind his house but he  
34 can't shoot it because he -- he needs it, he needs to feed  
35 his family but he can't because a lot of his rights were  
36 given up. So that's one of the things that we have to watch  
37 out for. Just because everything is so fine-printed, we just  
38 can't go around agreeing -- jumping into the pot with  
39 everybody else.

40  
41 That's my comment.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So this is just basically  
44 information?

45  
46 MR. STEPHENSON: Yes.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Was there any more comments  
49 or questions?



00104

1 MR. JAMES: I have one.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

4  
5 MR. JAMES: Just from here until March,  
6 there, you can, you know, keep the Board informed with that  
7 information there of what's been going on in your process on  
8 this quota system so we can have a little more -- the Board  
9 will be a little more prepared next time or whenever we meet.

10  
11 MR. STEPHENSON: Well, by then, Mr. Chairman,  
12 I think there should be a proposal, hopefully, that you can  
13 review and look at because we -- if we don't make it by  
14 December sometime it won't be in this cycle. But we hope to  
15 have something, kind of for people to really think through  
16 and express their opinions on. So you should have something  
17 in writing.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Has there been any talk or  
20 discussion about trying to open a summer season, June or  
21 July?

22  
23 MR. STEPHENSON: Some. And we've talked  
24 about that with the council here in July. I spent some time  
25 at a meeting up on the river with them. It's possible. It  
26 may be -- because of the way the system works, and some legal  
27 things, it may be difficult to start it in July. But people  
28 have talked about the fact that they sometimes like to take  
29 moose, dry meat usually.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Dry meat.

32  
33 MR. STEPHENSON: Yeah, we've discussed it.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, is there any more  
36 questions for Bob? Yeah, go ahead, Pete.

37  
38 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, I have a question  
39 for Bob. This line extends -- a hunter -- Chalkyitsik hunter  
40 gets in line to hunt a moose in September, does not get a  
41 moose, are you saying that that person cannot then hunt later  
42 in the second hunt, the permit hunt? You'd have to choose  
43 either or at the beginning of the season, if I hear you  
44 right?

45  
46 MR. STEPHENSON: Mr. Chairman, as I  
47 understand it, that's correct, yeah. We can't figure out a  
48 way to -- maybe there is a way to make that possible. It  
49 looks like they'd have to be exclusive. It's sort of like if

50 you hunt moose in the Nelchina then you don't get to go to

00105

1 Fairbanks and take another moose under that bag limit. At  
2 this point we don't see a way to do that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Just so you know that you may  
7 -- you can probably comment on this individually if you meet  
8 in March because of the timing. So look for it in your mail  
9 box, but if you want to do it as a Council then you're going  
10 to have to look at having your meeting in February and then  
11 even that's really tight to get that to the Board of Game.  
12 But just so you realize that that you'll see the proposal but  
13 probably not as a group. If it doesn't pass through this  
14 time, per se, then you might see it the next round. But  
15 there could be other rounds, but I just wanted to make that  
16 clear that somewhere down the road, we're going to have to --  
17 we have looked at aligning these cycles and now we throw in  
18 a fish cycle, so we're going to be talking more about that to  
19 see how we can maximize those cycles. But right now you're  
20 going to be a little out of cycle if you -- with the Board of  
21 Game if you meet in March.

22

23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: This is interesting. I've  
24 always been for, you know, community harvest limit. You  
25 know, it makes things in the villages a lot easier when you  
26 do it that way. I know a lot of people don't like it, you  
27 know, for different reasons. But it will be interesting to  
28 see how far this actually goes.

29

30 MR. STEPHENSON: I agree, Mr. Chairman. And  
31 the idea has been around for a long time. I know an area  
32 biologist like myself who worked in parts of the state 30  
33 years ago, 20 years, always wondered about this but -- and I  
34 don't know why it's been so late in developing, but we're  
35 going to give it a good try and see if we can't set it up.  
36 There's a lot of good features, a lot of good things about  
37 it, if we could just make a system that will work and be  
38 convenient. Another benefit of it, I think, for the  
39 communities, is that it kind of centralizes the paperwork of  
40 reporting. Most of the communities up here now have a  
41 natural resource specialist, natural resource office, and  
42 it's a focus for them to do the reporting. They know what's  
43 going on, their responsibility, and it takes away that,  
44 where's my harvest ticket mail in thing, you know, where is  
45 that -- I don't really.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: It would give you a lot  
48 more accurate count.

49

MR. STEPHENSON: That's right.

00106

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Because, you know, my  
2 experience living in a village, it's a lot easier to tell  
3 someone local, you know -- they don't always remember to send  
4 in the harvest ticket every year, I mean I always get a nasty  
5 letter from the State, hey, you forgot to send your harvest  
6 ticket.

7  
8 MR. STEPHENSON: Nasty letters are us. No.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, if there's no more  
11 questions, thank you for your time.

12  
13 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Oh, wait, hold on, we got  
16 somebody in the back room. Could you please come up and  
17 state your name for the record?

18  
19 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Yeah, Dewey Schwallenberg  
20 from Stevens Village, Resource Director. We were planning on  
21 making our report under the village reports but in view of  
22 the fact that our system that the Council -- well, three  
23 tribes actually have set up is so closely related to this  
24 community quota system, I thought if you wanted to hear our  
25 report now we would probably give that.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any objection from  
28 the Council? Hearing none, go ahead.

29  
30 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Okay. First, I'd like to  
31 get a couple of the council members up. They're not going to  
32 get out of this entirely.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Please state your name for  
35 the record.

36  
37 MR. STEVENS: Jay Stevens. I work for the  
38 Natural Resource Program there in Stevens Village and I'm  
39 also a council member.

40  
41 MR. MINER: I'm Bobby Miner. I'm the tribal  
42 chief for the Beaver Tribal Council.

43  
44 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Well, to begin with in  
45 essence we'd like to -- I'll just go through some of the  
46 technical details of the Stevens Village program and the  
47 tribal leaders here can interject any of the community-  
48 related social/political impacts and interests.

49

We've been working closely with Bob on the community

00107

1 quota system. The reason I didn't pop up here during his  
2 presentation is because we are in 25(D) west and we have a  
3 somewhat different situation. We have an existing Tier II  
4 exclusive hunting situation for communities of Birch Creek,  
5 Stevens Village and Beaver. So we don't have a lot of  
6 outside people, you know, applying for permits and coming in  
7 so we've been able to generally put together a community  
8 quota system using existing State and Federal regulations.  
9 What we did is we got together with the refuge people and  
10 found out that they were interested in issuing 12 permits for  
11 Federal moose hunting, so the council agreed to do that so we  
12 took the 12 permits and we issued the permits to our local  
13 people through the resource program. The State had Tier II  
14 permit applications and I believe it was around 42 Tier II  
15 permits were given out, so we went out with our resource  
16 program, natural resource technician and contacted all the  
17 households and actually had them fill out the permits and  
18 help them with the application process. So this year we got  
19 24 Tier II permits as well as the 12 Federal moose permits.  
20

21 So in essence, we've taken advantage of the system as  
22 much as we possibly can to get the maximum number of people  
23 in the village out there hunting legally. Now, we have three  
24 systems in Alaska. We have the legal State system, the legal  
25 Federal system and we have the outside system. So by virtue  
26 of the fact that people a lot of times don't know what the  
27 system is, people don't subscribe to things like one permit  
28 for one hunter and if you don't have a permit you can't go  
29 out and these types of things. Our job has been to try to  
30 find out, within the community, what the community really  
31 wants to do within these. So we're calling this our  
32 community quota system and we're taking advantage of 36 moose  
33 permits and within Stevens Village that pretty well covers  
34 the amount of people that want to go out there and hunt. So  
35 at least we've solved the problem of everybody can get out  
36 there with a real permit in their pocket.  
37

38 Now, we didn't solve the problem of where they can  
39 hunt with it. So this paper that we handed out here is our  
40 current position. We have four issues that we are trying to  
41 work with the State and Federal agencies on to try to  
42 resolve. Now, last we came to the subsistence council and  
43 were able to make a few changes, the most important change  
44 was the season length, was the cultural hunt was approved.  
45 So Stevens Village, Beaver and Birch Creek have a cultural  
46 hunt outside of the normal Federal season or the Tier II  
47 season.  
48

49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is that a summer hunt?



00108

1 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: It can be anytime during  
2 the year?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Pick when they want it?  
5

6 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Right. So we've treated  
7 that as, a community quota again, that's not additional moose  
8 beyond the 30 animals that we originally agreed to but it  
9 does open the season for when people really need to have the  
10 animal. So again, part of the community quota thing that Bob  
11 was talking about, I think, we already have it in place in  
12 our particular unit.  
13

14 Now, the problems that we have, however, come in with  
15 the quotas. We've spent the -- when I say, we, I mean the  
16 Stevens Village Council and Beaver as well and Birch Creek,  
17 spend a lot of time with the traditional harvest data  
18 collection. And your comments earlier about that's the way  
19 you're going to get the information is absolutely true. The  
20 problem we have is we don't have a real mechanism to move  
21 that information into the State and Federal system for one  
22 primary reason. Because for us to report above and beyond  
23 what the legal harvest is simply puts our people at risk for  
24 law enforcement purposes. So we've designed a system that  
25 keeps all of the hunters -- not clandestine, they've been  
26 clandestine for years, but it keeps them -- we have unnamed  
27 permits. We have household numbers and hunter numbers and --  
28 confidential. All the hunters are confidential, and that's  
29 the way we are able to get our information.  
30

31 So I'm authorized here today, along that line, to  
32 tell the Council here what the real harvest of moose is for  
33 Stevens Village. We've had an intertribal meeting of the  
34 three villages earlier this summer, all three villages  
35 participated and we put our heads together and came up with  
36 the best information we could on how many animals were really  
37 harvested and what the sex harvest ratio was. Last year  
38 Stevens Village harvested 25 moose. Nine of those moose were  
39 cow moose. And between the three communities there was a  
40 minimum of 60 moose were harvested by the three communities  
41 and 20 of those moose were cows. So our first contention is  
42 that we want to work within the existing systems. We want to  
43 be able to transfer information and have local community  
44 decision-making, again, all the elements of a community quota  
45 system, but we don't particularly like the part where there's  
46 still going to be two, you know, hunting systems. We don't  
47 agree with that. We said the same thing at the Fish and Game  
48 advisory meeting the other night, and said that, well, if  
49 there's going to be one community quota system that's all it

50 should have to be, is just one system, until that number of

00109

1 animals is reached that's going to be harvested, people  
2 should be able to hunt. I think that's what I'm hearing from  
3 some of the board members here, too, they're saying the same  
4 thing, because that's what local people really believe.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Where'd that 30 bulls, is  
7 that just a number that they picked to start this thing off?

8  
9 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Well, that's interesting.  
10 I did some research. At the time I was working strictly for  
11 Stevens Village and I said, well, 30 bulls, I know what our  
12 harvest was so we're well within that, so -- and then after  
13 we got together with Beaver and Birch Creek and started  
14 talking I said, well, now, we better raise this issue.  
15 Because the 30 animals -- I think the State, originally, in  
16 some of its early subsistence information was talking about  
17 something like 65 animals, you know, actually for these three  
18 communities would be a reasonable guesstimate at the harvest.  
19 Prior to having the real harvest data that's what was thrown  
20 out. So last year when the 30 bulls came in, I've only been  
21 involved with this really for the last two years, so I just  
22 thought some magic number of 30 animals, and that had been  
23 approved, you know, somewhere along the lines. So this year,  
24 after the last two years of harvest data collection, that's  
25 why we're bringing these numbers out. We think that this  
26 historically has been the harvest level. From what we can  
27 glean from all the people in the community that we talk and  
28 work with, we feel it's probably been, you know, 60/65  
29 animals being harvested for quite a number of years. So if  
30 you look at the figures of the population of animals, it's  
31 been remaining low but fairly stable. So I mean it's  
32 probably real interesting -- like I say, we've been  
33 harvesting that many animals right along and that's why the  
34 population is there.

35  
36 Now, our suggestion, both here and at the State level  
37 is let's be realistic. Let's set some allocations, you know,  
38 at the real numbers that the people are using, and then once  
39 the people can come out of the woodwork and participate in a  
40 real program that's not going to make them criminals, you  
41 know, half the time, we found in Stevens Village -- you know,  
42 we really have a good handle on what people are getting and  
43 primarily it's because people are now coming in, giving us a  
44 call or stopping by and telling us something. But also it's  
45 because we have paid people that are out there watching the  
46 boats coming in, we're out in the rivers all the time and you  
47 just know who's getting what and just about where they're  
48 getting it. So we want to start this process over again and  
49 that's what our suggestion is.



00110

1           We want to come in -- our first suggestion is let's  
2 have a harvest level of 60/65 animals. We have to deal with  
3 the cow harvest, there's no question. We're not going to  
4 change the cow harvest short of calling out the National  
5 Guard.

6  
7           CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there presently a cow  
8 season in your area?

9  
10          MR. SCHWALLENBERG: No, there's no cow season  
11 according to the existing regs.

12  
13          CHAIRMAN MILLER: So how high does the State  
14 jump and down when you tell them you want a cow season?

15  
16          MR. SCHWALLENBERG: They'll have to speak for  
17 themselves on that one. But reality is like I said, if you  
18 want to make any changes, first of all we got to get the  
19 system open so everybody's willing to participate in it and  
20 that means that everybody has to be able to, you know,  
21 legally be out there hunting. And then once we work with the  
22 people we can start working on some public information or  
23 educational programs and let the local community guys decide,  
24 you know, how and when the cows are going to be harvested.  
25 We found that cow harvest are partially there because the  
26 season are open during the ruts and people aren't going to  
27 take a bull during the rut so they take a cow.

28  
29          MR. C. TRITT: The 60 moose, you're talking  
30 about including potlatch and funerals? Do you count that in  
31 also?

32  
33          MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Right, we're talking  
34 about a community quota of 60/65 animals for all three  
35 villages, and I think it's between the villages, they'll  
36 figure out what the quota for each community is because I  
37 envision at some time there's going to be exchanges of quota,  
38 you know. So that's what I think the real harvest is at this  
39 point. Then, you know, once people are able to go out there  
40 legally hunting and they're in contact with their local  
41 resource programs and councils are making decisions based on,  
42 you know, some real sound management programs, then I think  
43 you can see that we can start working with the cow harvest  
44 level if that's, in fact, different. In all honesty, I don't  
45 think the people in Stevens Village, probably Beaver, believe  
46 that it's the harvest of cows that's creating the problem.  
47 Everybody believes it's a predator problem out there.

48  
49          So I mean that's -- I didn't address that in here in

50 this particular paper. But I think we have addressed it.

00111

1 Last year we had some of our guys in Stevens go up and take  
2 a number of wolves, so you know, wolves have been being held  
3 in check around Stevens Village. We had an interesting  
4 situation, we put an ice road in and wolves like the road so  
5 it made it real easy for the people to get at the wolves, you  
6 know, so have the first and only harvest of wolves by  
7 automobile, so I don't know.

8  
9 Okay, let me just quickly go through three other  
10 things. So the first -- well, the first one that I have on  
11 the paper is we need this tri-part management system, where  
12 the local communities are actually directly participating in  
13 it because that's where the real information and decisions  
14 come from. So we're just suggesting that. The second was a  
15 harvest allocation. We're talking about suggestions of 60  
16 moose with no more than 20 of these being cows. Then the  
17 third thing was hunting season limits and administrative  
18 requirements. We have a tremendous amount of problem with  
19 people really understanding all the different permits they  
20 need plus the State hunting licenses. We had to go to  
21 actually being a vendor of State licenses for our program,  
22 the council had to approve that. That was an interesting  
23 discussion. Now, why do we have to have -- you know, be a  
24 vendor of State hunting licenses, and I said, well, because  
25 the system says to go out there with either Federal or State  
26 permits, you have to have a State license. But anyway, we  
27 had compliance with it. When people -- once they knew we  
28 were able to issue the license -- and you can get \$5 licenses  
29 for low income people. As a matter of fact, that's still  
30 pending. We kind of asked the tribal council if they'd be  
31 willing to pick up the tab for the local people's licenses.  
32 But there is a lot of paperwork.....

33  
34 (Off record conversation between Mr. Schwallenberg  
35 and Mr. Miner)

36  
37 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Well, what Bob's point is  
38 that we didn't feel -- we felt when you made the decision  
39 last year that the cultural hunt did not require a permit.  
40 That was the decision that was made. We didn't feel that a  
41 person had to have a Federal permit to go and do the cultural  
42 hunt. But Ted Heuer, refuge manager, immediately pointed out  
43 that we needed to fill out some paperwork, you know, in  
44 advance, so people could go out hunting and things. So we  
45 got on a conference call with Ted and said, hold if, if we  
46 have to do all this stuff isn't this the same thing as having  
47 a permit? The one thing that didn't pass last year through  
48 the council here is that we made a recommendation that the  
49 language read, the refuge manager or designee would take care

50 of all of this, and somewhere along the line that term

00112

1 designee was taken out. We fully intended that the refuge,  
2 like we did last year and this year we have an agreement with  
3 the refuge to issue these Federal permits. We intended that  
4 they would designate the council and the local natural  
5 resource program as a designee so a local guy could walk in  
6 there on a Saturday morning and say, oh, I'm going to go up  
7 river and I'm going to take a moose and we're going to have  
8 a, you know, we have an event going on here in town so I'm  
9 going to send a couple of guys out hunting to get a moose.  
10 But when we got the letter back from the refuge it said, oh,  
11 in advance you must do this, this, this and this. And I'm  
12 saying, well, okay, we send them a little notice on Saturday  
13 and on about Monday or so we got a call back saying, well,  
14 no, we didn't authorize this yet, you guys aren't in  
15 compliance with Federal law and I'm going, well, you took the  
16 designee part out so I mean I can't tell a guy that he can't  
17 go out hunting on Saturday because the Federal offices are  
18 closed or something. But I would like to see that go back in  
19 there, that the community can be designees. I mean tribes  
20 and Federal agencies have trust relationships and everything  
21 can be in place. We've got to work through a few of those  
22 details.

23  
24 So that's why we're making these suggestions. That  
25 administrative thing I think can stay pretty much at the  
26 community as long as the community has an active resource  
27 program and the council has approved on all of this.

28  
29 So then the last question which became evident as the  
30 three communities really started working together is the use  
31 of moose in other people's areas. Now, hunters from one  
32 community coming to another to hunt there and we have people  
33 from the city coming back to the villages as members hunting  
34 and things. I think that really has to be dealt with also.  
35 Stevens Village currently has an existing comprehensive land  
36 use plan and a traditional area on the map. And that's what  
37 the council feels is what they're assuming responsibility  
38 for. Their hunters will be hunting in that area and that's  
39 where they're talking about their particular quotas and the  
40 number of animals. If people from Beaver come down and hunt  
41 or Stevens Village people go up to Beaver, I mean that really  
42 has to be worked out, but I think that's going to be worked  
43 out between the communities through proper protocol.

44  
45 So at this point I don't have an answer for that  
46 outside of each community will have an enrolled membership.  
47 Each community will have, you know, it's own maybe non-Native  
48 people that live within the community. So I don't foresee  
49 that as a tremendous problem to overcome as long as all the

50 communities will be working with it.

00113

1                   CHAIRMAN MILLER: How about the individual  
2 tribal councils, they should be able to figure out, you know,  
3 who can hunt and who can't hunt. I mean that seems like  
4 the.....

5  
6                   MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Right. That's what we  
7 believe and there should be reciprocal agreements. I mean if  
8 one community is having trouble getting animals and their  
9 quota is still available because this is an overall quota for  
10 the unit, I mean all those things will happen. I don't think  
11 you need to legislate those particular things. If they're  
12 going to legislate anything or regulate anything it should be  
13 providing the opportunity for that to happen, and not say, up  
14 front, oh, hold it, you can't do it unless it's done this  
15 way. And that's where Bob and I, I guess, I mean like I  
16 said, we wouldn't have any disagreements -- Bob is faced with  
17 having to present something to the State Board that says,  
18 here's the rules and regulations, and I'm presenting the  
19 concept of how it really, you know, works out in the  
20 community.

21  
22                   So I'd just like to have this entered into the  
23 record, if I could, as a pre-proposal in working with the  
24 refuge and the State people who are hopefully going to come  
25 up with something by the deadline, you know, for proposals.

26  
27                   So that's basically our community quota concept.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN MILLER: Are there any questions?  
30 Go ahead, Vince.

31  
32                   MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I think to  
33 reemphasize that what he's saying here is that the concept is  
34 here, there will be a proposal coming forward for the  
35 November 5th due date that will have more details on this.  
36 And so you'll have it before you at your next meeting and it  
37 will require quite a bit of discussion at that time so  
38 hopefully we'll be able to -- the representatives of the  
39 villages will be able to attend that meeting, wherever it is,  
40 to assist you in discussing that proposal.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is this on Federal lands,  
43 State lands, tribal lands?

44  
45                   MR. SCHWALLENBERG: That's interesting, too,  
46 this is all lands in the game management unit because we're  
47 using the Tier II on the corporation lands and on State  
48 navigable waterways. There's no State land unless you want  
49 to hunt on the airport, I guess, no State land in the area,

50 and then the Federal permits have been used for the Federal.

00114

1 So that's another concept. I mean we're recommending that  
2 these permits could, one of two things, one, permits like a  
3 community quota permit could be used on any lands. That  
4 would be the simplest thing and that's where people would  
5 have the least problem. And through the harvest data  
6 collection you could still figure out where the animals are  
7 being taken, or maybe there has to be a quota for Federal  
8 land and a quota for State land, something like that.

9  
10 I mean this is as far as we can go. I mean we know  
11 what our people are doing and what they're likely to  
12 participate in. But I can't -- you know, the State or  
13 Federal people decide whether we should have two quotas, one  
14 for State land and one for Federal land, but I just think  
15 they should -- you know, we should be able to say if a person  
16 gets a community permit, they should be able to hunt in any  
17 of the lands within that unit. It would make things a lot  
18 simpler for everybody.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN MILLER: What type of season are you  
21 looking at? Year-round season, summer, fall, winter?

22  
23 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Well, right now it's  
24 year-round season depending on need. But as Bob was saying,  
25 everybody -- well, last year we kind of had a  
26 misunderstanding, too, because we said if we're going to do  
27 a cultural season we just as soon that would be year-round,  
28 but when the Federal regulations came out there it was,  
29 again, August 25th to February 28th and then outside of the  
30 normal seasons -- but, yeah, we're talking about a year-round  
31 season with tribal council basic approval. And the tribal  
32 council authority, and that's why we argued last year about  
33 what a cultural hunt is, and we said, well, cultural hunt is  
34 something that's determined by the tribal council. I mean it  
35 isn't specifically -- that's why the State ceremonial and  
36 funerary potlatches, doesn't exactly fit in with what we were  
37 attempting to do either. So right now there's a season for  
38 Federal and there's a season for the Tier II and then there's  
39 the cultural season so between the three we got what the  
40 community people wanted, the freedom to hunt all year-round.  
41 The only thing we didn't get was the adequate number of  
42 animals for the people to take what they needed.

43  
44 MR. NICHOLIA: Say if somebody passed away  
45 and your community did that it would be considered a cultural  
46 hunt to get a moose for them?

47  
48 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Right.

49

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Memorial potlatches, all

00115

1 that stuff is, right?

2

3 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: We believe that even  
4 family activities, you know, like there is people coming in  
5 for family gatherings and things like that, those are all  
6 cultural events, so it's just strictly up to the local  
7 communities to decide how they want to use their quota of  
8 animals. So if a person comes to the council and says, well,  
9 I've got a house raising and I'm going to have 30 of my  
10 relatives come in and we've got to feed people, that's a  
11 cultural even as far as we're concerned.

12

13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Just out of curiosity, did  
14 you do any type of survey to see how much moose is actually  
15 used per household?

16

17 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Well, we did the survey  
18 on how many moose are taken and that's where the 25 animals  
19 came from. Now, as far as the -- I heard the figure, half a  
20 moose per household, too, and -- so in our case we have 19  
21 households, we had 25 animals taken so, you know, that's  
22 almost two.

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That's more what I was  
25 figuring.

26

27 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Yeah.

28

29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Knowland.

30

31 MR. SILAS: I'd like to know if you --  
32 seeing's that you're well within this Federal boundaries and  
33 hearing from the solicitor yesterday on the teleconference,  
34 and the Federal government's position on the waterways, it  
35 seems like you're on Federal lands there? I mean you're  
36 talking to -- you know, go into 20(F), and do you do any  
37 hunting there?

38

39 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Well, our traditional  
40 lands, and we have a little map, actually extend down below  
41 the bridge on the Yukon River, down to the mouth of the Hess  
42 Creek. So we've gotten out of 25(D) west.

43

44 MR. NICHOLIA: You will need to work with the  
45 State.

46

47 MR. SILAS: I like the concept. And I don't  
48 think as a Board member -- a new Board member -- I think my  
49 job here is first the conservation of wildlife, and that's

50 the reason why I'm here. Not only in my area, your area --

00116

1 I think it extends over all of this area. And my second is  
2 customary and traditional use. So I like the concept of it,  
3 and I don't think the State or the Federal government should  
4 have any problems with that because this is the first time  
5 I've seen anyone come up with the true count of what's being  
6 taken by any villages. I don't think any other villages have  
7 come out and say, we're taking this much. So I'd like to let  
8 you know that I support your region on this.

9

10 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: I think when we have this  
15 proposal before you at your next meeting we'll have to work  
16 hard also to -- you know, like I mentioned to have village  
17 representation but also to work closely with the local  
18 advisory committee. This is a proposal that's going to take  
19 a lot of thought so I just wanted to put that seed in your  
20 mind that we may need to attempt again to have another joint  
21 meeting possibly with the advisory committee or  
22 representatives -- key representatives so that you don't get  
23 ahead of them or behind them or whatever, that there's good  
24 dialogue.

25

26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, I'd like to keep up  
27 to date on this proposal. I'd like to see how far this could  
28 actually go.

29

30 MR. JAMES: Dewey, Jay, Chief Bobby, give my  
31 thanks to Chief Randy Mayo. I really believe Stevens Village  
32 is taking the lead in the Interior in our region there and  
33 recognize that tribal trust relationships with the  
34 government. And we still have a long ways to go -- agencies  
35 still have a long ways to go to understand what traditional  
36 and what a trust relationship is. This is my second time  
37 sitting here and it seems like we're talking about these  
38 plans. I hear a lot of fishery plans, fishery projects going  
39 on, and I do a lot of those, too, but I don't see much -- I  
40 don't see no -- in fact, no traditional local knowledge  
41 implemented in these plans. And it's very crucial that this  
42 traditional knowledge has to be implemented in these plans,  
43 in all plans, ecosystem, muskrat, moose, migratory birds,  
44 everything, otherwise it will not work and we will be coming  
45 back to this 30 moose for that system here. Thirty moose  
46 don't go very far with three communities. That was a  
47 statistic that CATG got back, worked with the villages --  
48 really way off the mark there.

49

It's really frustrating when we have to go back

00117

1 again, last year when we passed the proposal there, I mean --  
2 struck out there. And we went through that last year, and  
3 hopefully we don't have to go back through that again. And  
4 that kind of in-house problem should be taken care of before  
5 it comes back here -- or back to the main Board. And you  
6 know, as a Council member, you know, I don't really want to  
7 see a proposal come to us and then it comes back and comes  
8 back again with wording deleted. You got to respect this  
9 trust relationship by Congress who mandates these agencies to  
10 do -- and I'm hoping that we will work on this trust  
11 relationship and start building it up through our subsistence  
12 organization committees, but that's what it's going to have  
13 to take -- go through that -- you start work -- we start  
14 training other agencies on what trust relationship is.

15  
16 So at this time a lot of people don't even understand  
17 Tier II, you know. I got three different licenses. You  
18 know, I just applied for it to see how far I could get it and  
19 I got it, you know. So it's a -- we're -- I guess we're  
20 saying -- or what I'm trying to say is that the tribal people  
21 are willing to move forward and we really need to utilize  
22 certain individuals -- certain people in our agencies to  
23 start working at the direct communication, come in and start  
24 working on a plan together. You know, come in and do some  
25 work with the Staff, the council, and then go back. Because  
26 if we -- Yukon Flats for millions of years have been the  
27 lowest moose population in the state of Alaska. We got to  
28 get that moose population back somehow. Migratory birds was  
29 happening like that, my -- my experience of hunting migratory  
30 birds, they're disappearing fast and we've got a species that  
31 already disappeared.

32  
33 So I think just to clarify one of the things, we  
34 really have to distinguish between politics and people that  
35 manage the plan and recognize the tribal governments. And I  
36 guess we might have to have a workshop on trust relationship.

37  
38 MR. NICHOLIA: I'd like to mention something  
39 about that, too. A lot of times we hear discussion and  
40 really discussing a lot of things that's true at issue and  
41 heart from tribal councils with traditional knowledge, that  
42 we write some -- we make motions and we draft our motion and  
43 we pass it on this Board, only to find that some little guy  
44 in some little office in Anchorage or Fairbanks changed that  
45 word, and then after all that discussion stuff, he decides to  
46 change one little word. That's what really gets me being on  
47 this Board, that some -- there ought to be other ways, other  
48 avenues besides just going word by word for what ANILCA says.  
49 Whether that be the Board of Game -- after we make these

50 resolutions or motions that being adopted by this Board, just

00118

1 because some guy sits in the office and doesn't believe in  
2 traditional knowledge or our way of life or our culture,  
3 believes with our traditional knowledge, always has to shoot  
4 something down like this. I don't like that. I don't like  
5 it one bit. I just wanted to let you guys know that, in the  
6 agencies, too much times we argue amongst ourselves and then  
7 pass it, only to find it gets shot down in the office  
8 somewhere.

9  
10 That's my comment.

11  
12 MR. C. TRITT: I'd like to make a comment,  
13 Mr. Chairman.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Calvin.

16  
17 MR. C. TRITT: The State and Federal  
18 government like best about the Native people is how we fight  
19 among each other. Working together is very important. I'm  
20 really satisfied with what you guys are doing and I'm going  
21 to back you up as much as I can. And like I said, we got to  
22 stand firm in what we believe as a Native people or sooner or  
23 later it's going to be taken away if these little words that  
24 they're talking about. I really believe in that.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any more comment?

27  
28 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

31  
32 MR. GOOD: I have to make one comment here  
33 and that's on your cow moose hunting. Delta itself had a  
34 population similar to what you have here and it happened  
35 after -- local people blame it largely on the fact that we  
36 did have a cow hunt there. The population was decimated, it  
37 went almost to nothing, you couldn't hardly find a moose.  
38 Now we have a terrific moose population but of course, since  
39 that's happened, in our area our advisory council refuses to  
40 allow any possible cow hunts. Right now we're having  
41 problems with too great a density, we have too many cows, we  
42 should have a few cows shot, actually, this is from my point  
43 of view, but because of what happened in the past, there's  
44 still very fearful of it. They don't want it to happen. But  
45 as a result of having not shot cows we have a lot of moose  
46 around. So I would say if you have to kill a cow moose, be  
47 very careful not to kill anymore than absolutely necessary.  
48 If your population densities are high, I have no problems  
49 with killing cow moose, they're generally the best eating,

50 the fattest ones, particularly as you described, during the

00119

1 rut, or even after the rut, during the wintertime. You don't  
2 want to shoot a bull when he's all worn out and stringy but  
3 that cow's still going to be fat, so, you know, I have no  
4 problem with it. But you want to -- I encourage you to limit  
5 your shooting of cows, just keep it as low as you possibly  
6 can.

7  
8 I'd like to make one other comment, too. When we  
9 attended the local advisory council meeting, there was a  
10 young man who was looking to make a rather interesting  
11 proposal, and it had to do with a quota system for bears.  
12 And I looked at that and thought, you know, this is really a  
13 pretty good idea. If the problem is predators and it is,  
14 what we looked at with the Fortymile is how do we deal with  
15 predators, political? That's how we got into this. We  
16 really felt the best way was handling -- killing those darn  
17 animals and getting rid of them, but that wasn't really  
18 possible for us. But if it can be done and villages can  
19 handle it, this idea was put forth, of a quota system, it  
20 might get competitive and if the local advisory committee can  
21 come up with something, maybe get something competitive where  
22 each community has a quota and see how well you can achieve  
23 those. Make it like a basketball game, competition,  
24 whatever. But the predators are the problem, we all know  
25 that, all of us that sit up here. Dealing with the predators  
26 is another problem in itself.

27

28 End of comment.

29

30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more comments?

31

32 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Just one more thing, that  
33 reminds me. We're very aware of the role predators are  
34 playing because when we go out in the wintertime and you see  
35 a cow and a yearling, you know, devoured by wolves right in  
36 the same spot, that pretty well means wolf populations are  
37 pretty healthy; taking two animals at a time. So, yeah, we  
38 have to do something. But that leads to the same point, last  
39 year we made the proposal here to have open year-round brown  
40 bear hunting, it passed here but so far we don't have support  
41 at the State level for that extra couple of months in the  
42 summer time when people are at the fish camps and in contact  
43 with bears. We do know that the State does have the ability  
44 to harvest brown bears under protection of life and property  
45 but our people don't feel like they want to harvest a brown  
46 bear under that particular regulation. We have to give up  
47 the hide and the skull or whatever it happens to be.

48

49 And also another, I think, misconception, people are

50 believing that the allotted lands out there where most of our

00120

1 fish camps are on there's a controversy. Because we had the  
2 State Troopers come in to run some people off of our  
3 corporation lands that refused to leave because they thought  
4 it was under the Coast Guard jurisdiction, a thousand miles  
5 from the ocean but nonetheless we got the Troopers in and  
6 they were asked to leave and they did leave. And incidently,  
7 the reason -- real reason was the person -- finally when they  
8 got distraught enough in front of the Troopers and our people  
9 in program, they finally said, comments like, well, I don't  
10 think they should have this land, they should not be able to  
11 own it. So that was the real thing. The other thing was,  
12 I've been coming here for 15 years and nobody should be able  
13 to run me off. So we're starting to see a lot of social  
14 problems out there as our programs here start policing the  
15 corporation lands and asking for new sections of land along  
16 the Dall River. Right now we will own the entire Dall River  
17 watershed as private property with the decisions that the  
18 council and corporation made here with the past winter. So  
19 as the local people exert their ranks, they're going to have  
20 more and more social problems to deal with. So that's one of  
21 the main reasons we're saying, if the State and Federal  
22 agencies continue to persist in their mandate of allowing  
23 outside people to come in, you can expect a tremendous amount  
24 of social problems. I was involved in the tribal things in  
25 Wisconsin with the treaty rights cases and as a tribal  
26 biologist so I don't want to see that type of thing happen,  
27 but like this gentleman here said, the communities need to  
28 stand up for their rights, too.

29  
30 So Vince mentioned something about companion bills,  
31 talk about working with the Fish and Game advisory. When we  
32 put something in for like a brown bear hunt, isn't there some  
33 way that it automatically becomes a companion bill or  
34 companion proposal or something or do we just simply have to  
35 apply through both systems every single.....

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: You'd have to apply through  
38 both systems.

39  
40 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: Okay.

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: Partially because of schedules  
43 and partially because of jurisdiction. We can't -- we can,  
44 if the Council requests to submit proposals to the Board of  
45 Game, but it's best for you to track both systems; if that's  
46 the question before us. Because we're bound by a different  
47 set of laws than the State is and that's why we have an  
48 advisory committee meeting one night and the Federal Regional  
49 Council the next, et cetera, et cetera.



00121

1 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: I think that's number 3  
2 on our list, we have a tremendous number of the species  
3 specific management bodies that keep creeping up. I mean if  
4 these kinds want to say something about it, I mean they're  
5 kind of stressed to the max trying to keep up with them. But  
6 I get paid for my time so I guess I'm supposed to keep up  
7 with everything.

8  
9 Okay, that's our report for today, so thank you.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

12  
13 MR. JAMES: Can I have one more question and  
14 this one's to the Chief, Bobby, I was wondering on that  
15 report on the moose fatality studies -- on moose and calf  
16 fatality studies done around Beaver, the report is extremely  
17 high, fatalities on calf, 70 percent, survival rate is three  
18 months. What is the community's concern on this -- if you  
19 want to address this moose to the agencies or.....

20  
21 MR. MINER: Right now there's not very much  
22 going on. The mortality of bears in there is not very much  
23 tolerance of bears. I was looking at the data that was  
24 collected over the years for black bear harvest -- see for  
25 three years in Beaver alone they harvested three black bears,  
26 one every year. The limit on that is three bears per  
27 household, there's no -- and I think the mortality rate on  
28 that were right after the calves were born they were saying  
29 that a lot of the black bears are taking a lot of the calves,  
30 not as much as brown bears. But the second year study they  
31 said it was more or less the brown bears that are coming in  
32 and taking calves. Right now it's mainly -- maybe Paul will  
33 come up and speak to that on behalf of the tribe, on  
34 information on behalf of the tribe.

35  
36 MR. JAMES: I guess you could clarify this  
37 Bob, on that question to the Board where I was trying to lead  
38 to is -- the question is where I'm leading to is when we do  
39 a research project and managers notice high rates of fatality  
40 of certain species, when do the agencies start making  
41 progress in trying to address that, you know? Do we do it  
42 after the predator is all gone, disappears, then we send a  
43 proposal or we do it before? I think that's something that's  
44 really -- I think I'm trying to say something that's -- you  
45 know, we got proposals coming up, you know, just like this  
46 Tier II stuff, 30 moose, and it's -- if that's -- brown bear  
47 is going to wipe out the population of the moose, the calves  
48 within that area around Beaver, then you're going to have  
49 nothing to manage in two years. So what I'm saying is we

50 shouldn't try to play catch up like the managers, or we

00122

1 should try to -- try to, you know, we really should -- the  
2 agencies I see around here, is that, just like the Fortymile  
3 herd, how high of a herd population do you want to go before  
4 a crash and how low -- like that herd, Porcupine caribou  
5 herd's going to drop before we make a move? The Porcupine  
6 herd is the only herd in the world that's dropping. All the  
7 rest of the herds in the Arctic regions increased, they  
8 doubled, except Porcupine herd. You know, I mean it might be  
9 just asking managers -- but identify these as a crucial core  
10 problem. And how do we go about solving that problem right  
11 away or do we wait for three years when these come up again?

12

13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Sterilize all the bears.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Let's take a quick five  
18 minute break, please.

19

20 (Off record)

21

22 (On record)

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Let's call this meeting  
25 back to order. Moving down the agenda now, we've got -- is  
26 there anybody here from the SRC that would like to say  
27 anything?

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that was put on  
30 the agenda because usually when there's an issue for SRC,  
31 your representative for Wrangell-St. Elias, which is Frank  
32 Enstminger, and then we kept it on there in case Paul Starr,  
33 your representative to the Denali Subsistence Resource  
34 Commission could speak. So neither of them are here. The  
35 Park Service is later on the agenda or they may want to talk  
36 now about SRC issues. That's up to your call and their  
37 agreement.

38

39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, is there anybody here  
40 from the Park Service?

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: To talk on the SRC?

43

44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah.

45

46 MR. TWITCHELL: We can talk at NPS time or  
47 now?

48

49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: This is all the time you've  
got so speak now or forever hold your peace. Okay, moving on

50 down the agenda then, agency reports. Is there anybody from

00123

1 CATG that would like to make a presentation now? Go ahead,  
2 Trish.

3

4 MS. WAGGONER: My name is Trisha Waggoner.  
5 I'm the regional biologist with the Council of Athabaskan  
6 Tribal Governments. I wanted to just give an update to the  
7 Council as to projects and directions that CATG is going with  
8 natural resource management.

9

10 Our group has participated in the moose survey with  
11 Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska, Department  
12 of Fish and Game in the spring, and we are planning to  
13 continue to participate with them during the fall survey. We  
14 are currently doing a fisheries survey on the upper Black  
15 River on the Salmon Fork to document spawning areas, fall  
16 chum salmon and to document any spawning of coho salmon.  
17 We've flown two surveys to-date. The first survey was early  
18 in the season and we didn't see many fish. The second survey  
19 was last week, which David James flew. We utilize tracking  
20 of the radio tagged fall chum salmon to find the fish on the  
21 spawning beds. Out of 16 radio tagged salmon they located  
22 five, and those were up near the Canadian border in an area  
23 that was not documented previously through scientific methods  
24 as being a spawning area. And we have one more survey  
25 scheduled for about the 15th of the month to fly two more  
26 days to see if we can locate all 19 [sic] radio tags.

27

28 We were asked to participate in the sheefish seining  
29 but it's going this week and we all had to be here for the  
30 Council meeting so we were not able to participate in that  
31 research project. We have been working very closely with the  
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in developing a management  
33 plan for Unit 25(D) for moose. And on our own, with the  
34 village councils and the natural resource programs, we're  
35 working on revising the upper -- developing the upper Yukon  
36 Salmon Management Plan based on traditional knowledge. And  
37 it's being developed from the tribal end and then will be  
38 presented to both the Fish and Game Advisory Council and your  
39 Regional Advisory Council next spring, hopefully we'll have  
40 it completed. Documenting required numbers of subsistence  
41 fish, doing household surveys for asking what people  
42 absolutely need for human consumption, what they absolutely  
43 need for maintaining subsistence dog teams and then how many  
44 fish they would really like to have. And then hopefully --  
45 we've also done research as to escapement goals for the  
46 Canadian side and for the Yukon Flats, so that hopefully we  
47 can come up with a number that can be managed for at the  
48 Rampart Rapids so that we can have a baseline number of fish  
49 to go into the Yukon Flats which will hopefully put a higher

50 -- or put a number closer down the run so we don't have this

00124

1 where they open the run up at the mouth and then, oops, we  
2 goofed.

3  
4 With CATG, over the last several years, natural  
5 resource departments have been developed in each village  
6 within the Yukon Flats region. Previously we had a .809  
7 agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct  
8 traditional harvest surveys. That agreement has since  
9 discontinued but our natural resource programs in the  
10 villages are continuing to conduct those surveys as Dewey  
11 stated earlier.

12  
13 We've got two fisheries housekeeping proposals that  
14 were presented to the advisory committee that we can either  
15 bring them up here at this meeting or we could bring them up  
16 at the spring meeting and those are for opening the  
17 subsistence fisheries on the Birch Creek and Beaver Creek.

18  
19 And then one other item I wanted to add so that the  
20 Council knew, the Yukon Flats is part of an organization  
21 called the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council. It's  
22 an organization that was developed, it's tribally based. It  
23 includes the whole Yukon River drainage including the  
24 Canadian side. It's to protect the waters. The water  
25 quality of the whole drainage. And it might -- I would  
26 suggest it possibly as an additional forum in the future for  
27 subsistence fisheries management.

28  
29 And that's, I think, pretty much where we're at.  
30 We're trying to develop funding sources so that we can be out  
31 doing much more research -- tribally based research and, you  
32 know, tribally designed projects with the resources that are  
33 traditionally used in this area.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Calvin.

36  
37 MR. C. TRITT: When you mention purifying the  
38 water, are you talking about pollution?

39  
40 MS. WAGGONER: Pollution, water quality. The  
41 Watershed Council is looking at -- it's there to look at  
42 multiple issues, contamination type issues, which may not be  
43 like chemical contamination, they could be sediment  
44 contamination which is harmful to the fish, and other areas.  
45 They -- one of the main things they worked on last year was  
46 the City of Dawson pumps its raw sewage directly into the  
47 Yukon River. And the City of Dawson asked for a 10 year  
48 moratorium for them having to put in a sewage treatment  
49 plant. And the Watershed Council testified and assisted in

50 getting the Canadian government to put a stop to the City of

00125

1 Dawson dumping raw sewage or limiting their time down to two  
2 years to come up with a different solution.

3

4 MR. C. TRITT: Yeah, I've been sitting here  
5 about two days now and everybody's talking about how much  
6 fish they're going to grab but nobody's really bring up  
7 mention of -- polluting the waters. If we don't have no fish  
8 then we don't have nothing to grab, you know?

9

10 MS. WAGGONER: Yes.

11

12 MR. C. TRITT: So I think that should part of  
13 the issue in these meetings here.

14

15 MS. WAGGONER: I think that was one of the  
16 reasons behind the development of the Watershed Council. I  
17 think it was originally looked at to be sort of a fisheries  
18 and wildlife spokesperson and then when you tied everything  
19 back it all tied back to the water itself. But it's a  
20 tribally based organization and run tribally instead of by  
21 Roberts Rules of Order.

22

23 MR. C. TRITT: Is there a motion that could  
24 be made to have all the departments look into this matter?

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Sure there's a motion that  
27 could be made to that effect, but I think you have to realize  
28 that when the different managing agencies, I'll just speak  
29 for Federal here, the State can speak on their own, when they  
30 look at management, they do look at the total package and see  
31 what is causing the decline in X species or et cetera. The  
32 authority there then to correct that is, I think, where the  
33 -- where it may go to different agencies. So I'm sure that  
34 the managers for the different refuges and parks don't just  
35 look at the species itself, and, you know, they look at the  
36 total package. Fish and Wildlife Service is under an  
37 ecosystem management and I believe the other agencies are  
38 also.

39

40 But a motion could be made that they look at the  
41 total package but it's going on as is. That's my  
42 understanding, unless someone wants to correct me on that.

43

44 MS. WAGGONER: What I've dealt with here in  
45 the Yukon Flats, I do know that U.S. Fish and Wildlife does  
46 do some ecological -- they have their ecological service  
47 branch which works with contaminants. It's just where you  
48 place the emphasis or where they place their emphasis on  
49 their work.



00126

1 MR. C. TRITT: Well, I just want to point out  
2 that I'm concerned about polluting the waters. It should be  
3 noted. Thank you.

4  
5 MS. WAGGONER: Thank you.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

8  
9 MR. JAMES: I'd like to give the Council and  
10 the public some information. I'd like to go to the map there  
11 and show you some key issues that we have concern with in our  
12 area.

13  
14 (At map)

15  
16 One of the biggest concerns that we have within our  
17 Yukon Flats and Arctic National Wildlife area is our muskrat  
18 population, our ecosystem. Our ecosystem is disappearing  
19 rapidly. And we're really -- we're working on that with the  
20 tribal resources there to work with the agencies to see how  
21 we can address getting back some of these ecosystems here.  
22 All these are no more lakes right here, it all dried out,  
23 completely dried out. These used to be thousands of  
24 muskrats. They used to support over 25 families right here.  
25 Ten families a year used to come down here and hunt all the  
26 muskrats you got there. But the muskrat population has faded  
27 rapidly, it's disappearing. And that's the same thing in  
28 Canada. And we're really with no answer, what's really --  
29 what's happening. One of the things we're doing is we're  
30 getting a water quality -- a water department up and going,  
31 hopefully this winter. We have found -- one of the things  
32 that we have -- the quality of water coming through the Flats  
33 going down river on the Yukon Flats, the water is there. But  
34 the ecosystem is disappearing because of the beavers, you  
35 know, grounds building up there. And that, in turn, will  
36 affect our migratory birds coming in. Our migratory birds  
37 have been flying in from here and some from over here but a  
38 majority of these flies over through here. They're coming  
39 down from Circle and then they've been coming down from Old  
40 Crow. But lately a lot of them like the black -- the geese  
41 just been flying in through here down through here and they  
42 just stay for a few days and they'll leave. It's very --  
43 usually they stay three or four -- three or four weeks, there  
44 around. And a few of them -- the nesting ones did this year  
45 but a majority of them, like the black bird, that -- like  
46 last year, they came flying in there and they stayed two  
47 days, and people said, oh, they'll be here for about a week  
48 and then they stayed two days and then they flew back up  
49 toward Black Porcupine, and there we've been monitoring them

50 and they flew straight up toward Arctic and straight over to

00127

1 the other side, on the coast.

2

3 And we're really having a concern on our ecosystem.  
4 If we don't protect our ecosystem here, one species will  
5 affect the other species. So you know, that's what I was  
6 saying a little while ago, is that, we need to sit down and  
7 look at how all this interwinds together, one species helps  
8 another. And that's the same thing, one manager here,  
9 another manager over there so we can all work together, and  
10 this is where traditional and Western knowledge will meet,  
11 you know, because the tribes have their priorities. And the  
12 managers and agencies have to respect that tribe's priority  
13 and the tribe also, vice versa, with agencies, have to  
14 respect what is their priorities and how do we get together  
15 to have plentiful resources, you know. The agencies might  
16 say we're going to put one amount of funds for a certain  
17 study for a certain species here when the tribe would really  
18 like to see if we can utilize that for a different study, you  
19 know, because that's what they live off and that's what the  
20 other animals live off. And that's the thing that I -- I  
21 picked that up from Canada on their side when they implement  
22 their traditional knowledge into their management plans.  
23 I've been going to their meetings twice a year there in  
24 Whitehorse, very interesting plan that they implemented.

25

26 The other concern that the Chief of -- Second Chief  
27 of Chalkyitsik has was that let burn policy. This summer  
28 there was a large fire up here up by Caminchek and the other  
29 side of Salmon Village here. And I was fortunate enough --  
30 Trish put in a proposal there to work with Keith Schultz  
31 there and we went on a -- I went on a salmon survey with  
32 Dennis Miller, that was my first salmon survey I've ever  
33 done. And Dennis Miller said -- he was very excited because  
34 the State and the Feds didn't know that there was salmon --  
35 chum salmon going up into Canada up the Black River, Salmon  
36 Fork. You know there was no studies that had been done -- it  
37 was in this area right here. We went 10 miles into Canada  
38 and we were still picking up beeps -- signals way up there.  
39 And it was -- it's new ground. CATG and the State and the  
40 Feds, all three joint, as one together, and that was real  
41 ground that we broke, we found a salmon spawning ground  
42 there. And Canada, there's -- they're doing a salmon  
43 spawning ground on the other side of the mountain there in  
44 the Branch -- Branch River there for a few years. So our  
45 goal for next year is to continue to doing this --  
46 identifying the spawning grounds and we're working up here  
47 within this upper region of the Chandalar Forks. Well, you  
48 know how much fish goes up from the reports done by the Feds  
49 and the fisheries department there, Ron Simmons' department

50 there, and they done a really good -- a report of 190,000

00128

1 through?

2

3 MR. SIMMONS: A 190,000 above Rampart.

4

5 MR. JAMES: Above Rampart, uh. How much came  
6 through Chandalar?

7

8 MR. SIMMONS: Approximately 90,000.

9

10 MR. JAMES: Approximately 90,000 that's  
11 compared to, what 180 the year before, uh?

12

13 MR. SIMMONS: Yeah.

14

15 MR. JAMES: Yeah. So it really did drop off  
16 quite a bit there. And I wanted to bring up one point here  
17 in the salmon survey. The reason I brought it up is that  
18 traditional knowledge, we need to show you -- some of the  
19 agencies what traditional knowledge is, how you implement it  
20 into your plan. My mom and my father fished for king salmon  
21 up in the Salmon River, but some of these areas they said --  
22 maybe they fished it out one year, maybe they did it  
23 themselves by putting in fish traps without realizing it. Or  
24 maybe it's that fire that they had years before here that  
25 completely wiped the whole thing out. Or maybe there was --  
26 you know, we had a big large fire in '69 from here and it  
27 went all the way up in this whole area here, it burned this  
28 whole area down, totally wiped out the whole resources. The  
29 whole -- all the way into Canada. But there is other people  
30 that lives in this area, you know. And I was riding with  
31 Dennis Miller and he was saying, he really don't know where  
32 all this salmon is and I was thinking, sitting behind in him  
33 in a Supercub and I think, well, all you have to do is -- I  
34 was thinking to myself, if you really want to learn is you  
35 just ask those people down on the ground that lives there.  
36 Jimmy Miller has a camp right there, park on his land there  
37 and have a cup of coffee and sit with him. Because we know  
38 there's -- down here at Birch Creek -- up here at Birch  
39 Creek, and we have Roger Kay (ph) coming through and he'd  
40 talk to us, and you know, just sitting, have a cup of tea  
41 there, you know, you just got to get out of your way and you  
42 just sit down there and you say, okay, how, you know, instead  
43 of guessing yourselves -- second guessing all the time, you  
44 know, then you say hey, we got people that actually live here  
45 24 hours a day year-round, you know, and they're -- we'll put  
46 them into -- work on a plan together. That's traditional  
47 knowledge there.

48

49 So that's what we're -- so that's -- the fisheries,

50 we're hoping that we do that -- we're working with Beaver

00129

1 there, Beaver wanted to work on that -- on that Beaver Creek  
2 there. So Stevens Village, you guys are already doing that  
3 on the Dall River?

4

5 MR. SCHWALLENBERG: (Nods affirmatively)

6

7 MR. JAMES: Yeah. So that's kind of the area  
8 where we're doing it. We're also -- there's another item  
9 there, a project we're doing, we're working on our  
10 comprehensive land use management plan from the tribe. And  
11 it's a three or four year project here, and we got a draft --  
12 some villages got to draft one up there, we got a draft but  
13 it's going to be revised a little bit. So that's kind of an  
14 overview of what we're doing here within our traditional  
15 village there.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any other agency  
20 reports?

21

22 MR. L. TRITT: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Lincoln.

25

26 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, all I can say about this  
27 muskrat is that, oops, somebody mismanaged. This is what I'm  
28 talking about when you start messing around with animals, a  
29 certain part of the wildlife just disappears. You have to  
30 keep in mind everything that's out there. Anything that you  
31 introduce out there is -- it's completely foreign. I mean  
32 look at your drugs, I mean look at where they come from, they  
33 come from under the ground and they don't mix well with  
34 things on top of the ground.

35

36 So I mean you got to keep the human aspect of this  
37 alive, you know. That's why Native people live out there for  
38 thousands and thousands of years and there was always plenty  
39 of animals. A couple of -- not even a hundred years and  
40 we're already up the creek there. So we need to start  
41 opening our minds and start working together a lot more open  
42 and forget this politics.

43

44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any other  
45 comments?

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I don't know the  
48 lunch schedule but it is Noon.

49

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is Isaac here? Is it lunch

00130

1 time yet, boss?

2

3 MR. PETER: Yes, it is.

4

5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. An hour, back at

6 1:00?

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, you reminded

9 me yesterday that you were done with lunch before 1:00

10 o'clock so we will not go to 1:30, 1:00 o'clock back here.

11

12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, we'll break for

13 lunch, back at 1:00 o'clock.

14

15 (Off record)

16 (On record)

17

18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I'll call this meeting back

19 to order please.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we left off, I

22 believe, David completed his report on what CATG, Council of

23 Athabascan Tribal Governments was doing. I don't know if

24 there's a representative here for Tanana Chiefs that wants to

25 speak. I don't believe there is but I don't know the local

26 rep. Did Connie want to speak for the upper Tanana area, she

27 is a representative for there but -- you don't have to.

28

29 MS. FRIEND: (Nods negatively)

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: No. So that brings us up to

32 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and I think Elizabeth

33 might be the one that might want to lay that out for us.

34 Elizabeth Andrews, excuse me.

35

36 MS. ANDREWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My

37 name is Elizabeth Andrews, Alaska Department of Fish and

38 Game, and I'm the Department's liaison to the Federal

39 Subsistence Program. We didn't have any special reports from

40 Subsistence Division. Staff are meeting with some of the

41 other staff at the moment but all we intended to do was take

42 any questions that you had about, either subsistence research

43 in the region and so forth. We have had, and still do have

44 some cooperative projects going on in Tanana as well as

45 Eagle, and of course we've worked with the Yukon Flats

46 communities in the years past to help this natural resource

47 program get off the ground.

48

49 So that's all we had. I just wanted to give people

50 a chance to ask us any questions.

00131

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any questions?

2

3 MS. ANDREWS: And then Bonnie Borba's here  
4 with the Commercial Fisheries Division and just wanted to say  
5 a few words, add a few things to her other report and see if  
6 you had any questions also.

7

8 MS. BORBA: Yeah, I didn't have a lot to add.  
9 If you guys had any more questions on the subsistence harvest  
10 data that we collect? Currently, we're working with CATG in  
11 their communities to start surveys there in the future, here  
12 this next week or so. The harvest data won't be out until  
13 this spring when we get everything compiled.

14

15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: When those surveys are done  
16 or out, will we be getting a copy of them?

17

18 MS. BORBA: There's an annual report and if  
19 you guys would like one we can send one to the Council.

20

21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

22

23 MS. ANDREWS: And typically in the spring  
24 time when you have your spring meeting, you know, there may  
25 be a preliminary assessment and they can provide you with  
26 some information, and of course, that's going to be your  
27 primary fisheries meeting at that time. So we'll have some  
28 additional information then.

29

30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Well, is there any  
31 questions?

32

33 MS. ANDREWS: And then John Burr, with the  
34 Sport Fish Division, John, did you have anything else you  
35 wanted to convey to the Council?

36

37 MR. BURR: I just had one point, a real short  
38 one.

39

40 MS. ANDREWS: Okay.

41

42 MR. BURR: I'm John Burr from Fish and Game,  
43 I'm with the Sport Fish Division. Yesterday morning we laid  
44 out all of the various fisheries divisions talked about how  
45 the Department manages fisheries in the Yukon area. And the  
46 only other thing I wanted to add was that in addition to the  
47 state wide harvest survey which we use to monitor fisheries  
48 in all of these remote areas, we conduct on-site field  
49 censuses and -- or angler surveys and on-site research

50 projects where we have cause for concern. And part of that

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1 -- and in keeping with that we have a cooperative project  
2 going on the Dall River this year, again, with Stevens  
3 Village and with the Fish and Wildlife Service. And what  
4 we're trying to do there is develop a fisheries management  
5 plan that would insure the quality of that fishery. There's  
6 not at the current time, a concern for sustained yield, but  
7 we'd like to try to maintain or improve the quality of the  
8 pike fishery there. And we do have a radiotelemetry and the  
9 stock assessment program in place there this year, that will  
10 continue into next year.

11  
12 And as I promised before, the harvest statistics from  
13 the Yukon sub area are provided on that two-page table and a  
14 short summary of our program. If you have any other  
15 questions I'd be glad to try to answer them.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any questions? No, thank  
18 you for your report, John.

19  
20 MS. ANDREWS: And, Mr. Chairman, I did check  
21 with the Wildlife Conservation Division and they didn't have  
22 anything else to add to the other reports that they've given  
23 you over the last day and a half. Just wanted to mention,  
24 too, if there are, you know, specific topics that you want at  
25 your winter meeting, either fisheries -- specific fisheries  
26 reports or wildlife, don't hesitate to contact Vince and  
27 he'll get ahold of our staff and make sure we have the type  
28 of presentation you're interested in having.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thanks, Elizabeth.

31  
32 MS. ANDREWS: Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, that brings us to  
35 BLM.

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Mr. Chairman, while  
38 Ruth's coming up here, by some of you I placed some travel  
39 forms that need to be signed, not dated. And then I failed  
40 to mention that, you know, we will need to settle up on  
41 meals, that you're responsible for paying for your meals up  
42 at the Voc Ed center. And Trisha Waggoner will be the one to  
43 deal with the payment on that. I will address your lodging  
44 so do not pay anything on lodging, just your meals. Thanks.

45  
46 MS. GRONQUIST: Are you ready for me to go  
47 ahead, Vince?

48  
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.



00133

1 MS. GRONQUIST: Okay. I'm Ruth Gronquist  
2 with the Bureau of Land Management. I already spoke to you  
3 this morning about the Fortymile herd, an update on the  
4 harvest plan. I thought I'd give you a short update on the  
5 White Mountain Caribou Herd which I often get questions about  
6 from this Council. And then just talk briefly about a  
7 fisheries project that we have. And then open to any  
8 questions you have.

9  
10 The last complete censuses on the White Mountains  
11 Caribou Herd was conducted in 1992, and at that time we  
12 estimated that there were 900 to 1,100 animals. We currently  
13 estimate that herd to be at about 1,500 or 2,000 but as I  
14 said we haven't done a complete censuses since '92. The  
15 herd, based on composition counts, the herd is considered to  
16 be doing well and probably continuing to grow. There is a  
17 winter Federal hunt. There has been for quite a few years.  
18 And this will be the first year that it's -- well, it's been  
19 realigned with the State season for this coming winter season  
20 and that runs from the 1st of February through the 31st of  
21 March. It continues to be a registration hunt with the  
22 permits issued at this point, only at the BLM office in  
23 Fairbanks. It's, as you probably know, open to all eligible  
24 rural residents. During the five year history of this  
25 Federal registration hunt, no eligible hunters have ever  
26 requested a permit. And I can only assume that that's  
27 because people are probably hunting on the State hunt. So  
28 that's basically it for the White Mountains.

29  
30 We do have one project that's directly related to  
31 subsistence fishing, and that's conducted on Beaver Creek,  
32 about five and a half miles up stream from Victoria Creek.  
33 This project was started in '96, and is a baseline study to  
34 identify anadromous fish present within the Beaver Creek  
35 drainage. What they're primarily picking up then would be  
36 king and summer chum salmon via a weir.

37  
38 We have other monitoring -- inventory and monitoring  
39 fisheries projects throughout our BLM lands but none that are  
40 specifically addressing subsistence fisheries or focused  
41 primarily on subsistence fisheries. We do -- we have  
42 identified some drainages managed by BLM within the Eastern  
43 Interior that contribute to the subsistence fishery. We have  
44 other projects in the Western Interior that I'd be happy to  
45 tell you, briefly, about but they don't really influence what  
46 is happening in the Eastern Interior. So I guess I'll open  
47 it up to any questions.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Anybody got any questions?

50 No. Thank you very much.

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1 MS. GRONQUIST: Thanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, update on Migratory  
4 Bird Treaty, Amendments and New Regulation Process.

5

6 MR. STEVENS: Does everybody have a copy of  
7 this little.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I don't have one with me.

10

11 MR. STEVENS: Okay, I've got extras. My name  
12 is Bob Stevens. I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
13 and the Migratory Bird Management Office. And what I wanted  
14 to do today is just give you an update on where we are with  
15 the establishment of management bodies for spring and summer  
16 subsistence hunting of migratory birds. I'll skip some of  
17 the background information. We have had a couple meetings in  
18 the past in the Interior areas. If you have any questions  
19 about the background of this, I'll be glad to answer that for  
20 you.

21

22 What it amounts to is the amendments to the Migratory  
23 Bird Treaty were ratified by the Senate two years ago and  
24 part of that ratification was the idea that we would  
25 establish management bodies for managing the spring and  
26 summer hunt. Last fall we had meetings in various parts of  
27 the state to get some idea of what people were looking at in  
28 the way of migratory bird management bodies. And we put  
29 together this red document, which has four models in it for  
30 you to take a look at. These models were based pretty much  
31 on what we had heard at those meetings last fall and also  
32 early spring, we conducted a few at that time.

33

34 What I'd like to do is go through those models with  
35 you and I want to encourage you, either as individuals or as  
36 a Council to comment on these, to pick the model that seems  
37 to work for you or to make some amendments to a model that  
38 would work for you or to submit an entirely new model if you  
39 choose to do that. The comment period has been extended  
40 through October 29th so we still have the rest of this month  
41 to gather those comments. We don't need to get your comments  
42 today, but again, while it's before you, if you choose to do  
43 something as a body, we would appreciate getting those  
44 comments.

45

46 In your book under Tab D, I think this is probably  
47 the easiest way to go through this, we have a summary of the  
48 models. It's towards the end of Tab D. It has the mask at  
49 the top of the page; everybody find that okay? It's almost

50 at the end of Tab D. Tab D, D as in dog.

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1           The time line that we're looking at right now, with  
2 the comment being due October 29th, the Regional Director of  
3 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will probably make a  
4 decision on which management body or which model for  
5 management bodies to use, making that decision sometime in  
6 November. We hope to have a management body or bodies on  
7 board early in the year 2000. And then we hope to have the  
8 first migratory bird spring and summer hunting regulations in  
9 place by the spring 2001. So that's the time frame that  
10 we're working under right now. Has everybody found the area  
11 in Tab D?

12  
13           What I'm going to do is just real quickly go through  
14 the individual models so you have some idea of what we're  
15 looking at. And the reason that it's important for us to  
16 hear from you is the fact that Model 2 involves you. And so  
17 we need to know how you feel about that and what you think  
18 would be important in managing that particular model should  
19 it be chosen.

20  
21           Looking at Model 1 first of all, Model 1 would entail  
22 one state wide management body. Using what's basically the  
23 regional corporation boundaries there would be 12 regional  
24 partners that would be established to work with the Fish and  
25 Wildlife Service on establishing that management body.  
26 Partners, when we made our rounds were basically the  
27 nonprofits with a couple exceptions, and they would be in the  
28 case of the Interior area, a combination of Tanana Chiefs and  
29 CATG would be the partners that we would work with. What  
30 they would do, we would fund their activities, at least, in  
31 part, and then they would set up their own system for  
32 gathering information from the subsistence hunters in the  
33 field, and then would provide one representative to that  
34 state wide management body. Now, the managing bodies,  
35 according to the Treaty language, are to be made up of one-  
36 third Native, one-third Federal, one-third State, as equal  
37 partners. So what we would have then is up to -- or actually  
38 we would have one Federal representative and one State  
39 representative for each five Natives that sit on that  
40 management body. So in the case of Model 1, there would be  
41 12 Native representatives on that management body, up to  
42 three Federal and up to three State representatives on that  
43 management body. Now, in all four models, what happens with  
44 the recommendations that go forth from that management body  
45 is they would go to the four Flyway Councils in the Lower 48  
46 and to the Fish and Wildlife Service regulations committee  
47 which is where the final decisions would be made then on the  
48 regulations. Important to realize that Flyway committees and  
49 Flyway councils do not have any decision-making power in this

50 particular situation. They will be given these to take a

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1 look at. It is the regulations committee that will make the  
2 decisions. The advantage in these going to the Flyway  
3 councils is that if you gather the approval of Flyway  
4 councils for your recommendations, the chances of the Fish  
5 and Wildlife Service regulations committee adopting them are  
6 pretty great. So it's really advantageous to do that. But  
7 they do not make any decisions regarding those  
8 recommendations.

9  
10 A couple things to consider in Model 1 is if this one  
11 is adopted then the regional representatives that go to the  
12 state wide management body would be responsible for being  
13 aware of all the issues state wide, not just the issues of  
14 your particular region but all the issues state wide. The  
15 other thing about this particular model is with one state  
16 wide body when your recommendations go to the Fish and  
17 Wildlife Service regulations committee, they got with one  
18 state wide voice rather than several voices, so another point  
19 to consider.

20  
21 Let me move on to Model 2. Model 2 really is quite  
22 different than the other three models and this is the one  
23 that involves the regional advisory councils. What we would  
24 do in this particular model is to go ahead and use the  
25 councils as they are designed right now to take on the  
26 responsibility for spring and summer migratory bird harvest.  
27 What we would do is to have -- probably have the meetings at  
28 the same time as you currently have your meetings but would  
29 add on to that depending on the region and the issues, one  
30 day or two days additional time to address migratory bird  
31 issues. There would not be regional partners involved in  
32 this one, we would work through the existing structure, the  
33 existing system that is in place. One of the points to  
34 consider on this one is the fact that it is the least  
35 expensive of the ones to deal with. And again, you would  
36 have one state wide body because then each regional advisory  
37 council would send a representative to that state wide body.  
38 So one person here would represent this council on the state  
39 wide body. Again, things to consider is you've got one  
40 voice, that you have one state wide body speaking for Alaska.  
41 Another point to consider is the cost factor and the fact  
42 that it is the least expensive. Also the structure is  
43 already in place. So we would be able to implement this a  
44 lot more quickly. The other point is are the councils able  
45 to deal with this at this point in time. You know, there's  
46 so many things on the plate so is this something that you  
47 would be willing to take on as an additional duty? This  
48 really would be 10 Native representatives on the management  
49 body and up to two Federal and up to two State

50 representatives on that particular management body.

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1 Model #3. Model #3 is the most expensive of the four  
2 models and it involves seven state wide -- not state wide,  
3 but seven management bodies and you can see from the map in  
4 the insert on Tab D, basically how those seven regions would  
5 be broken down. And these are identified pretty much on a  
6 resource basis and also on similar cultural basis so that  
7 harvest patterns and species that are harvested would be  
8 somewhat similar within the region. In this particular  
9 model, we again would use the regional partners that have  
10 been tentatively identified under Model 1 providing funding  
11 agreements with them and then they would be providing  
12 representatives to the -- one of the seven management bodies  
13 that are in place here.

14  
15 The diagram that you have on this particular page is  
16 pretty complicated because trying to get seven regional  
17 bodies identified on here. But you can see pretty much how  
18 the regional bodies would shake out with basically four to  
19 eight Native representatives, depending on the size of the  
20 region and anywhere from one to -- I guess it's two Federal  
21 and one or two State representatives. What would happen here  
22 is you've got seven separate recommendations going to the  
23 Lower 48. So the Fish and Wildlife Service waterfowl  
24 coordinator and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
25 waterfowl supervisor would consolidate those recommendations  
26 and send them on to the Flyway councils and also to the Fish  
27 and Wildlife Service regulations committee.

28  
29 Model 4 really was developed pretty much as a  
30 compromise model between Model 1 and Model 3, it has three  
31 management bodies. And these are based pretty much on common  
32 resource values. You can see on the map here how they are  
33 broken down. Again, we would have the same regional partners  
34 that we would fund and they would, in turn, identify the  
35 Native representatives to go on those three management  
36 bodies. In this particular case we would have anywhere from,  
37 I think it was four or five Native representatives on a body  
38 and anywhere from one to two Federal and one to two State  
39 representatives.

40  
41 One of the advantages or a point to consider on Model  
42 4 is how you would be represented on the Flyway councils. In  
43 the case of Model 1, that state wide management body would  
44 have a representative on the Pacific Flyway Council. Now,  
45 although Alaska provides birds some nesting grounds to all  
46 four of the flyways, the bulk of the birds do go down the  
47 Pacific Flyway and the state of Alaska is a member of the  
48 Pacific Flyway Council, so the management body would have  
49 representation on that council. In the case of Model 2,

50 which involves the RAC, you would also have a representative

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1 on the Pacific Flyway Council. In the case of Model 3, the  
2 seven bodies, it would be a matter of a representative going  
3 to a particular Flyway council depending on the issues, so it  
4 would be on a case by case basis. You would not have a  
5 regular representative on any particular Flyway council. In  
6 Model 4 you would have one representative and one -- a  
7 management body being represented on the Pacific Flyway, you  
8 would have one management body being represented on the  
9 Central Flyway and a third management body being represented  
10 on a case by case basis, so that's another point to consider.

11  
12 It's a lot of information to look at and to digest.  
13 I'll be glad to answer any questions or concerns you may have  
14 about this. Again, we really encourage you to make your  
15 thoughts known on these management bodies or on any other  
16 ideas that you may have about management bodies, and October  
17 29th is the deadline. Any questions?

18  
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any questions?

20  
21 MR. JAMES: You said these management bodies  
22 will make recommendations to Pacific.....

23  
24 MR. STEVENS: It'd go to all the Flyway  
25 councils.

26  
27 MR. JAMES: How many Flyway councils are  
28 there?

29  
30 MR. STEVENS: There are four. You have the  
31 Atlantic and the Mississippi, Central and Pacific. As I say,  
32 the state of Alaska for the fall hunt has traditionally been  
33 a member of the Pacific Flyway Council. And normally -- let  
34 me just add one thing to that, normally Pacific Flyway  
35 Council, in the case of recreational hunting make the  
36 recommendations for harvest limits to the Fish and Wildlife  
37 Service regulations committee. This is a little different  
38 situation than what they do there. As I said before, the  
39 recommendations from the management bodies for subsistence  
40 hunting would go to the councils but they would not be voting  
41 on those. They would not be making decisions on the  
42 subsistence hunt. What it does, and this was one of the  
43 mandates of the Treaty, it brings sport hunting and  
44 subsistence hunting under the same umbrella. So that now  
45 subsistence hunters are involved in the total migratory  
46 management -- migratory bird management program, and we feel  
47 that's a real plus.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more questions?



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1 MR. STEVENS: Okay, I appreciate your time.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think, you know  
6 how some of you get elected to different groups when you're  
7 not present, I'm not saying you have to pass recommendation  
8 here but I think you need to give some indication that if the  
9 decision is to go with the model of regional councils as the  
10 model, that you support that or don't support that or  
11 whatever. That's why we got it on the agenda was because the  
12 model represents regional councils and that's why the  
13 regional councils, in general, are being apprised of this.  
14 So you don't have to, I'm just letting you know that you may  
15 end up being selected, who knows?

16

17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Which model is favorable so  
18 far? Have you talked to anybody else about this?

19

20 MR. STEVENS: We're making the rounds of the  
21 councils. We've only been to one so far and that was  
22 Kodiak/Aleutians and they chose to take a look at a  
23 combination. They made some changes to where the RACs would  
24 be involved at the local level. But they liked Model 3 but  
25 Model 3, with seven management bodies brought management  
26 closer to the regions, made it more localized. And so they  
27 wanted to have that more localized management but still  
28 wanted to be involved as an advisory council. So they made  
29 a combination. I think we'll probably see a variety of  
30 interests. And it's going to depend on the region, what's  
31 going to work for you is really what the key is here. What's  
32 going to work for the subsistence hunters in this region?

33

34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

35

36 MR. JAMES: I think the other key, too, is  
37 how do we get the information back to the councils before we  
38 pass it on to the other Flyway councils? Because you know,  
39 if we pick Model 2, our resource advisory council there and  
40 I guess what I -- who's going to be giving recommendations to  
41 us like -- like our ecosystem where migratory birds go to  
42 Yukon Flats and then down here in Delta area and over there  
43 in Fairbanks?

44

45 MR. STEVENS: So you're saying if Model 2  
46 were selected how would you get the information?

47

48 MR. JAMES: Yeah.

49

MR. STEVENS: Pretty much the same way that

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1 you're getting it right now.

2

3 MR. JAMES: Yeah.

4

5 MR. STEVENS; Fish and Game and Fish and  
6 Wildlife Service would provide staff support getting  
7 information to you. One of the responsibilities of the  
8 management body is going to be to get involved in research  
9 and use of traditional knowledge and so you'll be making  
10 recommendations along those lines. So in part, you'll be  
11 telling us what information you want in order to make the  
12 decisions for harvest limits. And then if you have regional  
13 committees, and if you have one state wide body then the  
14 representative from that region going to the state wide body  
15 would bring to that body what the local issues were for that  
16 region and that's where you would discuss them at, as a body.

17

18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Lincoln.

19

20 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, on this Model 3, and if  
21 it follows the boundaries of those regional corporations --  
22 corporate entities, isn't there a danger of all this becoming  
23 political? It's already a political boundary, ain't it?

24

25 MR. STEVENS: I don't think the boundaries  
26 are going to affect whether it's politicized or not. I think  
27 it's the people that participate in the process that affect  
28 that. In Model 3, the management bodies, you're looking at  
29 seven management bodies, they do not follow exactly the  
30 regional corporation boundaries, the regional partners would.  
31 In other words, we would be looking at Tanana Chiefs and  
32 CATG. We'd be looking at North Slope Borough which is the  
33 one area that does not have the regional association as a  
34 partner. We would be looking at AVCP, and then they would be  
35 representing those areas. But the boundaries themselves are  
36 going to lead to that particular issue. I think we always  
37 run the risk of politics when we manage resources. It's a  
38 fact of life.

39

40 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, it's an irritant.

41

42 MR. STEVENS: But at least this gets the most  
43 involvement possible from the local level. The Treaty  
44 language mandates that we involve the local tribes to the  
45 maximum extent possible. And we feel by using the regional  
46 partners this is the best way to get that involvement. We're  
47 open to other suggestions if you have a better way of doing  
48 it.

49

MR. NICHOLIA: If you do use the regional

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1 partners and then you're talking about TCC is mostly -- it'll  
2 end up in Doyon's hands and sometimes it don't even get out  
3 to the tribes it stays in their own office, the outreach that  
4 you want.

5  
6 MR. STEVENS: And if that's the case then  
7 this is something you should be considering when you make  
8 your recommendations.

9  
10 MR. NICHOLIA: As from a tribal point of  
11 view, for my tribe, I would send them the recommendations.  
12 I think that Model 4 would probably work pretty good. But  
13 you're going to have to think, too, in the Doyon region,  
14 there's four different basic regions, and if it's one person  
15 from the TCC or Council of Athabascans or whoever else from  
16 that region, it's not really going to cover all the issues  
17 and problems that do arise in that Doyon region because it's  
18 too big of a region. I'm not going to mention right now  
19 because you probably already seen it from the Tanana Tribal  
20 Council, it's just that you guys are loading so much on so  
21 few people and I recommend that they use Model 3 because that  
22 will be more base -- more people because there's a lot of  
23 times in the Doyon regions that I found out that some people  
24 don't even understand that this is happening. They don't  
25 have the communication or the networking like in Allakaket  
26 compared to Tanana. And TCC, at times, don't really  
27 distribute the information that goes in, I know that for a  
28 fact. And it would be good to have the Model 3, that way  
29 you'll get all the local input that you do -- that is out  
30 there that people do -- that people do want to be heard.  
31 Sometimes you might get two different opinions from the same  
32 area but that's getting the local -- that's getting local  
33 input. And what I see in these other models it's just too  
34 much load on too few people for such a big area to cover.  
35 And it's just like putting a -- putting the hoof in the  
36 horse's mouth more or less to me.

37  
38 MR. STEVENS: On Model 3, in the red book  
39 that I handed out to you, if you're looking at Page 21, some  
40 of you may not have gotten that book, does everybody have it?

41  
42 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I see.

43  
44 MR. STEVENS: You have it, okay. On Page 21  
45 it shows how the regional partners would be represented by  
46 management body and it would be -- on that particular table  
47 it's management body number 7 where Tanana Chiefs and CATG  
48 would be the two partners involved on that one.

49

One of the comments that we got last fall making the

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1 rounds was that Model 2 -- at that time we didn't have the  
2 model but looking at using RACs and some of the people were  
3 saying that, you know, we just don't have time to deal with  
4 that that we're already overloaded. And then we went to a  
5 couple other meetings and the response was, well, even if you  
6 don't use the RACs but set up separate management bodies it's  
7 probably going to be the same people.

8  
9 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah.

10  
11 MR. STEVENS: Because it's the same people  
12 that are involved in those committees and commissions, so  
13 that's something else to think about.

14  
15 MR. L. TRITT: My comment earlier, this is my  
16 own recommendation. We already got to the point where we  
17 make this RAC strong as it is, you know, why knock it down  
18 and build it again, you know? We already have enough -- we  
19 have to strengthen and this last couple of years of  
20 experience to do any work with this, you know, and if you  
21 form another group then you have to start all over again.

22  
23 MR. STEVENS: So if I hear you correctly,  
24 Model 2 makes sense to you?

25  
26 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah.

27  
28 MR. STEVENS: Okay.

29  
30 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

33  
34 MR. GOOD: Model 2 also does break the state  
35 into 10 individual areas allowing for a little more  
36 concentrated focus of whatever body it is that's examining  
37 the area. And where -- I look at Model 3 and I guess my  
38 concern would be that seven, one and six are so large, and  
39 then I look at three, four and five which are comparatively  
40 small, you know, I see advantages in having the state broken  
41 into smaller areas, perhaps better information from the given  
42 smaller areas.

43  
44 MR. NICHOLIA: I just can't picture this  
45 Council doing fisheries, wildlife and then migratory birds.  
46 How long are we going to be here, a couple weeks?

47  
48 MR. JAMES: My other concern is, you know, if  
49 you go through -- there's other management bodies, you're

50 going to have to develop them up. And then my concern with

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1 TCC, even with regional, is that developing and going through  
2 other organizations is that you're going to run into a  
3 different philosophy with different administrations over the  
4 years. And I guess that's one of the reasons why some  
5 villages took some of their funds because they didn't have  
6 the leeway to make the decision to be in the process. And  
7 the system is already in place, I think -- I think we should  
8 really look at this and maybe give a comment back -- you  
9 know, our position by October 29th, you know, maybe have a  
10 teleconference or something, you know, and give us a week --  
11 a couple of weeks.....

12

13 MR. NICHOLIA: Let's do it right now. Let  
14 Lee speak and see what he has to say.

15

16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Lee.

17

18 MR. L. TITUS: Well, I'm not speaking for any  
19 model -- any specific model right now but one of the concerns  
20 I have is along with -- along with Gerald's earlier comments.  
21 My concerns are when it has to do with either migratory birds  
22 or fisheries or game management, the way the system is set up  
23 if a proposal is -- if a proposal is sent in by any specific  
24 entity it goes through the Staff analysis of the affects,  
25 pros and cons, of that specific proposal, and it's voted  
26 according to what Staff has to say pro and con. And I think  
27 on some specific proposals, whether it be fisheries or game  
28 or migratory birds, I think the real issues are bogged up  
29 along -- it doesn't get back to the locals concerns of a  
30 specific proposal, it gets completely bogged down by Staff  
31 analysis, whether it be either State or Federal.

32

33 MR. STEVENS: Mr. Chairman, may I respond.

34

35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

36

37 MR. STEVENS: One thing that I failed to  
38 mention and you brought it to my mind, I appreciate that, is  
39 with Model 2, one of the points to consider on that and very  
40 important point is the possible confusion that could exist  
41 between your Title VIII subsistence responsibilities and the  
42 migratory bird subsistence responsibilities, because this has  
43 absolutely nothing to do with Title VIII. Your  
44 recommendations as a management body do not go to the Federal  
45 Subsistence Board. You're going to be sitting on a board  
46 with one-third Federal, one-third State, unlike what you're  
47 doing right now. These things are very different. And when  
48 you make your recommendations as a management body, they will  
49 not go through a Staff analysis, they will go directly to the

50 regulations committee and to the Flyway councils in the Lower

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1 48 states. So the process is very, very different. And  
2 again, one of the points to consider is, you know, are you  
3 able to change hats at the end of the meeting and go to a  
4 migratory bird, nation wide process, which is very, very  
5 different. Something to certainly be considered.

6  
7 MR. NICHOLIA: You're asking a question about  
8 changing hats, most of these people wear about 11 or 10 hats.

9  
10 MR. STEVENS: And I understand that. We're  
11 going to give you another one if you choose Model 2. But  
12 thank you for bringing that up, that reminds me of that.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more comments?

15  
16 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I don't know if David was  
17 serious on the teleconferencing or whatever, I mean that  
18 could be pursued. I'd have to see about FACA requirements  
19 but I think we could work on that if you want to but meaning  
20 we have to make it a public meeting, you know, let other  
21 people know if they want to participate in the  
22 teleconference. But I'm don't -- I'm not pushing that, I  
23 don't know if David wants to -- was under the impression that  
24 it was going forward or not?

25  
26 MR. STEVENS: We would really appreciate the  
27 comments, you know, one way or the other. It's important to  
28 you, I know.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Calvin.

31  
32 MR. C. TRITT: Just a comment. This is just  
33 a comment. The only way I could think of this is as an  
34 Eastern Interior advisory, I can only speak about my people  
35 up this way and I can't really -- I don't understand the  
36 tribal -- or what other people are doing down farther south.  
37 But what I'm trying to get at is I know what they are doing  
38 up here, how they go about doing things. And the closer we  
39 are to that -- the closer we are at home, I think the better  
40 decisions are that we make.

41  
42 MR. STEVENS: That particular philosophy  
43 looks at Model 3 which has the seven management bodies.  
44 That's the one that gets you the closest to the local area.  
45 And again, there's some advantages and disadvantages to that.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Under Model 3, for  
48 instance, who would select these representatives?

49

MR. STEVENS: It would be the regional

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1 partners. If you would take a look in your red book on Page  
2 21, you can see who it is -- the proposed -- these are  
3 proposed partners these are not fixed, who those proposed  
4 partners would be for each individual management body. And  
5 these are the ones that would select the Native  
6 representatives.

7

8 MR. NICHOLIA: What page?

9

10 MR. STEVENS: On Page 21, this is for Model  
11 3.

12

13 MR. NICHOLIA: Oh, I could see why I wouldn't  
14 like Model 3.

15

16 MR. STEVENS: And then on Model 4, that one  
17 is broken down on Page 25.

18

19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I'm sure you're aware of  
20 it, you have both nonprofits and profit organizations  
21 together in this?

22

23 MR. STEVENS: Well, I'm aware that we have a  
24 North Slope Borough in here which is totally different from  
25 the nonprofits. I'm not familiar with the association.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You have Bristol Bay  
28 Association, that's profit.

29

30 MR. STEVENS: I'm sorry, which was that?

31

32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Bristol Bay.

33

34 MR. STEVENS: BBNA?

35

36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: What's the other one here?

37

38 MR. STEVENS: BBNC is the profit one.

39

40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: It's a profit, yeah.

41

42 MR. STEVENS: Right, BBNA is the nonprofit.

43

44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Oh, okay.

45

46 MR. STEVENS: These should all be nonprofit.

47

48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: North Slope Borough is

49 nonprofit?



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1 MR. STEVENS: North Slope Borough is a  
2 government entity. That's one that's -- that's the exception  
3 to this list. But when we did our meeting on the North Slope  
4 that seemed to be the organization that people wanted to  
5 represent them so that's why they're in here.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Does anybody have anything  
8 else? There's just so much to do, fisheries.....

9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe the best thing would be  
11 to explore an option of teleconferencing. I think that the  
12 constraints of that is this is kind of complex to it over the  
13 phone but maybe Bob and I can work something out with the  
14 diagrams and then at the teleconference deal with it. Or you  
15 just wait and see what comes out of the hopper. That was my  
16 question for Bob, is when did you project that there will be  
17 a decision made on this? I know the comment deadline is  
18 October 29th.

19  
20 MR. STEVENS: The idea would be that the  
21 regional director would make a decision in November, and that  
22 we would have management bodies in place in early 2000.

23  
24 MR. MATHEWS: And I'm not real thrilled with  
25 a teleconference but I think you're struggling due to the  
26 complexity of this meeting to address this, so it's your  
27 call.

28  
29 MR. JAMES: Yeah, for me -- for my comments  
30 as a board member, yeah, I'm working towards a management  
31 body that's successful. I've only been, you know, I mean  
32 sometimes I have leery thoughts about starting up another  
33 organization when we don't know how it's going to go down the  
34 road and when we really -- we have another successful  
35 organization. We're already in place and how we can just  
36 redesign it a little bit or -- but you know, my mamma would  
37 say, you know, in order to protect your way of living you're  
38 going to have to give up a little bit of your life nowadays,  
39 you know, I just put a stop on my house, you know. But I  
40 really -- one of the things that we do in our training  
41 process to the youth and to the leaders, is that, we've  
42 committed ourselves already for protection of our resources,  
43 and that's why I elected to sit on this seat, you know. We  
44 don't get paid to sit here. But I know this is where the  
45 decisions are going to be made in the long-run, and that's  
46 the things I tell our local people, and our kids in high  
47 school. You're going to have to give up some stuff on the  
48 way, you know -- Monday to Friday -- as long as you make it  
49 Monday to Friday, and that's -- that's my position on that,

50 and mine is Model 2.

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1 MR. STEVENS: Okay. The one thing we heard  
2 at every meeting last fall, without exception, was -- and  
3 from the subsistence hunter was keep it simple. And we're  
4 working hard at that, you know, it's something that didn't  
5 turn out quite so simple but they're the best we could come  
6 up with in looking at the different compromises. And so in  
7 your comments I would encourage you to do the same thing is  
8 just to try to keep it simple.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Knowland.

11  
12 MR. SILAS: I live in Minto, one of the main  
13 migrating routes for the geese in spring, thousands of them  
14 through there. It's also a big nesting area, sometimes it's  
15 the third largest in the state. And to go home with one of  
16 these here without really consulting with the village  
17 council, you know, I don't think I'm ready to make a decision  
18 on this. So if a teleconference would work I'd like to go  
19 that route.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Did you want to form that  
22 in a motion?

23  
24 MR. NICHOLIA: Sure. From sitting on this  
25 Board, for what, two years, something like that, we really  
26 hashed out a lot of stuff for this -- this Board really  
27 hashed out a lot of stuff for this Eastern Interior region.  
28 Sometimes we don't get along sometimes we do. And I'd like  
29 to make a motion that Eastern Interior Advisory Council  
30 supports Model 2.

31  
32 MR. L. TRITT: Second.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: There's a motion on the  
35 floor and seconded by Lincoln. And that motion is to support  
36 Model 2 to the migratory bird subsistence hunting.

37  
38 MR. GOOD: Question.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question's been called, all  
41 in favor signify by saying aye.

42  
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

46  
47 MR. SILAS: Abstain.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, sir, you got your

50 answer.

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1 MR. STEVENS: Thank you very much for your  
2 time.

3  
4 MR. SILAS: For the record, I abstained on  
5 the motion.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, that was one abstain,  
8 Knowland Silas, did you get that?

9  
10 REPORTER: Yes, thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Getting back to the agenda.

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us up  
15 to the refuge reports. And I'm not sure.....

16  
17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I think Bob had to  
18 something to say, didn't he?

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: Who?

21  
22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Bob Schulz.

23  
24 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, Bob's on there, the list.  
25 We can go that direction. I just put -- actually I didn't  
26 put them alphabetical, so whatever. Generally Yukon Flats  
27 and Arctic go together because Greg McClellan covers both --  
28 he's the subsistence coordinator for both.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. It doesn't make no  
31 difference to me who wants to go first.

32  
33 MR. SCHULZ: Good afternoon, my name is  
34 Robert Schulz. I'm the Acting Refuge Manager for Tetlin  
35 Refuge. Earlier today I passed out our most recent copy of  
36 our newsletter. It pretty much covers what we've done over  
37 the past 12 months on the Tetlin Refuge; it highlights our  
38 activities. If you have any questions I'd be willing to  
39 answer them or clarify anything there.

40  
41 MR. GOOD: I have a question regarding pike  
42 fishing, is that opened for subsistence purposes on the  
43 refuge?

44  
45 MR. SCHULZ: Yes.

46  
47 MR. GOOD: Second one, caribou, if the State  
48 does not open a hunt on the Nelchina herd when it comes  
49 across, will you be able to open that for subsistence hunting

50 on the refuge?

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1 MR. SCHULZ: Within current regulations, yes,  
2 for the Nelchina hunt, to be announced, yes.

3  
4 MR. GOOD: Right.

5  
6 MR. SCHULZ: Right now, the premise that the  
7 refuge does is that we do not open or petition the Federal  
8 Board to open up that hunt until caribou are on refuge lands.  
9 The Tetlin Wildlife Refuge authorized boundary has about  
10 924,000 acres in it. The Federal government owns  
11 approximately 730,000 acres of it.

12  
13 MR. GOOD: Basically, I guess, if Fish and  
14 Game does not open it as they have in the past, in the past  
15 few years, are you prepared to do so on your own?

16  
17 MR. SCHULZ: Yes.

18  
19 MR. GOOD: Good.

20  
21 MR. SCHULZ: Yes, we will open under the  
22 caveat that they are on -- caribou are on available on refuge  
23 lands.

24  
25 MR. GOOD: Right.

26  
27 MR. SCHULZ: If caribou are adjacent and  
28 available on adjacent lands we will not petition to open up  
29 the hunt so we do not create a law enforcement problem. Last  
30 spring we opened up a hunt that ran for approximately 14  
31 days. We did not open up that hunt until the caribou were on  
32 the refuge. We issued about, as I remember, 49 permits and  
33 I think there were like 14 caribou taken during that hunt.  
34 It was conducted in the month of April.

35  
36 One of the things that the refuge will be asking your  
37 group to support is right now that winter hunt is open, the  
38 limit is one bull, and it's to be announced or opened by the  
39 Federal Board, we are going to be asking the Federal Board to  
40 allow that to be opened and closed by the refuge manager in  
41 concurrence with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park people and  
42 also with the State Fish and Game. We're looking at changing  
43 the bag limits from one bull to one caribou, that way we can  
44 better manage that herd. If the bull/cow ratio gets out of  
45 proportion, we can look at selecting one animal over another.  
46 In addition, the caribou -- the main target of that hunt is  
47 the Nelchina caribou. They summer over in western 13(A)  
48 unit, and then they migrate over into Unit 12 and winter on  
49 us. During the past few years the caribou have moved through

50 us in a very rapid rate and moved up into 20(E) and wintered

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1 up there. So if we go to the Federal Board, by the time the  
2 Federal Board acts on it a lot of times the caribou have  
3 moved off the refuge lands and are back on the State lands  
4 again so we cannot open up a hunt or conduct a hunt under  
5 reasonable terms. And I think one way of getting around this  
6 is to have it opened up on the ground level by the refuge  
7 manager. We'll be putting in a proposal and you folks will  
8 be seeing it during your spring meeting and we ask for your  
9 support on that.

10

11 MR. GOOD: In advance, I think you've got it.

12

13 MR. SCHULZ: Pardon?

14

15 MR. GOOD: I said I think you'll have it.

16

17 MR. SCHULZ: Appreciate it, thanks. If you  
18 have any other questions, let me go, on the Tetlin Refuge.

19

20 One other topic is Richard Voss, our Refuge Manager  
21 for the past four years has transferred to the Arctic  
22 National Wildlife Refuge, he's stationed out of Fairbanks.  
23 Ed Merritt who's been in McGrath and has been managing the  
24 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge will becoming the new refuge  
25 manager at Tetlin. We expect him to move on to the refuge  
26 somewhere around October 25th, so we'll have a new player  
27 there. But he's been in Alaska for the last 10 years and  
28 he's well up on subsistence issues.

29

30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any questions for Bob?  
31 Thank you. A lot goes on at the refuge there.

32

33 MR. McCLELLAN: Mr. Chairman and Council,  
34 thanks for inviting us up here for an opportunity to speak.  
35 As Vince said, my name's Greg McClellan and I'm the  
36 subsistence coordinator for the Yukon Flats and Arctic Refuge  
37 here in Eastern Interior and also Kanuti National Wildlife  
38 Refuge Interior Region. And to my left is Ted Heuer, the  
39 manager of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge and then  
40 to my right is Paul Williams, the refuge information  
41 technician for the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

42

43 First, on the Yukon National Wildlife Refuge, in the  
44 back of your booklet under Tab T, the second to the last page  
45 is a report for the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge for  
46 most of the activities that have occurred since the -- or  
47 ongoing activities that are occurring since the last meeting.  
48 I just wanted to comment that we've heard a lot of ideas from  
49 people at this meeting and at the meeting on Monday with the

50 local Fish and Game Advisory Committee meeting, and we hope

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1 to work with local villages and people to solve a lot of  
2 these issues that have been raised. In his examples of  
3 activities listed in the report, the moose calf mortality  
4 study, the prescribed burning that we're doing with local  
5 villages, public outreach through Paul Williams, and  
6 cooperative agreements with Stevens Village on information  
7 signs and then with Stevens Village and Alaska Department of  
8 Fish and Game on the northern pike, work on the Dall River.  
9 So like I said, the report's in your booklet and I'd be happy  
10 to entertain any questions you might have.

11  
12 I do just want to make one addition to the write up  
13 in the report under the moose calf mortality study. We have  
14 from the spring of '99 that 29 additional calves were  
15 collared and in addition to the collared calves we're also  
16 following 12 calves that are not collared but are with  
17 collared cows so we can follow them. And as of early  
18 September the last telemetry flight that we completed, 12 of  
19 the 41 calves that are being monitored are still alive so  
20 that gives us a survival rate of about 29 percent.

21  
22 But other than that, I'd like to entertain any  
23 questions you might have.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any questions?

26  
27 MR. JAMES: You know it's the same question  
28 that I asked to the Chief Bobby Miner about this research on  
29 these calves, it's a really high rate of mortality on these  
30 calves in these first three months. If you just -- do you  
31 have any new priorities plans, like low, high or medium to  
32 where you identify an area where there's a high rate of bear  
33 fatality to a species, how do you guys do in your policy  
34 there to where you work with the Fish and Wildlife Committee  
35 -- or the advisory committees to where we can present a  
36 proposal -- be presented to where we can, you know, kind of  
37 increase, you know, the moose population of the calves?

38  
39 MR. McCLELLAN: Well, I guess I'll try to  
40 answer it in a couple of ways. As you've mentioned the bear  
41 mortality seems to be the primary mortality of the calves  
42 from the two year study. And we've talked with  
43 representatives from both Stevens Village and Beaver and  
44 Birch Creek, and I guess, also as Bobby mentioned, the local  
45 harvest of black bear is not a common activity and what we'd  
46 like to try to go through first is to make -- go through the  
47 existing regulation process and have as liberal as  
48 regulations as possible to allow people the opportunity to  
49 harvest bears. And we've talked with folks about how to try

50 to increase the harvest of black bears by local residents; we

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1 haven't come up with any specific ideas or suggestions but we  
2 have had those discussions.

3

4 MR. NICHOLIA: Is guiding allowed for black  
5 bears around there?

6

7 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, there's two registered  
8 guides in the Yukon Flats Refuge that guide in 25(D) west.  
9 He primarily -- they only guide for black bear. It's the  
10 only animal that they hunt there. In the '97/98 season they  
11 took six black bears, '96/97 they took nine, '95/96 they took  
12 10, '94/95 they took five black bears, so through this guide  
13 they're taking anywhere from five to 10 black bears every  
14 year. And that's one thing we've talked about, too, as far  
15 as trying to get possibly local people involved in the  
16 guiding activity and maybe have guiding activity on village  
17 corporation land versus -- because with the registered guide,  
18 he's only guiding on Federal public land, that's the only  
19 way.....

20

21 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, the reason I asked that  
22 is that we have guides, all kinds of guides moving into the  
23 Tanana area and the last three years -- this last year is the  
24 first time I've ever seen a black bear -- I heard through  
25 voices -- I'm on the Tanana/Rampart, my advisory council, and  
26 hardly black bears or bears around Rampart anymore because  
27 the guiding outfits, the West Arctic and the Gertler (ph)  
28 Outfit that really guides around there and we pretty much --  
29 pretty much I almost went to war with them this last fall to  
30 keep them out of our country because we don't want -- we  
31 don't really believe in hanging what we eat on the walls or  
32 we don't -- we don't want it just for trophies, but I could  
33 see -- I wouldn't suggest asking them to come in your  
34 country, once they're in there they wouldn't want to go out.  
35 But I suggest that -- you know, I thought the Yukon Flats  
36 people always had a taste for black bear or something like  
37 that, and we hunt them in the summer, we hunt them in the  
38 winter, any time we could go after them we'd go after them.  
39 Because it's fat -- the nutrition in the fat and the meat  
40 itself. This here -- within the last two years I've seen the  
41 moose population in Tanana go up because of the disappearance  
42 of some bears, just in our area.

43

44 If you want to protect one resource, you know you  
45 have to go after the other one that's affecting them, that's  
46 just the bottom line. If you do it locally the more better  
47 off -- the more control you'll have over the program, trying  
48 to implement for that.

49

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any more questions

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1 or comments? Go ahead.

2

3 MR. LAWRENCE: I know you guys do a lot of  
4 projects.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Excuse me, could you state  
7 your name?

8

9 MR. LAWRENCE: Okay, my name is Gary  
10 Lawrence. I work here in the natural resource department for  
11 the Native Village of Fort Yukon. I know there's a lot of  
12 projects going on but are there any projects for like  
13 restoration of streams or like doing any rehabilitation of  
14 any other lakes or just basically streams and just habitat of  
15 other species of animals, like moose -- I mean I know you  
16 guys are doing burning because I helped during that process,  
17 but I was wondering, you know, because a lot of the lakes are  
18 drying up and I was wondering if there are any other  
19 different projects like managing the habitat of some of these  
20 other animals like salmon, you know, the spawning grounds?  
21 And then another question I had is what's the process of  
22 getting a guiding permit?

23

24 MR. McCLELLAN: I'll try the simple one  
25 first. As far as the guiding permit it's -- initially it's  
26 a State process you have to get a registered -- the  
27 registration is a State process and I don't know if somebody  
28 from Alaska Department of Fish and Game would want to talk to  
29 that but if somebody is a State guide, they have to be that  
30 first, and then to go through a process of getting a permit  
31 through -- with the National Wildlife Refuge to guide on a  
32 National Wildlife Refuge.

33

34 As for as your first question, habitat restoration,  
35 currently we aren't doing any studies or any specific  
36 activities related to that except for the prescribed burning  
37 program that we've started two years ago. And then this --  
38 the question of the Yukon Flats drying up has been raised at  
39 several meetings and that's something we're interested in  
40 trying to investigate. Currently there is somebody in  
41 Canada, the refuge biologist, Mike Bertrem is corresponding  
42 with, where he is looking at trying to do some type of  
43 monitoring using satellite imagery. And so we've had  
44 discussions with him about trying to do something similar to  
45 that on the Flats but that's still in the discussion stage.

46

47 MR. NICHOLIA: I know one thing that you  
48 could do, like to help David out here is to monitor the water  
49 level. I know in lakes and ponds do naturally dry up but you

50 could -- if you have to to relate this to resources,

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1 subsistence resource, muskrat is their mainstay up here, you  
2 know. You could relate work with these tribal councils on  
3 that and then that could get land rehabilitated or something  
4 to that effect.

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Go ahead, Lincoln.

7

8 MR. L. TRITT: Like a lot of these lakes  
9 drying out, you know, no matter how you look at it you're  
10 going to have to look at global warming. A lot of our lakes  
11 have been doing that, too, and the reason is the permafrost  
12 thaws out and the land caves in and the water runs out of the  
13 lake. So that's just not -- it's not just in the Yukon  
14 Flats, that's pretty much -- you have to start looking at the  
15 big picture now, you know.

16

17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any other  
18 comments? Thank you guys for your time.

19

20 MR. McCLELLAN: Thank you all. I'll stay up  
21 for the Arctic Refuge. On the next page is the refuge report  
22 for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And I guess the  
23 only thing in addition, as Bob Schulz mentioned, the previous  
24 refuge manager Jim Kurth transferred to a new position with  
25 the Service in Washington D.C., so there is a new refuge  
26 manager Richard Boss, and he did start on September 27th,  
27 although this week he's in the process of moving his  
28 household goods from Tok to Fairbanks so he wasn't able to  
29 attend this meeting. And the only other thing I wanted to  
30 add is that Fran Mouwer with the Arctic National Wildlife  
31 Refuge is responsible for caribou, this week he's currently  
32 doing a radio telemetry survey of the wintering grounds in  
33 Alaska and Canada just trying to get information on where the  
34 Porcupine Caribou Herd currently is at this time. And other  
35 than that, I'd be happy to, again, entertain any questions  
36 you might have.

37

38 MR. NICHOLIA: I'd like to make one comment  
39 about the Porcupine herd and the pipeline. No matter what BP  
40 Oil and Arco said or the State of Alaska, that pipeline did  
41 affect the Porcupine Caribou Herd. There's just no way  
42 around it. Everything points to it. It even affected the  
43 Western Arctic Caribou Herd where we used to go back before  
44 the pipeline, just go 14 miles behind Tanana and get caribou  
45 and now we have to go 90 to 120 miles just to get one. No  
46 matter how they put it, no matter how well they paint a  
47 picture it's always going to have to sacrifice something for  
48 somebody else. And what we did, we sacrificed that Porcupine  
49 Caribou Herd for the national. That may have been good and

50 that may have -- may have been good at a national level but

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1 it sure ain't good at a local level.

2

3 That's just my comment.

4

5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. JAMES: Greg, on this beaver and white  
8 fish.....

9

10 MR. McCLELLAN: Uh-huh.

11

12 MR. JAMES: .....project that they did up in  
13 Chalkyitsik, this is the one you're talking about, the one in  
14 Chalkyitsik, uh?

15

16 MR. McCLELLAN: Well, yeah, and the Yukon  
17 Flats, it addressed the beaver and white fish, and we did do  
18 an aerial survey of Fish Creek there outside of Chalkyitsik  
19 and Grass River outside of Fort Yukon. There was Craig  
20 Fleener, who was working with CATG at that time, went with us  
21 and then in addition to that, Shirley Nosell with the natural  
22 resource program there at Chalkyitsik, they did an on ground  
23 survey of the first stretch of Fish Creek.

24

25 MR. JAMES: I have another question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

28

29 MR. JAMES: Just a short information for like  
30 a follow-up like how our tribal management is taking the  
31 initiative role into doing projects like Fish Creek. The  
32 Chalkyitsik council elderlies are the ones that identified  
33 Fish Creek as one of the top fish gatherings for their diet  
34 for years. And for years we've waited for agencies to -- we  
35 asked agencies for funds to do a restoration project but we  
36 were also led down different trails, mainly because of the  
37 philosophy view; we don't know what will happen, we don't  
38 know what happened before. And our managers, our resource  
39 techs listen to our elderlies and our elderlies told us, this  
40 is what it was for the last hundred years. And if you do  
41 this, and you do that, they will come back to that are where  
42 it was plentiful, there'll be fish going in and fish coming  
43 back out and fresh water going in and out. And so one of the  
44 things that we did was we're not going to wait for agencies  
45 okay no more, we said, this is our land, private land, and we  
46 said, well, we could go get our money, so that's what we did.  
47 We went out and got our own money and we designed our own  
48 program and we, as a regional tribal gave that money and help  
49 as a technical assistant to the tribe, here. We gave it to

50 them, we gave them everything, we designed it, what we do is,

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1 you know, write up a report and help them. You know, any  
2 technical aspect of it. And two months the restoration  
3 project that we've been talking about for 10 years was done,  
4 in two months, with a small amount of money, really small,  
5 3,000. And four big beaver dams were broken down, big beaver  
6 dams, and the fresh water went back in there and a lot of  
7 fresh white fish came out which would have got stuck back  
8 there or would have died back there in the lake if they never  
9 came out.

10  
11 So these are some of the stuff our research techs are  
12 looking at now instead of waiting to get an okay. Now, these  
13 are simple solutions to simple problems, you know, and that's  
14 what we're talking about restoring our ecosystems. And I  
15 know we're working on other projects and we hope that, you  
16 know, with this, as a pilot project, within the Yukon Flats  
17 and also the Dall River and with the fisheries that we  
18 continue working, you know, we listen to both sides. See  
19 that's where traditional and local will probably be -- we'll  
20 really work -- it will fit right in there with that  
21 management. So you know, like our previous leader, Randall  
22 Belam of Birch Creek, he once said, you know, the system's  
23 there, why reinvent the wheel, you just got to tweak it a  
24 little bit. So that's just in our area. You know, I never  
25 thought about that, you know, you know, you can store it away  
26 and just use it and then learn how to improve it.

27  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 MR. McCLELLAN: I applaud your efforts on  
31 that David.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any other comments  
34 or questions?

35  
36 MR. JAMES: I have one more.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, David.

39  
40 MR. JAMES: I have one more on your Arctic  
41 National Wildlife Refuge Report.

42  
43 MR. McCLELLAN: Uh-huh.

44  
45 MR. JAMES: Do you know how much -- how many  
46 predators, wolf or bears, are affecting the Porcupine Caribou  
47 Herd?

48  
49 MR. McCLELLAN: I don't think there's been

50 any information gathered on that. I know from the last

00157

1 International Porcupine Caribou Board meetings, the feelings  
2 from the agencies about the reduced numbers of the herd is  
3 related to real hard winters in the early '90s, it really  
4 affected calf survivability but I'm not aware of any specific  
5 information on the predator populations there.

6  
7 MR. JAMES: The reason I refer to that is  
8 because a majority of all those other research projects, the  
9 moose management plan for here, we've seen a lot of predators  
10 following it, and you know, having a big effect on the  
11 population. It's just really irony, my counterpart from  
12 Arctic Village, like Arctic National -- Porcupine Caribou  
13 Herd, it's -- International Porcupine Caribou Herd needs to  
14 understand that this has been researched far too much without  
15 really looking at an answer. Because I came from a  
16 conference in Finland on caribou herd across the Arctic  
17 region. The one herd that never -- that dropped in the  
18 Arctic region was the Porcupine Caribou Herd, and that was  
19 the only herd, too, in the world that's been researched to  
20 death by research institutions around the world, and they're  
21 still being researched. And I find a successful story in the  
22 Fortymile Caribou Herd, has increased and there's other herds  
23 in the Western herd that has been overpopulating into other  
24 areas in the Western part, and I guess what I'll say -- out  
25 of only one herd in the whole Arctic region that dropped  
26 20,000 in one year and probably drop another 20,000 this year  
27 and.....

28  
29 MR. McCLELLAN: Well, I think caribou  
30 populations, to some extent, are cyclic. I guess -- I mean  
31 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd has gone through some  
32 significant increases and decreases over the last 20 years.  
33 Yeah, currently the Porcupine Caribou Herd, from the previous  
34 census and I think '96 it went from 158,000 to the last  
35 census in '98 down to approximately 129,000 animals and in  
36 the early '80s the population was like 100,000. And one  
37 thing the International Porcupine Board recommended is  
38 normally they do a population survey every three years and  
39 the Board recommended that they do a population survey two  
40 years, since the previous -- so this coming summer there'll  
41 be another survey done to estimate the population of the  
42 herd. And like I said, we'll get a new count this summer and  
43 see where the herd is.

44  
45 MR. L. TRITT: I have just one more comment  
46 there.

47  
48 MR. McCLELLAN: Uh-huh.

49

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Lincoln.

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1 MR. L. TRITT: You have Paul Williams there,  
2 you know, the more you use him the less research you'll need.

3  
4 MR. McCLELLAN: Yes, that's very true.

5  
6 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

9  
10 MR. GOOD: Just a quick comment along those  
11 lines. We found in the case of the Fortymile herd that bears  
12 -- when you're talking about the natural cycle, it's not just  
13 caribou predators are one of the very important factors in  
14 that cycle of the animals up and down. But we found that  
15 bears play a very powerful role early -- early just after  
16 calving and so forth, most of the animals begin to move,  
17 bears generally can no longer catch them but wolves play --  
18 move very strongly into play with the caribou and will follow  
19 the herds. And I can remember some accounts from Craig of a  
20 wolf can follow a group and can grab a calf, snap it by the  
21 neck, there's a dead calf and then move on to the next calf  
22 and can leave a string of calves in his wake, a single wolf.  
23 So if you're going to consider it you're going to have to  
24 really look at predators.

25  
26 MR. McCLELLAN: Uh-huh.

27  
28 MR. GOOD: End of comment.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more comments or  
31 questions? Okay, thank you.

32  
33 MR. McCLELLAN: Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I got a question here,  
36 Vince, what's this regional team report?

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that was just to  
39 give time, if we had anything to report on and I don't think  
40 the other team members have anything. There was discussion  
41 earlier this summer about giving some updates on some items  
42 but due to fisheries stuff we never got to it.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Can we hear from the Park  
45 Service?

46  
47 MR. MATHEWS: So the next one would be the  
48 National Park Service then.

49

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah.

00159

1 MR. MATHEWS: And you have two parks to  
2 address, Wrangell-St.Elias and Denali National Park, and you  
3 have representatives from both parks here.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Come on Hollis.

6  
7 MR. GOOD: We want Hollis. Oh, geez.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Oh, man.

10  
11 MR. GOOD: Maybe we don't want Hollis after  
12 all.

13  
14 (Laughter)

15  
16 MR. TWITCHELL: It's not too bad.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead Hollis.

19  
20 MR. TWITCHELL: Mr. Chair, Council  
21 members.....

22  
23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Could you guys quiet down  
24 in the back please.

25  
26 MR. TWITCHELL: Mr. Chair, Council members,  
27 Hollis Twitchell with Denali National Park. I only have two  
28 items that I wanted to bring before you, neither of them  
29 require any direct action on the part of the Council here  
30 today. Both of these you've heard about in the past.

31  
32 For the last two years we've off and on mentioned to  
33 this Council that we've been working with our subsistence  
34 resource commission to develop a subsistence management plan  
35 specifically for the Denali Park and Preserve area. The  
36 commission and the Park finished its work on it at our last  
37 meeting and so what I handed out to you today is a copy of  
38 what we consider the final draft of the plan for Denali,  
39 which really focuses in on hunting, trapping and gathering  
40 activities in the Park area. This plan is a component that  
41 was directed towards the Park to develop with our commission  
42 as a subsistence advisory commission. You'll see on the  
43 front page that it has comments requested by December 10th,  
44 1999 and then an address that's given on the bottom. If you,  
45 as individuals, would care to comment on the plan that's the  
46 address to send it to. I would say don't feel constrained in  
47 terms of the date that's on the plan, this is a living  
48 document. It's going to be evolving and changing every year  
49 as the commission picks up different topics and changes their

50 hunting plan program in Denali. So we'll entertain comments

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1 really at any time. The date on there is primarily to give  
2 the public at large, the State and other individuals a window  
3 to shoot for to get their comments to us. The commission  
4 will take up the plan again at their next meeting in February  
5 and any comments that they've received in this period,  
6 they'll try to incorporate and address in the plan itself.

7  
8 So again, it is very much a living document and the  
9 commission will be working on this every year as we deal with  
10 proposals for C&T and wildlife species and trapping and  
11 cabins and timber use and a full range of resource  
12 activities.

13  
14 I'm not planning to go through the plan at all today  
15 with you for obvious reasons.

16  
17 The second item I sent out to you is this subsistence  
18 user guide. It's another item that was developed  
19 specifically at the request of the commissions, Denali  
20 Subsistence Resource Commission. They were concerned that  
21 our local users are having such a hard time sorting through  
22 all of the laws and the regulations, the State and the  
23 Federal programs of what they can and can't do and when and  
24 where and how that they requested that we work with them to  
25 develop this guide, which is being mailed out to all of our  
26 local users in our communities and villages so that they all  
27 have something that's more of a condensed version to refer to  
28 and names and numbers and where to go to find further  
29 information. We consider this, again, a final version here  
30 although it, too, will change as the program evolves and we  
31 will republish it and re-send it out to our local users.

32  
33 Those were the only two topics I was bringing before  
34 you today. So if you have any specific questions towards  
35 Denali I will try to answer those.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Are there any questions for  
38 Hollis? Well, thank you, Hollis.

39  
40 MR. C. TRITT: These are very beautiful.

41  
42 MR. TWITCHELL: Well, hopefully the  
43 information in there will help yourselves. If there's Park  
44 specific issues, very often our regulations are a little bit  
45 different than the general Federal program, and that will  
46 give you an idea of what those are and hopefully you will  
47 find it useful, too.

48  
49 MR. C. TRITT: If you receive any complaints

50 from the subsistence user do you keep it or do you -- how do

00161

1 you respond to it?

2

3 MR. TWITCHELL: Well, our commission is  
4 pretty much made up of subsistence users from all around our  
5 communities. Five of our members are Alaska Native people of  
6 our nine member commission, the other four members are non-  
7 Native but they've been long time local subsistence users so  
8 they feel out what the issues and problems are going on in  
9 the various communities around Denali and bring it together  
10 to us, through the course of commission activities. So they  
11 very much have a sense and pulse for what's going on in and  
12 around our community. And through them is where we develop  
13 a lot of the programs and respond to proposals and make  
14 recommendations. So it's -- that's how it would come back to  
15 us, primarily through the members from those communities and  
16 certainly all our meetings are open to the public so any of  
17 yourselves or any local users attend the meetings and present  
18 information.

19

20 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, David.

21

22 MR. JAMES: I have one question, this is just  
23 more like a comment that I heard in the newspaper a few  
24 months ago, this guy got cited for transporting moose out of  
25 a national park with his dog team, is that -- is there a  
26 regulation that a person can't transport a moose out with his  
27 dog team?

28

29 MR. TWITCHELL: No. Certainly use of dog  
30 teams, snowmachines and motor boats, those ANILCA provisions  
31 are all applicable on the Denali Park and Preserve additions.  
32 So there's no restrictions in that sense. I am really not  
33 familiar with the issue you're talking about.

34

35 MR. GOOD: That had nothing to do with the  
36 Federal. That happened, I believe along the Denali Highway  
37 and it was the Department of Fish and Game instance in which  
38 somebody had voluntarily with their dog team helped somebody  
39 bring game meat out.....

40

41 MR. TWITCHELL: Okay.

42

43 MR. GOOD: .....an area and they were cited  
44 because the people gave them some money after they brought it  
45 out and it's apparently been -- have you heard of it?

46

47 MR. D. JAMES: They didn't have a transporter  
48 license.

49

MR. GOOD: Yeah, they didn't have a

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1 transporter's license. And because the people gave them some  
2 money just to be generous about it and I won't repeat names  
3 or anything like that but from my point of view I didn't  
4 think the Department looked very good on that one.

5

6 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you, Nat.

7

8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: From the Department's point  
9 of view, they didn't look to good on that either.

10

11 MR. TWITCHELL: I guess the confusion there  
12 is the Denali Highway goes from Cantwell to Paxton which is  
13 all outside of Denali National Park. The road that goes into  
14 Denali is known as the Kantishna Road or the Park's Road, so  
15 a different area.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

20

21 MR. MITCHELL: My name is Carl Mitchell, I'm  
22 the wildlife biologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.  
23 We don't have anything in particular to report. I know that  
24 breaks your heart. But if anybody's got any questions about  
25 anything I'll try and answer them.

26

27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think so it's  
30 clear to the agencies that we do appreciate them coming --  
31 that you appreciate them being here. Carl listens into the  
32 whole meeting and that helps him do his job so you have to be  
33 cautious as we try to accelerate here that you don't send a  
34 message to these that you don't want to hear from you. But  
35 the point is is that when they do attend these full meetings  
36 it is a lot of time out of their duties and they're usually  
37 here to help at any point on their expertise.

38

39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

40

41 MR. GOOD: My question is this, you know,  
42 along the Nabesna Road, that Nelchina herd will be passing  
43 through there, will there be a possibility of a subsistence  
44 hunt along that road this year?

45

46 MR. MITCHELL: No.

47

48 MR. GOOD: Yes, and I knew that was the  
49 answer.



00163

1 MR. MITCHELL: But just because there is  
2 that.....

3  
4 MR. GOOD: But I want to bring that out here.

5  
6 MR. MITCHELL: No, I don't see any  
7 opportunity for a subsistence hunt on caribou in Unit 11 in  
8 the immediate future. We've just started another piece of  
9 research on the Mentasta herd involving bull caribou which we  
10 talked about the other night. That may or may not lead to  
11 some changes in the current subsistence opportunities, we  
12 just have to wait and see where that goes.

13  
14 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

17  
18 MR. GOOD: As you do this are you  
19 extrapolating data on the Nelchina as opposed to the  
20 Mentasta?

21  
22 MR. MITCHELL: Well, we're comparing Nelchina  
23 and the Mentasta data. The circumstantial evidence right now  
24 suggests that the bulls are someplace other than in the  
25 middle of the Mentasta range or in the middle of the Nelchina  
26 range. We suspect that the bulls are shared between those  
27 two herds somehow.

28  
29 We're also going to be doing some genetic work which  
30 will confirm or deny that particular scenario. If it turns  
31 out that there are bulls available for harvest we can talk  
32 about reworking the Mentasta plan and try and make those  
33 bulls available. Right now we're using the information we've  
34 got and that suggests there should be no harvest. If we get  
35 better information from the science we're doing we'll change  
36 that.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more questions?

39  
40 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you very much.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you. Well, let's  
43 take a 10 minute break.

44  
45 (Off record)

46 (On record)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I guess we're at the annual  
49 report.



00164

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the annual  
2 reports under Tab E as in Evansville. I think the best way  
3 to address this is the first letter that you come to which is  
4 the response from the Federal Subsistence Board to your  
5 annual report last year. And I'll just highlight the issues  
6 or if you want you can look at them and then ask questions,  
7 it's up to you. I can highlight the four or five issues --  
8 five issues that you brought up.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We'll just go ahead and do  
11 it that way there, Vince.

12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The issue you asked was  
14 you requested the Federal Subsistence Board to set aside time  
15 during its meeting process to review Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service land protection plans. And specifically you asked  
17 for the Board to review the protection plan for Yukon Flats  
18 National Wildlife Refuge. Basically the response was that  
19 they applauded your interests in management plans and  
20 encouraged you to work with refuge Staff in your region on  
21 refuge land management plans, land protection plans. So  
22 basically the Board is referring to Yukon Flats National  
23 Wildlife Refuge, this specific request, and with the  
24 recommendation that the Regional Council and refuge Staff  
25 work cooperatively and directly with each other. So the  
26 outcome, really, to your request is the Board will not be  
27 reviewing land protection plans in its cycle. That is a land  
28 management planning process, that they encourage you to  
29 continue to look at plans and to work with your local.....

30  
31 MR. NICHOLIA: The other one.

32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: .....refuge, whatever, I have  
34 two of them. So does that make sense on that topic, because  
35 that was quite important to you at your past two meetings,  
36 three meetings. So the Board's response is encouraging you  
37 to work with the refuge Staff and to work cooperatively on  
38 that.

39  
40 Okay, if there are no questions I'll move to the next  
41 item. You should have gotten this in the mail if I remember  
42 correctly. But this next item is one that has been around  
43 for awhile and I'm sorry to be the one that carries the  
44 message again but basically the request to revisit the  
45 decision by the Secretary of Interior not to provide  
46 compensation for council members. The Board understands your  
47 concerns but the Secretary remains firm in his conviction  
48 that financial compensation beyond standard travel expenses  
49 would significantly alter the nature of citizen participation

50 would set a precedence and undermine the spirit of public

00165

1 service. In a nutshell, compensation is no, they want to  
2 protect you as being volunteers, and that's the concern.  
3 Again, there was other letters on this. You went ahead again  
4 requested it be revisited and this is where it's at at this  
5 moment.

6  
7 MR. NICHOLIA: Can I make a comment on that,  
8 just from me not for the Board or anything. I sit on a lot  
9 of commissions, boards, committees and stuff, and they're  
10 mostly for -- within the Tanana region, Doyon region, and do  
11 a lot of things, you know. I don't mean to sound  
12 discouraging to the other Board members but I feel that it's  
13 mostly like what the Secretary and what Harry Wilde told me  
14 in Alakanuk is that I volunteer my time to protect the  
15 children of my community and the elderly people for sticking  
16 up for our way of life so how we could help -- help them. If  
17 it takes some time out of my -- what I do, where I work, then  
18 that's just the time the commit for the volunteer for the  
19 people within my region.

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: If there's no other comments  
22 I'll go on to the next topic.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: The next topic you did discuss  
27 -- touch on different ways today. I didn't caution you, I  
28 would if you were in proposal review, you requested that the  
29 Board explore intensive management options when resources are  
30 threatened on public lands. The bottom line on that is in a  
31 sentence down below there, it says, manipulation of resource  
32 populations, however, is not within the purview of the Board.  
33 Basically they will not manipulate one population to increase  
34 the numbers of another population. So they're going to  
35 forward your request to the different agencies on their  
36 policies on intensive management or predator control. I've  
37 not received any response but again, this was sent out on  
38 August 9th or 19th, that's not that long ago. But I think  
39 you already know through your different actions that  
40 intensive management in the sense that you've portrayed it  
41 there it would be unlikely on different Federal lands.

42  
43 So anyways, what I meant about your discussion today  
44 on increasing the harvest of bears, et cetera, et cetera.  
45 When we get into proposal review, I'd have to advise you that  
46 it has to be based on subsistence uses and not on predator  
47 control. And Nat knows what I'm talking about, we've talked  
48 about this before. I just caution you in your justifications  
49 when you get to that.



00166

1           Okay, local involvement in management actions. You  
2 requested that you were -- well, you were in impressed with  
3 the Subsistence Resource Commissions and how they were able  
4 to give you information on Park Service lands. That you  
5 requested that similar commissions be established for Fish  
6 and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management. The  
7 Board does not have authority to direct establishing those.  
8 It's not part of their purview and they're going to refer  
9 your request to the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of  
10 Land Management to encourage them to evaluate a range of  
11 methods. And I think they heard you on that, the different  
12 agencies that were present here.

13  
14           The last one you did discuss today. You did receive  
15 a letter earlier from Tom Boyd, the director for the Office  
16 of Subsistence Management apologizing for the past editing  
17 years done with proposals. You had it in your annual report  
18 and again, the Board understands the need for accuracy, and  
19 the office is going to work closely with proposal originators  
20 to clarify the intent of each proposal and to take steps to  
21 protect the integrity of all proposals submitted. So your  
22 team here and others are going to be working on that. If it  
23 happens again, because it can happen when you translate, type  
24 in one from to another, please point that out as soon as you  
25 know that early in the process, if you do know it, that way  
26 we can get corrections made.

27  
28           So Mr. Chairman, those were the five topics. The  
29 Board met this summer to draft it's responses to the annual  
30 report. And the next letter or whatever you want to call it  
31 following the Board response is the actual copy of your 1998  
32 annual report.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Vince.

35  
36                   MR. MATHEWS: So that brings us up -- brought  
37 us through the 1998 report, is there any questions on that?

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN MILLER: Nope, go ahead.

40  
41                   MR. MATHEWS: Okay, seeing no questions, Mr.  
42 Chairman, now we're at the step of developing issues or  
43 topics for the 1999 report. The way we've done this in the  
44 past is at this meeting you would bring up ideas, topics, I,  
45 if you agree, would draft those up in a draft form, provide  
46 them to your Chair, he looks them over and says, this needs  
47 to change, that needs to be corrected or whatever, and then  
48 a draft report is back before you at your next meeting. So  
49 right now you would need to look at topics. And I do have

50 some listed here and some additional ones but I'd rather here

00167

1 from you first, of any topics. Generally they're topics  
2 beyond regulatory, you know, changing seasons and harvest  
3 limits and things like that. There are things that are more  
4 global or that cannot be addressed with changing of specific  
5 regulations.

6  
7 Oh, you're looking at me for topics, okay. All  
8 right, I'm going to jump to one that I think David brought up  
9 the other day and may want to talk a little bit more about is  
10 the muskrat concern. And I think what the muskrat concern is  
11 is that there's a decline in population and there doesn't  
12 seem to be any investigation looking into that. Now, the  
13 Board generally does not do research, we've already heard  
14 about that already. The part of theirs is to do regulatory  
15 and not to be a research branch or whatever. But it might be  
16 an annual report topic to bring up that you are concerned  
17 about the muskrat population and that you would press the  
18 Board to support some type of cooperative, I don't want to  
19 say, study, but some term similar to that, to look at the  
20 muskrat situation.

21  
22 MR. GOOD: Habitat changes, environmental on  
23 that line.

24  
25 MR. JAMES: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

26  
27 MR. MATHEWS: And then say -- now, the Board  
28 is obviously going to refer this to other agencies but you  
29 really respond to the Board, I mean you can respond to the  
30 agencies but your master, per se, in this process is the  
31 Board. So that would be a topic that you may want myself to  
32 look at or Chuck.

33  
34 MR. NICHOLIA: I have some comments on that.  
35 An elderly person from Minto asked me to say something on  
36 this Regional Council from when we were sitting in the Alaska  
37 Native Science Commission to do something to bring the  
38 muskrat back because him and his wife miss it, you know. On  
39 our annual report I'd like to request that -- the Board's  
40 approval that they get some funding from somewhere to do some  
41 studies in the Minto Flats and the Yukon Flats to protect a  
42 vital resource, subsistence resource, that is the muskrat  
43 because there is a lot of people within the Minto Flats and  
44 the Yukon Flats that do depend on that as a subsistence food.

45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: Is that a comprehensive.....

47  
48 MR. NICHOLIA: Comprehensive study just to  
49 see what the effects are. I've been hearing some things that

50 their immune system is just not up to par to what's in the

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1 river and what's going on across the land. But I want more  
2 studies done that will see what the real effects are, is the  
3 water levels going down or something. To find out what's  
4 really happening or taking one subsistence food away if we're  
5 going to be a subsistence resource, I mean whatever, to make  
6 -- to let them know that we are very concerned for the people  
7 within the Minto Flats and the Yukon Flats that their  
8 subsistence resources are disappearing or being depleted  
9 somehow.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So then I take by  
12 consensus here that that will be a topic that we will go  
13 forward with.

14  
15 MR. NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, another topic that I just  
18 noted here that does not have to be here is the booklet art  
19 work concept. There's two ways we can go with that, is  
20 resend the earlier letter and ask for a response or put in  
21 the annual report and ask the Board to look at it. If you  
22 still want to go through with that idea of having a change in  
23 the art work to be more reflective across the state, and I  
24 need to note that that was mainly a concern by Craig Fleener  
25 that was bringing that up, and he's not present here to  
26 explain why he wanted that.

27  
28 MR. NICHOLIA: I think what he said when we  
29 were talking about it at the last meeting we were at, is  
30 that, it only reflects a few Native groups within Alaska, and  
31 that there is 10 regional advisory councils and it should  
32 reflect all people and all use groups -- subsistence use  
33 groups within Alaska. And what we were talking about at that  
34 time, I think, is it has a picture of the state of Alaska,  
35 with Yupik, that they harvest animals, that they harvest the  
36 Coast, the Bering Sea Coast, Southeast Indians and the  
37 Interior Indians, that depicts -- that shows them what they  
38 harvest and what they eat as a subsistence user, I think  
39 that's what we were talking about in Delta.

40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: The idea that went forward to  
42 Mr. Boyd was that there be some kind of contest, for lack of  
43 a better term, that there be some kind of announcement, that  
44 if people want to submit line drawings that they would submit  
45 them and then that the 10 Chairs when they meet before the  
46 spring meeting would select one of those drawings, and then  
47 that drawing then would be incorporated into the book. And  
48 that's what went to Tom Boyd, this other was not presented.  
49 Would you want that in the annual report or just a reissuing

50 of the letter? The annual report goes before all the five

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1 agencies.

2

3 MR. NICHOLIA: In the annual report.

4

5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Reissue the letter one more  
6 time?

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: I would kind of recommend the  
9 letter, reissuing would probably be better.

10

11 Okay, other topics, I think you already covered the  
12 topic of which way you were going to go with drainage and so  
13 I don't know if that needs to be in the annual report. I  
14 don't know of any other annual report topics that you would  
15 want to address.

16

17 MR. NICHOLIA: I'd like to make one request.  
18 I heard that the Eastern and Western is going to meet  
19 sometime to do some kind of study for along the Yukon River  
20 in the near future or something like that?

21

22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That was the fisheries  
23 issue when we were talking about.....

24

25 MR. NICHOLIA: The fishery thing? And I was  
26 just wondering in the sense if it's going to be along the  
27 Yukon why not invite the YK-Delta to that meeting.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: I'm a bit confused here. I  
30 think what you're saying and correct me if I'm wrong but that  
31 you're hearing rumors about a joint meeting between Eastern  
32 and Western Interior, maybe the next time and at that time  
33 talk about Yukon River, and that you're suggesting that all  
34 three councils meet. One of the components of that training  
35 session that Ida presented was that there would be ample  
36 opportunity. I'm not against this idea, I'm just saying that  
37 in January or whenever that date is there will be opportunity  
38 for the three councils to meet. And I think it's fair to say  
39 that that will not be an official meeting so you're not going  
40 to be recorded, Salena's over there, not going to get it all  
41 down on tape, which means you may be able to dialogue a  
42 little bit more during those caucuses, so you will have  
43 opportunity then. I'll leave it at that.

44

45 MR. NICHOLIA: Since it's along the Yukon  
46 River, could we, at that meeting or whatever, in January,  
47 could we sit down together and hash things out from the  
48 beginning instead of trying to work around each other or  
49 toward each other, just start off one -- in the same stride,

50 same step?

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, there should be ample  
2 opportunity to do that and I'm projecting that you will be  
3 caucusing several times, not maybe with all three councils,  
4 but with a combination of less than three, several times  
5 because the first time you meet there'll be things that  
6 you'll need to clarify and then we're going to need to do  
7 smaller caucuses. I really envision it that way and I'm  
8 going to try to work very hard that those times are  
9 maximized. We've done it with Western Interior quite a bit  
10 with Y-K and it's been quite successful, just even over phone  
11 lines. But does that meet your need, Gerald, your request  
12 that the January training would provide that? I'm not.....

13  
14 MR. NICHOLIA: One of my main reasons that  
15 I'm saying that is I just want to be -- voted into the YR DFA  
16 board, they almost got me in there and I'm already on enough  
17 deals.

18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

20  
21 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

24  
25 MR. GOOD: While we are talking about that  
26 meeting, I think we should also note that Chuck and I should  
27 probably spend some time with Southcentral as well.

28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

30  
31 MR. GOOD: Yeah.

32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: You guys are a land-lock, and  
34 when you're a land-lock council you've got councils  
35 surrounding you. And we haven't had an issue with North  
36 Slope in awhile but we did awhile ago and we worked through  
37 that, so, yeah, you have taken the lead on that in working  
38 with other councils, and the Board has been appreciative of  
39 that. Mitch Demientieff, I think, made it clear on the  
40 record at the last meeting he was extremely appreciative that  
41 the councils worked this out before they got to the Board.  
42 So any other topics for annual report.

43  
44 MR. L. TRITT: Is there anybody from BLM  
45 still here? Yeah, is there any way that you can get research  
46 grants or whatever to check out all these drying lakes that  
47 are drying up and all that stuff? My interest is to learn  
48 how intensive it is.

49

MS. GRONQUIST: Your question is is there any

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1 way for BLM to help support some sort of research into  
2 what's.....

3  
4 MR. L. TRITT: Well, they can do it  
5 themselves or whatever?

6  
7 MS. GRONQUIST: Or do it themselves?

8  
9 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah. It's just that we have  
10 all these lakes that are drying up and all these creeks that  
11 are going haywire.

12  
13 MS. GRONQUIST: Yeah, I've made a note during  
14 the discussion of the concern, where are you thinking about  
15 specifically?

16  
17 MR. L. TRITT: Well, probably in the whole  
18 region, see how intensive it is. Because we're not just  
19 talking about what's happening here, it's happening in Arctic  
20 and other places.

21  
22 MS. GRONQUIST: And probably down around  
23 Tetlin, too?

24  
25 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah. I think that's serious,  
26 you know, to be addressed on how that's having an affect on  
27 animals.

28  
29 MR. SILAS: Yeah, Minto, we just done a study  
30 here and these lakes drying up are really affecting the fish.  
31 Because in the winter they go into the mud. The water's not  
32 deep enough to -- the mud -- they're hibernating -- it's sort  
33 of a hibernating range there. And because they're not deep  
34 enough the black fish is dying off in there, they're  
35 freezing. And I think there was a study done by Pete  
36 Sheppard on Minto Flats awhile back, if you're familiar with  
37 that, and that shows that the river -- what I'm getting --  
38 what I got out of that was that the river, the Tanana River  
39 is moving north slowly, you know, from a long time -- and I  
40 think, you know, the study was done to that effect, of why  
41 it's drying out. Because the lake and Minto is sitting at  
42 the north end of the Flats there, and if Tanana River is  
43 steadily moving northward there then there should be water  
44 back in there instead of it drying out.

45  
46 MS. GRONQUIST: Yeah, I think we've got some  
47 things definitely to look at and probably on a pretty broad  
48 scale involving some of the other land managers.

49

MR. SILAS: Thank you.

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1 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

4  
5 MR. GOOD: BLM or just who might be involved  
6 in checking the condition of the underground aquifer? I mean  
7 the water has to come up as well, is it dropping?

8  
9 MS. GRONQUIST: Well, I'm not a hydrologist.

10  
11 MR. GOOD: Or who might know?

12  
13 MS. GRONQUIST: I wish I had some insight.  
14 But we do have a staff of hydrologist as -- and I am going to  
15 talk to some of them as well as some of the other folks who  
16 would be the experts on that from other agencies and start  
17 trying to get some answers.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think, you know, Fish  
22 and Wildlife Service, since the original discussion was from  
23 Lincoln, there is the branch of ecological services that  
24 deals with water quality and contaminants and et cetera, so  
25 I don't know BLMs interplay with that. But the question was,  
26 I believe, on Arctic Village or was it not? Was it more  
27 Arctic Village or the whole region, Lincoln?

28  
29 MR. L. TRITT: The whole region, yes.

30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: The whole region?

32  
33 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, that's nature.

34  
35 MS. GRONQUIST: I think we all need to work  
36 together on this one.

37  
38 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, a lot of times we don't  
39 get that much snow and the snow itself acts as a blanket for  
40 those hibernating animals, you know, so you need to keep  
41 track of how much snow, you know.

42  
43 MS. GRONQUIST: And how deep the ice is.

44  
45 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah.

46  
47 MS. GRONQUIST: A lot of things are probably  
48 coming into play.

49

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, moving on.

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1 MR. MATHEWS: So is that to be a topic to be  
2 looked at to the Board or I was hoping it would be this way  
3 but -- the record should indicate that they, by consensus,  
4 would like to look at the hydrology for the Eastern Interior  
5 Region.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You know, even if it's  
8 just, you know, informational, something like, you know, if  
9 there is a problem up there and we're becoming aware of the  
10 problem.

11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Lee.

15  
16 MR. L. TITUS: One of the questions -- I mean  
17 the issue is, muskrats was one of the issues that was brought  
18 up, I guess. And in the Minto Flats management area, I know  
19 for a fact that history has a lot to -- had a lot to do with  
20 the desecration of the land. There's a little gold stream  
21 and a big gold stream that originates from the Fox area on  
22 Fairbanks and it goes through the mountains and it flows out  
23 to the Minto Flats area. And these two streams flow into the  
24 Chatnega, and the confluence of all these rivers have a great  
25 deal of effect on the muskrat population in the Minto Flats.  
26 Mostly due to the mining industry back in the '50s and early  
27 -- the early 1900s when up in the Fox area and Chatnega area  
28 they were using high pressure hoses to get the gold out. And  
29 one of the concerns, I remember, about 10 years ago, in the  
30 Birch Creek area was the mining activity that was happening  
31 in the village -- the Birch Creek area on the quality and  
32 water that was produced by these mining companies. And to  
33 see -- you know, I know there's a lot of laws now about water  
34 quality and all this kind of stuff when you get into the  
35 mining operations, but history has a lot to do with decline  
36 and population of muskrats in Minto Flats area.

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that's -- unless there's  
39 other topics we can go ahead with those and realize that at  
40 the next meeting that you might come up with some others but  
41 then that doesn't allow for full council review, generally,  
42 the actual final language. But I think Gerald might have  
43 something else.

44  
45 MR. NICHOLIA: Well, it's what me and Craig  
46 worked out about intense management options where the Board  
47 said manipulation of resource populations, however, is not  
48 within the purview of your Board. Well, if this manipulation  
49 of resources to protect one resource is to protect a

50 subsistence need of the subsistence user, I think that that

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1 gives it, right there, that just gives it intensive  
2 management option -- gives anybody that -- who is going to do  
3 the management of that intensiveness, that's the reason right  
4 there. That if the subsistence uses are not being met  
5 because of another resource, predation, it's -- that's just  
6 eating too fast or anything, that should be the driving force  
7 to do intensive management options. Because there's too many  
8 times that this cycle is too long for some -- something to be  
9 done in that two years, where it should be done in one year.  
10 I think we stressed this point really -- I mean Craig really  
11 stressed this point to this Board and to this Federal  
12 Subsistence, is that if we wait too long there might be no --  
13 there might be no going back or it might be too late to save  
14 it. And like in the Tanana area, we're being overrun by  
15 sports people, big time, you know. If we wait for two years  
16 there might be no more black bears around there or nothing.

17  
18  
19 And why I'm saying this now is because in two years  
20 of regulatory cycle is that I sure hate to mention this about  
21 sport people but they sure left a lot of moose meat around  
22 Tanana and in the river. And I'd like to put this on record  
23 at this meeting and that's when the water dropped and we were  
24 going down spending the last days in the hunting season we  
25 see practically just whole moose somewhere in the river, and  
26 there's 10 spots that I could have people vouch for by  
27 affidavits that they seen that same meat in the river. And  
28 it's just come -- it just comes down to the same thing,  
29 there's too much want for the actual need that's there. I  
30 mean you could plastic horns or get whatever else and hang  
31 them up on your wall, that's what I think about that sports  
32 deal. Yeah, they say they bring back to Fairbanks and stuff  
33 and throw it in the river and you probably go to Fairbanks  
34 and in the dumpsters right now you'll probably see moose meat  
35 in there, too. I mean we really -- we try really hard to get  
36 our moose this winter for our community, a lot of us was out  
37 there and just very few of us got anything. You know, I sure  
38 hate to see other areas in this region face that. But my  
39 really problem to do about that is this Eastern Interior  
40 boundary is right up around the Tanana, and I really  
41 appreciate Federal Subsistence Program to allow Tanana and a  
42 representative to go to this Western Interior because I  
43 really have something to tell them, too.

44  
45 What I would really like is an intensive management  
46 option to be put in the annual report to say that if it  
47 affects -- if one species affects on subsistence resource so  
48 bad that should be authority enough to do intensive  
49 management to protect the subsistence needs of the

50 subsistence user.

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ida.

2  
3 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff  
4 Committee member. In reference to Gerald's comments, I agree  
5 with what you're saying. And certainly this topic can be  
6 readdressed in the annual report, however, I would suggest  
7 that before you decide how you're going to word that in your  
8 annual report you await the training session because on Day  
9 2, under conflict methods and procedures for resolution,  
10 those kinds of topics will be addressed. And perhaps after  
11 that training session you will be able to formulate exactly  
12 what you would recommend to the Board. And that is a concern  
13 expressed by many regional councils, is what do we do before  
14 we get to .804 situations and what do we do about user  
15 conflicts and all the other. And that would be a good to air  
16 those concerns, to ask questions about them and to learn some  
17 procedures, what other people have tried and what's working  
18 and not working.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So are we done with the  
21 annual report?

22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: Uh-huh.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, subsistence issues,  
26 review and proposal generation.

27  
28 MR. MATHEWS: I can address the first part of  
29 that real quick. It's what's called, .805 letter, it's under  
30 Tab F and I'll try to be as brief as possible on it. You did  
31 receive this in the mail. This is the response by statute,  
32 if I'm correct, if the Secretary who has now delegated his  
33 authority to the Federal Subsistence Board rejects one of  
34 your recommendations based on the fact that it may have  
35 violated recognized principles of wildlife conservation, it  
36 may not be based on substantial fact or was detrimental to  
37 subsistence, he has to put in writing why he rejected your  
38 recommendation. This is a response from the Board.  
39 Basically most of your proposals are passed by consent  
40 agenda. And so in the essence of saving time I won't go  
41 through all those proposals again that you've had in the  
42 mail. But I do want to point out, and maybe others, if I've  
43 missed them, there were two proposals that they did not go  
44 with your recommendation. One, Pete's going to talk about in  
45 a minute or so is the proposal to not require evidence of sex  
46 for moose in 11 and 13, so I won't belabor that it's coming  
47 up. The other one was your request that all 1344 permittees  
48 be granted a positive C&T determination. The Board, by legal  
49 counsel, felt that was not allowable. And if you want a

50 little more detail on that it's on Page 6 and it's pretty

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1 well laid out there, their policy. And if you do have  
2 questions on that I think it would be best to talk -- unless  
3 the full Council wants to, talk in private on that with  
4 representatives from the Park Service on that.

5  
6 But basically those are the two that I could see  
7 where the Board did not, by consent agenda or by other ways,  
8 support your recommendations.

9  
10 Okay, so that's the .805 letter, which brings us up  
11 to the next part. And it is important, and I hate  
12 downplaying it because it's an important response that they  
13 have to give a written response and I don't want you ever to  
14 forget that. Because as we get busy, you know, it's  
15 important you have it in writing.

16  
17 The next one is the ones that were deferred before us  
18 and that brings us up to Proposal 15. And you should have in  
19 your book somewhere the information on that.

20  
21 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 15 you'll  
22 find on Page 7. Again, Proposal 15 you'll find in your book,  
23 Tab G, Page 7. And this proposal was submitted by Copper  
24 River Native Association and it was a request to modify a  
25 general regulation that specifically will eliminate the  
26 requirement that portions of the external sex organs remain  
27 attached to the carcass of the moose and that's for Units 11  
28 and 13. And I briefed you on the analysis back at the last  
29 meeting at Delta Junction, and you agreed that this  
30 requirement should be eliminated. Southcentral gave the same  
31 recommendation to the Board. The Board, hearing this,  
32 decided that this type of a proposal as state wide  
33 ramifications. And the Board's approach to it is that we  
34 need to fall back and write another analysis to see how this  
35 could affect state wide and also in other units, and also  
36 looking to if this should be expanded to other species as  
37 well. In other words, other ungulates. So the point is, I  
38 guess, another analysis will be written this winter and  
39 you'll get a chance to review it by your next meeting. At  
40 that time you'll have a chance to make another  
41 recommendation.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, any questions for  
44 Pete? Thank you, Pete.

45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: I have no -- we're looking at  
47 some documents here that -- this has become a state wide  
48 issue and I don't know if we need to ask the questions.

49

MR. DeMATTEO: If you look at Tab G, there is

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1 a document there that's called the regional advisory council  
2 issue inquiry. And basically this is the approach that the  
3 program is taking in asking the necessary questions of the  
4 this issue. And if you look at it there's a brief discussion  
5 on the front which caps what I just briefed you on. And then  
6 there's some questions we'll be looking at. The first one,  
7 why has this regulation been opposed in the past and present?  
8 And the analysis will also cover, why keep the regulation in  
9 place? And what were the -- what we are asking of the  
10 regional councils, I guess I need further clarification --  
11 were these questions that they need to make comment on now  
12 or.....

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, my understanding is that  
15 they were going to ask all 10 regional councils now but I'm  
16 not sure of that. The questions on Page 3 of that document.  
17 I don't know.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I think our stand has been  
20 pretty much the same on this issue. So whether we answer  
21 these questions or not it's still the same.

22  
23 MR. SHERROD: Please state your stand.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Ida.

26  
27 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff  
28 Committee member. As I recall this Council said they found  
29 it culturally offensive and were opposed to the regulations.  
30 However, the Board did ask the Council to reconsider -- not  
31 to change your mind but to reconsider the issue, the  
32 regulations were to protect cows. And for the sake of  
33 brevity, this same question was raised to the Kodiak Aleutian  
34 Council and their recommendations, they also found it  
35 culturally offensive but they recommended that the genitals  
36 be cut off and placed in a bag and that bag be presented to  
37 whoever the law enforcement agency was.

38  
39 MR. L. TRITT: Before they issue the license,  
40 can't they just teach them the difference between a bull and  
41 a cow?

42  
43 MR. GOOD: Another bag to carry. Mr.  
44 Chairman.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

47  
48 MR. GOOD: We keep hearing about genetics.  
49 And I don't know how difficult genetic tests are but if they

50 really have a question on enforcement, if they have a little

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1 bit of blood, cows have two X chromosomes, no Ys, I think  
2 they could really find that answer out rather quickly,  
3 couldn't they?

4  
5 MR. DeMATTEO: That's a very expensive test.  
6 It's not something that could be done on site, it has to be  
7 sent to the lab. To answer your question, yes, it could be  
8 done.

9  
10 MR. NICHOLIA: And just don't think I'm silly  
11 or nothing, but women do this one test to see if they're  
12 pregnant in what, 10 seconds, 15 seconds, could you just  
13 stick a little thing in there and get the answer.

14  
15 MR. GOOD: The cow is pregnant.

16  
17 MR. DeMATTEO: I really don't know.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Did you want us to answer  
20 these questions, Vince?

21  
22 MR. MATHEWS: I think you've answered them,  
23 that you're supporting your previous position. And the  
24 analysis will be back before you. This is going to be a  
25 state wide public proposal. I think at that time you'll be  
26 asked these questions again. Law enforcement has grave  
27 concerns about the elimination of this so they will be able  
28 to mount their case at that time.

29  
30 MR. SILAS: Mr. Chairman.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Knowland.

33  
34 MR. SILAS: When we're tracking moose we look  
35 at the tracks. Cow moose has a sharp track and bull has a  
36 round. Why can't you just look at their feet.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, leave the hoofs  
39 attached.

40  
41 MR. SILAS: Right.

42  
43 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, that's right.

44  
45 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

46  
47 MR. NICHOLIA: He's very much right about  
48 that, round ones and the sharp ones.

49

MR. SILAS: That way you save the meat from

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1 being tainted if it's during the rut season.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

4

5 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, in most animals they  
6 can tell the difference between pelvic bones, too, and the  
7 pelvic bones generally come out with meat on them.

8

9 MR. NICHOLIA: I just don't believe in  
10 leaving -- it goes back to traditional knowledge. I just  
11 don't believe -- my grandfather and my dad never taught me  
12 how to hunt in this fashion. I mean leaving the sex organs  
13 on the meat is just ridiculous. It's another way for Federal  
14 agencies to manipulate the hunters or the user groups, you  
15 know. If they are really adamant to do this or something,  
16 it's -- they should come up with another way and maybe what  
17 I mentioned earlier is one way but I think they should -- if  
18 they can't tell by the hoofs what the male -- if it's male or  
19 female, then I'd say this just from my point of view, what  
20 I'm saying, not these guys, is that, they might not even know  
21 what they're doing.

22

23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, George.

24

25 MR. SHERROD: It might be worthwhile since  
26 this is being expanded and this was not part of the  
27 discussion last time, this is just as an example, in Unit 20,  
28 there's a requirement for black bear, the sex organs be  
29 maintained even though there's no closure of shooting females  
30 unless they're with a cub. Is it the, I guess, consensus or  
31 desire of this group that this prohibition be applied -- that  
32 this policy of not requiring sex organs go beyond moose?

33

34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there a reason for that  
35 with the black bear?

36

37 MR. SHERROD: I have no idea, I don't know.  
38 But I mean if you said that now that would perhaps expand the  
39 analysis to insure that it also covered bear, caribou and  
40 whatever so that when the proposal that comes back to you in  
41 the fall is not simply limited to moose when this issue comes  
42 up in the future.

43

44 MR. NICHOLIA: It just galls me to say that  
45 what reproduces the animals, leave it on there. We take it  
46 off because of the respect of animal, and we do certain  
47 things with those organs that only Athabaskan people and a  
48 few other people know about, with respect for that animal.  
49 And if you don't respect that animal and you just abuse it,

50 it's not going to come back. That's what my grandpa told me.

00180

1           And if you guys say you want to adopt and involve  
2 traditional knowledge, well, doing it like this, that ain't  
3 traditional knowledge to me. That's just disrespecting my  
4 culture and traditions.

5  
6           MR. C. TRITT: I just want to comment.

7  
8           CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Calvin.

9  
10          MR. C. TRITT: Traditionally, we simply just  
11 don't do it. And like I said a little while ago, that, we,  
12 as a Native people, have to keep tradition alive other -- if  
13 we don't then a little bit -- this kind of thing will keep  
14 coming up and eventually will go to something bigger.

15  
16          The bull, the reason we take it out is because we try  
17 and save the meat. It's as simple as that. And respect is  
18 -- it's a very big issue in our Native community. We have to  
19 have respect for the animals that we hunt. We've got to  
20 carry on the tradition to our kids so in the future we would  
21 work better with our animal friends. And we must never treat  
22 animals and disrespect animals. That's one of my main  
23 issues.

24  
25          CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there anything else on  
26 that, Pete?

27  
28          MR. DeMATTEO: I see I'm supposed to read  
29 something to you. Is this mic on?

30  
31          REPORTER: Yes.

32  
33          MR. DeMATTEO: I'll read these considerations  
34 here. It says, cows are protected in unstable or otherwise  
35 weak local moose populations by providing a means to ensure  
36 compliance with bull-only harvest regulations. Number 2, it  
37 provides the option for subsistence hunters to leave the  
38 anglers in the field. Number 3, the winter subsistence  
39 harvest of antlerless bulls can be monitored. And number 4,  
40 Federal regulations are currently consistent with State  
41 regulations, which simplifies requirements for moose hunters,  
42 whether they are hunting on State of Federal lands.

43  
44          With those four things in mind, you answered the  
45 first question which is, can you suggest alternative methods  
46 of determining the sex of the animal, you have suggested  
47 three or four ways. The second thing is, should this  
48 regulation be changed on a state wide basis or should it  
49 remain as a regional issue? I think you voiced your opinion

50 on that quite well. Number 3, would it be a problem for

00181

1 local subsistence users if this requirement were eliminated  
2 in the Federal subsistence regulations but left in place in  
3 the State regulations?

4

5 MR. NICHOLIA: I believe it would.

6

7 MR. C. TRITT: Yes.

8

9 MR. NICHOLIA: Because we'll have conflicting  
10 regulations and that's one of this -- this Board's really  
11 stressed about this Federal and State regulations, that we  
12 don't really like to make conflicting regulations when you  
13 cross the line from one jurisdiction to the next. I think  
14 from the last meetings we've pretty much stressed that. And  
15 if this argument is coming from the State side, well, I think  
16 the State better buckle down their advisory council meetings  
17 and listen to the traditional knowledge more than just to go  
18 around and around -- well, I don't want to talk about it.  
19 But you could get my point there.

20

21 MR. DeMATTEO: The fourth one would be, if  
22 hearing where your stance is on this, if no viable  
23 alternatives are proposed, would you be willing to give up  
24 the opportunity to harvest antlerless bulls in the winter in  
25 certain areas to protect the local weak moose populations as  
26 a trade off for eliminating this regulation state wide?

27

28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: What was that again, Pete?  
29 No, kidding.

30

31 MR. NICHOLIA: We've answered all these four  
32 questions. Just leave the hoof attachment to the front  
33 shoulders, that's an answer. And if there's more or less  
34 weak moose population in the area, I think the State  
35 regulations as a subsistence priority and so does the Federal  
36 has a rural priority, and I think that should be implemented  
37 in something -- to put out something as drastic as this. I  
38 mean did they incorporate traditional knowledge or have a  
39 whole slew of public input before they implemented something  
40 -- a law like this? If you talk to people around Tanana or  
41 a few elders around there they'll just say are they going to  
42 check every boat and every hunter in every -- each and every  
43 remote place in Alaska? Are they going to?

44

45 And we thought we were taking care of something then  
46 but it just looks like, to me, like it could have taken care  
47 of in this region and just because the State and the Feds  
48 are, I don't know, at it or working along together, does that  
49 change -- just to change one little regulation to -- to save

50 the meat from spoiling is, I don't know, maybe we're just

00182

1 dragging this too far out of line.

2

3 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

6

7 MR. GOOD: I think the answer to number 4 is  
8 no. And whether a bull has antlers or not, people who have  
9 been around moose can tell a bull from a cow and they don't  
10 have to see the sex organs to do it. They're simply not  
11 built the same. If you can see the front shoulders, the body  
12 of the animals, you can tell the difference between the bull  
13 and the cow. And if it was a bull -- if they want to go to  
14 the end of the animal, are they going to ask us to bring the  
15 head out. You know, it has the stubs and the skull, too, you  
16 know, where the antlers were. And if they really think that  
17 we've cheated we can take them back and show them where the  
18 animal was killed, they can look at that head.

19

20 But actually I think Gerald has a real good point  
21 there. In all the years I've hunted I have never been  
22 stopped by anybody to look at any animal that I've taken. So  
23 how much of this -- considering the number of animals brought  
24 in, how many are actually checked?

25

26 MR. DeMATTEO: We have -- it varies in the  
27 state, we have mandatory moose hunter check stations and  
28 every animal is checked.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MR. GOOD: Now, that's possible in Anchorage,  
33 maybe.

34

35 MR. DeMATTEO: No in the bush. So for the  
36 record, you're saying the Council would not be willing to  
37 support giving up cow harvest in the winter time?

38

39 MR. GOOD: No.

40

41 MR. DeMATTEO: Okay, thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, now, we're done with  
44 that one.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us up  
47 to the proposals today, and we did get some proposals. I  
48 think Pete passed out copies and will talk about them.

49 Remember you don't have to pass recommendations now, you can,

50 but this is just to give you kind of a heads up, and then

00183

1 you'll get full analysis next meeting.

2

3 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman -- oh, you're going  
4 to speak on these now?

5

6 MR. DeMATTEO: Yeah, whenever you're ready.

7

8 MR. GOOD: I'll wait.

9

10 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, I passed out  
11 yesterday, three pages of copies of proposals that were  
12 submitted by the Paxton Fish and Game Advisory Committee.  
13 The first one was Unit 13 caribou and this proposal requests  
14 two things, that the harvest limit in the Federal regulations  
15 be reduced from two caribou to one caribou, and the second  
16 change would be to eliminate the October 21 through March  
17 31st season. So there would just be the fall season, August  
18 25th through September 20. My copy is sort of faded but I  
19 think it's also a season change as well of September -- or  
20 August 10 through September 30 season to August 25 to  
21 September 20th. So the season would start 15 days later and  
22 end 10 days sooner, earlier. And again the October 21  
23 through March 31st season would be eliminated altogether.

24

25 Again, for these three proposals analysis will be  
26 written and you'll have a chance to review them at your next  
27 meeting.

28

29 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

32

33 MR. GOOD: These three proposals, I would  
34 assume are actually being submitted as well to Southcentral,  
35 and as they deal with Unit 13 it's really Southcentral. And  
36 I would suggest that either myself, and I'd be willing to  
37 volunteer or yourself, write up a response to them to give to  
38 the Staff to work on the analysis. I am quite certain that  
39 we will reject all three of these proposals and I would be  
40 happy to supply the Staff with some reasons for doing so.

41

42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Of course at a later date.

43

44 MR. GOOD: Yeah, probably tonight.

45

46 MR. DeMATTEO: Okay, well, Mr. Chair, hearing  
47 that, the second proposal, again, submitted by Paxton Fish  
48 and Game Advisory Committee, Unit 13 sheep. And this  
49 proposal requests a change in a horn size restriction from

50 seven-eighth curl to a full curl. The season would remain

00184

1 the same.

2

3 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chair, again, the same thing  
4 for that one.

5

6 MR. DeMATTEO: So noted.

7

8 MR. GOOD: And ptarmigan.

9

10 MR. DeMATTEO: The third one, Unit 13,  
11 ptarmigan. This request would be to lesson the harvest limit  
12 from 20 per day 40 in possession to 10 per day 20 in  
13 possession. The season would remain the same.

14

15 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, I'd volunteer to do  
16 the same on that, too.

17

18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: It's all yours Nat.

19

20 MR. DeMATTEO: I'll work with Nat.

21

22 MR. GOOD: Okay.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, maybe you want to  
25 ask if others have any other proposals? What we mean by  
26 proposals is they don't have to be written down, that you  
27 have a concern about a season, harvest, methods or means or  
28 something like that. It doesn't have to be in writing.  
29 There may be somebody here that has some. Most of the people  
30 who have been here have been involved in the process and know  
31 that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any proposals from  
34 the public that they'd like us to hear?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

37

38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I guess not.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: We had down here, review the  
41 Alaska Board of Game call for proposals but I don't know,  
42 each of you, individually, could be involved with that. That  
43 issue, I'm not putting off, because when we discuss the next  
44 meeting, I will remind you of the dates of the Board of Game  
45 meeting. Because all of you should be receiving in the mail  
46 the call for proposals from the Board of Game, I believe.

47

48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

49

MR. NICHOLIA: I think it's October 29th is

00185

1 the deadline on it.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Their deadline is December  
4 10th, if I'm correct, I don't know -- right? Ours is  
5 November 5th, I think their's is December 10th. It's  
6 December something is their call for proposals for the Board  
7 of Game. I'm just not sure if it's the 10th.

8

9 Okay, the next item, if you desire, you do not have  
10 to is potential proposals to align with State regulations,  
11 it's on the agenda. You have, for what, two years and maybe  
12 even more, have aligned proposals -- put in alignment  
13 proposals when the State seasons are more liberal not just to  
14 align them just to make sure there's less paper, it was  
15 because of a subsistence need. So with that, you know,  
16 Pete's looked into that.

17

18 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes or no?

19

20 MR. GOOD: I thought we lined everything up  
21 already.

22

23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, those proposals that  
24 we talked about earlier, in realigning them with the State  
25 proposals that we cut in the Federal -- isn't that the  
26 one.....

27

28 MR. DeMATTEO: For the record there are two.  
29 And Unit 25(A), there's no brown bear season Federal  
30 regulations but there's one on the State side, okay, same  
31 thing for Unit 25(B) and (C), again, there's no Federal  
32 regulation -- or not Federal season for brown bear but there  
33 is a State season. I need to know from the Council rural  
34 hunters who hunt brown bear in this area, does this present  
35 a problem as far as opportunity?

36

37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Doesn't there have to be a  
38 C&T for brown bear in the area?

39

40 MR. DeMATTEO: Correct.

41

42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Which there is none right  
43 now?

44

45 MR. DeMATTEO: Correct. If you felt that we  
46 needed a Federal season, the first thing you would have to --  
47 the Board would have to grant a C&T first for those  
48 communities. And then a subsequent proposal that would ask  
49 for a season.



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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, and which community  
2 are we speaking about now?

3  
4 MR. GOOD: None.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: None?

7  
8 MR. DeMATTEO: That I don't know because  
9 there's.....

10  
11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: No one's asked for this  
12 yet?

13  
14 MR. DeMATTEO: Correct.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, well, let's just  
17 leave it alone until someone asks for it.

18  
19 MR. DeMATTEO: But in keeping with your  
20 request for Staff to track the areas where we have more  
21 restrictive regulations than the State, this is the report  
22 for you.

23  
24 MR. NICHOLIA: Well, I don't see how we're  
25 always protecting the subsistence resource where we can't  
26 protect the subsistence user. You know the subsistence user  
27 are the ones that use that resource. They may not use it but  
28 they're going to have to -- on Federal lands -- I don't know  
29 if there is a regulation to allow them -- for them to protect  
30 life or limb or property or the resources they put away. And  
31 there should be some in these Federal regulations that would  
32 allow them just to get rid of those big animals. Because  
33 they're the main cause that's causing the moose decline.  
34 There should be proposals and that to get rid of the black  
35 bears because of the moose decline.

36  
37 That's just brings it back to that intensive option.  
38 There's got to be a better avenue for these people to protect  
39 one resource while getting rid of another resource to protect  
40 that first resource. And I don't see why not it could be  
41 done now until -- get all kinds of laws changed or go to  
42 court or whatever to become of it. We all know that the  
43 bears are a problem for the moose population in this area.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, George.

46  
47 MR. SHERROD: One suggestion. Perhaps rather  
48 than this body putting forth a proposal, maybe David and CATG  
49 could draft a proposal. The communities in 25(A) and also

50 (D), right, the remainder of (D).

00187

1 MR. DeMATTEO: (B) and (C).

2

3 MR. SHERROD; (B) and (C), well, at least  
4 25(A), he could perhaps draft a proposal and forward it and  
5 they'll have time to get it into the system to be reviewed  
6 and then be back before you.

7

8 MS. HILDEBRAND: The Chairman said if no  
9 one's requested it no action.

10

11 MR. SHERROD: Pardon?

12

13 MS. HILDEBRAND: The Chairman said if no  
14 one's requested it no action.

15

16 MR. SHERROD: Okay. Well, I was thinking  
17 Gerald was thinking we should do it and I was just throwing  
18 out an option.

19

20 MR. GOOD: That would be outside of this  
21 arena anyway. You know, were you talking about that locally?

22

23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I think this was just a  
24 round-table type thing, George was just seeing maybe if CATG  
25 would want to.....

26

27 MR. GOOD: Right. That's outside of this  
28 arena, if CATG is doing it.

29

30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, in the State, right.

31

32 MR. GOOD: Right.

33

34 MR. NICHOLIA: Customary and traditional use.  
35 There is a traditional use and there's -- because where I  
36 come from there's the Mason Slough area below Tanana and  
37 there used to be a challenge before you reach manhood is to  
38 kill a bear or one of those big animals by using a spear. I  
39 don't think many of us got that kind of balls no more anyway.  
40 But that was a traditional use of those things, to prove  
41 you're a man to your tribe. But there could be other uses  
42 for that, cultural and traditional, is that you make  
43 something out of the -- whatever it provides. I've never  
44 eaten that kind of bear fat or that kind of bear meat but  
45 I've seen people feed it to their dogs but I don't think they  
46 consider that a customary or traditional use for it.

47

48 But what I'm trying to say is something has to be  
49 done for these people to allow them to hunt these animals in

50 this region to protect the resource, the moose resources,

00188

1 that is a subsistence food to them. Because we all know the  
2 subsistence need is not being met.

3

4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Did you want to say  
5 something, Vince?

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, we talked  
8 about this during a break earlier. That it would streamline  
9 the process if CATG is going to write this proposal or  
10 someone's going to write this proposal for a customary and  
11 traditional use determination for say 25(D), that they also  
12 suggest a season, so then the Board knows -- if the Board  
13 grants a C&T, then they can possibly go ahead and put in a  
14 season and we discussed that internally within the office and  
15 they felt that would be acceptable, you know.

16

17 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Pete.

20

21 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, as a point of  
22 clarity here, the State season for brown bear in 25(A) is  
23 September 1 through May 20th, one bear every four years. The  
24 State season for brown bear in the remainder of 25, which  
25 encompasses (B) and (C), September 1 through May 31st, again,  
26 one bear every four years. There is no State/Federal season  
27 in those three subunits. Does the Council feel that this  
28 proposal is a problem of opportunity to the rural users who  
29 want to hunt brown bear in those areas even though there are  
30 State seasons open? The rural users can hunt under the State  
31 season.

32

33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: On State lands?

34

35 MR. DeMATTEO: Anywhere.

36

37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Anywhere, so.....

38

39 MR. DeMATTEO: Do you feel that there is a  
40 problem because there is no Federal season to match that?

41

42 MR. JAMES: What's the season dates again?

43

44 MR. DeMATTEO: Unit 25(A), September 1  
45 through May 20, the remainder of 25, which is essentially (B)  
46 and (C), September 1st through May 31.

47

48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, what do you think,

49 David?



00189

1 MR. JAMES: I think they should open it up  
2 year-round.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, I think CATG might be  
5 putting together a proposal.

6  
7 MR. JAMES: That's what we were talking  
8 about.

9  
10 MR. DeMATTEO: I guess I'm confused. When we  
11 discussed it at the break was, CATG was going to submit a  
12 proposal to the State.

13  
14 MR. JAMES: Uh-huh.

15  
16 MR. DeMATTEO: Now, are you saying that  
17 they're going to submit a proposal to the Federal Board as  
18 well?

19  
20 MR. JAMES: For an open season.....

21  
22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: To get a more liberal bear  
23 season in the area?

24  
25 MR. DeMATTEO: Well, you have no season now.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

28  
29 MR. DeMATTEO: So it wouldn't be a more  
30 liberal season it'd be a season altogether.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, you got a season now,  
33 don't you, on the State side?

34  
35 MR. DeMATTEO: Under the State. You have  
36 nothing under the Federal government.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, I mean, you'd want to  
39 get a more liberal State season to go along with.....

40  
41 MR. GOOD: Our Federal season.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: .....a Federal season,  
44 wouldn't you?

45  
46 MR. NICHOLIA: A more liberal Federal season  
47 to go along with the State season.

48  
49 MR. DeMATTEO: Well, then you'd have to

50 submit a proposal to the Federal Board say pending Board of

00190

1 Game action to liberalize the season we would like to see a  
2 Federal season to match that. But first you have to submit  
3 a proposal to the Federal Board to grant C&T to the  
4 communities you hunt brown bear in those areas.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

7  
8 (Laughter)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: This is done, CATG is going  
11 to take care of the proposal.

12  
13 MR. DeMATTEO: We got one more. In keeping  
14 with your request, Unit 13 wolf. Hunting, not trapping,  
15 hunting wolf, okay. The season matches the State, August  
16 10th through April 30th, the Federal harvest limit is five  
17 wolves per season, the State is 10 wolves per day.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Bump it up to 10 a day.

20  
21 MR. DeMATTEO: Is that the Council's wishes,  
22 that a proposal be submitted?

23  
24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That's my personal, I don't  
25 know what the Council feels?

26  
27 MR. GOOD: But I have a question on the bear  
28 one?

29  
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We're done.

31  
32 MR. GOOD: No, I got a question on that.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We're done.

35  
36 MR. GOOD: If we do the customary and  
37 traditional, would that limit the number of hunters who can  
38 shoot the animal on Federal lands? It can -- can a non-rural  
39 hunter shoot a bear in that area on a State tag.....

40  
41 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes.

42  
43 MR. GOOD: .....if we grant C&T? Okay, good.  
44 We want all the bears killed as we can.

45  
46 MR. DeMATTEO: Under the State season.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: All right, go ahead, Vince.

49

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, this Unit 13,

00191

1 just to advise you that's Southcentral.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

4  
5 MR. MATHEWS: So you have C&T down there, I  
6 understand that.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: The wolf thing, is that the  
9 one you're talking about -- the bear or the wolf one, yeah.

10  
11 MR. DeMATTEO: The wolf would be -- yeah.

12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: Wolves.

14  
15 MR. DeMATTEO: The entire Unit of 13.

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know if it's  
18 conjunction.....

19  
20 MR. NICHOLIA: Thirteen, just bump it up to  
21 the State regulation.

22  
23 MR. GOOD: Sure, you bet.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: By consensus.

26  
27 MR. GOOD: They'll know we're taking care of  
28 them.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I'm sure you won't have too  
31 much trouble with Southcentral.

32  
33 MR. GOOD: They'll appreciate it, they'll  
34 grab it.

35  
36 MR. MATHEWS: I think you'll be having  
37 meetings with Southcentral, that's fine. I don't think  
38 there's any other proposals that have been submitted that we  
39 are aware of as of today. Remember the cut off is November  
40 5th, a lot of people submit them towards the end of this  
41 month and you'll be getting that in the mail, all those that  
42 are submitted, but I don't know of any -- and none of the  
43 other Staff does.

44  
45 So that would bring us up to the charter, if you're  
46 done with proposal generation.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

49

MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the charter is an

00192

1 important document, and I think what I'll do is kind of give  
2 you some ideas and see if you want to go with it. That's  
3 under Tab H as in Huslia which I was at tomorrow. Okay, the  
4 charters is the document that sets up this organization. The  
5 areas that you can change are you can change your name, which  
6 I wouldn't recommend, but you can change the name of the  
7 Council, you can do a boundary change, you could suggest a  
8 different size in council membership. You can specify  
9 subsistence resource commission appointments. Criteria for  
10 removing a member. I would recommend that on the criteria  
11 for removing a member, which is on Page 3 where it says, if  
12 a council member appointed under paragraph nine misses two  
13 consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, that you may want  
14 to look at wording of being two unexcused consecutive  
15 meetings. One of the other regional councils is recommending  
16 that so I'm building on their recommendation.

17

18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: What was that again, Vince?

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: That would be Page 3, that  
21 instead of it saying, misses two consecutive meetings,  
22 regularly scheduled meetings.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Oh, okay.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: .....that it be two unexcused.

27

28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, yeah.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Would you support that?

31

32 MR. GOOD: Yes.

33

34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: So I'm using consensus here for  
37 the record, there's no one objecting to having the charter  
38 add the word, unexcused. And I think that's all on the  
39 charter that we had. It is an important document but -- oh,  
40 I know the other one -- oh, I'm sorry, the other one, when  
41 you go further -- I don't see it as being defined in here but  
42 that would be the -- maybe Ida can help me on this because we  
43 talked about it, that it is the Chair that would flag for  
44 removal of a member and I don't see that on here. So there  
45 may be different charters so maybe Ida can walk us through  
46 that.

47

48 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff  
49 Committee member. Mr. Chairman, there was concern about the

50 Chair removing a member and the discussion was did they want

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1 to create bylaws or did the council wish to create procedures  
2 that it could follow in the event of removal of a member.  
3 And most councils, although, the charters say the Chair  
4 recommends removal, it's the Chair at the behest of the rest  
5 of the council. So for instance, if the Chairman is the  
6 person to be removed, that council, even if the Chairman  
7 refused to remove himself, that council would still have the  
8 option to remove that person. And I suggest you have drafts  
9 and further discussion about perhaps policies rather than  
10 bylaws and that would be the council working with the  
11 coordinator and having the information going back to the  
12 council members for review and discussion.

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Is that the wishes of the  
15 Council to do that? This will be back for you at the next  
16 meeting.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah.

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: And then the other issue, which  
21 we won't address but it will be then, is your -- you know, if  
22 there's support for that, coordination of council, your  
23 charter is going to have to reflect that. That's all we have  
24 for charter material.

25  
26 Okay, then correspondence sent and received. Your  
27 policy has been when it comes in I mail it out to you so you  
28 received it under Tab -- I don't know the tab -- actually Tab  
29 I as in Iditarod. That's the summary of all correspondence  
30 sent and received. If you need to look at copies of that I  
31 do have copies, but your policy has been when it comes in,  
32 send it out, do not put it in the book at this time. So this  
33 is a summary of all the correspondence that you've sent and  
34 received as of, oh, I don't know, as of September.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We'll give the Board a  
37 couple of minutes to look it over and see if they have any  
38 questions on the correspondence.

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: And you continue to want to  
41 have it just sent to you, correct, as it comes in?

42  
43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: (Nods affirmatively)

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: I'll just move ahead, the next  
46 one is elections.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Does anyone have any  
49 questions on any of the correspondence that's been received?

50 I guess we'll move on to elections then.

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1 MR. JAMES: Yeah, I have one.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

4  
5 MR. JAMES: On the letter Gabe Sam, Tanana  
6 Chiefs asking for status report on compacting, what kind of  
7 information are you asking?

8  
9 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the same we ask others,  
10 is just that they give a report here. You have, in the past  
11 couple years, have had letters sent to agencies to tell them  
12 what you would like them to present. When we met here in  
13 Fort Yukon to plan for this meeting back in July was that you  
14 would send a letter to the Chiefs on the compacting  
15 cooperative agreements. Gabe called me and said that he  
16 wouldn't be able to attend this meeting because of other  
17 scheduling conflicts. So there's nothing been provided.

18  
19 MR. JAMES: So have you received any?

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Any information?

22  
23 MR. JAMES: Yeah.

24  
25 MR. MATHEWS: No. No, let me answer your  
26 question, are you asking have we received any correspondence  
27 from TCC on this?

28  
29 MR. JAMES: (Nods affirmatively)

30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: No, we have not. If there's  
32 confusion on that, it's basically just like Elizabeth Andrews  
33 who said earlier about, you know, if there's issues that you  
34 want them to present, please let your coordinator know so we  
35 can know ahead of time so our staff can be prepared. We're  
36 doing that also with CATG, TCC, and other Native groups that  
37 we come up with that they know ahead of time this is what  
38 we're requesting.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, so any other  
41 questions? So I guess we'll move to elections. I guess  
42 we'll open the floor for nominations for Chair.

43  
44 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

47  
48 MR. GOOD: I nominate yourself for Chair.

49

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Calvin.

00195

1 MR. C. TRITT: What was that?

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Nominations for the Chair.

4

5 MR. C. TRITT: I'd like to nominate David for  
6 Chair.

7

8 MR. JAMES: I really appreciate that but.....

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. JAMES: .....I'm going to have to  
13 respectfully turn it down. This is only my second meeting  
14 here and I'm still in the learning process, with all these  
15 processes and procedures.

16

17 MR. GOOD: Just jump in the pot, too, David.

18

19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. So far we got one  
20 nomination and -- or two nominations.

21

22 MR. GOOD: One decline.

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: One decline. Any other  
25 nominations for the Chair.

26

27 MR. L. TRITT: I'd like to move to close the  
28 nominations.

29

30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, I guess we move to  
31 close the nominations for Chair.

32

33 MR. NICHOLIA: Second.

34

35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, all in favor of the  
36 motion, signify by saying aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, open elections for  
45 nominations for the vice chair. And can the Chair make a  
46 nomination? No? I'll ask Ida, she knows.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Vice chair was Philip Titus,  
49 who had the seat before.



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1 MS. HILDEBRAND: The Chair is asking to make  
2 a nomination.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Can the Chair make a  
5 nomination.

6  
7 MS. HILDEBRAND: To make a nomination  
8 technically you would surrender the Chair to the vice  
9 chairman and then make your nomination.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Or in this case you would  
12 surrender it to the secretary since there's no vice chair.  
13 Just say that you turn the meeting over to Nat and then you  
14 can make a nomination.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, I turn the meeting  
17 over to Nat, and also nominate him as vice chair.

18  
19 MR. GOOD: I turn the meeting back to the  
20 Chair.

21  
22 MR. TITUS: I move to close the nominations.

23  
24 MR. SILAS: Second.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, all in favor of Nat  
27 Good being vice chair, signify by saying aye.

28  
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

32  
33 (No opposing votes)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, open nominations for  
36 secretary.

37  
38 MR. L. TRITT: I nominate David James.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, nominate David James.

41  
42 MR. JAMES: What?

43  
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You're nominated for  
45 secretary.

46  
47 MR. JAMES: Oh.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other nominations?



00197

1 MR. SILAS: Move to close.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, it's been moved to  
4 close.

5  
6 MR. GOOD: Second.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Seconded. All in favor  
9 signify by saying aye.

10  
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

14  
15 (No opposing votes)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Congratulations Mr.  
18 Secretary.

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, the  
21 appointments to the Subsistence Resource Commissions, et  
22 cetera. To my knowledge there is no pending appointments to  
23 Denali or Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission  
24 unless there is some Park Service.....

25  
26 MR. SHERROD: Yukon-Charlie.

27  
28 MR. MATHEWS: The Yukon-Charlie doesn't have  
29 a commission, they're different. So I've talked to them in  
30 private, there is none, so there's nothing there to appoint  
31 to to that. So that moves us up into -- if the Chair would  
32 agree that we should probably look at meeting dates and times  
33 and then close with comments, I believe that's in the wrong  
34 order.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes. I think David still  
37 has -- didn't you guys have a presentation you wanted to give  
38 or something?

39  
40 MR. JAMES: Um, I'll be right back.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I guess we could move on to  
43 future meeting plans right now.

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: Right, I think it might be wise  
46 to do that. The meeting window, there's a calendar in the  
47 back of your book under Tab J. George is showing you what  
48 that calendar looks like. The window is February 21st  
49 through the 24th. And Kodiak/Aleutians has already selected

50 March 21st through the 23rd. We try to avoid having three

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1 regions in a week but you are volunteers and we generally  
2 don't overlap with Kodiak/Aleutians, but that's the window,  
3 the 21st through the 22nd. It's already been pointed out to  
4 you that the Board of Game meets on March 3rd through the  
5 13th. If you decide to deal with or want to comment in that  
6 process on the Stevens Village proposals, the community  
7 harvest quota proposals, all that, you would have to meet  
8 before March 3rd. Okay, the other dates are in there, and  
9 Bonnie's here if I get it wrong, March 10th through the 12th  
10 is the Limited North American and March 17th through the 19th  
11 is the Open North American. Because I know there's been  
12 discussions about meeting in Fairbanks and, you know, may  
13 have some logistical problems or advantages, I don't know, on  
14 those dates.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any meeting set up  
17 for the last week, yes, the last week in February?

18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: There's no -- last week of  
20 February, meaning February 28th through the 3rd?

21  
22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: No, February 21st through  
23 the 25th?

24  
25 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay. No, not that I know  
26 of. Weather can be a bit more marginal. I just need to say  
27 that to you, that it can be more marginal, but you've done it  
28 before, you've met in Fairbanks.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any suggestions  
31 from the Board here as to when to set these meetings dates?  
32 Any time works? I guess we'll with the 21st to the 23rd.

33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, somewhere in there, and  
35 then we generally go with a two-day meeting so probably in  
36 the middle of that week.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, sometime between the  
39 week of the 21st.

40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Any alternate dates in  
42 case there's a conflict with that? Any others? You don't  
43 have to but in the past you've given alternate dates.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, what did you say we'd  
46 have to meet before March 3rd if we wanted to get.....

47  
48 MR. MATHEWS: If you wanted to get comments  
49 into the Board of Game, if you wanted to participate in that?



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1 MR. NICHOLIA: Then the 28th to March 1st.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, so alternate would be the  
4 28th through the 1st?

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

9

10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That would give us time to  
11 -- yeah, that will work.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then we need to talk  
14 about meeting rotation, would be the next item to decide  
15 where you'd like to meet.

16

17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Fairbanks.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Is there any -- I mean it is  
20 possible, it's within your region. It will, in some ways  
21 provide more access for people to get in, but that's a  
22 possibility.

23

24 MR. NICHOLIA: Where are most of the  
25 proposals that will come for this next meeting?

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: We have no idea, they're not  
28 submitted yet. We don't know. I mean Fairbanks is fine, I  
29 mean that's.....

30

31 MR. NICHOLIA: This wouldn't be enough public  
32 input or something like that.....

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I mean.....

35

36 MR. NICHOLIA: .....if we have it in  
37 Fairbanks? But it would be easier and quicker having it  
38 there.

39

40 MR. GOOD: It's easier for a lot of the  
41 people to get there, you know, from that point of view.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, so if I understand  
44 correctly, it will be Fairbanks for those dates potentially?

45

46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that's all I need to know  
49 for the next meeting.



00200

1 MR. NICHOLIA: Let's go to Sophie's Station.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: No, I don't think it will be  
4 Sophie's Station because the meeting facility is too small.  
5 I expect quite a few attending the meeting so Sophie's won't  
6 work.

7

8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Tribal Hall. Can you get  
9 a hold of Tanana Chiefs and see if we can use the Peter John  
10 Hall?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we would look into the  
13 Peter John Hall and different things like that, yes, within  
14 reasonable costs.

15

16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, so I guess we're down  
17 to closing comments. Go ahead, Ida.

18

19 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff  
20 Committee member. I just want to say thank you to the Fort  
21 Yukon people for the hospitality and a special thank you for  
22 the youth who performed for us last night, they were  
23 outstanding. Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I think before we get to  
26 the closing comments, if it's okay, with.....

27

28 MR. JAMES: After the closing comments.

29

30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: After the closing comments?

31

32 MR. JAMES: Yeah.

33

34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: If Paul would close with a  
35 closing prayer after the closing comments.

36

37 MR. WILLIAMS; (Nods affirmatively)

38

39 MR. JAMES: I'd like to say -- like right now  
40 I would like to thank my staff there and the Native Village  
41 there for their donation of their van there. And I would  
42 like to thank the high school students, the group that came  
43 over yesterday afternoon and sat in for about an hour. And  
44 for that little dance -- presentation that they gave out, the  
45 students there, and the youth here in Fort Yukon, they really  
46 love jig dancing, you know.

47

48 Okay.

49

MR. NICHOLIA: I'd like to thank the people

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1 of Fort Yukon, the Native Village and CATG and the people who  
2 put us up over there. There's a lot of things that we do on  
3 this Board for subsistence and I'd really like to let the  
4 subsistence users know that we really do stick up for them in  
5 our endeavors, and it's kind of, you know, pretty much kind  
6 of proud of this Board and what we do and sometimes we -- we  
7 may piss our people off but we do get things done.

8

9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

10

11 MR. C. TRITT: I, too, want to thank Fort  
12 Yukon for all the good food, good friends, good times. And  
13 I just want to mention again that the great loss we had a  
14 couple weeks ago, he will surely be missed and the meeting  
15 won't be the same without him. Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

18

19 MR. GOOD: I know I said this before, I've  
20 really been very, very favorably impressed by Fort Yukon and  
21 I second everything else has said. I really appreciate the  
22 fact that they've been interested in what we've been doing  
23 here. They've had the patience to sit through much of our  
24 meeting. I have to say I've enjoyed it here and I'd like to  
25 come again sometime.

26

27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Knowland.

28

29 MR. SILAS: I would like to thank the people  
30 of Fort Yukon for their hospitality. And I also thank the  
31 advisory board for their input into what goes on at these  
32 meetings. This is my first meeting with the board, and it  
33 was very interesting. I think you all know where I'm coming  
34 from. But my predecessor, Philip Titus, one of his sayings,  
35 subsistence, as long as the grass grows and the river flows.  
36 So on those grounds, thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Lincoln.

39

40 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, I'd like to compliment  
41 everybody on their participation. We heard a lot of comments  
42 on the news and all that during the Legislature's debate  
43 about the monster coming in to take over fish and wildlife  
44 and all that stuff. Well, to me, it makes me proud to know  
45 that we're taking care of business and that we're not playing  
46 any games here. We have a lot of mess to clean up and long  
47 as everybody stays open to each other's ideas.

48

49 Thank you.



00202

1 MR. JONES: There was a few other names that  
2 I really wanted to mention there and I mentioned them at the  
3 start but I'd like to thank our regional biologist, and  
4 Tanana Henry, our administrative assistant, Isaac Peter our  
5 data coordinator, and especially our intern high school  
6 student Gary Katsel, and also the rest of the staff over  
7 there for coordinating all this together here. It was really  
8 -- we got 50 names from Vince there, and we -- so thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other comments? Go  
11 ahead, Vince.

12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe after you adjourn, I'll  
14 give you the Tier II on the planes.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Mr. Williams.

17  
18 MR. WILLIAMS: I will say this English. In  
19 the past our elders always remind us that we cannot start  
20 something or finish something by ourself. They always remind  
21 us to put the neighbor first. So I'm glad that we're doing  
22 this. Our Lord God, we pray again to you in thankfulness for  
23 getting this work done. We see the future as working in co-  
24 management and partnership, government-to-government  
25 relationship and trust, responsibility, and we have to reach  
26 others, and that future generation. We're doing this not  
27 only for ourself but for the future people so they will  
28 continue to live a subsistence lifestyle and enjoy their  
29 lives. And this is what we're working for and we thank you  
30 for your help.

31  
32 We pray this in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Let's adjourn.

35  
36 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

37 \* \* \* \* \*

