

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 Delta Junction, Alaska
9 October 18, 2006
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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19 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews
20
21 Gerald Nicholia, Chairman
22 Andrew Bassich
23 Sue Entsminger
24 William Glanz
25 James Nathaniel, Sr.
26 Virgil Umphenour
27 Amy Wright

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Delta Junction - 10/18/2006)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'll call this meeting back to order. The first thing on there is Federal Board action. It's you.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. You guys handle this differently sometimes. It's on Page 73. To help some of you newer members, we talked about this in training, but the Board is required to put in writing the reasons why they reject your recommendations. We've always done reasons why they supported and actions that were in alignment with your recommendations. We call it the 805(c) letter because it comes from Section 805 of ANILCA.

In the past, we've just waited if you had any questions on the Board's actions. You received this letter back during the summer, so you may have had time to review it. I know you guys were busy out doing other things. If you have any questions we can answer, but it is kind of your report card. For those that are writing proposals or et cetera, this is the foundations of learning how to improve your proposals down the road and also understand better what criteria and how the Board analyzes and comes to its decision. Again, Page 73.

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It looks good to me, Vince. You could just move on there.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next item is Agency organization reports.

MR. UMPHENOUR: On our proposal to extend the wolf season to May 31st, which was Proposal WP06-064, the Board rejected that, but we submitted the same proposal to the Board of Game and I'm positive they passed it, is that not correct, Mr. Nowlin?

MR. NOWLIN: Which units were they?

MR. UMPHENOUR: That was to extend the wolf season, Unit 12, 20 and 25 till the 31st of May. I'm positive they passed it.

MR. NOWLIN: I'm pretty sure they did

1 too. I'll have to check when I get back.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: So beings the Federal
4 Subsistence Board rejected it and the State Board of Game
5 passed it, then the regulations are in conflict with each
6 other, so maybe we should resubmit our proposal and
7 point out to the Federal Subsistence Board that the State
8 Board of Game did pass that proposal. So that way we
9 won't have the confusion of people being able to hunt
10 wolves, say if they're on the Yukon River on State land,
11 but if the wolf gets up in the brush then it's on Federal
12 land and they would be in violation with Federal
13 regulations.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Gerald, can I respond to
16 that.

17

18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah. The only way I
19 see it, if the State passed it, in these areas of Federal
20 control, you could only hunt wolves on -- when you have
21 to go on the Federal land, you just can't hunt them on
22 Federal land. This is not aligning with State or Federal
23 regulations. It's not in the Western Interior at all.
24 Some of our proposals that we put out, does the Board
25 listen to more Staff than actually listen to us.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Others will help me through
28 this. The only time that there would be a conflict here
29 with it is if we had Federal lands closed. State
30 regulations still apply on Federal lands. The May 31st
31 season is in effect on Federal lands unless we close
32 those Federal lands. Then if those lands are closed,
33 then Federal regulations are applied. Now, on Parks it
34 may be different, but on Refuge and BLM lands the May
35 31st season would apply. Then Barbara can explain the
36 Park part.

37

38 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Excuse me though. It
39 says to kill wolves in the month of May would result in
40 death of pups through starvation. Well, there's low
41 moose populations where we're talking. It ain't the
42 wolves that are starving, it's the people that are
43 starving.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Let Barbara explain
46 it, but basically what Virgil or the Council did when you
47 submitted the proposal to the Board of Game, it covers
48 all lands unless Federal is closed. So you can still do
49 that except on Park lands, correct? So for the example
50 Virgil gave, it's still there.

1 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair. State sport
2 regulations apply on National Preserve lands. The only
3 place they would not apply, other than parks that are
4 closed to subsistence, but they also wouldn't apply on
5 lands that are designated specifically as National Parks.
6 So in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve, the
7 season would be extended but not in the Park.

8
9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, move on.

10
11 MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Sue.

14
15 MS. ENTSMINGER: So is my understanding
16 we're going to put that proposal forward? Do you need a
17 motion?

18
19 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Wait till we come up
20 with wildlife proposals.

21
22 MS. ENTSMINGER: Are we there?

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Not yet.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Just to
27 inform you what has changed since the last time you
28 submitted the proposal that would compel the Board to
29 reverse its decision.

30
31 MS. ENTSMINGER: What's wrong with
32 hammering on a topic?

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Fine to submit it again.
35 You won on the State side, so it applies to BLM and
36 Refuge lands. It is in effect now till May 31st.

37
38 MS. ENTSMINGER: But it doesn't on Park
39 lands.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: You could submit on the
42 Park land part.

43
44 MS. ENTSMINGER: So in that essence it's
45 a different issue. Now we're trying to comply with State
46 lands. Why would we want to keep subsistence more
47 restrictive than -- I'm sorry, Vince. I think we need to
48 put the proposal forward.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: I just want to know
2 where we are on the agenda here. Are we there yet?
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: You just brought up two key
5 points that are new compared to last year, so those would
6 be additional justifications for a proposal, which
7 weren't there when you submitted the proposal before.
8 That it now exists on State lands, so why not have
9 alignment and that it's restricted on Park lands, not
10 Preserve lands.
11
12 MS. ENTSMINGER: And there's Park lands
13 elsewhere besides the Wrangells.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Uh-huh.
16
17 MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chairman. I just
18 want to know where we are on the agenda. Are we here?
19 I'm sorry, I'm kind of confused. We are now taking up
20 wildlife proposals?
21
22 MR. MATHEWS: We can do it now and pass
23 the motion to have that proposal go forward and then go
24 back to the Agency reports or just wait until we talk
25 about all the proposals. It doesn't make a difference
26 either way.
27
28 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Let's do it now and
29 get it out of the way.
30
31 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay. I make a motion
32 now to resubmit that proposal based on the information we
33 have given.
34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.
36
37 MR. BASSICH: Question.
38
39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved and
40 seconded to resubmit Wildlife Proposal WP06-64. The
41 question has been called. All those in favor signify by
42 saying aye.
43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.
45
46 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Opposed.
47
48 (No opposing votes)
49
50 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. Done.

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: Vince, you've got me so
2 confused here. A is before B in my book and A is
3 proposals and then agency reports are next. So we should
4 be on wildlife proposals now, correct?

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Either way you want to do
7 it. It's just that Virgil brought up a question about
8 how the Board reacted to your last proposal and you guys
9 took action to develop a proposal. We can rearrange it
10 to have all the proposals discussed and then go back to
11 Agency report on planning efforts. It might be better to
12 hear those reports.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Let's go right down
15 the list on our agenda.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: If I've got it right, I
18 think Randy is the next one up because he was going to
19 give you an update on wildlife planning efforts. Then
20 there may be additional reports from others.

21
22 MR. ROGERS: Good morning members of the
23 Council, Chairman Nicholia. My name is Randy Rogers.
24 I'm wildlife planner for Department of Fish and Game,
25 Interior Region. I guess, Vince, you're assuming there
26 was no other reports that were listed first, but I'm
27 happy to go in any order that works for you guys. I
28 don't have a whole lot here today. I wanted to give just
29 a brief update on the Wood Bison Restoration Project. A
30 little bit about consideration of intensive management on
31 Yukon Flats. If there are questions about what may be
32 happening with regard to planning in the FortyMile area,
33 Jeff Gross is here and Roy Nowlin is also here that can
34 help answer questions related to intensive management and
35 some other issues.

36
37 Vince, if I could, I have some
38 newsletters I'd like to pass out. This is a copy of the
39 Alaska Wildlife News. It's the Division of Wildlife
40 Conservation web-based newsletter and it's an article on
41 the Wood Bison Restoration Project. It will give you a
42 little bit of a written update.

43
44 We consulted with both the Eastern
45 Interior and Western Interior Councils on the wood bison
46 project and provided updates last year. During this last
47 winter there wasn't a lot going on with the wood bison
48 project. We were continuing to work on completing an
49 environmental review of wood bison restoration
50 considering the three sites that have been identified,

1 which are Yukon Flats, Minto Flats and the Lower
2 Yukon/Innoko River area.

3
4 We got pretty busy with writing and
5 rewriting predation control plans in response to the
6 lawsuit that took place last year and all the multiple
7 Board of Game meetings.

8
9 We did go ahead and do wood bison
10 presentations and discussions at several of the involved
11 State Fish and Game Advisory Committees, which included
12 the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross AC, the
13 Minto/Nenana and Manley/Tanana/Rampart AC. All those
14 AC's voted to support continued consideration of wood
15 bison restoration in their areas. Just recently we gave
16 an update at the Fairbanks AC.

17
18 Right now we're getting very close to
19 completing this environmental review of wood bison
20 restoration. It's not officially a NEPA document, but
21 it's close. It's a very exhaustive review of the entire
22 wood bison project from the very beginning, starting in
23 the early 1990's on Yukon Flats through our more recent
24 efforts. This document will be coming out for public
25 review and comment in November probably sometime. We're
26 getting very close to having it completed.

27
28 One thing I would like is for the Council
29 to take this document, give it a thorough review and give
30 us some input about what you think about the project, if
31 we should continue to pursue wood bison restoration, what
32 priorities should be and any other issues or concerns you
33 have.

34
35 We do have included in one of the
36 appendices of the environmental review a letter that was
37 written by the Eastern Interior Council in 1997 to
38 support the project. But things have changed quite a bit
39 from then and what we're looking at is a final, big,
40 public review and comment period as we decide if or how
41 we're going to proceed with the project.

42
43 For the most part, we've had virtually
44 unanimous public support consistently through the project
45 and we think that is likely to be the case now. The
46 likely recommendation that will be in this environmental
47 review is to continue pursuing wood bison restoration,
48 continue considering all three sites and prioritizing,
49 trying to initiate site-specific planning for both Yukon
50 Flats and Minto Flats at the same time.

1 So if it would be possible for the
2 Council to identify one or two people who might be
3 willing to review this document and develop comments on
4 behalf of the Council, that would be really helpful. the
5 comment period is likely to take place between your
6 main meetings, so it makes it a little bit awkward and I
7 apologize for that.

8
9 As you folks are aware, we've had some
10 disagreements over the suitability of wood bison
11 restoration on Yukon Flats with the Fish and Wildlife
12 Service. In August, the Commissioner of Fish and Game
13 wrote to the new Regional Director and kind of outlined
14 some of the history of the project and asked if we could
15 try to get on a better mode of cooperation with this.
16 Right now we have folks in the regional office who pre-
17 reviewing our environmental review to take a look at how
18 we've addressed fish and wildlife policy in there and
19 we're hopeful that we can get on a more cooperative
20 approach with the project.

21
22 Most recently Fish and Wildlife Service
23 has recommended that we initiate the project on Minto
24 Flats rather than Yukon Flats. That has both pros and
25 cons to it. On the pure side of just wood bison
26 conservation, we estimate the size that could be suitable
27 on Minto Flats would be 400 to 500 bison, whereas Yukon
28 Flats could support a larger size herd. In terms of
29 the genetic diversity and the real conservation benefit
30 for wood bison, it is fairly important to have fairly
31 large herd size.

32
33 There's several issues involved in it and
34 we've tried to outline those in the environmental review,
35 so I know several of you have been interested in the
36 project. We'll make sure you get copies of this. We'll
37 also be producing another issue of the Wood Bison News,
38 which will have a four-page summary of the key points of
39 the environmental review. A little bit more friendly and
40 readable than the whole EIS-looking document, which will
41 be over 150 pages long.

42
43 Another activity we have going on,
44 there's ongoing concerns. Even though the Fish and
45 Wildlife Service have indicated that if wood bison are
46 brought into Alaska, they don't need to be listed as a
47 domestic species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.
48 They are listed in Canada. So that's a favorable
49 determination. However, some development interests are
50 concerned that a third party could petition for a

1 listing, Fish and Wildlife Service could change their
2 policy and they might end up being listed as an
3 endangered species.

4
5 Because of this, we've got a meeting set
6 up in early November with our Department of Natural
7 Resources, Fish and Wildlife Service is going to send
8 endangered species staff, representatives from Doyon,
9 CATG and others to try to just discuss this and decide
10 what level of concern is really warranted for potential
11 ESA listing, what are the options we could take to
12 minimize those concerns. Hopefully, we want to get to
13 the point where people recognize that we can have wood
14 bison restoration occurring in locations where other
15 resource developments are proposed, such as oil and gas
16 on Yukon Flats or Minto Flats.

17
18 So, with that brief report, I'm happy to
19 answer any questions folks have, but I'll go on right now
20 to just a little bit of an update on intensive management
21 for Yukon Flats.

22
23 Last winter the Yukon Flats Fish and Game
24 Advisory Committee submitted a proposal to the Board of
25 Game for Wolf Predation Control Plan on Yukon Flats. As
26 I'm sure many of you know, folks out there on Yukon Flats
27 are fairly frustrated that the Yukon Flats Cooperative
28 Moose Management Plan hasn't resulted in a more
29 immediate, rapid increase in the moose population and
30 want to see thing happening.

31
32 The Board of Game discussed the proposal
33 and also discussed the limitations on wolf control on
34 refuge lands in Alaska. The Board at that time didn't
35 adopt the proposal, but did direct the Department to
36 prepare an intensive management plan to evaluate all the
37 options possible for increasing the moose population on
38 Yukon Flats.

39
40 Now Vince has been real good at providing
41 me copies of some of the correspondence from the Eastern
42 Council and other Councils, so I'm a little bit familiar
43 with that. Most recently I got copies of the recent
44 letters from the refuge to the Council. There's several
45 different refuges. So I scanned those really quick and I
46 think they do a good job of kind of outlining where we
47 stand with consideration of predation control issues on
48 refuges. I think knowing that process and requirements
49 is helpful, but as the phrase goes, we can see that the
50 bar is very high there.

1 One other aspect of moose predation
2 management which is occurring on Yukon Flats is the
3 recent award of tribal wildlife grant to the Beaver
4 Village Council. We supported awarding that contract or
5 grant to the Beaver Village Council and we want to work
6 with Beaver, CATG, Fish and Wildlife Service and others
7 to try to make sure that that project succeeds.
8

9 Currently, in terms of going right into
10 intensive management programs, our Division of Wildlife
11 Conservation Interior Region is pretty well completely
12 booked up, if not overbooked with the predation control
13 programs we have going on right now.
14

15 The major project that I'm involved in
16 for this coming winter is to work to improve our
17 intensive management protocols. The planning process,
18 the biological information and basis, the ability to
19 evaluate each different proposal for intensive
20 management, try and prioritize where the most important
21 places are for intensive management and where we can
22 expect to get the most success for the investment we put
23 into it.
24

25 So while we'll be working on that we do
26 still want to continue to work with folks, including the
27 Yukon Flats Advisory Committee, the Eastern Council,
28 CATG, Beaver, the Fish and Wildlife Service and others to
29 consider all the options for increasing the moose
30 population on Yukon Flats.
31

32 One thing I note in the letter from the
33 Yukon Flats Refuge to the Council is the acknowledgement
34 that there is a large portion of private lands out there
35 and predation control activities could occur on private
36 lands.
37

38 I don't know how many of you are familiar
39 with the research that has gone on in McGrath. The
40 approach that's been taken there -- but the concept we
41 use out there is called the Experimental Micromanagement
42 Area and is intended to look at how we might manage both
43 moose and predator populations close by villages on a
44 small scale basis to get an increase in availability of
45 moose close to that village for more harvest but not
46 necessarily looking to increase the populations on a GMU-
47 wide basis. That type concept may have some
48 applicability out there on Yukon Flats.
49

50 As we look at the villages out there, the

1 village corporation lands that surround those villages,
2 maybe we can look at some options kind of based on this
3 EMA concept that might be helpful out there. Even if we
4 don't succeed in the goal of the cooperative moose
5 management plan of doubling the whole moose population,
6 if we could take more predators near villages, increase
7 the moose population close by, make it easier for
8 subsistence users to get their moose, a little less gas
9 expense, I think that would at least help out.

10

11 So, during this coming year it's possible
12 that we'll get an effort going and we would want to have
13 participation of everyone and if the Council would like
14 to identify a participant or two should we get some
15 meetings going, we'd certainly like to have Council
16 participation in that.

17

18 I think we'll be looking at the options
19 that can be allowed within the Fish and Wildlife Service
20 policy without going into NEPA compliance on this.
21 They've outlined the information they feel is needed for
22 NEPA and if we get to the point where we're considering
23 some kind of action on Service lands that would require
24 NEPA compliance, then I think we will expect that the
25 Fish and Wildlife Service would take the lead on that
26 role of it. Realistically, it's probably sometime down
27 the line before we could get to that point and maybe
28 there's some things we could do working together before
29 then.

30

31 In summary, the two things that would be
32 helpful to me would be if the Council can identify a
33 person or two that might develop comments on behalf of
34 the Council on the wood bison project and also who might
35 want to participate in meetings to discuss intensive
36 management on Yukon Flats.

37

38 That's all I have to report on and thank
39 you for your time.

40

41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Any questions.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I don't have a
46 question, but I have a comment. Both of what you're
47 talking about have been requested from this Council for
48 quite a long time, as long as I could remember. It seems
49 like we're always running up against the agencies, but my
50 feeling and Craig's feeling is I think it's gone to

1 personal. I won't mention no names, but I think it's
2 pretty personal in the refuge and the way you've been
3 going at it, how it's been happening. It's good to see
4 the State doing something about requesting everybody to
5 work together. We've been working together for quite a
6 while, Yukon Flats Moose Management Working Group, wood
7 bison. If the personnel involved could have a new look
8 at it, there wouldn't be so much hoops and stuff we have
9 to go through to get that intensive management or the
10 wood bison project going. That's my personal feeling.

11
12 MR. GLANZ: I have a comment also. If
13 Tony Knowles gets elected, do you believe the intensive
14 management is going to go down the drain like it did when
15 he was governor the last time?

16
17 MR. ROGERS: I get to answer that one?

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. GLANZ: I don't expect an answer.
22 I'm just saying we're doing all this preparation for
23 intensive management and if he gets in, you know what's
24 going to happen. He's going to roll over.

25
26 MR. ROGERS: Regardless of who is elected
27 governor, I'd be hopeful that they would take a look at
28 new information that's available and allow the Division
29 latitude to have some ability to manage predators.
30 That's on the hopeful side. I'm not going to predict
31 politics. One thing that we recognize within the
32 Division is that regardless of politics, regardless of
33 current litigation going on, we need to do a better job
34 of developing our intensive management programs,
35 involving the public in it, explaining the biological
36 basis for it and if we can do a better job, then it
37 might, you know, give us a little more insulation from
38 some of the political, pendulum swinging back and forth,
39 and hopefully get to the point where we'd have a little
40 more stability in our ability to manage predators.
41 That's where we hope to get and we're going to continue
42 working on that regardless of what happens with this
43 election.

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Virg.

46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have one question. Has
48 anyone from the Department had any discussions or
49 anything with Doyon about intensive management and
50 predator control on their lands?

1 MR. ROGERS: We coordinate with Doyon in
2 terms of -- particularly in the McGrath area where the
3 predator control programs occur on Doyon lands and they
4 have been cooperative in working with us to provide
5 approval for the wolf control operations on their lands,
6 so that's the main place that I know we have coordinated
7 with Doyon. In terms of just general conceptual
8 discussions with Doyon, we really haven't had those, but
9 they've been very willing to cooperate with us and
10 support it and they recognize they're doing it on behalf
11 of their shareholders.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

14

15 MS. ENTSMINGER: I have a question.

16

17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

18

19 MS. ENTSMINGER: Randy, is there any talk
20 about doing things with the public that they're able to -
21 - like was done in the FortyMile, participate in a
22 program that the government is not really spending a lot
23 of money on that area. Can it be done in the refuge
24 there?

25

26 MR. ROGERS: Yes, I think we would
27 certainly look at those options. Of course, you're
28 referring to one of the constraints on predator control
29 that has been in place with the Murkowski administration
30 and that is that the Department doesn't do it with
31 Department personnel using airplanes or helicopters. The
32 public does it. So we would work within whatever
33 political constraints we have, but I think the main
34 concept that has really been looked at out on Yukon Flats
35 is having airplane folks that could work with local
36 villagers that have the ability to get out and set snares
37 on wolf kills and cover more area than you can by simply
38 a snowmachine from individual villages and working in
39 cooperation with local folks to do that. That's been a
40 concept that's been discussed for some time. It doesn't
41 involve any big State or Federal predator control. It's
42 basically trapping under the existing regs. So that is
43 really I think viewed as the technique with the most
44 potential, but then again it costs quite a bit of money
45 for people to fly out there and if there can be some way
46 of helping support those efforts -- and then there has
47 been the possibilities of that discussed with CATG and
48 others. That's the main thing that's being considered if
49 that answers your question.

50

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: In part. What I really
2 wanted to know is if there was a choice of doing aerial
3 wolf hunting, is it not allowed on the refuge or is it?
4 And I'm probably asking the wrong person. I apologize.
5

6 MR. ROGERS: I think there will be
7 further discussion about that. Basically there's no flat
8 out legal prohibition from aerial wolf control or
9 predator wolf control on the refuges, but they do require
10 good baseline information. They require compliance with
11 NEPA, which right now is interpreted as -- you know,
12 because they feel there's substantial likelihood of
13 public controversy they think that that will require a
14 full EIS.
15

16 A few years ago we were kind of hoping
17 that we might be able to -- you know, there's a predator
18 control program going on in Unit 19(A) which has just a
19 small corner of Fish and Wildlife Service lands. We were
20 hoping we might be able to work with the Fish and
21 Wildlife Service because of the small area involved and
22 the relatively small potential impact to refuge resources
23 that maybe we could justify adding those lands into that
24 predation control program with an environmental
25 assessment. We really never got a chance to check that
26 out.
27

28 The Board of Game -- initially we had a
29 provision to delete the refuge and park lands out of that
30 predation control program. I had to leave the Board of
31 Game meeting and went to the Western Council meeting in
32 Huslia. When I got back, they added in those lands and
33 then that caused some further controversy with the Fish
34 and Wildlife Service and Park Service. Maybe some of you
35 folks are familiar with that. I think it ended up
36 getting discussed in a meeting down in Tok further. But,
37 at any rate, what's written in the letters that you guys
38 have before you is an environmental impact statement
39 would be required.
40

41 Several of the refuges are looking at
42 collecting baseline data and I know recently at the
43 Western Interior Council meeting Mike Spindler talked
44 about efforts to collect better baseline data. They're
45 renewing their Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan and
46 right within that plan they're laying out the criteria
47 and process for considering predation control.
48

49 So maybe over time there's some movement
50 and some possibilities for it. One of the things that I

1 think will clearly be a challenge is judging moose
2 populations right now and how much of a decline is that
3 from what is the natural situation. What was the
4 historic highs. Not having good data from years and
5 years ago it makes it a little bit difficult to make the
6 argument -- I mean look at Yukon Flats for example.
7 Moose population has been quite low there for some time
8 and there's probably not real accurate data to show how
9 high it was at one point in order to justify the argument
10 that, yes, in fact, there has been a decline, yes, in
11 fact, that is caused by predation and we can go through
12 the procedures to provide information to justify a
13 decision to actually proceed with it.

14
15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: One of my concerns in
16 all this is that every time we propose something like
17 this or support it is that OSM and Departments always
18 spend more money fighting our requests and everything
19 than actually doing the studies and stuff. It's just the
20 way it's been ever since we tried to do intensive
21 management with the Yukon Flats Moose Management Group on
22 the wood bison thing.

23
24 I think this has gone long enough. We'll
25 pick somebody to work with you. It's gotten to a point
26 where it's got very personal with one of the members on
27 there and the manager. It's just got to go beyond that.
28 They've got to put their things aside and start working
29 together.

30
31 One of my greatest concerns is that it
32 will be too late by the time we're able to do something.
33 It's just sad that people, higher-ups in other places
34 don't realize that, don't push for it. There's outside
35 groups that fights for -- animal lovers or whatever.
36 It's a revolving circle that's just going nowhere. We've
37 got to break that cycle somehow so we can do something
38 for those people that rely on moose and caribou and
39 stuff.

40
41 MR. ROGERS: If I can just add one
42 comment and that's that we do want to work with the
43 Council and folks out there to try to do whatever we can
44 within these constraints. It is certainly a challenge
45 considering the moose population on Yukon Flats wood
46 bison restoration, but we need to work with all the
47 agencies involved and that includes the Fish and Wildlife
48 Service to try to work within these policies and
49 interpretations of the laws and policies to try to make
50 some of these things happen. We're not sure if we ever

1 will succeed, for example, with the wood bison project.
2 We're hopeful we can get more cooperation, but that
3 doesn't mean we get the go-ahead to go do it. That's
4 exactly why we decided in our office that if this is
5 really a good conservation opportunity for Alaska, we
6 need to expand the scope of the program beyond Yukon
7 Flats to look at other areas because we may or may not
8 succeed there.

9
10 So we do have the Fish and Wildlife
11 Service and other folks telling us to go to Minto Flats
12 first. One thing that we really refuse to do is give up
13 though. We spent so much time working with the tribal
14 councils out there, CATG and others it really would not
15 be fair to them to all of a sudden say it looks like it
16 will be easier to go to Minto Flats and just bail on
17 them. We're not going to do that. We're going to give
18 it full effort and try. We may succeed in Yukon Flats or
19 Minto Flats or oil and gas issues might force it out of
20 both areas and down to the Lower Yukon/Innoko.

21
22 I'll tell you right now with the wood
23 bison project we're giving it the major push and we're
24 either going to make this thing happen within the next
25 few years or we're going to drop it. We've been talking
26 about it for long enough. It's time to either do it or
27 forget it and we're going to give it a try. We're giving
28 it our best effort. That's all. Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Believe me, you've
31 got our support on both projects.

32
33 MR. ROGERS: We always appreciate the
34 Council's support for those activities. We look forward
35 to whatever comments and participation you can have in
36 these upcoming processes. Thanks.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there are
39 other reports. There's one in particular that I think
40 you guys want to hear right now is the update on the
41 biological data for the Yukon Flats Refuge. I don't know
42 what other reports are out there. I apologize to the
43 Staff on that. We can incorporate reports. The reports
44 now are ones that would be geared towards issues that the
45 Council brought up that they're possibly writing
46 proposals about.

47
48 For example, if your report is on
49 migratory waterfowl, we don't have any proposals, so that
50 would come up at the end of the meeting. That's where

1 the confusion is. Right now it's reports that would help
2 the Council with their potential proposals for Yukon
3 Flats moose and et cetera.

4

5 Mark Bertram, the biologist for Yukon
6 Flats has a presentation for you.

7

8 MR. BERTRAM: Good morning, Council
9 members. I'm Mark Bertram, wildlife biologist with Yukon
10 Flats Refuge over in the Fairbanks office. I understand
11 you've been considering a proposal for changes in
12 regulations on the upper Black River 25(D) east. I think
13 maybe James brought that up yesterday. I've got some
14 information I'd like to present to you on the status of
15 the moose population on the Eastern Refuge. This was
16 information that was collected by Alaska Department of
17 Fish and Game and CATG over the last several years and in
18 cooperation with the refuge since 1995. So we have data
19 going back to 1995 on the moose population.

20

21 I just wanted to highlight some of the
22 recent trends. We've conducted surveys almost every fall
23 with the exception of a couple years and I'd like to
24 present information from the last two years, from 2005
25 and 2004. The trend has been increasing. The population
26 estimate for 2005 was a little over 1,000 moose. In 2004
27 the population estimate was about 750 moose. 2001, 500
28 moose. So the trend has been going up. The sex and age
29 composition of the herd, those numbers are looking good.

30

31 The calf/cow ratios over last two surveys have ranged between
32 51 to 58 calves per 100 cows. Bull/cow ratios have been
33 between 43-80 bulls per 100 cows. The yearling/bull
34 ratio is 10-22 per 100 cows. These are ratios that we
35 normally look at when we're trying to assess if there's a
36 problem with one portion of the population. There
37 doesn't seem to be any particular concerns with those sex
38 and age compositions. They're all fairly healthy.
39 Bull/cow ratios over 20 are generally seen as adequate.
40 The cows are getting bred.

41

42 We have additional information I could
43 give you that would be anecdotal information that comes
44 from the Western half of the refuge, the Western Yukon
45 Flats, and that is that anecdotal information on animals
46 that we've handled are that the body sizes of the calves
47 and cows are large compared with other areas in Interior
48 Alaska and that the twinning rates, the number of twins
49 that a cow has each year, the rate of twins is fairly
50 high. It's over 50 per 100 cows. Those things suggested

1 the habitat is adequate. I just wanted to give you that
2 information. Do you have any questions on maybe
3 something I didn't cover on the moose population you
4 might have a question about.

5
6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: As you're doing your
7 studies of the moose population, do you see a lot of
8 wolves and bears? We were just listening to a
9 teleconference last night and been talking to a couple
10 other people and they said there is a tremendous amount
11 of wolves and bears out there.

12
13 MR. BERTRAM: I can give you some
14 information on bears and wolves also, which will probably
15 come up in other discussions later on, so hopefully this
16 will be helpful information. Alaska Department of Fish
17 and Game and CATG have been conducting wolf
18 reconnaissance surveys, is what I like to call it. In
19 other words they cover the entire refuge, all of 25(D)
20 and they fly all the drainages and they coarsely go
21 through the entire area looking for wolves. They end up
22 with an estimate on the density of wolves across the
23 refuge and they also have a lot of observations. The
24 estimated population of wolves in 25(D) is between 216
25 and 229 wolves. It's a pretty large area that's covered.
26 I'm not sure how many square miles that is. All of 25(D)
27 is included in that.

28
29 I also have some harvest information
30 provided by CATG. They've been on contract to US Fish
31 and Wildlife Service for the last several years doing
32 harvest surveys in all the Yukon Flats villages. They
33 estimated in 2004 there were 50 wolves harvested on the
34 Yukon Flats and in 2005 41 harvested, so slightly down in
35 2005. Compare that with the estimate of what we think is
36 out there and we're harvesting about 25 percent of the
37 population currently. That's the best information we
38 have on wolves.

39
40 With regards to bears, another predator
41 out there that has, you know, a high impact on moose calf
42 survival, especially in the spring time, we do not have
43 population estimates of bears on the Refuge. We have so
44 much forest cover out there that we don't have efficient
45 methods to go out and figure the population estimates
46 out. You'll hear there are areas in other parts of the
47 state, by Tok for instance, where they are estimating
48 bear populations using hair sampling techniques and DNA.
49 It has been an effective method used in other places in
50 the lower 48 and it's very expensive, so it's something

1 we haven't pursued.

2

3 That said, the estimated harvest that
4 we've gotten from CATG for 2004 and 2005, 73 black bears
5 and 23 grizzly bears were harvested in 2004. In 2005,
6 143 black bears and 33 grizzly bears were harvested. So
7 we're looking at a twofold increase in black bear harvest
8 between 2004 and 2005.

9

10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: For that amount of
11 wolves, for every seven wolves -- it takes one moose to
12 feed every seven wolves one meal, so calculate that in.
13 I thank you for your information. Do you guys have any
14 questions.

15

16 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Can you compare the moose density there to other areas?
18 Would you say it's low?

19

20

21 MR. BERTRAM: I would say it's low. It's
22 higher density on the eastern half of the Yukon Flats
23 than it is on the western Yukon Flats, but compared with
24 other places in Interior Alaska it's overall low.

25

26 MS. ENTSMINGER: One of the lowest then.

27

28 MR. BERTRAM: One of the lowest.
29 Probably about three to four moose every 10 square miles.

30

31 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

32

33 MR. BERTRAM: Yes, James.

34

35 MR. NATHANIEL: My question is how often
36 do they do a moose survey in Yukon Flats?

37

38 MR. BERTRAM: We attempt to do a moose
39 survey every year and in the event that the weather
40 doesn't cooperate in the fall, we attempt to do a survey
41 in March.

42

43 MR. NATHANIEL: When they do the moose
44 survey, I was just wondering if it's an accurate count
45 when they do the survey because the moose population is
46 going down but they're claiming there's a lot of moose in
47 the area they surveyed. I know there's predators we're
48 having problems with, that's wolf and bear. The other
49 night before I left my village we heard a bunch of wolves
50 howling across from the village. That's a problem right

1 there. I was wondering how often you do the survey.

2

3 MR. BERTRAM: We do the survey every year
4 and we've developed different methods over the years, but
5 we've been using the same type of method since 1999,
6 which involves using fixed wing aircraft to go out and
7 count small individual units and then we extrapolate to
8 figure out the population estimate. When we end up with
9 a number at the end, we end up with a plus or minus at
10 the end of it. We attempt to estimate the population
11 within 20 percent of what we think is actually out there,
12 so we're always -- it's not an exact number and the
13 number that we come up with is generally 20 to 25 percent
14 high or 20 to 25 percent low of what's actually there.
15 So if we see differences between years, those differences
16 may not really exist because we may be estimating high
17 one year and estimating low the following year and yet
18 the estimates may overlap is what I'm trying to say. We
19 haven't seen a significant increase in 25(D) East, but
20 the trend looks like it's increasing.

21

22 MR. NATHANIEL: One more, please. You do
23 your survey in the same area every year?

24

25 MR. BERTRAM: We do. We have a grid set
26 up. In the eastern refuge the grid covers Fort Yukon,
27 all the area around Chalkyitsik and it covers the areas
28 north of Circle and these are all areas on the north side
29 of the Yukon River. So those are the areas that we
30 typically do on the eastern refuge every year.

31

32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Andy.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 You said you have a fairly high twinning rate right now
36 and I'm wondering do you have any studies or data on your
37 survivability of those calves.

38

39 MR. BERTRAM: Yes, we do. The
40 information that we do have comes from the western half
41 of the refuge. In 1998-99 we did a moose/calf mortality
42 study and the answer to your question is about a 20
43 percent annual survival rate of calves between those two
44 years. That 20 percent is comparable to a study that was
45 done around Tok, it must have been back in the '80s, it's
46 also comparable to another low density moose population
47 over in Canada. So we tried to make comparisons between
48 our moose population with other populations that are low
49 density when we're comparing the moose calf survival
50 rates and it's comparable to those.

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: One more question.
2
3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)
4
5 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I hope you're not
6 painting a picture when you say that things are going up,
7 there's a trend going up. Have you extrapolated out that
8 the moose herd is growing and what numbers you would have
9 if you did that?
10
11 MR. BERTRAM: Have we modeled to predict
12 in the future we're going to -- we have not modeled it.
13 And the reason is, as I mentioned earlier, the increase
14 we're seeing right now is not a significant increase. In
15 other words, the population's moving each year but it's
16 not moving enough.....
17
18 MS. ENTSMINGER: It could be more like
19 stable.
20
21 MR. BERTRAM: It could be stable, it
22 could be slightly going down also, it's possible. But we
23 just don't see a big enough difference between each of
24 our annual surveys to be.....
25
26 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, well, that's what
27 we need to hear, I think, that it could be stable or
28 going down.
29
30 MR. BERTRAM: Yeah. It's -- there's a
31 significant decline in the west and there's an unknown
32 trend in the east.
33
34 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That would
37 leave it open to other agencies or organizations that
38 have reports that would relate to potential proposals
39 that you're going to write. I don't know if there are
40 other ones.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: None.
45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Seeing that there is none.
47 Then that brings us up to what Sue talked about earlier
48 -- oh, I'm sorry.
49
50 MR. BERTRAM: Yeah, I guess I did have

1 some other information I.....

2

3 REPORTER: Wait.

4

5 MR. BERTRAM:could present.....

6

7 MR. RIVARD: Microphone.

8

9 MR. BERTRAM: I inadvertently left out
10 harvest information of moose that occur on the Yukon
11 Flats and I'll pull that information out here. Some
12 important information I just wanted to relay on to you.

13

14 These go back to the -- this goes back to
15 the CATG harvest information and this is for 2004 and
16 2005. And this is across the whole of the Yukon Flats,
17 this is just not -- this is not only the eastern Yukon
18 Flats, this is across the Yukon Flats as a whole.

19

20 There were 126 moose harvested in 2004.
21 That number increased to 162 moose in 2005. The
22 percentage of cow moose in that harvest ranges from 13 to
23 26 percent because there was a category of moose of
24 unknown sex that was reported in the harvest. So if you
25 -- depending on how you consider those moose of unknown
26 sex, the percentage of cows that were harvested ranges
27 from 13 to 26 percent, so I just wanted to add that to
28 your notes.

29

30 I guess a side comment would be that, you
31 know, I think the cow harvest is significant and it's,
32 you know, it's probably not benefitting the population
33 growth so, you know, it's just the way it is out there.
34 There always has been a cow harvest and there probably
35 always will be but it is detrimental to the population
36 growth.

37

38 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

39

40 MR. BERTRAM: You're welcome.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That brings
43 us up to looking at proposals that the Council may want
44 to author or support, and I have a list of -- well, as
45 least five here. So I don't know which way you want to
46 go.

47

48 I know Virgil has a proposal he's wanting
49 to present, or the concept to the Council. James has one
50 or two and then Sue has two proposals. So I don't know

1 how you want to handle those at this moment.

2

3 MS. ENTSMINGER: I think we could do mine
4 quick. Because I look at it housekeeping and I was
5 provided two written proposals. One was for the shed
6 antlers and horns, or ones that are separated from the
7 skulls and the other one's for the hides. So to make it
8 that subsistence is not more restrictive than the State.
9 And, again, it takes place when it's only a Federal
10 season which would come under the same thing as what
11 Virgil was talking about in that other one.

12

13 Vince, are you passing those out -- I
14 take a little bit of faith in some of the Staff here
15 because Pete helped write this and I asked them to write
16 it so it would make sense on what the Federal level
17 needs, so I'm hoping that it was done properly to meet
18 those needs.

19

20 So I would just say we could make a
21 motion to adopt both of them as a proposal to the Federal
22 Subsistence Board for the next wildlife meetings.

23

24 (Pause)

25

26 MS. ENTSMINGER: When Pete was telling me
27 that you had to specify the species, that's why they went
28 to goat, sheep, caribou and moose because it's all
29 ungulates on the hide part. And the other one, the --
30 that's interesting how they list all the species.

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 MS. ENTSMINGER: Vince, do you know why
35 they listed all the species on the horns and antlers?

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: No, I don't. Maybe someone
38 else here that's on your -- you may sell the shed horns,
39 antlers, horns, et cetera, separated from legally
40 harvested goat, et cetera, I assume it's just a
41 comprehensive -- yeah, I don't know.

42

43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I don't see no
44 problem with the first proposal, but.....

45

46 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay

47

48 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA:the second none
49 is just similar as the first one but it's just involving
50 the hide.

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: Right.
2
3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You guys have a
4 problem with these. Virg.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MS. ENTSMINGER: Do you just want to have
9 it consent then?
10
11 (Council nods affirmatively)
12
13 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: So.....
16
17 MS. ENTSMINGER: So we're asking for
18 unanimous consent here.
19
20 (Council nods affirmatively)
21
22 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay, sounds good to me,
23 so let's do that.
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, so those two
26 proposals will be submitted under Eastern Interior's name
27 by unanimous consent.
28
29 And if I get these wrong, let me know, but
30 Virgil's proposal had to do with positioning during a
31 hunt and I believe it was with a snowmachine. So he can
32 lay that out, remember your policy has been if we don't
33 get the exact language now -- the deadline is the 20th
34 but it's happening on the public record so there is some
35 leeway there, I could work with Virgil on the details if
36 that is needed.
37
38 So anyways Virgil's is the next one that
39 I understand.
40
41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virg.
42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. For those of you
44 that have the current State regulation book, I don't know
45 if anyone has one, but if you look on Page 15, it says
46 new, it says:
47
48 A snowmachine may be used to position
49 hunters to select individual wolves for
50 harvest and wolves may be shot from a

1 stationary snowmachine in the following
2 areas.
3
4 Wolf implementation areas, and then it
5 lists a whole bunch of game management units. One of
6 them is 25(C) and 25(D), which includes all the Yukon
7 Flats and it includes the area around Central. And then
8 it goes on to say:
9
10 Except on any National Park Service or
11 National Wildlife Refuge lands not
12 approved by the Federal agencies.
13
14 So we need to put forth a proposal to
15 have the Federal regulations the same as the State
16 regulations in Unit 25(C) and 25(D), which is Yukon
17 Flats.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that motion.
20
21 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You're asking it be
22 moved and seconded.
23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right, that's what I
25 moved.
26
27 MS. ENTSMINGER: So by unanimous consent.
28
29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Call the question.
30
31 MS. ENTSMINGER: Call for the question.
32
33 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved and
34 seconded, and question has been called to have the
35 Federal regulations match the State regulations for
36 alignment to allow for the.....
37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Positioning of hunters to
39 shoot wolves. Now, the State also has this in the
40 trapping regulations so that's for hunting or trapping,
41 either one, that you can use a snowmachine. The hunter
42 or trapper can use a snowmachine to position himself to
43 shoot wolves.
44
45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. All those in
46 favor, signify by saying aye.
47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.
49
50 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Opposed, same sign.

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then that brings us
6 up to 25(D) East, in James' area. And that may take a
7 little bit more time. As he laid out last night, he had
8 possibly three to four options. One was he used the term
9 harvest ticket, but after further talking to him he was
10 basically indicating what's called a Tier II on the State
11 side, but on the Federal side it's called an .804. That
12 was your one option, James.

13

14 Your second option, I lost track of, was
15 harvesting just the older moose.

16

17 Then his third option, which is coming up
18 on another topic, is implement a predator control
19 program.

20

21 And then the fourth one that we talked
22 about a little bit, but I need concurrence from him and
23 I'm not sure the village or the hunters in the area want
24 it, was to extend the season into -- longer into fall,
25 like to October 1st.

26

27 So James can give us some indication on
28 that and then we can go from there to see which
29 direction.

30

31 MR. NATHANIEL: Thank you, Vince. The
32 fourth option that we talk about, what was it now?

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Extending the -- making the
35 season longer in the fall.

36

37 MR. NATHANIEL: Yes. I haven't talked to
38 many people on that but a couple of people that I talked
39 to, you know, wanted, not extension, but to move the --
40 open season -- move it up 10 days or so. And I haven't
41 got anywhere with that but I just wanted to bring that
42 up.

43

44 But the harvest ticket, they want to --
45 my village want to have harvest ticket of 25 -- I believe
46 25 tickets. And I talked to one elder hunter about
47 taking the three year old and older antler moose and
48 leave the one and two year old and we sure do need
49 predator control program.

50

1 And that's all I have, I guess I covered
2 everything yesterday and that's all I have.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MR. BASSICH: James, I have a question
7 for you, the issue that you're having there is it that
8 you're having a hard time finding the bull moose or that
9 you're having problems competing with other hunters in
10 your area?

11
12 MR. NATHANIEL: Well, both, yeah. We're
13 having a problem with other hunters taking our bull moose
14 in our area. And a lot of those hunters they go further
15 up river from our village that's close to Canadian border
16 and that's how far they go to get their bull moose,
17 there's hardly any bull close to the village.

18
19 Like I said yesterday that hardly anyone
20 in our village got bull moose this year.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I guess what I'm
23 driving at is I think you have to be real careful when
24 you start changing times of hunts because if you change
25 them to make it more attractive for other hunters to come
26 in you're going to increase your problem with competition
27 with outside hunters, and we've experienced that in the
28 area that I live in. And we were able to actually
29 shorten seasons and make it less attractive and institute
30 some other ticketing -- harvest ticket type restrictions
31 and that was quite successful in reducing some of that
32 pressure from outside hunting that was competing with the
33 subsistence hunters locally. So I think you have to be
34 really careful when you start looking at changing those
35 hunting seasons.

36
37 MR. NATHANIEL: One more thing, too.
38 This fall we had plenty of rain or the river was pretty
39 high so they could, you know, hunters from Fort Yukon,
40 you know, they go quite a ways up the river, when the
41 water was low they don't go that far.

42
43 MR. GLANZ: The only probably I have with
44 that James is that the State regulations state that any
45 bull in that area, and if you put a restriction on
46 antlers it will just affect the Federal subsistence hunt.
47 So I don't think it'd work out too well in that way.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I think to
50 save Council time and not to put James on the hot seat,

1 would be during lunch get James and one or two Council
2 members and Staff and then we can work out some of these
3 options, because the range of options he's laid out here
4 are quite wide. And that's fine, James, but we need to
5 get crystallized what would be the best option. So I'm
6 hoping the Refuge Staff would -- I'm sure they'll be
7 interested in doing that. And then we can come back to
8 you after lunch. Because this way it's -- if I was in
9 James' shoes I'd be confused on what we're talking about
10 here because I'm trying to look at all the different
11 seasons, State and Federal and there's a lot of
12 differences there.

13

14 So if that's okay with the Council, I
15 don't know who else would like to work, maybe Bill would
16 since he's in that area and then we'll set up a room here
17 or something for people to work this out.

18

19 MR. GLANZ: I would.

20

21 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Sounds good to me,
22 Vince. Is there any more wildlife proposals that we'd
23 like to put forward.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

26

27 (Council nods affirmatively)

28

29 MR. UMPHENOUR: I got to reading further
30 in the State book, they also say you can use an ATV to
31 position yourself when hunting wolves, so we need to
32 throw in snowmachine and ATV in that proposal.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Is that the.....

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Unanimous consent.

37

38 MR. GLANZ: Unanimous consent.

39

40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Unanimous consent.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. That is the wishes
43 of the Council based on consensus to make that correction
44 as referred to on Page 15.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Move on.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman. The

1 next two ones are going to be quite easy. There was some
2 communication challenges with the wildfires management
3 that just didn't succeed in getting them here. Presently
4 all the fire managers, if that's their title, are
5 presently meeting somewhere in the state for a statewide
6 review. So I gather the fire was hotter over there than
7 here.

8

9

(Laughter)

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: But we can get them back on
12 board for your next meeting, if you so desire. That was
13 in response to the fires, I believe in 2005 in the Eagle
14 area. But if you would like, we can put that on the next
15 agenda. I will dog BLM closer on that but they do
16 apologize, they just couldn't do it.

17

18

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Move on.

19

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Whoop, well, maybe Wennona
22 has something, sorry.

22

23

24 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
25 only had one comment on Virgil's request to include ATVs,
26 under Refuge regulations which are separate from hunting
27 regulations, ATVs are not allowed on Refuge lands. So
28 that would put hunting regulation in conflict with
29 another Refuge regulation. I just wanted to make that
30 comment.

30

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: There's a lot of private
33 land inside the Refuges as well. Of course the State
34 regulations, I guess, apply to that.

34

35

MS. BROWN: Correct.

36

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Because when you have the
39 big conglomeration like you have in some of these Refuges
40 where you have a whole gob of different land owners all
41 mixed in then if all the regulations are the same, it
42 makes, I think, more clear for the users.

42

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next one is
45 global warming presentation, and I did contact some
46 presenters but they did not reply and so if you want me
47 to pursue that further we can. Please realize that the
48 program would not be covering their travel expenses so
49 that might reduce their availability. But anyway there's
50 no presenters scheduled for global warming unless they
51 showed up on their own. So those two are out of the way.

1 This may be a good time for a break but
2 we can also go further and.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, break.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
9 be recognized.

10
11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Lester.

12
13 MR. L. WILDE: For the record, Mr.
14 Chairman, my name is Lester Wilde. I'm a resident of
15 Hooper Bay. And as most of you might know there was a
16 drastic or a big fire in Hooper Bay that was caused by a
17 couple of -- a few children playing under the school.
18 But we had an inpouring of donations from all over the
19 state of Alaska and in fact throughout the United States.
20 And I couldn't leave this area without thanking everybody
21 who made donations and who made it possible for some of
22 the people down there to get some of their possessions
23 back in the way of donations.

24
25 So on behalf of the Native Village of
26 Hooper Bay and the residents, I'd just like to thank
27 everybody that's here who helped with the donations.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 I wanted to say this because we're going
32 to be leaving at this break.

33
34 Thanks again.

35
36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you, Lester.

37
38 (Off record)

39
40 (On record)

41
42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'll call this
43 meeting back to order.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Excuse me, I'd like
48 to call this meeting back to order.

49
50 (Pause)

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that
4 brings us up to the topic of annual reports. You have
5 the written response that was sent to you earlier this
6 summer and that starts on Page 86, and then obviously
7 following that is presentations by Federal agencies on
8 guidelines for intensive management. And I've been
9 talking to the three agencies and I think I got it down
10 that Park Service would present theirs followed by Bureau
11 of Land Management, and then Fish and Wildlife Service.
12 So right now would be to look over the written response
13 starting on Page 86 to see if there are any specific
14 questions on that and then go into these presentations.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Is there any
19 questions or anything to the letter from OSM to us on our
20 annual report.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Seeing no questions on
27 that, if there are any questions later or whatever, give
28 myself a call or other Staff. Then it would be the
29 presentations that the Board agreed to provide in
30 response to your annual report. And we'll start off with
31 the National Park Service.

32

33 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning, Mr.
34 Chairman. Again, I'm Sandy Rabinowitch with the National
35 Park Service. And I read over your request and what I
36 wrote down was that you wanted a report summarizing the
37 steps necessary to allow intensive management on Federal
38 lands in the Eastern Interior region and so I took that
39 to heart and I tried to think of the shortest, most
40 direct answer I could give you and I'll do that, and then
41 I'll ask if you want me to continue on and elaborate or
42 stop.

43

44 So the shortest direct reply for the Park
45 Service is to simply write a letter to each of the Park
46 superintendents, there's three of them in Eastern
47 Interior, Wrangell-St. Elias, Yukon-Charley and Denali.
48 And if you want to go down that road, I can provide Vince
49 with names and addresses and all that kind of material.
50 What we would ask is that you state where, when, how and

1 why. And, you know, I can go over this with Vince. And
2 also explain how we will know when your objectives are
3 accomplished.

4

5 Pretty basic stuff.

6

7 If the Park Service superintendent
8 ultimately responds with a negative reply, you know, you
9 want something to happen and the Park Service
10 superintendent writes back and says I can't do that and
11 here's why, you can appeal a decision like that to our
12 regional director, that is the process of how it works,
13 and then our regional director would respond.

14

15 That's the short, simple, reply.

16

17 That's the shortest simple direct reply I
18 could come up with. Now, I could elaborate and I brought
19 a bunch of handouts of kind of how the Park Service would
20 look at such a request and if you want these I can pass
21 them out and I could spend another, I don't know, seven
22 or 10 minutes, kind of walking you through these if you
23 want, but if you don't want to go there, I don't have to.

24

25 So I'll stop and ask if you want me to
26 get into the more detail or not.

27

28 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I think what we're
29 mostly looking at is on Refuge lands just because we're
30 mostly concerned about the Yukon Flats.

31

32 MS. ENTSMINGER: I like the short reply.
33 But I also see an opportunity here, for instance, in
34 Yukon-Charley to work with the Park Service in their
35 system. So he doesn't have to go through all of it, just
36 maybe work with some of us that are affiliated with the
37 Yukon-Charley. I see an opportunity for -- because it is
38 Preserve land, all of it, right?

39

40 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yukon-Charley is
41 Preserve, that's correct.

42

43 MS. ENTSMINGER: And I see an opportunity
44 for the Fish and Game and the Park Service to work
45 together on programs and I would like to see us -- you
46 don't have to go through the seven minute detail but for
47 some of us work with him and go forward with that if
48 that's okay with the Council.

49

50 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm happy to do that.

1 And, Sue, I could give you a set of these and anyone else
2 who wanted them and I'm happy at a break or any time, you
3 know, I can walk through that with you as much as you
4 want or any way that you choose.

5

6 MS. ENTSMINGER: At a break.

7

8 MR. RABINOWITCH: I mean I think
9 everybody's heard for, I would say, for 26 years that
10 basically predator control is not something we get into.
11 If there's a spectrum of it's easy to do on it on one
12 kind of land, and hard on the other, the Park Service is
13 way over here on the hard, but I think everybody already
14 knows that. But I can explain separately, you know, why
15 that's the case and I'm happy to do that. So if you want
16 me to go sit down I'll do that and then work with you on
17 the breaks, fine.

18

19 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, break.

20

21 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then the next
26 presentation, Bureau of Land Management, and I believe
27 it's John Page.

28

29 MR. PAGE: Good morning. Thank you Mr.
30 Chair and Council for inviting us up here. As well you
31 know Bureau of Land Management has remained somewhat
32 silent on intensive management or predator control.

33

34 We've been very successful in this state
35 in doing that, unlike the Lower 48 issues which are
36 primarily dealing with coyote, we deal with other, larger
37 predators up here, obviously with wolves and bear.

38

39 The BLM remains in the position that
40 predator control or intensive management is a State
41 function under the State Constitution. We will not
42 interfere with that function within the state unless it
43 has a direct conflict with an authorized action of the
44 Bureau of Land Management, by the field manager or by the
45 State office, or it presents a hazard to the health and
46 safety of human use in the area.

47

48 And that's basically the policy, we're
49 very straightforward. I've brought some written
50 responses -- or written policy to that, it's an internal

1 instruction memorandum to our field, basically renewing
2 our position the last 15 years.

3

4 So if there's any questions on it, I'll
5 hand this out and go from there.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that
10 brings us up to Fish and Wildlife Service, and that's
11 going to be Greg Bos, InterAgency Staff Committee for the
12 Fish and Wildlife Service.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. BOS: Good morning Mr. Chair.
17 Council members. My name is Greg Bos with the Fish and
18 Wildlife Service. And I'll be providing an overview of
19 the Fish and Wildlife Service position and the guidelines
20 it follows when it considers requests for proposals for
21 predator control on National Wildlife Refuges.

22

23 I think Randy Rogers did a really good
24 job in giving you much of what I have to present. It
25 certainly isn't as short as Park Service and BLM, we're
26 not on the no end of the spectrum and we're not on the we
27 allow the State to manage predator populations, we're in
28 the middle. And it's fairly complicated, there's a
29 number of legal requirements that we have to meet in
30 managing resources on National Wildlife Refuges.

31

32 I know that you understand the Federal
33 Subsistence Board's policy that predator control is
34 beyond the scope of the Federal Subsistence Program and
35 that it's the responsibility and within the authority of
36 the individual Federal land managing agencies and the
37 State to manage predator populations, their respected
38 lands.

39

40 Your Council has requested that the Fish
41 and Wildlife Service initiate the necessary studies that
42 would lead to predator control on the three Eastern
43 Interior Refuges, the Arctic, Yukon Flats and Tetlin, but
44 apparently at least from the comments that I heard
45 yesterday that you're really focused on Yukon Flats.

46

47 Each of those three Refuges has responded
48 to your request and they each have the specific details
49 about the fish and wildlife resources on their Refuges so
50 I won't get into the specifics of those responses. I

1 hope you've had a chance to read those letters. And
2 there are Staff here from those Refuge that can provide
3 additional information or respond to questions you might
4 have about their individual Refuges.

5
6 You know, in response to the question of
7 whether the Fish and Wildlife Service would allow or
8 conduct predator control on a National Wildlife Refuge,
9 the answer is yes if it has a sound, scientific
10 biological justification and it conforms with the legal
11 requirements that the Fish and Wildlife Service operates
12 under. The primary statutes that bear on this issue are
13 the Refuge Administration Act which is amended by the
14 Refuge Improvement Act, it was basically the organic or
15 enabling legislation for the National Wildlife Refuge
16 system. There's ANILCA, Alaska National Interests Land
17 Conservation Act. NEPA, which you've heard about,
18 National Environmental Policy Act. And for those Refuges
19 that have wilderness areas within their boundaries, the
20 Wilderness Act has provisions that provide guidance to
21 the Service for managing those lands.

22
23 ANILCA established or expanded 16
24 National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska and mandated the
25 purposes for which those Refuges would be managed. One
26 of the primary purposes was to conserve fish and wildlife
27 populations in their habitats in their natural diversity.
28 All of those 16 have that as the primary purpose. And
29 all, except one, have a purpose of providing for the
30 continued -- for opportunity for continued subsistence
31 uses, as long as it's consistent with the conservation of
32 fish and wildlife populations in their natural diversity.

33
34 The Refuge Administration Act requires
35 that the Refuges be managed for those purposes for which
36 they were established and to maintain the biological
37 integrity, diversity and environmental health of the
38 resources on the Refuge. And also to insure that uses of
39 the Refuge resources, or activities on Refuges are
40 compatible with the purposes for which they're
41 established.

42
43 The Fish and Wildlife Service developed a
44 policy on biological integrity and diversity which
45 defines the biological integrity as having the species
46 composition, abundance and interrelationships with each
47 other and with their habitat that are comparable with
48 historical conditions.

49
50 So under the policy predators and prey

1 would be managed for natural densities and levels of
2 variation based on historical conditions as a frame of
3 reference.

4

5 What does all this mean. It means that
6 on National Wildlife Refuges predator control would not
7 likely be authorized unless prey densities are determined
8 to be below historical levels of variation as a result of
9 predation and that reduction of predators would be
10 expected to restore those prey populations to historical
11 levels.

12

13 The Service would also need to evaluate
14 whether habitat condition has been or would be limiting
15 to the recovery of prey populations.

16

17 This Council's request to the Fish and
18 Wildlife Service asserts that predation has reduced moose
19 and caribou population on which subsistence users depend
20 to provide for their nutritional and cultural needs and
21 that enough moose and caribou are not available for
22 Federal Subsistence Board use.

23

24 The Council believes that predator
25 control therefore is justified in view of the purpose of
26 providing continued opportunity for subsistence uses on
27 Refuges.

28

29 However, to be authorized predator
30 control would first and foremost need to be consistent
31 with conservation of these species in their natural
32 diversity as guided by the biological integrity policy.
33 The Service will not reduce predators solely to increase
34 moose or caribou populations for hunters, including
35 subsistence hunters.

36

37 To determine if control is biologically
38 justified, the Refuge would need to assess the status of
39 predator and prey populations and their habitat in
40 relation to historical conditions, and where that
41 information is not sufficient would have to conduct
42 population surveys or other biological studies. In
43 addition, alternatives to predator control would need to
44 be evaluated. If predator control is found to be
45 biologically justified and consistent with the biological
46 integrity guidelines that the Service operates under a
47 NEPA assessment would be required to evaluate the
48 environmental effects of a proposed control program. And
49 this would include extensive public review and comment.
50 And due to the highly controversial nature of predator

1 control involving wolves and bears, it's most likely that
2 the NEPA assessment would require an environmental impact
3 statement. And finally an evaluation of the effects of
4 the control program on subsistence users would need to be
5 done as is required under ANILCA, Section .810.

6
7 Once implemented a control program would
8 be monitored by the Service and adjusted as appropriate
9 to meet the program's objectives.

10
11 I guess the take home message is, is that
12 it would not be quick or easy to establish predator
13 control on National Wildlife Refuge and I think the best
14 chance that you have for intensive management on the
15 Yukon Flats or any other portion of Eastern Interior is
16 to implement control under the State's program for
17 intensive management. And you can do that on State or
18 private lands that are within the boundaries of a
19 National Wildlife Refuge. Refuge Staff would be
20 available in those situations to provide technical
21 assistance, information that they have on predator and
22 prey populations on those affected lands.

23
24 And if you have questions specific to
25 Yukon Flats Refuge, I could ask Mark Bertram to come up
26 and respond to those. And if you have questions about
27 the guidelines that I've described I'd be happy to answer
28 those.

29
30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virg.

31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, I have a question.
33 And it's not directly for a predator control program but
34 we just passed a motion awhile ago for a proposal to go
35 to the Federal Subsistence Board to align the regulations
36 as just methods and means on hunting wolves because when
37 the Board of Game passed these regulations, they -- you
38 know, they went ahead and put right in the regulation
39 that you can do this, that hunters can position
40 theirselves with snowmachines and ATVs when hunting
41 wolves, hunting or trapping wolves, except on National
42 Park and National Wildlife Service lands. So now that
43 we've put forward the proposal and it's going to go to
44 the Federal Subsistence Board, do you have any idea what
45 the Fish and Wildlife Service's position is going to be
46 on methods and means because this is not a program, it's
47 just a change in methods and means to make it a little
48 more liberal and to give the people more of an
49 opportunity to harvest wolves.

50

1 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Umphenour.
2 It's my understanding that the State's regulations, the
3 general regulations prohibit the use of snowmachine that
4 would result in harassment, chasing and herding of
5 wildlife. The provision that allows the use of a
6 snowmachine to position a hunter to be selective in
7 taking wolves is an exception to that general provision.
8 In other words, the intent is that there would likely be
9 harassment, chasing of wolves just to try to get the
10 hunter in position to take wolves.

11
12 Federal regulations, Federal subsistence
13 regulations prohibit the use of snowmachines by
14 subsistence hunters that would result in harassment,
15 chasing or undue disturbance of wolves or any other
16 species of wildlife. The Federal Board cannot adopt a
17 regulation that is contrary to an existing agency
18 regulation, so your proposal may run into some difficulty
19 if it's determined to be conflicting with the prohibition
20 of the use of snowmachines that would result in chasing,
21 herding or harassing wolves. So in that sense we can't
22 just adopt or be consistent with the State regulation if
23 it creates a conflict with an existing Federal
24 regulation.

25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let me see if I
27 understand this now. Because I've been in the process of
28 manipulating regulations for a long time.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: The U.S. Fish and
33 Wildlife Service has a regulation, and I guess this must
34 be a nationwide regulation that prohibits using a
35 motorized vehicle to harass or chase or disturb wildlife,
36 and that's the Fish and Wildlife Service itself; is that
37 what you just got through telling me?

38
39 MR. BOS: Yes. There's a regulation
40 that's specific to Alaska Refuges. Specific to
41 subsistence hunting on Alaska Refuges that prohibits the
42 use of a snowmachine to chase or harass wolves.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. And this
45 regulation was promulgated by the Refuge Service itself
46 and has nothing to do with the Federal Subsistence Board.

47
48
49 MR. BOS: That's correct.
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So what is the
2 process then to change that regulation, do we need to at
3 this same meeting make a proposal to the Refuge system or
4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that we want to have
5 exceptions to that regulation, just like the Board of
6 Game has done, they have the same basic regulation, you
7 can't herd, harass and all this other stuff, of wildlife,
8 with the exceptions of and they list the exceptions, and
9 the exceptions are what we are talking about.

10

11 So what's the procedure to do that.

12

13 MR. BOS: The procedure, as I understand
14 it, would be to petition the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
15 Service to revise its regulations regarding the use of
16 snowmachines and then the Service would have to -- if it
17 accepted that petition would publish a Proposed Rule to
18 allow that use and that would be subject to public review
19 and comment before it could adopt a Final Rule making
20 that change. It's a process entirely separate from the
21 Federal Subsistence Board's regulatory cycles.

22

23 MR. UMPHENOUR: And how long does this
24 process normally take. Say if we, at this meeting today,
25 go ahead and vote to petition the Fish and Wildlife
26 Service and the National Refuge System to do this, how
27 long does the procedure normally take, administratively.

28

29 MR. BOS: I can't say for sure. Mr.
30 Chair. I think realistically you'd be looking to
31 anywhere from six months to a year before that process
32 would play out if the Service accepted the petition.

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. We -- or I
35 think I know what we can do then.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 MS. ENTSMINGER: Is that regulatory or a
40 statute. I know that language in State but what Virgil
41 was just referring to, is that something that's just
42 regulatory or is it.....

43

44 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair. Ms. Entsminger.
45 The prohibition on the use of snowmachines to chase or
46 harass wolves is a regulation, it's not in the statute.

47

48 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay. I have another
49 question then. I've known you for a long time, Greg, I
50 heard the short answer was yes you can do it, and the

1 long answer was, no, you can't do it as far as doing
2 predator control.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MS. ENTSMINGER: Sandy, yours sounded
7 more positive, I'm sorry I would have liked to have heard
8 it a little more positive. But I think yours was exactly
9 the same, the long answer is no, no way, no way in H-E-L-
10 L; am I correct?

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14

15 MR. BOS: I wouldn't characterize it that
16 way.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MS. ENTSMINGER: Well.....

21

22 MR. BOS: The answer is not, no, it is
23 that the Service recognizes predator control as a
24 legitimate management tool, and, in fact the Service has
25 conducted predator control in Alaska on some exotic
26 predators but also on Native predators, foxes on the
27 Yukon Delta that have severely impacted spectacled
28 eiders, and we have a project going forward following an
29 environmental assessment to provide very localized
30 control on Arctic foxes that are preying on black brand
31 and have severely reduced the population of black brand.
32 So it's possible but you have to have the baseline
33 information and good biological justification for that to
34 establish that it's needed to maintain historical
35 conditions, you know, the natural diversity of the fish
36 and wildlife populations that are being affected by the
37 control.

38

39 MS. ENTSMINGER: Continue.

40

41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

42

43 MS. ENTSMINGER: So is the Service
44 willing to help this RAC to start that process or do we
45 not get the help of the Service.

46

47 MR. BOS: I think the Service is always
48 ready to work with the RAC to address the concerns that
49 you have and I think the response that you received from
50 the three Refuges, particularly the Yukon Flats Refuge is

1 that there are some efforts going forward now under the
2 Moose Management Plan to try to improve the situation on
3 the Yukon Flats. The response also identified some
4 information needs that need to be addressed in order for
5 the Refuge to more fully evaluate the feasibility and the
6 appropriateness of conducting intensive management on the
7 Refuge. But I think Mark may be able to give you a
8 little better answer if he's willing to come forward.

9

10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Greg, you're talking
11 about harassment and we're talking about harvesting, it's
12 a big difference.

13

14 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair. I hear what you're
15 saying. I know what you're trying to say. But in the
16 process of harvesting, if you have a situation that
17 develops that animals are being harassed and chased it's
18 considered to be inappropriate methods and means by the
19 Fish and Wildlife Service. I know the objective is to
20 harvest wolves, but it's how you get there that's the
21 problem.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I think what
24 Greg was getting at there on the other topic is what
25 Western Interior has been pursuing is supporting the
26 Refuges in getting this baseline data and informational
27 needs so all the ducks are in a row, for example, that if
28 that data is compelling then it's all there to allow the
29 predator management to go forward. I won't hoodwink you,
30 it's a long time, it's not going to happen overnight.
31 But they've been encouraging the Refuges there to collect
32 the data, you already heard that Mike Spindler is doing
33 whatever that was called, and that, and so what does that
34 mean to you, what it means to you is that you're
35 encouraging the Refuge to collect that data, what does it
36 mean to the Refuge, that gives them, when they put their
37 budget together, that they've had a public request to
38 look at research, and possibly assist them with
39 prioritizing it. Does it result in additional money, I
40 don't know, but not doing it may not do anything. So
41 does it help.

42

43 Western Interior has encouraged different
44 Refuges and I believe they've been able to get additional
45 funding. I don't know for sure but indications are they
46 were so it's a process of getting the baseline. He's
47 made it clear that there has to be a biological
48 justification.

49

50 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I think we have been

1 requesting this throughout the years for the Refuge Staff
2 to work with CATG and those other entities in the Yukon
3 Flats to work with them to do studies and to study the
4 impacts on predators at have on moose -- we have been
5 requesting this throughout the years, to my recollection,
6 at just about every meeting we have been requesting that.

7

8 MR. BERTRAM: I guess I'd like to respond
9 to some of the questions that you're raising regarding
10 the Refuge and how we -- what actions we've taken to try
11 and better the moose population on the Yukon Flats, and
12 I'll end with some of the data gaps that I think we need
13 to fill.

14

15 The Moose Management Plan, which was a
16 cooperative effort between the State, the Refuge and the
17 local residents on Yukon Flats was completed in 2002 and
18 there were a lot of objectives in that moose management
19 plan to directly benefit the moose population and during
20 that whole process we avoided intensive management as an
21 option because the consensus was that it was going to be
22 -- as Greg has told you, it's a complicated, drawn out
23 process and very expensive and takes time, so we were
24 looking for ways that we could have more immediate impact
25 on the moose population so we came up with a list of
26 proposals that were implemented that liberalized bear
27 harvest, those things happened.

28

29 I guess following up on the moose
30 management plan, one of the things that the Refuge has
31 done is we've worked with the Village of Beaver and they
32 were successful in getting a tribal grant for over
33 \$200,000 this year that addresses trying to implement
34 objectives in the moose management plan, so that's one
35 thing that's recently happened.

36

37 The second thing that has happened over
38 the last several years is that we've gone into an annual
39 funding agreement with CATG and we are funding them in
40 cooperation with the State to conduct moose surveys
41 annually on the eastern half of the Refuge. The Refuge
42 is doing the western half, they're doing the eastern
43 half, this allows us to get the whole Refuge done each
44 year on an annual basis. I don't think you'll find any
45 other body of land, with the exception of some of the
46 State-managed units, as far as Refuges go, you won't find
47 another Refuge that has more moose management, or moose
48 survey emphasis than Yukon Flats. We pump a lot of money
49 and a lot of effort into it on an annual basis.

50

1 We have increased our law enforcement
2 efforts on the Flats, primarily to try and deal with the
3 very significant cow harvest that takes place each year.
4 So we've just brought on a full-time law enforcement
5 officer who's focused on that very issue.

6
7 We're getting ready to do some radio
8 interviews in the next two weeks dealing with that and
9 dealing with intensive management on the Yukon Flats
10 working with CATG.

11
12 We've done things in the past that I
13 won't bring up, but I mentioned them earlier, moose calf
14 mortality studies, some moose habitat work that we've
15 done, these are things that we've done in the past to try
16 and understand -- try to establish a baseline on some of
17 the data gaps.

18
19 What we need to do, there's three big
20 holes.

21
22 One hole is getting more information on
23 wolf predation rates. We've been doing this wolf
24 reconnaissance survey every several years, and what we
25 really need to do, it boils down to a pretty
26 straightforward wolf telemetry study where we would go
27 out and collar wolves and we'd estimate kill predation
28 rates on moose, We really don't know, we're assuming
29 that we're similar to other areas in the Interior where
30 these studies have been done, but it would behoove us to
31 get baseline information on how many moose are wolves
32 killing during the winter months. So that's a
33 straightforward question that we could answer. Cost, 30
34 to \$80,000 on an annual basis depending on what methods
35 you use.

36
37 The second major hole is we need to get
38 better information on moose habitat quantity and quality.
39 In other words we need to -- we assume that we've got
40 good quality habitat out there based on the fact that our
41 twining rates are high, the fact that the bodies of the
42 cows and the calves are handled are heavy -- heavier
43 compared to other places in Alaska. So we assume we've
44 got good habitat, how good it is, we don't know, what's
45 our carrying capacity, we don't know. If we're going to
46 start manipulating the populations out there we really
47 need to know where do we want to go. I mean that would
48 be part of our management plan if we were going to
49 manipulate populations like that.

50

1 The third thing, and this is the hardest
2 hold to fill is trying to get an estimate on the baseline
3 population of bears on the Flats. And the State, as I
4 mentioned earlier, is just starting to look at this over
5 in Tok. There's a method out there using bear hairs and
6 DNA to figure it out, it's a very costly process, it
7 takes, I think the State -- I may be wrong on these
8 numbers, but I think they're spending between 150 and
9 \$200,000 this year in that effort over in Tok. So it's
10 -- I would love to have that information for the Yukon
11 Flats.

12
13 I don't see how we can really -- I feel
14 uncomfortable, to be honest with you that we're
15 increasing harvest of bears on the Yukon Flats currently
16 without that baseline information on how many bears we
17 have currently. So I feel that it's information that we
18 really need to have and before we could proceed with any
19 type of intensive management program, that's another hole
20 that we would have to fill for both black bears and for
21 grizzly bears.

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I think it was two
24 years ago that we supported you guys and to request you
25 put in your annual funding agreement to do these studies,
26 that's what I want to say, we support you guys in doing
27 those studies to find out what we're really dealing with
28 out there. I know for a fact, from my experience, that
29 bears are the number 1 predators, especially the
30 grizzlies and brown bears, and if you could find that out
31 and have this on the table whenever, hopefully soon,
32 because I believe something is already in the works that
33 -- because my fear, and I know what's going to happen, by
34 the time we get something done it's already going to be
35 too late.

36
37 Because manipulating ANILCA, it's more
38 for -- for your guy's benefit and we're not -- we're here
39 just beating ourselves to death over this, you know,
40 we're doing this every year for the last 10 years,
41 telling you guys, we're supporting you for your funding,
42 supporting you for doing these studies and supporting you
43 for working with those tribes and we're just beating a
44 dead horse here but we have to keep doing it.

45
46 It's good to see that you guys are
47 working, but just get more funding and go out there and
48 do those studies so we could help those people that
49 really rely on those animals.
50

1 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair. You know, sometimes
2 these things move fairly slowly. The funding is a big
3 issue and it's difficult to get additional dollars to
4 direct to these concerns, but we're hearing more and
5 more, from not only your region, but from Western
6 Interior about low moose populations and the effects of
7 predators. The State's control implementation efforts
8 that they're conducting, and -- and the request that
9 you've directed to the Fish and Wildlife Service has, I
10 might say, raised the level of attention and focus on
11 this issue. For my part, I'm going to take the message
12 back that we need to try to be a little bit more
13 proactive in addressing this issue and trying to get
14 funding to conduct the studies necessary to establish
15 whether or not predator control would be successful on
16 the Refuge.

17

18 MR. GLANZ: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: On the cow harvest, how high
23 was that, you say, 23 percent?

24

25 MR. BERTRAM: Yeah, it ranges between
26 nine and 23 percent, depending on, you know, how you
27 handle those unknown sex moose, yeah.

28

29 MR. GLANZ: I understand that's a
30 guesstimate but it sounds like the money would be well
31 spent to educate the local populous in some of your
32 controlled areas about the ridiculous stupidity of
33 harvesting cows, you know.

34

35 MR. BERTRAM: I agree, it's a significant
36 problem. And what we're doing is, the message goes into
37 the schools, we take the message into the schools. We're
38 going to be doing radio shows on it this year. It's part
39 of our moose -- it's one of the objectives in our moose
40 management plan that I don't think is being addressed.

41

42 MR. GLANZ: Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Questions.

45

46 MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Sue.

49

50 MS. ENTSMINGER: I wonder if we're in a

1 standstill here or if we can do something that moves us
2 forward on working towards our goal. Our goal was to do
3 something in the Yukon Flats. At least we got your
4 attention right now, so, I don't know that we had it
5 before. And I want to be sure that we're moving forward
6 and we're not just going to sit here and listen to what
7 is said. I don't know if you have any ideas, Gerald,
8 it's your area, and that was the intention of this RAC
9 was to see something happen in the Yukon Flats. And are
10 we going to continue the process that they've outlined
11 for us or what do you suggest?

12

13 MR. NATHANIEL: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

16

17 MR. NATHANIEL: You know, Yukon Flats
18 area we been bringing up the same issue all the time, our
19 low moose populations, predator control and nobody ever
20 come out and, you know, to our village, meet with our
21 people, maybe if you do that then you'll get more
22 information from our local people, what they think about
23 our moose -- low moose population and predator control.
24 We don't see anybody out there.

25

26 There's a lot of questions out there in
27 the village that has not been answered yet because we
28 don't see you people out there. How many years now we
29 talk about same old issue every meeting. I don't know
30 what the problem is but we sure as heck don't see no one
31 out there in the village. And I believe not only
32 Chalkyitsik but other villages in the Yukon Flats and
33 maybe some other areas too. And so I just wanted to
34 bring this up.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. BERTRAM: Yeah, I guess in response
39 to that, James, I would say that if you would like us to
40 have a meeting directly with Chalkyitsik discussing
41 predator management, intensive management we'd be happy
42 to come out and do that so we can schedule that.

43

44 MR. NATHANIEL: One more thing to Yukon
45 Flats Advisory Committee is going to have it's meeting on
46 November 13th in Fort Yukon and I think that would be a
47 good place to discuss this.

48

49 MR. BERTRAM: Okay. I'll take that back
50 to my manager and we'll plan on atten -- we'll be at the

1 meeting for sure and we'll plan on coordinating with the
2 Chair to discuss this topic.

3
4 MR. NATHANIEL: I'd rather see you guys
5 out there in the villages.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MR. BERTRAM: We'll do both. We'll talk
10 with Paul Edwin, your chief and we'll coordinate with the
11 Chair of the Advisory Committee.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chairman.

14
15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Andy.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: I think I'd like to maybe
18 get some clarification from my point. I'm looking at
19 this table map right here and I'm not real clear on land
20 ownership within these communities of Fort Yukon, Beaver,
21 Chalkyitsik. I see this white area, it's kind of
22 checkerboarded in here and I'm wondering, is this Native
23 or Doyon Land.

24
25 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Native Corporation
26 land.

27
28 MR. BERTRAM: Yeah, all those lands that
29 are -- where you see the white blocks, those are the
30 exterior boundaries of the private lands and those
31 include a combination of Native conveyed and Doyon lands.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: Okay. There's no State
34 land within that Refuge.....

35
36 MR. BERTRAM: No.

37
38 MR. BASSICH:is that correct?

39
40 MR. BERTRAM: No.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Okay, thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: In your conversation
45 with these villages, you know, I'd like to see more
46 outreach to the outlying villages instead of just Fort
47 Yukon, you know, and I'd like you guys to have Doyon
48 included, too, and the village corporations up there.
49 Because if you guys all work together something is good
50 and bound to happen and go forward.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Sue.

6

7 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you. I don't want
8 to let anything fall through the cracks here and let me
9 understand this from what you said, Greg. We need to --
10 do we need to write a letter requesting -- to this Refuge
11 manager to request predator control on that Refuge
12 because we have not done so in our last request?

13

14 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair. Sue. I think you
15 did the right -- took the right approach in the letter
16 that you wrote. You recognized that some biological
17 studies are going to be needed on Yukon Flats in order
18 for the Refuge to make a determination whether or not to
19 conduct predator control and you've asked for those
20 studies to be initiated. So I think what the Refuge
21 response is, it identifies some information needs, they
22 see a need for funding to begin those studies. So I
23 think the next step for the Service is to find a way to
24 do some additional biological research on the Refuge to
25 try to answer some of the questions that need to be
26 answered before the Refuge could go forward with a
27 serious proposal to conduct predator control.

28

29 MS. ENTSMINGER: So we're not dropping
30 the ball, right?

31

32 MR. BOS: No.

33

34 MS. ENTSMINGER: We have our discussion
35 here, it's clear what the intent of the RAC is without
36 writing a letter, correct?

37

38 MR. BOS: I think it's very clear.

39

40 MS. ENTSMINGER: Well, thank you, I'm
41 glad to hear that.

42

43 MR. BERTRAM: One thing I wanted to add
44 to the discussion, I guess is the fact that we've got,
45 and most Refuges in Alaska, everybody's got a different
46 database, they've been around for a different length of
47 time, most of the Refuges were around here since 1980, we
48 have on the Yukon Flats what I would call good --
49 statistically good moose data since about 1992, so that's
50 our baseline. That's our historic level. And so I just

1 wanted to let you know that, you know, I realize that a
2 lot of the interpretations that we're going to be making
3 are we're going to be looking back on historical levels
4 and it's a little problematic with some of, what I call
5 the younger Refuges that have been around since 1980,
6 trying to figure out what our historical levels of moose
7 population are.

8

9 MS. ENTSMINGER: But you have that
10 information from the Department of Fish and Game way
11 prior to '92.

12

13 MR. BERTRAM: Well, we do. We do have
14 information prior to '92, and it's trend information, we
15 don't have population information. We don't have pop --
16 we don't know how many moose are out there. We know that
17 maybe the moose population may have been healthy in that
18 the sex and age composition ratios look good, but we
19 don't have -- well, what we've got is we've got -- what
20 we've seen since '92 is we've got this population that's
21 fluctuating and it's remained at a low density, it hasn't
22 really gone up too much, it hasn't really gone down too
23 much, it's been fairly constant over time. And so it's
24 hard to document that we have had a very high density or
25 a high population level of 30 or 40 or 50 years ago, we
26 don't know that, it's kind of an unknown. So I just
27 wanted to bring that to your attention, because that's
28 information that, you know, we'll never have.

29

30 But I'm just mentioning the fact that
31 trying to figure out what our historical level is is a
32 little bit problematic.

33

34 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Let me suggest one
35 thing here, when you do these consultation meetings that
36 you do listen to their TEK, their traditional ecological
37 knowledge because I want to impress something there too,
38 you take that knowledge into heavy consideration.

39

40 I think that's all we want to go on on
41 this right now because we got to move on.

42

43 Vince.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. You may,
46 it's just an option, you've used the medicine followed by
47 the sugar method, other use the sugar before the
48 medicine. There's been tremendous amount of effort in
49 the response to this. There's a letter now being drafted
50 from your Secretary of Interior letter. If you

1 appreciated what effort was done here, it might be wise
2 to backfeed that through the system and also these
3 information needs, if that's what you agree to.

4

5 I know Greg's going to carry that back
6 and et cetera, but government works by paper, so that's
7 an option. I'm not saying you have to do it. I'm sure
8 it's going to be a tough one to write. But you went the
9 other direction and everybody's standing up, it might be
10 good to compliment and then say you agree with what was
11 laid out here. It's your option, I know Greg's going to
12 carry it back but there's a whole bunch of people
13 involved in this.

14

15

16 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, I'm directing
17 you to get a hold of the elusive Craig Fleener and talk
18 with him about that before we ever submit a letter like
19 that from this Council.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

22

23 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Because I don't feel
26 comfortable about it.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that
29 brings us up to the -- this is the time when you give
30 suggestions for your annual report for 2006. Those ideas
31 are fleshed out between now and the next meetings,
32 possibly with a key person presenting them and then you
33 approve that annual report at your next meeting in March
34 and then it goes through.

35

36 I'll be honest with you, today and
37 yesterday I have not heard any annual report topics but
38 maybe there was some in there or maybe individuals have
39 them. So I can't give you a list of possible annual
40 report topics because I haven't heard any.

41

42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: What I'd like to see
43 in the annual report is what we were just talking about,
44 a follow up to our request and then the other follow up
45 to the hatchery deal, you know, what -- I know they said
46 they had good plans there, they're going to do this but I
47 want to continue follow up on that -- what page was that.

48

49 Like the steps -- it never gave me a
50 clear answer here that on this letter that we got back

1 from OSM concerning -- I want this issue number 1 to be
2 maintained in there, and we have to change that a little
3 bit next time.

4

5 No. 3. And issue No. 4 not continued
6 frustration, but I want these issues to still be in
7 there. We might have to fine-tune them later on but No.
8 5 -- you know, a clearer game plan for issue No. 6
9 instead of what is there.

10

11 And these status reports, I want that to
12 remain in there. And also I want something written -- in
13 writing what we were just discussing here, how OSM and
14 the Refuge managers are willing and going to work with
15 the Yukon Flats, like a play by play request for that,
16 written down because we've been dealing with this too
17 long, this request for predator control and I want it
18 written and I want it in our annual report and I want a
19 better response than just leaning on ANILCA and laws and
20 regulations and stuff.

21

22 That's my -- anything anybody else wants
23 to add, just go ahead.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I got that. It's
28 basically refining and resubmitting the majority of
29 topics in your 2005. Do realize that you did get a
30 National Marine Fisheries Study, a copy of that and I'm
31 drawing a blank here, but I think I just recently sent
32 you information -- I hope I did from the Salmon Excluder,
33 that was very difficult to get, on that, so those there's
34 nothing new. But on the other ones, I'll have to look
35 into them. And the Avian Flu, each meeting, we -- it's
36 just now our policy at each meeting we're going to
37 provide the most current information. We don't give a
38 full blown presentation but we provide you the most
39 current information.

40

41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Another concern I
42 have is that -- concerning the fisheries is that it seems
43 like about four or five years ago we were working
44 together again as three RACs as one, and I'd like to look
45 in that avenue again so we don't be pitting ourselves
46 against each other. And I want to make it -- I want
47 everybody to realize, all involved, is that, we're
48 fighting for our subsistence up here, just to subsist and
49 put fish on the table and we're always going against them
50 fighting for their economic value of money, there's got

1 to be another avenue, besides that, maybe biological or
2 something, because if we keep fighting for this fish,
3 man, we're not going to end up with nothing.

4
5 It's got to quit being money against
6 subsistence. There's got to be a way around that. If we
7 don't solve anything like that, if we don't solve this
8 problem we're going to be -- keep fighting the next --
9 the next Councils will be fighting, the ones that replace
10 us will be still fighting the same battles.

11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: On the issue on
13 the hatcheries, we brought that up in the past in our
14 annual report and I'd like to have a report from National
15 Marine Fisheries Service on what has happened and what
16 the progress is, a status report on their study they're
17 supposedly doing out of the Auke Bay Lab next to Juneau
18 on the affects of the hatchery production on wild stocks
19 and what they've come up with is, you know, on the
20 overgrazing issue.

21
22 And also what effects of having the
23 smolts that are in net pens released to coincide with
24 forage fish, such as the herring hatch and how that
25 affects the wild stocks.

26
27 And I would like to point out that even
28 though they're doing this, say, that these hatcheries are
29 in Southeast Alaska like the Diepak Hatchery is, that
30 when the analysis was done by the Auke Bay Lab of the
31 genetics of the trawl bycatch in the Bering Sea, that
32 there was a considerable number of Diepak thermal marked
33 hatchery chums in the bycatch in the Bering sea caught
34 right along side Yukon River salmon. But I'd like them
35 to give us a report on that, a status report, because
36 they promised to do this seven or eight years ago and I
37 haven't seen nothing on it.

38
39 Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Andy.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I have another
44 concern that I'd like to get some information on and that
45 is, I'd really like to see what OSM and the State would
46 have on what's happening in the upper regions and in
47 particular our region to the subsistence user. It seems
48 that there's quite an attrition taking place, villages
49 are getting smaller, people are moving out, young people
50 aren't staying there, and I know that in the past the

1 State did some studies in the lower Yukon to see how the
2 dynamics of the villages and the subsistence lifestyle
3 has been changing and I'd like to see what they have
4 currently on that, and if they don't have much on that
5 what they plan to do or it's an area I'd like to see some
6 money spent on. I think it's very important for us at
7 this point in time to get a good handle on how
8 communities are changing, the State's changing a lot. If
9 we get this gas pipeline it's going to change
10 dramatically in our region we're representing.

11
12 And so I guess I'd like to see some
13 information on -- studies on the subsistence users in the
14 area and their -- I guess, I don't really know how to
15 define it but population changes, or shifts in
16 populations.

17
18 I hope I'm clear. Maybe I'll be able to
19 be a little more clear to you later, Vince, on that.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I think you're clear on
22 it enough and Mike's in the room, yeah, Mike Koskey's
23 here, he's more -- not that he's going to do this, he's
24 more in tune to responding to questions like this and
25 then I'll try to meet with him and Polly.

26
27 But what I think what you're indicating
28 is what has been the pattern changes in subsistence uses
29 as well as community changes and what effects -- what are
30 they seeing out of that so then you can better understand
31 what the subsistence needs are, are they declined,
32 increased, have they shifted in a different direction as
33 far as species.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Right. And I'm not -- I
36 don't want this to be focused on harvest or what needs
37 are for the harvest, I'm interested more in maybe the
38 more social side of it, community movements, population
39 densities, that aspect of it, because that directly
40 correlates to amounts necessary to support that group.
41 So I'd just like to see more on that because I think
42 that's going to be very important in the future for us.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. It looks like we got
45 a big annual report again. If you have any other topics,
46 due to work load, it would be best to get a hold of me
47 within the next couple of weeks and then I can run it by
48 the Chair and draft them up and get it -- but it's not
49 advantageous to bring up new topics at the winter meeting
50 because there won't be time -- as much time to develop

1 those.

2

3

So that completes that.

4

5

Mr. Chairman. It brings us up really close to lunch. The topic on your list are OSM reports, but the first one, the Chair and several of the local advisory committee members wanted to be here so I need to call them, so it might be better to break for lunch and then have them come right after lunch. That's concerning the rural determinations, in particular, the situation with Delta Junction area.

12

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CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, break for lunch then.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And right now it's 11:45, that clock's wrong back there, what time should we come back 1:00.

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then James and Bill we need to meet quickly here with Refuge Staff to set a time during lunch to get together to hammer out some proposal options.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'll call our meeting back to order.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, where we left off. We did call and I believe they're here, I didn't check. We made calls to several of the local advisory committee members here. I do see Don is here. I don't know if Darryl made it. And Larry Fett was supposed to be here.

Okay, they wanted to be here on the next topic because you talked about it last night and that is the Proposed Rule for rural determinations.

And, again, that material is on Page 94

1 in your book, and Don will be presenting that.

2

3 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
4 name is Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence
5 Management in Anchorage.

6

7 As Vince pointed out, we're talking about
8 the Proposed Rule on the review of rural determinations
9 on Page 94. The actual Proposed Rule itself starts on
10 Page 97. This is an opportunity for your Council to
11 provide any comments, recommendations, et cetera you
12 might have to the Federal Subsistence Board on any of
13 these areas throughout the state. There are no proposed
14 changes in rural status to any communities in your
15 region.

16

17 But as I heard last night, if you look on
18 Page 100 of the Proposed Rule itself, that left-hand
19 column, about a third of the way down, it does talk about
20 Delta Junction, there were some comments made last night
21 from the public here about what I understood as removing
22 Ft. Greely from the grouping of the four CDPs, as you can
23 see under Delta Junction vicinity, if you go down just a
24 little bit in that paragraph, Item No. 1, it talks about
25 four communities being grouped together.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: So, Mr. Chairman, the way I
30 took the discussions last night by the Council members
31 that you were in support of not having Ft. Greely
32 aggregated or grouped together with the Delta Junction
33 area but you can revisit that, but that was my
34 understanding. And then from there you may want to take
35 some type of action of communicating that back to the
36 Board.

37

38 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I think it was very
39 clear from the testimony last night that Ft. Greely don't
40 consider themselves a part of the Delta area, and that
41 they're not allowed to participate in the subsistence
42 hunt and I think it would be very, very helpful for them
43 to retain their subsistence rights, that Ft. Greely not
44 be grouped with them because they're totally different, a
45 totally different community away from this one and that
46 they do have their own zip code number and these people
47 are not allowed on their base, whereas those base people
48 are allowed around here.

49

50 So I think it will only be fair to the

1 Delta people for that to happen, that this Council
2 supports Ft. Greely not being grouped with the Delta area
3 residents.

4
5 MS. ENTSMINGER: Number 1, it might be
6 correct, and from what I heard last night, it says that
7 all of these four communities attend school in Delta and
8 they said that is not true, they have their own school
9 over there. So we need to make sure that that doesn't go
10 through as a -- take that out is what I'm trying to say.

11
12 Do you need any of this in a form of a
13 motion or are we okay just.....

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Well, this is a major issue
16 that comes up every 10 years, it would be easier in some
17 type of motion so it's clear what this Council wants to
18 do, et cetera. We're kind of on a fast pace with this
19 rural determination thing, I mean I'm instructed to get
20 summaries in as fast as possible in and the transcripts
21 as fast as possible in so the Board can work on this.

22
23 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'll make a
24 motion on the Federal Register that Ft. Greely be pulled
25 out as the -- I want to get the words right here -- as
26 the grouping, in the group, it would be its own group,
27 the other three would be another group and take out any
28 references that are incorrect such as all go to the Delta
29 school, and I'm looking at three here. There could be
30 other things, Vince, or you guys, that might be wrong.
31 30 percent of the workers commute within the vicinity, 41
32 percent of the workers living in Big Delta commute to
33 Delta Junction. I think we need to revert back to the
34 advisory committee and make sure we cover everything here
35 on that. So I just want to make sure we're doing -- in
36 my motion, I'm definitely going through one and two,
37 taking out the Delta for the grouping and the high
38 school, and I want it that if the Delta Advisory
39 Committee comes up with anything else that's missing
40 here, that we don't lose that.

41
42 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

43
44 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Sue. I guess I
45 would recommend that you reference the items that Gerald
46 was talking about as justification for the motion as well
47 so they're included in the presentation to the Board to
48 explain it.

49
50 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: I would include what
2 Gerald has outlined for us.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, in addition to that I
7 think it would be good to also state in the motion that
8 Delta has a longstanding subsistence use on the caribou
9 in 13.

10
11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Maybe at
14 this time, I don't know if the Advisory Committee wants
15 to -- I mean Sue is asking for input from them on these
16 other criteria that were used, I don't know if they want
17 to talk about that or not. It's not necessary but if
18 they do have additional information.

19
20 MR. QUARBERG: I have one additional
21 comment.

22
23 MR. RIVARD: Could you state your name.

24
25 MR. QUARBERG: Don Quarberg with the
26 advisory committee here, the local Fish and Game advisory
27 committee.

28
29 As you know or may not know, we have a
30 fairly sizeable Slavic community who partake in all the
31 social services that we have including the subsistence.
32 I tried to call social services today to find out what
33 percentage, if they knew were aliens. This whole
34 subsistence concept is based on customary and traditional
35 use and I think non-U.S. citizens have not demonstrated
36 that, and I think they should be eliminated. I mean I
37 don't know what this Board can do but when it states in
38 here who's eligible it should say the first criteria
39 would be a U.S. citizen, it doesn't say that.

40
41 Other food for thought.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MS. ENTSMINGER: I would think that that
46 should definitely be outlined because subsistence is for
47 -- unless somebody here can tell me differently.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Well, let's see if we can
50 walk through this. The issue now is the status, rural

1 status. There may be confusion there that he may be
2 talking about customary and traditional use
3 determinations for moose, caribou and et cetera, that's
4 not before you. So it's the community itself and the
5 area, is it considered rural. And you're saying Ft.
6 Greely isn't.

7
8 You would have to carve out an area where
9 the Slavic community is.

10
11 My advice is that might cave in all your
12 other actions, but that's just my advice.

13
14 You mainly heard last night, and you
15 agreed, your Chair and several others have expressed it,
16 that Delta Junction's rural and not to combine Ft. Greely
17 and leave this other subset issue for other discussions.

18
19 MS. ENTSMINGER: And that would come up
20 under C&Ts, so it can be dealt with then so we won't talk
21 about it now.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: I call the question.

26
27 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved and
28 seconded by this Council to have Ft. Greely not be
29 grouped with the Delta area residents for the rural
30 determination because of the reasons of Ft. Greely not
31 being -- not considering themselves being Delta area
32 residents and they are in their own little separate
33 community.

34
35 All those in favor of this signify by
36 saying aye.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed,
41 same sign.

42
43 (No opposing votes)

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Motion carries Vince.

46
47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, Mr. Chairman,
48 and I think I'll do my best to keep Rick Johnson informed
49 on this, that was the agreement from Darryl Darland as
50 best we can as this moves along.

1 Please realize and I need to seize the
2 moment here that the Board takes this up, I think the
3 12th and 13th, it might be a good time now to decide if
4 you're going Gerald or if someone else is going to that
5 meeting and then also local representatives here from
6 Delta Junction that will be in Anchorage on the 12th and
7 13th. I'm drawing a blank at the location.

8
9 It's the Egan Center. See that's why we
10 have court recorders, they're good at keeping track of
11 all these meetings.

12
13 But it's at the Egan Center on the 12th
14 and 13th.

15
16 So you may want to decide. For some of
17 you guys it would be four days, at least three days,
18 possibly four days of travel.

19
20 MS. ENTSMINGER: Hey, Gerald, Amy's
21 willing to go.

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: What?

24
25 MS. WRIGHT: It's in December, right?

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it's December 12th and
28 13th. Gerald could give you a lot of tips on the Board.
29 Same with, I think Virgil's been to a Board meeting.
30 It's a different structure. I mean you'll blend in real
31 easy but they can give you different tips on it. I don't
32 want to frighten you off but I would encourage you to
33 talk to Gerald and Virgil how the Board runs and is
34 structured, and Sue has been there, too.

35
36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: If Amy wants to.....

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: So amy would be the one
39 that would be going?

40
41 (Council nods affirmatively)

42
43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: She said me.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

46
47 MS. WRIGHT: I'm going anyway.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Were you signaling you
50 wanted to go too Gerald. We're only going to probably

1 fund one person to go so.....
2
3 MS. WRIGHT: Oh, well, I'll just go
4 separately.
5
6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)
7
8 MR. MATHEWS: So Amy's the
9 representative.
10
11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Does that mean.....
12
13 REPORTER: You guys.....
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Is Andy going?
16
17 MR. BASSICH: I can't go for that long.
18
19 MR. MATHEWS: What?
20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: You're going, okay.
22 Because the Yukon Salmon Panel meets.....
23
24 MR. BASSICH: Right, I can't go because
25 I'll be in.....
26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Because you'll be in
28 Whitehorse, you and I will be in Whitehorse.
29
30 MR. BASSICH: Right.
31
32 MS. WRIGHT: I think Gerald should go to
33 represent us and I'm going to go anyway on my own.
34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. But do consult with
36 the others on the process and then I would recommend you
37 get recognized that you came up on your own and that
38 you're a member, that would be a great training
39 opportunity, obviously you're paying for it, but it's a
40 great training opportunity to see how the Board works.
41
42 Well, Mr. Chairman, unless there's some
43 other topics on the rural determination, we'll just walk
44 down the list of OSM reports.
45
46 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: (Nods affirmatively)
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: The next one's
49 informational. It's on 105, if you have any questions on
50 the Council composition, that's the 70/30 split. If we

1 can answer any questions it's pretty self-explanatory on
2 Page 105. I don't want to put you off on it, but I don't
3 want to spend time explaining to you when you can just
4 look at it and get the drift.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Move on, Vince.

9

10 MS. ENTSMINGER: Gerald, who's the
11 commercial on our Board now, can someone give me that
12 answer.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Virgil.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Virgil is. Fleener is.
17 And I'm drawing a blank, I think that's it. So you guys
18 almost hit the 70/30 split, but that's now -- the court
19 has looked at that.

20

21 So anyway those are the two, the rest are
22 declared as subsistence.

23

24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, to tell you the
25 truth I'm not really worried about it because with the
26 region that we're in and the road and river systems so
27 it's good to have all views sit on this Council in my
28 view.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: The next topic is just to
31 give you an informational update on the closure policy,
32 customary and traditional use determination and
33 subsistence use amounts. They're summarized on 106.

34

35 Basically they're still being worked on
36 is the bottom line.

37

38 I don't want to push you through these
39 topics but if you have any questions we can.....

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Move on, Vince.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next one is,
46 again, it's just a handout on the update on the Kenai
47 Subsistence Regional Council.

48

49 MR. RIVARD: Actually I have a
50 presentation for that.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, okay, and Don will
2 give you an update and we'll go from there.

3
4 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Council members. This is an update on what's been
6 happening with the Federal Subsistence Board proposing an
7 11th Regional Council.

8
9 In a public work session meeting on
10 September 19th, 2006, the Federal Subsistence Board
11 confirmed its intent to continue to consider the
12 formation of an 11th subsistence region and to request a
13 corresponding advisory council. Assuming a decision to
14 create the region and the Council, the Board would like
15 to have the Council seated for the winter 2007 meeting
16 cycle, so basically the next time you would meet, the
17 February/March timeframe, they would like to have this
18 11th Council up and running.

19
20 In response to significant adverse public
21 comments, however, received regarding the formation of
22 this 11th region and Council and in response to the
23 Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
24 recommendation, the Board decided to provide additional
25 public comment on the already published Proposed Rule,
26 which is also in your book there -- no, it's not, excuse
27 me. The Board extended the comment period until November
28 9th.

29
30 The Board acknowledges the need for more
31 public involvement in this process. The public education
32 regarding the Federal Subsistence Management Program and
33 Federal laws governing its purpose and operation is vital
34 to successful establishment of the proposed Kenai
35 Peninsula region and Council. The public involvement
36 plan is outlined. I've got some other things that just
37 talk about it, it's more kind of for internal things.
38 The Board will weigh the public comments received when
39 making its final decision whether to establish the
40 proposed 11th region. If the Board decides to form the
41 new region it will also define the region's geographic
42 boundaries. Right now it's kind of -- it's preliminarily
43 they've identified it as Unit 7, Unit 15 and 14(C), which
44 is the Kenai Peninsula and basically the Anchorage
45 Borough, but they're open to comments on that to maybe
46 change those boundaries as well.

47
48 They're going to have a couple of public
49 hearings on the Kenai Peninsula November 1st and 2nd in
50 the Homer/Ninilchik region and then the Kenai/Soldotna

1 region, and then again public comments are available
2 until November 9th. So if you have any comments that you
3 would like to make on this, the Board would like to hear
4 them as well, and any recommendations you may have.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: The only comment that
9 I would have is if they do create an 11th region that it
10 doesn't affect the funding for the other 10 regions
11 because I know we're going to be facing funding cuts and
12 everything and if they do create that, they'll have to
13 create funding to operate that 11th region.

14
15 MR. RIVARD: The 11 Councils, if there
16 was another one formed, you would probably see no
17 difference. The OSM has determined that they would be
18 able to handle this additional cost.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Move on.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that brings us up and
27 you -- let's see, yes, I put it in your folder, the most
28 recent Avian Flu updates are in your folder. If you have
29 any specific questions we have Staff here that can
30 answer. If not, you have it in the folder there and
31 obviously it's in the media quite a bit.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Move on Vince.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: The next one's going to
38 take a little bit of your time, not a lot, but it's going
39 to take some time. And that's the Southeast Regional
40 Council's draft petition to the Secretaries concerning
41 hunting licenses, and, in particular State hunting
42 licenses, and Don will be covering that.

43
44 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
45 is coming from the Southeast Regional Advisory Council,
46 and I'll just go through the points I have here.

47
48 The Councils are being asked to weigh in
49 on this and because this is a statewide issue, the
50 Southeast Council requests that the other nine Councils

1 review the draft petition, it's in your book there on
2 Page 110 and provide comments and recommendations. The
3 other Councils comments and recommendations will be
4 included when the Southeast Council's petition is
5 submitted to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture.
6

7 The petition requests that the
8 Secretaries remove the current requirement that Federally
9 qualified subsistence users must obtain and carry a State
10 hunting license when hunting on Federal public lands
11 under Federal regulations and it also requests that the
12 Federal government would issue a Federal hunting license
13 to Federally qualified subsistence users. This decision
14 will be made by the Secretary of the Interior and the
15 Secretary of Agriculture who have the ones who have the
16 authority to change this license requirement.
17

18 After the petition is received, the
19 Secretaries may request Federal Staff back here to
20 analyze the effects of changes in license requirements.
21 The Secretaries may also request the Board to make a
22 recommendation on the change. If these steps are taken
23 Councils would likely have the opportunity to make a
24 recommendation to the Board at a future Council meeting.
25

26 Now, what would be the effects of the
27 change in the hunting license requirement.
28

29 Federally qualified subsistence users
30 would no longer be required to purchase and possess a
31 State of Alaska hunting license when hunting on Federal
32 lands. Federally qualified subsistence users would need
33 to obtain and possess a Federal hunting license when
34 hunting on Federal lands. There is a possibility that a
35 fee could be charged for a Federal license. That would
36 all have to be worked out.
37

38 To hunt on non-Federal public lands,
39 including all private lands a State of Alaska hunting
40 license would continue to be required. In areas with
41 multiple ownerships, hunters would be required to possess
42 both licenses or be very careful when they hunt if they
43 didn't purchase a State license so they -- you have this
44 whole ownership thing, you might be on checkerboard
45 ownership and it would be more likely than not that you'd
46 probably need both licenses in possession.
47

48 The State of Alaska would receive less in
49 license fees if Federally qualified subsistence users
50 chose not to purchase not to purchase State of Alaska

1 hunting licenses. The State of Alaska uses license fees
2 to support wildlife management activities, including
3 field studies and hunt management. License fees are also
4 used to leverage Federal matching funds such as under the
5 Pittman-Roberts program.

6
7 Another effect would be that existing
8 State of Alaska license fees, they also support watchable
9 wildlife programs, construction and maintenance of
10 shooting ranges, boat ramps, and other facilities, hunter
11 education programs and other activities.

12
13 A decrease in license fees would decrease
14 funding available for existing State of Alaska
15 activities. These activities do benefit subsistence
16 hunters.

17
18 So with that, Mr. Chair, just to see if
19 your Council has any recommendations or comments
20 regarding this petition by the Southeast Regional
21 Council.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, knowing a lot
26 of people within my region around the Tanana area, a lot
27 of people like in the Gwitch'in area, the Fort Yukon
28 area, I don't think that -- because they're living in a
29 checkerboard area up there where all these corporation
30 lands and Federal lands, I don't think they'd want to go
31 get a State license to hunt on the corporation lands and
32 I don't think they want to get another license just to
33 hunt on the Federal lands. So I just see this as
34 imposing more problems on the people that we represent
35 because we're in such a checkerboard area.

36
37 That's all I have.

38
39 MS. ENTSMINGER: I agree.

40
41 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: And I think they're going
44 to have the same problem in Southeast. If you look at
45 the geography of Southeast and the way it is, a lot of
46 their hunting is done by boat and they're going to be
47 hunting on State land when they're below the high water
48 mark and between headlands, they're going to be on State
49 waters and State land and they're going to be -- there's
50 going to be -- it will lead to a whole gob of confusion

1 for one thing and then like it was pointed out in your
2 Staff report, it's going to affect the -- it would have a
3 detrimental affect on the State's program as well. And
4 if people are really at the poverty level the State has
5 accommodations for these real cheap hunting and fishing
6 licenses.

7

8 I'm opposed to it as well.

9

10 Mr. Chair.

11

12 MS. ENTSMINGER: Do you want a motion
13 that we oppose so we can let them know that it would hurt
14 -- be detrimental to our region.

15

16 (Council nods affirmatively)

17

18 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'll make a motion
19 that we oppose that type of hunting license and just keep
20 it one and keep it simple. People in the wilderness
21 don't need more complicated regulations and more
22 licensing. So I make that motion, that we're opposed to
23 this.

24

25 MR. GLANZ: I'll second it then.

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved,
30 seconded and question has been called that the Eastern
31 Interior Regional Advisory Council opposes the petition
32 by the Southeast Regional Advisory Council to have a
33 Federal hunting license. All those in favor of this
34 motion signify by saying aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed,
39 same sign.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Motion carries.

44

45 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
46 will report this and I'll also put down the reasons that
47 were stated as to why you opposed it and that feedback
48 will go back to the Southeast Regional Council.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you, Don. Move
2 on, Vince.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that
5 brings us up to organization reports, and you just walk
6 down the list. I'm fairly certain some of them have
7 already been covered but there may be some additional
8 ones.

9
10 So the next one would be if there are any
11 Native corporations, tribal councils, et cetera that
12 would like to give a report to the Council.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, seeing none, then it
17 would be Alaska Department of Fish and Game and, of
18 course they have different divisions. So I'll see if
19 Commercial Fisheries has a report. Yes, they do and then
20 go from there.

21
22 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Fred.

23
24 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. Again, for the
25 record my name is Fred Bue. Fall season area manager of
26 the Yukon River. I apologize, yesterday, I overlooked,
27 there was an additional fisheries proposal, No. 174. I
28 know it may not be of direct interest to all of you but
29 it was a proposal that requested a closure or not
30 allowing any commercial fishing of non-salmon species in
31 the Yukon River drainage, for the entire drainage,
32 specifically whitefish, cisco, or sheefish. And more
33 than anything I was just curious on your thoughts since
34 many of you are subsistence fishermen in the upper river,
35 this was proposed by someone in the lower river, but
36 since it's a drainagewide issue I was just curious if you
37 guys had opinions or thoughts on a closure.

38
39 Just briefly we've had whitefish,
40 commercial fisheries, miscellaneous ones for the last 100
41 years throughout the drainage and we seem to be able to
42 manage them adequately or to most people's satisfaction
43 but since this is a proposal I was just taking this
44 opportunity to see what folks thought.

45
46 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Andy.

47
48 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
49 would be opposed to this proposal. I think it's
50 important to begin to diversify some of the commercial

1 fishing in the lower river and take some of the pressure
2 off of the salmon and/or give the people down in the
3 lower river other opportunities to fish commercially.

4
5 With that being said, there's also a
6 little bit of discussion yesterday about how much we know
7 about whitefish and cisco, their lifecycles, their
8 habits, and so I think we need continuing effort to do
9 more research on them, find out exactly where they're
10 spawning, find out a lot more about times of maturity for
11 them, how quickly they can rebound before a strong or
12 very heavy commercial harvest can be placed upon it or
13 increased.

14
15 But I think it's important for the lower
16 river to be able to harvest or even the upper river to
17 harvest these fish in a limited number.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Did the Council want to
22 take any action on it, they don't have to, I just need to
23 know, if that was Andy's.....

24
25 MR. BASSICH: By consensus.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

28
29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: By mutual consent we
30 oppose 174.

31
32 (Council nods affirmatively)

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

35
36 MR. BUE: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Through mutual
39 consent we are opposing it there, Vince.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: So then I should convey
42 that to the Board of Fisheries that by consensus you guys
43 oppose 174.

44
45 (Council nods affirmatively)

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Seeing all heads nodding in
48 the correct direction, okay. The next division would be
49 Division of Subsistence for Alaska Department of Fish and
50 Game, I don't know if they have any reports -- they're

1 saying no.
2
3 Then we would get to Wildlife
4 Conservation, I believe they do have a report.
5
6 MR. BASSICH: Vince.
7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.
9
10 MR. BASSICH: I'm just wondering if
11 Division of Subsistence would have anything on what I was
12 asking for earlier at this time.
13
14 MR. MATHEWS: I talked to Mike, he
15 understood why I signaled him out and understood what
16 your request was and was encouraged that it would be good
17 to look into that. I don't know, he may have something
18 else to add. But he didn't indicate that he has four
19 volumes of study at home on this.
20
21 MR. BASSICH: Okay.
22
23 MR. MATHEWS: But he understood and I
24 will be using his expertise as well as other
25 anthropologists on your request.
26
27 MR. BASSICH: Okay.
28
29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Move on.
30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
32
33 MR. KOSKEY: My name is Mike Koskey. I'm
34 with Subsistence Division. Andy, yeah, there's some
35 studies going on now, there's four currently, they're
36 happening as we speak or else soon to start that look at
37 use of whitefish from the social science perspective.
38 And these are all in their initial stages. There's one
39 that will finish up soon but, you know, we haven't done
40 the final report on that yet, so -- and it addresses the
41 issues that you mentioned earlier today.
42
43 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I guess what I'd
44 also be interested in, and this could be sent to me, is
45 some of the reports and studies that have been done in
46 the past. As I remember there was a Dr. Wolfe that did
47 some studies in the lower Yukon, and I was wondering -- I
48 know Dave Andersen did a lot of work up in our region and
49 in the Interior here so I'd be interested in seeing some
50 of those reports. If they could either be put on a disk

1 and sent to me or mailed, paper, I'd be really interested
2 in reading those.

3

4 MR. KOSKEY: I'll get those to you.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Move on, Vince.

9

10 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
11 Chairman. For the record I'm Roy Nowlin. I'm the
12 management coordinator for Interior Alaska.

13

14 I don't have an awful lot for you but I
15 just wanted to take a couple of minutes and just
16 summarize what the Board of Game did last spring. I know
17 you're interested in predator control programs. And the
18 Board was responsive and I believe this Council also
19 supported going -- instituting a predation control
20 program to benefit the Fortymile Caribou Herd, and they
21 did go ahead and do that and they expanded the greatly to
22 encompass basically all the U.S., the control area for
23 Fortymile Caribou area to include all the Fortymile
24 caribou distribution on the U.S. side of the border. So
25 that was a significant step for the Board and I think
26 that we'll have some positive results.

27

28 And also some other things that the Board
29 did, they also expanded the size of the predation control
30 area to benefit moose in Unit 20(E), and now it includes
31 northern 12 and also includes all of 20(E) with the
32 exception of Park Service administered lands in Yukon-
33 Charley.

34

35 And also as part of that moose program
36 the Board expanded the area that was designated for
37 grizzly bear control. And I believe that we went up to
38 about 4,000 square miles on that from a smaller
39 geographic area. So we're moving ahead with that over
40 that larger geographic area.

41

42 In addition the Board also authorized
43 sale of hides, bear hides, both black and grizzly bear
44 hides, sale of hides and these are raw hides and skulls
45 that are -- the black bear sale is authorized in active
46 predator control areas, those are areas where we are
47 currently issuing predator control permits, and they also
48 authorized sale of grizzly bear hides and skulls in --
49 for bears that are killed in the grizzly bear control
50 area only in Unit 20(E). So there's some movements there

1 and we've implemented those programs and those programs
2 actually are under way right now. And we started issuing
3 permits for the wolf control part of the Fortymile
4 caribou control program right about the first of October.
5 So that one now goes all the way up into Unit 25(C) and
6 also includes the eastern portions of 20(B) and also
7 20(D).

8
9 So anyway if you desire to have any
10 details about the control program, Jeff Gross is here and
11 he'd be happy to provide that for you.

12
13 That's all I have.

14
15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I think I covered
18 all the different divisions of Alaska Department of Fish
19 and Game that would be present. If I didn't.....

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Move on.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then we would come
26 up to Bureau of Land Management, if they had any reports,
27 local issues and concerns.

28
29 MR. PANE: Once again, I'm John Pane.
30 I'm the wildlife program manager for BLM Alaska. And I
31 wanted to bring up a planning update for the East Alaska
32 Plan out of Glennallen on the subsistence portion of it.

33
34 As you know, this Council knows the
35 resource management plan has been under development for
36 about three years. The public comment period closed this
37 spring and the final environmental impact statement and
38 resource management plan was issued in June of '06. We
39 have received three protests on that plan now during a 30
40 day protest period.

41
42 Two of the protests are in the Yakutat,
43 Bering Glacier area which does not affect this Council.
44 The third one was by the State of Alaska regarding Public
45 Land Order 5150, which is a removal of the withdrawal on
46 the pipeline and conveyance of the BLM lands to the State
47 of Alaska. And I want to read a statement out of the
48 RMP, please.

49
50 It says:

1 BLM is committed to maintaining a Federal
2 subsistence hunting area on rural
3 priority in the planning area. During
4 the planning process the State of Alaska
5 requested that BLM modify Public Land
6 Order 5150 and set aside lands as a
7 pipeline utility corridor to allow for
8 conveyance to the State of pipeline
9 utility lands.

10
11 These lands currently account for 63
12 percent of the Federal subsistence
13 hunting area managed by the BLM
14 Glennallen Field Office and approximately
15 80 percent of the caribou harvest.

16
17 So revoking the withdrawal and allowing
18 conveyance of all the pipeline utility
19 corridor lands to the State of Alaska
20 would have a significant negative impact
21 on the Federal subsistence hunting area
22 in Unit 13.

23
24 BLM's decision in the Resource Management
25 Plan was to modify this withdrawal to
26 allow conveyance to the State some of the
27 lands in the pipeline utility corridor
28 north of Paxson. These lands have a low
29 annual harvest of caribou and their
30 eventual removal from the Federal
31 Subsistence Program would not be
32 significant.

33
34 The final protest was filed by the State
35 of Alaska protested the resource
36 management plan through the Governor's
37 Consistency Review and they're asking BLM
38 to revoke the entire withdrawal and allow
39 for conveyance of the entire pipeline
40 corridor. The State and the BLM are
41 currently working towards a resolution of
42 this issue, and BLM is still committed to
43 providing the subsistence opportunity in
44 the area.

45
46 There is no opportunity at this point in
47 time for public comment.

48
49 Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

4

5 MR. KALLEN: Mr. Chair. Council members.

6 My name is Bob Kallen. I work as a fisheries biologist

7 with BLM in Fairbanks.

8

9 BLM operates several projects every

10 summer related to fisheries and one of those, the Tozitna

11 River project is located in the Eastern Interior Region

12 and so I wanted to give you quick update as to our

13 activities there last summer.

14

15 BLM operated the weir on Tozitna from

16 June 24 t August 9th and we counted 533 chinook and

17 22,629 summer chum salmon migrating through the weir.

18 However, due to high water only partial counts were made

19 from the 7th through the 10th of July and no counts were

20 made over a six day period from the 17th to the 22nd of

21 July. Our preliminary estimates for the days missed

22 indicate an additional 379 chinook and 12,826 summer chum

23 migrating through the weir, which would bring the total

24 run to 915 chinook and 35,455 summer chum. The estimated

25 escapement for 2006 would be the lowest return of chinook

26 and the second highest return of summer chum salmon on

27 the Tozitna since the project started in 2001.

28

29 We also attempt an aerial survey each

30 year to document the number of fish that are down below

31 the weir since our camp's located at 48 mile on the

32 Tozitna and this year we were unable to do a survey due

33 to poor visibility in the Tozitna River, the Degsalkna

34 Creek runs into the Tozitna just below our camp and it

35 was running very dirty this year because of the rains.

36 And partially because it's tanic (ph) stained also. So

37 no additional counts to add to the numbers that I gave

38 you earlier there.

39

40 And then lastly the estimated sex ratio,

41 one of the things that happened during the high water

42 event in July was that our trap was washed out and so we

43 were unable to collect samples after that time period and

44 that was July 17th. When we started counting again on

45 July 23rd we were without a trap, although they made a

46 makeshift one and were able to collect a few chum salmon

47 after that. Most of the kings had already migrated

48 through.

49

50 So one of the last paragraphs there, the

1 estimated sex ratio for chinook salmon and that's with
2 only a sample of 77 and normally we collect several
3 hundred was 10 percent female. It should be noted that
4 this is a small sample size due to the loss of the trap
5 and because of the high water and that no samples were
6 collected during the latter portion of the run when the
7 sex ratio historically favors the females.

8
9 Also the estimated sex ratio for summer
10 chum salmon, a sample of 682 was 43 percent female and we
11 sent off our scale samples to the Alaska Department of
12 Fish and Game and we should have those age numbers later
13 in 2007.

14
15 MS. WRIGHT: Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you. Move on,
18 Vince.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, if
21 there's no other BLM reports then it would be the Fish
22 and Wildlife Service, and I don't know what order we want
23 to take them up. But I suppose we can go down the list.
24 Arctic Refuge, I don't know if they have a report, yes,
25 they do.

26
27 MR. WHEELER: Mr. Chairman. Council
28 members. I'm Gary Wheeler. Deputy Refuge Manager at
29 Arctic Refuge. And I believe I've got with me Patricia
30 Reynolds, wildlife biologist with Arctic Refuge and
31 Wennona Brown who is our subsistence coordinator, and
32 they can answer any questions you might have.

33
34 I believe yesterday Wennona had
35 distributed to you a copy of our survey results from last
36 year, and I'll just try to hit some of the high points of
37 that report. Starting first with the Porcupine Caribou
38 Herd.

39
40 This is a herd that calves on the coastal
41 plain of the Arctic Refuge and then migrates south
42 through the Brooks Range and winters generally on the
43 south side of the Brooks Range. Last year the herd
44 wintered in two major areas, the first within the Ogilve
45 and Hart River basins in the Yukon territory and secondly
46 on the EastFork of the Chandalar River near Arctic
47 Village. The herd began its northward migration about
48 May 15th and this is about two weeks later than they
49 normally move north, and as a result most of the calving
50 took place on the coastal plain in the Yukon territory

1 this spring. Our June calving survey showed about 79
2 percent of cows were either pregnant or had given birth
3 and this is very similar to the 20 year average.

4
5 Now, the Porcupine Herd has declined in
6 numbers between 1989 and 2001, which is the last year we
7 were able to do a survey. It's declined from 178,000 to
8 123,000. We've been doing a winter adult female survival
9 study from 2003 to 2006. And our survival rate over that
10 three year period has been 82.6 percent, and this is very
11 comparable to the 1989 through '91 survival rate which
12 was 83 percent, so less than one percent difference
13 there. So we have been trying to get a photo census done
14 on this herd since 2003, however, weather conditions,
15 generally, have not been cooperative and the herd has not
16 bunched on the coastal plain to where we can do a photo
17 census on them, so we have it rescheduled for 2007 and
18 hopefully conditions will cooperate.

19
20 Our Central Arctic Herd, most of the
21 monitoring and studies and are being conducted by the
22 Department of Fish and Game but we do partner with them
23 and the last estimate on the Central Arctic Herd was
24 32,000 in the year 2002. This herd calves mostly to the
25 west of the Arctic Refuge on the coastal plain, and then
26 during the summer period a lot of this herd does move
27 eastward onto the Arctic Refuge coastal plain, spends the
28 summer there and then migrates southward. Some animals
29 move through the Brooks Range to the south side, some
30 stay on the north side. Last year a majority of the herd
31 wintered near Arctic Village.

32
33 So that's basically it for our work on
34 caribou.

35
36 I'll talk a little bit about dall sheep.
37 This past year, since there was a proposal to the Federal
38 Subsistence Board to open the Arctic Village Sheep
39 Management Area to sporthunting, the Refuge conducted an
40 aerial survey both in the northern portion of the Arctic
41 Village Sheep Management Area and the southern portion of
42 that management area. And what we found was that the
43 density of dall sheep in the northern portion of the area
44 which was eventually open to sporthunting through a
45 temporary special action, we found 1.7 sheep per square
46 mile, this compared to an estimate to 1.9 to 2.2 sheep in
47 1990 and '91, so not much of a difference over that 15
48 year period or so. Pretty much the same.

49
50 As I mentioned, the Federal Subsistence

1 Board did open that northern area, Red Sheep Creek and
2 Cane Creek drainages to sporthunting from August 10th to
3 September 20th, this was for full-curl rams, the same as
4 the regulation throughout the Brooks Range, and the
5 Arctic Refuge did monitor public use up in that area. We
6 had a camp at the Red Sheep Creek airstrip. We monitored
7 use from August 7th through August 25th, a 19 day period,
8 and we discovered that there were four parties which
9 landed at the airstrip there that were sporthunting in
10 that area. One party was successful in harvesting four
11 sheep. Two parties were unsuccessful. And one party
12 remained in the field when we pulled out on the 25th, so
13 we're not sure if they were successful or not.

14
15 We also monitored aircraft traffic from
16 there. There were nine parties that landed at the Red
17 Sheep Creek airstrip. As I mentioned four of them were
18 hunting, five of them were either waiting for weather to
19 clear so they could get over the Brooks Range or there
20 was one party that was a commercial recreational trip,
21 backpacking trip and they were being picked up at the
22 airstrip there. We had, in that period of time, 25
23 overflights of aircraft and basically they were -- it
24 appeared that they were headed over the Brooks Range or
25 returning from the north side of the Brooks Range.

26
27 So that's the activity that we monitored
28 there on that in dall sheep.

29
30 Regarding moose, we have a rather unique
31 population of moose on the south slope of the Brooks
32 Range -- of the eastern Brooks Range, these moose summer
33 on the Old Crow Flats in the Yukon territory and they
34 migrate then onto the Arctic Refuge and winter on the
35 south side of the Brooks Range. This population was last
36 surveyed in 2002 and at that time our population, minimum
37 population estimate was 351 animals. This was a 14
38 percent increase over the survey in 2000. We have
39 another survey scheduled for that area this fall so we'll
40 see how they're doing.

41
42 Typically the harvest in that area,
43 particularly, mostly have floaters along the Colen River
44 and the Sheenjek River. We've averaged over the last
45 five years about 30 hunters on the Colen with a harvest
46 of 10 moose per year and on the Sheenjek about 20 hunters
47 with about a harvest of about 10 moose per year.

48
49 Moving on to muskoxen. In 1969 and '70
50 muskoxen were reintroduced to the North Slope, the Arctic

1 Refuge. They had been absent for nearly 100 years. And
2 the population increased then to a maximum of about 300
3 to 350 animals on the Refuge itself and this would have
4 been in the late '80s to the early 1990s. And then in
5 the late '90s and on to the present we've observed a
6 decline in that population to the point that we probably
7 have less than 50 animals on the north side and some of
8 those animals have dispersed to the south side as well
9 and I'd say probably less than 50 animals on the south
10 side as well. So there is no season on muskox on the
11 south side of the Brooks Range. Due to the low
12 population numbers, the season on the north side has been
13 closed for the past three years.

14
15 So that concludes our report, if you have
16 any questions we'd be happy to try and answer them.

17
18 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
19 was just wondering if you have any observations or data
20 on whether there is an increasing incidence of air taxi
21 drop off hunts in the regions?

22
23 MR. WHEELER: I would say that we do have
24 records of all the air taxi drop offs and I think that
25 over the longer term, say over the past 10 years, the
26 trend is pretty flat. There are some years where numbers
27 increase but then other years where they drop off again.
28 So, you know, I think two years ago we had a lot of smoke
29 from forest fires and hunting numbers dropped off and
30 last year, I don't know, they may have picked up a bit,
31 so, yeah, it's not an increasing trend.

32
33 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

34
35 MR. WHEELER: Thank you.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. We would
38 move down the region, it would be the Yukon Flats, I
39 don't know if they have any additional presentations.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe Mark.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: No. And then -- oh, wait a
48 minute Paul has a presentation for Yukon Flats and
49 Wennona.

50

1 MS. BROWN:

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. BROWN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
6 Council members. I just wanted to point I did put at
7 each one of your places a copy of this report. It's kind
8 of an overview of our activities. And I really won't go
9 through each one of them, I'll just point out a couple
10 things.

11

12 On the proposed land exchange with Doyon,
13 yesterday, our manager went up to Fort Yukon and
14 conducted a government to government consultation with
15 the (In Native) tribal government so, you know, those are
16 ongoing to do the government to government consultations.

17

18 We've been doing quite a bit of work with
19 the burned area emergency response funds on culture
20 resources, danger trees, that sort of thing as a
21 resulting of the last couple of fire seasons.

22

23 Under public use we've done some law
24 enforcement patrols. I do want to take this opportunity
25 to introduce our new Refuge law enforcement officer, Mike
26 Hinkes, sitting in the back there and just wanted to note
27 that some of the things that he'll be looking at in the
28 coming year is trying to get a handle on and enforcing
29 the illegal cow harvest for moose. So that is an issue
30 that we'll be looking into.

31

32 Just another quick point on our fish camp
33 survey that we did, there's a very short synopsis on the
34 back page. I do just want to kind of put it in
35 perspective. You know that is a snapshot in time. We go
36 up the river and visit the camps within a one week time
37 period but at the time that we visited those camps, from
38 just above Rampart all the way up through Circle, only 35
39 percent of the subsistence fishermen were reporting
40 having met their needs for salmon this summer. But there
41 again, like I said, at the time we were there some were
42 still fishing, some had quit so you do sort of have to
43 take it that it's an instant picture of, like I said, at
44 one point in time.

45

46 Also to follow up a little bit on the
47 reporting of the nonsalmon TEK study that we're
48 cooperating with Mike Koskey at Fish and Game and the BLM
49 people and CATG. Paul worked with Mike this summer,
50 early in the summer to go to Beaver and Birch Creek and

1 introduce the project to the tribal councils there and
2 get their approval to participate in the study and also
3 to conduct household nonsalmon harvest surveys, you know,
4 the subsistence harvest, and so Paul was instrumental in
5 getting that set up. And then I also went out and worked
6 with Circle and Central to do the same thing to getting
7 the project introduced there and getting the local
8 approval to participate in the study and getting
9 surveyors lined up to do the harvest surveys. And I
10 believe all those initial surveys have been in and Mike
11 Koskey is coordinating getting them in through their data
12 processing for analysis.

13

14 And, beyond that, I do want to introduce
15 Paul, he has a few things he wants to talk about
16 regarding the tribal wildlife grant.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 Unless there's any questions on what I've
21 presented so far.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

26

27 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Members
30 of the Council. My name is Paul Williams and I'm from
31 Beaver. I work for the Fish and Wildlife Service as a
32 Refuge Informations Tech. This is my 10th year with
33 them. And I just want to talk a little bit about a moose
34 management plan that we did in '02.

35

36 I think Mark covered some of it but I
37 just want to talk about looking at the situation from the
38 Native perspective, you know, traditional ecological
39 knowledge that we have. It's clear that what you said
40 earlier about people not understanding our ways, and I
41 think they would go a long ways by listening to what we
42 say and what we are. I think the moose management plan
43 of the Yukon Flats of '02 pretty much come out with a lot
44 of recommendations that did come from the people using
45 TEK. And but, you know, that's the end of it, you know,
46 because it's written in English and nobody ever speaks
47 Gwitch'in, you know, like people do up there, we just
48 transport the Gwitch'in recommendation into English and
49 that's the end of it, you know, we don't know what the
50 whole background of what we put into this management book

1 of information on how to increase the number of moose.

2

3 You know the way that -- yesterday I
4 turned 70 and I remember back in the late '30s and the
5 early '40s, you know, how people talked among themselves
6 to take care of the land because that's their food place,
7 that's their Safeway, you know, they talk about moose
8 management, ducks, fire, wild fire, how to management it,
9 they did a lot of things about beaver and beaver dam and
10 whitefish and they did it on a voluntary basis or the
11 chief told them to do it and they went out and do it.

12

13 So, you know, taking these all into
14 considerations, a lot of these things that we talk about
15 in terms of TEK, you know, lay aside, you know, we got
16 the 10 villages in the Yukon Flats along with the
17 Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
18 Service. I know Mark was on that committee and so was
19 Randy Rogers and Bob Stephenson and myself and we went to
20 the villages two times in two years to come up with a
21 booklet on recommendations. But after we were done with
22 it, you know, I look at that thing and sid, you know,
23 what is our next step, you know, we're not going to do
24 anything just laying there. So, you know, I got CATG to
25 help me to take the information out of that book and make
26 a proposal in raising the number of moose in the Yukon
27 Flats.

28

29 After several years we finally got the
30 money to go ahead from the tribal wildlife grant to start
31 working on what we propose, you know, like number 1, they
32 say quit shooting cow moose and calf, you know, but where
33 is this coming from, you know, are we taking something
34 away, our traditional way of life, you know, our culture,
35 maybe even our religious belief when we lose a member of
36 the tribe, you know, it requires a cow moose, you know,
37 are we going to break that, maybe, you know, maybe for
38 this purpose, put a restriction on that practice, you
39 know, for maybe four or five years and see what happens,
40 that kind of stuff, you know.

41

42 So, you know, I think with Federal and
43 State oversight along with CATG help I think we can start
44 and move towards increasing the moose.

45

46 You know there's a lot of times, like I
47 said we set aside recommendations because they call it
48 intensive management and it's against regulations and
49 against law, you know, but, you know, just to point out
50 that's how we did things, you know, for example we snared

1 bears, you know. They call it wanton waste and stuff
2 like that but to us, you know, that's just the way that
3 we did things in the early days, that's how we took care
4 of the land and we did this for thousands and thousands
5 of years, you know. But just in the last 20, 30 years we
6 got a hard time to work together, the Native people keep
7 saying, you know, that's not our land anymore, you know,
8 to the heck with it, you know, shoot any moose that come
9 around, that kind of attitude and that's got to be
10 changed.

11
12 And with this cooperation I think we can
13 start to win back some of our people, you know, because I
14 see some other villages, you know, that are not
15 responsive to the fish and wildlife with all this
16 government, you know, that needs to be worked on.
17 There's a lot of areas that needs to be worked on
18 especially in the Yukon Flats, not only with the moose
19 but other long-term concern that we have for waterfowl.

20
21 And a lot of people call for joint effort
22 to see what is going on with certain species of wildlife
23 and waterfowl but, you know, I report it and, you know,
24 that's the end of it.

25
26 So that's about the only thing I have
27 now, if you have any questions I'd be happy to respond.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. WILLIAMS: If not, thank you, Mr.
32 Chair. Council members.

33
34 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman. That
37 brings us up to Tetlin Refuge and they have a
38 presentation.

39
40 MR. BOOTH: Good afternoon. My name is
41 Tony Booth. I'm the Refuge Manager of the Tetlin
42 National Wildlife Refuge and I just reported to duty as
43 the new Refuge manager in February of this year.

44
45 What's being handed out right now is just
46 a summary of some of the activities and things we've been
47 doing over the past year for this last year and sorry we
48 didn't get it into the -- we missed the deadline to get
49 it into the official records before, but anyway I'll just
50 go through -- it's a summary of what we've done over the

1 year. And if there's any questions about any of the
2 details of some of our surveys or studies, I have
3 biologists out there and I can call them up if there's
4 something I can't answer.

5
6 But just as a summary this year we've --
7 in cooperation with the -- excuse me, I'm just still
8 learning how to use reading glasses, it's just something
9 I've had to do recently.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MR. BOOTH: The Tetlin Refuge in
14 cooperation with the Wrangell-St. Elias Park and the
15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Glennallen has
16 issued subsistence fishing permits and registered
17 fishwheel permits in the upper Copper River for the
18 second time this year. The Refuge issued 46 fishing
19 permits and registered six fishwheels, which is one less
20 than the number of fishwheel permits that we issued last
21 year.

22
23 We are in the process of finishing up, in
24 the final stages of analysis and report writing of the
25 upper Tanana subsistence TEK subsistence fishery study.
26 And depending on the length of time required by the
27 Department of Fish and Game for review, they're one of
28 the partners in this study, we expect that there should
29 be a final report available before your next meeting and
30 if you're interested in having a report, that report
31 presented on that we'd be happy to do that.

32
33 We have a moose satellite school project
34 that was launched in 2004, it's nearing completion. And
35 just to let you know, this involved -- we've radio
36 collared 20 cow moose and since 2004 we've only had one
37 mortality and we didn't confirm the cause of that but we
38 retrieved the collar and everything, it had been cached
39 by a bear but we don't know what actually caused the
40 mortality but that's actually pretty good survival rate,
41 just one mortality in that length of time. Satellite
42 collars are not lasting as long as we expected, however,
43 they're still in place. And to let you know this is a
44 school project. We worked in cooperation or in
45 partnership with NASA in which information from these
46 satellite collars are transmitted via satellite into
47 schools, local schools and actually students can actually
48 participate in tracking movements of moose and locations.
49 Actually it's a really nice project. And the Refuge will
50 be working with the University of Alaska to offer a moose

1 ecology class to high school students for a half time
2 school credit and one full college credit. Anyway we're
3 learning a lot about moose distribution and movement from
4 the project which is the main thing.

5
6 The fourth paragraph down there, I have
7 to apologize is in error, that we said a moose forage and
8 browse study is being planned for next year. That's not
9 the case. Instead next year we're going to be doing a
10 wolf census and in addition a moose census next fall in
11 cooperation with the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

12
13 Another one of the activities the Refuge
14 is involved in has been monitoring invasive plant species
15 on the Refuge and we've done a couple of surveys in
16 conjunction with that. We have about four invasive
17 species. They're pretty much limited, primarily along
18 the highway corridor. They're plants that have been
19 introduced along the highway there.

20
21 We have documented, actually out on the
22 Refuge, outside the corridor some small stands of fox
23 tail barely along some of the rivers but nothing major at
24 this time. The survey is ongoing, it's an effort to
25 identify invasive plant species associated with past
26 fires and firefighting efforts.

27
28 As far as the fire season, we had no
29 fires on the Refuge this year. We had a wet summer, just
30 no fire activity.

31
32 Late in the year we did have a fire in
33 the vicinity of the Refuge but it was actually on Tetlin,
34 it was a very small fire probably a hunter fire.

35
36 And the Refuge has an ongoing wild land
37 interface fuels reduction project going in conjunction or
38 in partnership with the Tetlin village.

39
40 And another activity, we have some
41 studies that are going on on the Refuge, the frog
42 surveys, malformed frog surveys. This is part of a
43 nationwide effort to monitor the level of malformed
44 amphibians. And as I said it's a national wide effort to
45 look at how common it is and then to look for the causes
46 on it. There's several Refuges in Alaska that have been
47 sampled, and preliminary results of the study suggest that
48 higher malformations occur on Refuges that are bounded by
49 the road systems, that is, Kenai and Tetlin have higher
50 levels of malformed frogs and other Refuges that are off

1 the road system. These are preliminary results, we're
2 still looking at it. In fact, studies indicate that
3 approximately 12 percent of the frogs on the Tetlin
4 Refuge were malformed in 2004 and 2005, that's comparable
5 or similar to what they found down in Kenai, but that's
6 higher than what they found on other Refuges.

7
8 In 2006, this year's data has not been
9 analyzed. But this year, they went inside the Refuge
10 away from the road system to sample frogs and see if
11 there's any of the levels -- how they compare to the ones
12 closer to the road system.

13
14 And the fall migration bird banding
15 season opened late, July 30th, again this year. And the
16 fall migration appears to be later this year than in
17 recent years. Banding information will be available next
18 meeting if you're interested in that.

19
20 And in conjunction with this bird banding
21 effort we also collected coicile samples from 30 grey
22 cheek thrushes to be sent in for part of the Avian
23 Influenza sample. We're sampling pasterines. In other
24 parts of the state they're sampling other birds, but
25 anyway so far there's been no -- tests completed so far
26 have been negative for the presence of the highly
27 pathogenic form of Avian Influenza, there's been none
28 reported. There's Avian Influenza of different types,
29 which is normal, but not the one of national concern
30 here, the H5N1 strain, which is of concern to everybody.

31
32 And we have a number of other bird
33 surveys going on on the Refuge including breeder birds,
34 raptors, owls, waterfowl. And we're also working in
35 partnership with Ducks Unlimited on habitat mapping on
36 the Refuge.

37
38 And there's a graduate student from the
39 University of Alaska named Anna Gooddoodin (ph), and
40 she's continuing her contaminant study of fish and
41 wildlife in the Northway area. The project's called the
42 Northway Harvest and Health Food Study and it's a
43 contaminant survey coupled with a controlled case study
44 of cancer patients in the Northway and the upper Tanana
45 area to see if there's links to, you know, rates of
46 cancer with types of food they're eating out there. So
47 it's not our study, it's just being conducted on the
48 Refuge.

49
50 But anyway if there's any questions let

1 me know, I do have biologists out there if you have any
2 questions about some of the survey results or anything.

3

4 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Somebody gave us a short note about something on the
6 whitefish, some fungus on the whitefish in the Northway
7 area, are you aware of that?

8

9 MR. BOOTH: No. This recent?

10

11 MS. WRIGHT: It was just handed to us
12 today.

13

14 MR. BOOTH: No. And my biologists are
15 shaking their head no, but we'll look.....

16

17 MS. WRIGHT: This gentleman said that
18 there were abnormal growths on the fish and that people
19 were talking about how they weren't sure if they should
20 be eating them or not. That was by Fred John, Jr., he
21 was here earlier.

22

23 MR. BOOTH: Okay.

24

25 MS. WRIGHT: I just wondered if you guys
26 had heard about them. I guess Connie -- this is Connie
27 Friend, the RIT on the Refuge and she's got some
28 information on it.

29

30 MS. FRIEND: Mr. Chair. Connie Friend,
31 Tetlin Refuge. This was part of the reason for our study
32 that there have been findings of growth on whitefish in
33 all of the villages. That was part of the reason for our
34 TEK study and so, yes, we are aware of that. I did have
35 a recent report from Northway but I don't know much more
36 than that but, yes, we are aware.

37

38 MS. WRIGHT: Do they have any idea what
39 it is, is it like a cancer or is it from their habitat,
40 does anybody have any idea?

41

42 MS. FRIEND: From the TEK study, no, and
43 the contaminant study, that was beyond the scope of Randi
44 Brown's study so, you know, scientifically speaking we
45 don't really have that knowledge right now.

46

47 MS. WRIGHT: Okay, thanks. He asked
48 about the contaminant part that's why I asked, thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

1 MR. BOOTH: Thank you.

2

3 MS. FRIEND: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Vince.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I think
8 we covered all the Refuges, and then we would move on to
9 the National Park Service. I already consulted with the
10 Yukon-Charley National -- Yukon-Charley Rivers National
11 Preserve, he has no reports.

12

13 Wrangell-St. Elias probably has a report.

14

15

16 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair. Members of
17 the Council. My name is Barbara Cellarius. I'm the
18 subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National
19 Park and Preserve and I just wanted to update you on a
20 couple of issues that we have going on in the part. Some
21 of you may know that our former superintendent passed
22 away in April and we've had an acting leadership for the
23 last six months. We're very happy that someone has been
24 named to be our new superintendent and will be joining us
25 next month. Her name is Meg Jensen, she's currently a
26 Deputy State Director for the Bureau of Land Management
27 in Nevada. Most of her 27 years of Federal service have
28 been with the BLM in Anchorage, Arizona and Nevada, but
29 she began her career as a seasonal backcountry ranger in
30 the Klondike Goldrush National Historic Park. We're
31 really happy that it's somebody who's got some Alaska
32 experience. We won't have -- there will be less for her
33 to learn about ANILCA.

34

35 And then we're passing out copies of our
36 wildlife report and I just want to mention briefly the
37 first three things on the report.

38

39 For several years we've been involved
40 with the captive rearing project for the Chishana Caribou
41 Herd. The Chishana Caribou Herd is a small woodland herd
42 that winters in the Yukon and then moves into the Park in
43 Unit 12 mostly and it's a small declining herd and so
44 there have been some efforts to bring the herd numbers
45 back up. This is the final year of the captive rearing
46 project. They captured 50 cows and had 45 cows leaving
47 the pen. As of September 29th, 24 of the calves were
48 still alive which is 53 percent survival rate. That's
49 the lowest survival rate of penned calves seen in this
50 project and slightly below the wild calf survival calf

1 rate for this year which was the highest wild calf
2 survival rate. So this is the last year of the captive
3 rearing project but the Park will continue monitoring the
4 herd.

5
6 In terms of Mentasta caribou, which is
7 another small herd on the northern edge of the Park, post
8 aggregation census could not be performed this year due
9 to poor weather. They did collar some additional cows in
10 September but we don't have a good population estimate
11 because we had bad weather.

12
13 And population monitoring for both of
14 these herds will continue through the vital signs
15 monitoring program.

16
17 And the final thing I'm going to mention
18 is moose. Last year there was a proposal that would have
19 made some changes to the moose season in Unit 12
20 remainder, or Unit 12 at the end of the Nabesna Road, and
21 we didn't have real good data to make decisions on that
22 proposal and so Wrangell-St. Elias and ADF&G are planning
23 to begin moose surveys in this area, and so that's
24 something that we're looking forward to, some of that is
25 going to be funded again by this vital signs monitoring
26 plan.

27
28 And then I also passed out -- so that's
29 all I'm going to say about the wildlife report. I also
30 passed out a copy of our Copper River fisheries report
31 for your information. I wasn't going to necessarily to
32 go over that information unless there was an interest in
33 my doing that.

34
35 And I'm happy to answer any questions
36 that you might have.

37 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

38
39 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. There's one
42 other Park, but I don't think there's any staff here,
43 that would be Denali National Park that you have interest
44 in and I don't believe there's any Staff here from Denali
45 National Park.

46
47 So Mr. Chairman, that gets us through all
48 the Federal agencies. There may be other agencies that
49 want to give reports that we missed.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, seeing none, okay,
4 that moves us up to that will move pretty quick here on
5 Page 116 of your book. You go through this every two
6 years, it's your charter review, and let me get to 116,
7 but I think in the past you just approve the charter as
8 is, but I need to advise you of what you can change.

9

10 Here it is, the only things that you can
11 change on your charter if you want to change your name, I
12 would highly not recommend doing that, but you do have
13 that option. You could change your boundary. There has
14 been a little discussion about that, but this would be the
15 time if you want to make that a Council action to change
16 your boundary. The size of Regional Council membership.
17 Specific Subsistence Resource Commission appointments,
18 well, that you've worked out over the years, I don't
19 think you want to mess with that. And then criteria for
20 removing a member.

21

22 So those are the options that you have --
23 items in your charter you can change. So if you don't
24 have any.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: No changes, Vince.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: No changes, okay. So with
29 that, that gets us done with the charters. Then it gets
30 us up to Regional Council appointments and that's what I
31 was working on while there was some presentations.

32

33 You appoint to Denali and Wrangell-St.
34 Elias. I wasn't able to contact Denali on that. My
35 understanding is their appointment is still -- is up for
36 Denali, that's Paul Staff for Tanana., and I have not
37 heard on that. So we could probably just delay that
38 until the next meeting, if that needs to be reappointed.

39

40 You do appoint to Wrangell-St. Elias
41 National Park and Preserve, your appointment is up, the
42 last appointment was Chuck Miller, and so what's before
43 you now is that appointment. And the requirements for
44 your appointments would be that it has to be a member
45 either of the Regional Council or local advisory
46 committee within the region, and also engages in
47 subsistence uses within the Park or Monument.

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: We unanimously
50 appoint Sue.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, is that the wishes of
2 the full Council.

3
4 (Council nods affirmatively)

5
6 MR. GLANZ: Consensus.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that's easy because I
9 have to get a form letter out on it. But anyways, and
10 from there we'll go ahead with the SRC appointments.

11
12 Okay, Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't mess --
13 let me think here aloud, no, I wouldn't address any
14 reappointments unless you so desire to your Yukon River
15 Coordinating Fishery Committee, that's Virgil and Gerald.
16 That committee has not been functioning because it hasn't
17 needed to be, but I wouldn't recommend changing any
18 appointments.

19
20 That's your call.

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: We've been sitting in on
23 the teleconferences in the summer for a good portion of
24 them.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, no changes there. I
27 don't know of any other appointments. Other Councils I
28 deal with have different advisory caribou herd deals and
29 things like that, so I don't know of any.

30
31 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Move along.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Moving along,
34 correspondence sent and received is on Page 119, you've
35 had a chance to review that. That's a summary. If I got
36 something wrong or missed something there just let me
37 know.

38
39 (Pause)

40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think this might be the
42 appropriate time for me to make my motion.

43
44 Okay, I move to petition the Refuges to
45 change the regulation prohibiting harassing, chasing,
46 molesting with motorized vehicles animals and to provide
47 exceptions when the Federal Subsistence Board and/or
48 Alaska Board of Game liberalize methods and means for
49 hunting and trapping to allow the positioning of hunters
50 or trappers to take wolves or other predators with

1 motorized vehicles.

2

3 Mr. Chair.

4

5 MS. ENTSMINGER: Second.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Is there a second to that
8 motion, I didn't catch one.

9

10 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, second.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Sue Entsminger
13 seconded the motion.

14

15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Andy.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: I've got some things I'd
18 like to get cleared up on that. I guess maybe it's an
19 interpretation, but my interpretation is that even with
20 the regulations that are in place right now they could
21 still adopt the ability to position yourself with a
22 snowmachine for harvesting a wolf; is that correct, no
23 it's saying harassed, there's a big difference between
24 harvesting or hunting an animal and harassing them.

25

26 And so if you legally take the animal by
27 positioning yourself without harassing the animal, then
28 as I see it we don't need to make any kind of regulation
29 changes.

30

31 But I'm sorry I can't support something
32 that would publicly state that people can go out and
33 harass animals with a snowmachine or any other type of
34 motorized vehicle.

35

36 So I guess what I want is clarification
37 right now as I interpret the regulation that was stated
38 to us earlier, you could if the Board adopts the ability
39 to position yourself, you could legally do that within
40 the Refuge. Is that correct or am I wrong.

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: You're wrong according to
43 what the Staff told us, you're dead wrong.

44

45 We have to do this or you can't position
46 -- hunters and trappers cannot -- will not be able to
47 position themselves, regardless of whether the Federal --
48 because the Board of Game's already passed regulations so
49 we could do it in the Yukon Flats. Even if the Federal
50 Subsistence Board passed it, we were told by Greg a while

1 ago that it could not be implemented because of the
2 prohibition on using motorized vehicles to harass or
3 disturb or anything to animals, that that can't be done
4 in the Refuge. Is that not correct, Greg.

5
6 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair. Greg Bos, Fish and
7 Wildlife Service.

8
9 Under the existing regulations right now
10 people can use snowmachines to hunt wolves, as long as
11 they don't chase or harass wolves, they're not in
12 violation, so they can do that now. You don't need to
13 adopt or propose any change to the regulation. I think
14 your intent in mirroring the State's regulation is to
15 revise or amend the existing regulations that prohibits
16 the use of snowmachines to chase and harass. So
17 specifically to allow people to do that is what you're
18 suggesting, I think, Mr. Umphenour. But in terms of
19 being able to use a snowmachine to hunt wolves, that's
20 permitted currently under the existing regulations, as
21 long as you don't chase, harass wolves.

22
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's the point. I
24 don't know who here has ever tried to catch a wolf on a
25 snowmachine but I have, it's not easy. Conditions have
26 to be right to do it. But if conditions are right, you
27 can take -- well, I had one of my guides that worked for
28 me killed 13 one time, at one time, wolves.

29
30 This is so you can go as fast as you can
31 go to get into position to shoot a wolf, that's the whole
32 intent of that proposal that the Board of Game passed,
33 it's to liberalize the methods and means to make it so
34 that you can be more successful at killing wolves.
35 Killing wolves on the ground is not easy to do. And so
36 if we're going to do anything about the places like the
37 Yukon Flats, we need to liberalize the regulations. And
38 with what the Board of Game did, in the Yukon Flats you
39 could go over there and position yourself on the Yukon
40 River, because that's State land, as long as the wolves
41 weren't above the high water mark, that would be legal.
42 But what our intent here, what we want to happen, is we
43 want the same regulation that the Board of Game passed to
44 be effective in the Yukon Flats to hopefully help out the
45 moose situation up there. And in order to do that, if we
46 need to change this regulation we've already got, because
47 we're not talking about being able to ride a snowmachine
48 out here and then get off and walk five miles hunting
49 wolves, that's not what we're talking about. If we see a
50 pack of wolves up here a half a mile away we want to go

1 as fast as that snowmachine will go and get as close as
2 we can to them and jump off the snowmachine and start
3 shooting; that's the intent of this.

4
5 And so do we need to pass a motion like
6 the one I just made or not, that's what I'd like to know.
7 Does the Federal Subsistence Board or can the Refuges go
8 ahead and just acknowledge the Board of Game regulation,
9 and apply it to Federal lands.

10
11 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair. The short answer is
12 no.

13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: So we have to have the
15 motion in order to be able to do that, correct, and then
16 it's got to go through the process.

17
18 MR. BOS: The existing regulation would
19 have to be changed through the Federal Register process
20 in order to allow what you're suggesting.

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Is that clear
23 as mud to you now Andy.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Yes it is and I still won't
26 support it.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Well, we'll be
31 opposed to each other because I support my motion and I
32 think I've already spoken to my motion. The State has
33 seen fit to do this, the State Board of Game, to try to
34 do something in the Yukon Flats to help the situation up
35 there. And the way I made the motion I'd like to ask
36 Vince if he's clear on the intent of the motion and the
37 way I made it because I want this to apply to all users
38 on the Refuge, not just Federal subsistence users.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Virgil, plus I'll have
41 your copy there and it's being transcribed, and this one
42 doesn't have a time limit on it, you know, to submit it.
43 I mean it's not due by Friday. I mean we'll get it out
44 in a reasonable manner but there's not a set time for a
45 petition to change Federal regulations.

46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. So I support
48 the motion and I think it's needed. We have to move
49 forward if we're going to do something and to hesitate
50 and not take action just drags things out forever. This

1 might drag out for a year or so to get this petition that
2 we're going to submit, if it passes, to go through the
3 wheels of the regulatory process anyway.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 MS. WRIGHT: Question.

8

9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's moved and
10 seconded and question has been called and I'm going to go
11 with a roll call vote, Vince.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Sue
14 Entsminger.

15

16 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Amy Wright.

19

20 MS. WRIGHT: Yes.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: That was a yes. Andy
23 Bassich.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: No.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Gerald Nicholia.

28

29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yes.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Bill.

32

33 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Virgil.

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: James.

40

41 MR. NATHANIEL: Yes.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. The vote
44 wins six to one -- I mean the motion passed, I should
45 say.

46

47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, move on.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman. I will
50 work with Virgil and if he can give me that paper he

1 wrote out that would help. That brings us up -- when you
2 go to your January Board meeting, at the end of the Board
3 meeting there's this time period where the Chairs can
4 bring up with their fellow Chairs and the full Board,
5 topics. And so if people want topics that, you know, the
6 Chair's should talk with other Chairs, this would be a
7 time to share it. Or I don't know who's going in
8 January. Gerald's going to the December meeting, the
9 12th and 13th. I don't remember the Board meeting dates
10 right at this moment in January, but whoever's going this
11 will give them a chance to bring up topics.

12

13 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Intensive management.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Sure. I mean you can bring
16 that up at that time. I don't -- but, again, that would
17 be topics -- so I don't want to spend a lot of time on
18 this but if you have topics.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: And working in
21 coordination with the other two RACs on the Yukon River
22 for the Yukon River fisheries.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, those would be
25 excellent topics to bring up, to work out cooperation.

26

27 Just for note taking now, does it appear,
28 Gerald, I mean that you'd be going in January, I
29 apologize I don't remember the dates.

30

31 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Either me or Sue.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: What?

34

35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Me or Sue.

36

37 MS. ENTSMINGER: It's fisheries, right?
38 Is it fisheries.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: It's a fisheries meeting.

41

42 MS. ENTSMINGER: That's your job.

43

44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: It looks like it will be
47 Gerald, and then the two topics would be cooperation on
48 the river for the three Councils and then intensive
49 management.

50

1 Okay, then that brings us up to the other
2 topic. If you'd turn to Page 120, I'll walk you through
3 that, it's not a big deal but we try to get these
4 meetings lined up. Your next meeting is in winter 2007.
5 You have down here March 20th through 21st in Tok. Did
6 you want to reconfirm that. There has been discussions
7 from the Flats about meeting in the Flats, I'm not going
8 to ignore that, but it's your decision where you would
9 like to meet.

10

11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Sue.

12

13 MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chairman. James had
14 asked me about it being in Arctic Village. And after
15 talking about what is probably going to come up in
16 wildlife proposals and realizing that that Red Sheep Cane
17 Creek is a contentious issue, I think it would be wise,
18 maybe, to agree with James and we have that meeting up
19 there even though I lobbied you heavily for Tok. I feel
20 like it's a good opportunity to see the people first-
21 hand, and the issues in Tok would probably be more, not
22 as contentious and it'd be good to have that kind of
23 dialogue between the people so I have agreed that -- and
24 talked to the rest of the group that that would be fine
25 and have Tok as an alternate maybe.

26

27 And we can talk about -- do you need to
28 know the next meeting, for that, following?

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we need to do from a
31 year now, but your alternate would be Tok, if Arctic
32 Village fails?

33

34 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then you'd go into
37 fall of 2007 and that's where I need help from other
38 Staff because data comes in from these different Councils
39 that I may not be aware of.

40

41 Right now if you look at Page 121, being
42 that you met last of the three Councils on the Yukon,
43 right now Yukon-Kuskokwim RAC is meeting on October 4th
44 and 5th, I think Hooper Bay. The Western Interior, their
45 first choice is October 10th and 11th and they're meeting
46 in Aniak, with an alternative of October 3rd and 4th,
47 which hopefully won't have to go to. And that is the
48 three on the river that are there, so it kind of limits
49 you to the week of October 15th or back into September,
50 which I'm not sure you guys want to meet in September.

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: Not me.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: And I can give you an
4 update on the other Councils but I generally try to get
5 you guys to avoid the three on the Yukon, that you're
6 separated. And that would be another wildlife meeting.
7
8 MR. BASSICH: As early as possible.
9
10 MS. ENTSMINGER: As early as possible.
11
12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Early as possible in
13 October after the hunting season.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: I couldn't hear you, I got
16 these on.
17
18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Early as possible in
19 October after the hunting season, I believe.
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Well, there is nothing
22 there because the same Staff.....
23
24 MR. BASSICH: The earliest possible
25 you're saying is around the 15th, 16th; is that correct?
26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, 15th, 16th, 17th. We
28 try to avoid Monday meetings because Sunday's there's not
29 planes in a lot.....
30
31 MR. BASSICH: 16th, 17th.
32
33 MS. ENTSMINGER: 16 and 17th.
34
35 MR. BASSICH: 16 and 17.
36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the 16th and 17th.
38 Location, with an alternate. I don't have any hints for
39 you there. AFN, that's the following week. I believe
40 it's the following week, our window tries to avoid AFN, I
41 believe it's the following week, it's the 25th. So where
42 would you like to meet, that is a wildlife meeting.
43
44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: At Vince's place.
45
46 MR. MATHEWS: I do have a good big
47 garage, and now I have a railroad depot, we could meet
48 there.
49
50 MR. RIVARD: Fisheries.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I'm sorry it is a
2 fisheries.

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Where do you guys
5 want to meet.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: I do have access to a
8 railroad depot if you want to meet at the depot.

9
10 Seriously your policy has been, this time
11 we didn't pull it off, to meet on the river or near the
12 river. Not to put any pressure on Bill, but we haven't
13 been back to Central in awhile. I know it didn't work as
14 well the last time, I wasn't involved.

15
16 MR. GLANZ: The only consideration I have
17 for that, Vince, would be that I don't know where we'd
18 put everybody up at. Circle would be the same thing.
19 There's just one business with nine rooms. And Circle
20 has no place to put them up at either unless they stay in
21 people's homes, like in Central we could do that too
22 possibly. The hot springs is closed, the motor inn is
23 closed, the only thing that's open is Crabb's Corner,
24 which is Steese Roadhouse no. Circle has no motels,
25 hotels, or no nothing, they don't even have a restaurant.
26 Circle has one store.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: You haven't been back to
29 Ft. Yukon in awhile. That's always a bit of a challenge
30 there even though it's a larger community but we've
31 pulled it off before. We've been to Eagle in a while.
32 But it's your call on where you'd like to meet on the
33 river.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: I'm thinking Ft. Yukon
36 would be nice because A, we'd be dealing with fisheries
37 but we seem to be spending a lot of times on wildlife
38 issues up in that region too so we might be able to get
39 some good public comment on both of those issues there
40 and make that as a primary meeting place. If we're not
41 going to go to Tok, maybe we could also have that as an
42 alternative. I know it's not so much of a fishing
43 community but it still puts us in the community.

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Good enough.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: So your alternate for your
48 October meeting would be Tok then.

49
50 (Council nods affirmatively)

1 MR. GLANZ: Yes.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: It's a real yo-yo, but it's
4 fine, we can do that if we need to go to the alternate,
5 meaning going from one end of the region to the other.
6
7 So Mr. Chairman, I believe that covers
8 all that I need to cover, topics and issues, I'm going to
9 have to remove that from the list. That's just if you
10 have a specific topic that you want to cover. You
11 already talked about that earlier on some so I don't
12 think we need any time on that.
13
14 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You could keep in
15 contact with me on the topics and issues.
16
17 Do we have to do the proposals for James
18 or is that just a.....
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I apologize, that was
21 my job to report back to you. I apologize we got picture
22 taking in there. James has met with the Refuge Staff and
23 bottom line on that is that the Refuge Staff has made a
24 commitment to work with the data and the villages over
25 the next winter to look at other options. It became
26 apparent that the options needed further discussion and
27 research, but basically further discussion with the
28 villages. So James wants to hold on that for this winter
29 and if need be there may be a special action, I'm not
30 saying there would be but there is all that option there.
31 So that's where those issues for the Chalkyitsik area,
32 25(D) East moose issue went.
33
34 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, we're done
35 then, uh.
36
37 MR. BASSICH: Closing comments.
38
39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Oh, yeah, there's one
40 more thing I didn't see on there, closing comments,
41 there, Vince. Sue.
42
43 MS. ENTSMINGER: Do we have to start with
44 me, somebody else should be put on the spot first.
45
46 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead.
47
48 REPORTER: Sue.
49
50 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I guess we've put

1 in two days here of some interesting data and me,
2 personally, I like to see us roll up our sleeves and get
3 the job done and sometimes I know things look like
4 they're really difficult to get done but I don't think we
5 want to stop, that's what the process is, is us working
6 on issues. I like to join hands and try to work together
7 and sometimes we might sound like we get pretty
8 frustrated and I might have been a little hard on you
9 earlier when I said look who works for the government and
10 who doesn't, and I apologize for that little statement
11 because it might have been a little too hard on you. It
12 gets a little frustrating as a public member, all the
13 meetings that you need to attend to stay on top of what
14 affects your life, so you get a little sensitive at
15 times. So I just wanted people to know that, so thank
16 you.

17

18 Thank the Delta community also for having
19 us here.

20

21 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Amy.

22

23 MS. WRIGHT: I think for my closing
24 comments I'd like to say that I really enjoyed being here
25 in Delta, and I really enjoyed the public comments last
26 night and the fact that people actually came and had
27 something to say. I, again, have been pretty overwhelmed
28 with the amount of work that's been presented to us, you
29 guys put in a lot of time and effort and we appreciate
30 the presentations.

31

32 As far as this whole predator issue goes,
33 I think that people, the subsistence hunters themselves
34 are just going to have to start working within the legal
35 boundaries to eliminate the predators and do it on their
36 own, basically. I think that's probably the best bet and
37 I don't know, you can turn back the clock, but years gone
38 by, my dad said that the bounty seemed to work pretty
39 well because it gave people enough incentive to go out
40 what to do is a really hard job.

41

42 Thank you, very much.

43

44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Andy.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'd like to echo a
47 lot of what Amy just said, especially people here in
48 Delta. It was a good place to meet. Good public
49 participation. I think you need to take that to the
50 folks here, I think that's really important, that's why

1 we like to come out to these communities. I think it
2 helped a lot in some of our discussion about the rural
3 determinations here, it was important to hear that first
4 hand. I gained a lot from that.

5
6 Another thing I'd like to recognize is
7 the Staff, all the different Staff members that come
8 here, and I know it's hard to sit on your tail for a
9 couple days for 10 minutes of presentation a lot of
10 times, but that's much appreciated, so I want to thank
11 them for that.

12
13 And then also along those lines, I think
14 it's important to recognize that there was a very big
15 turnout, as Vince mentioned yesterday, people from all
16 over the state were showing, up, Lester showing up from
17 the lower end of the river, so to me that signals that
18 the Eastern RAC is dealing with a lot of issues that
19 people have a lot of interest in and I use that as a
20 barometer whether it's good or bad to say that we're
21 addressing issues that need to be addressed and sometimes
22 they're controversial but I think that's okay. j I think
23 the more controversial they are the more views we get out
24 there, the better decisions we're going to make for the
25 long-term, and sometimes it's hard to start that
26 discussion.

27
28 But I'm happy to be a part of this RAC,
29 which doesn't seem to be afraid to try and tackle the
30 tough jobs and the tough issues.

31
32 I want to thank all the members here,
33 too, I always learn a lot every time I come here from all
34 of you. A lot of experience sitting here and I really
35 appreciate all the different perspectives.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. GLANZ: Along with the predator
40 control we got to get rid of the people killing 25
41 percent of the cows, they're as big a predator as the
42 wolves and bears as far as I'm concerned, and they have
43 to be educated in the villages to respect the cows along
44 with the lands, as they call it. So I'm not trying to be
45 mean, just trying -- this has to be done. And Paul
46 Williams' hit on it, everybody's hit on it, that you
47 cannot have a sustainable yield if you kill off the
48 mothers.

49
50 And I appreciate the chance to come here

1 and talk to everybody and enjoyed the meeting very much.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virg.

6

7

MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I'd like to thank
8 the Staff for getting all the stuff ready for us so that
9 it makes the meeting run smooth. And some of the things
10 we've got before us right now, that motion we just made
11 awhile ago, I think we've made a good step forward as far
12 as trying to get the Refuge Service to change their
13 regulations so that we can allow more liberal methods and
14 means so that people can help themselves improve their
15 situation.

16

17

And I hope that we can maybe get some
18 kind of a response on the letter that we want to send
19 concerning the hatcheries and what the -- the progress on
20 the science on determining the effects of overgrazing in
21 the marine environment. I hope we get something from
22 National Marine Fisheries Service on that.

23

24

That's all I've got.

25

26

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: James.

27

28

MR. NATHANIEL: I don't have very much to
29 say right at the moment. I'd like to take this moose
30 issue back to my hometown and share with others in the
31 Yukon Flats villages. When we're going to meet in Fort
32 Yukon on the 13th, I believe, the Yukon Flats Advisory
33 Committee, at that time I will bring it up again. But I
34 found out that we had to go through another channel
35 before we get anything done on that so I wanted to wait
36 another year to gather information and go from there.

37

38

I haven't talked to all the villages in
39 Yukon Flats yet but we do have phone problem and we can't
40 communicate and we have a lot of problems back home, so
41 I'd like to thank the Board, the Staff for giving me some
42 ideas on how to take care of this problem we have in the
43 Yukon Flats.

44

45

I guess that's all I have, thank you.

46

47

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I would like to thank
48 the Staff, OSM, the State for being here and getting our
49 meeting ready and setting us up and thank Delta. And
50 especially like to thank the residents of Delta for

1 coming here and testifying. It gives us a better view of
2 what we have to stand up for and what we have to stand
3 against.

4
5 I'd like to thank Vince for always
6 putting up with us, you know, and thank everybody and see
7 you again next time.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Motion to adjourn.

10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: Question.

14
15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those in favor
16 signify by saying aye.

17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19
20 (Off record)

21
22 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 131 through 231 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 18th day of October 2006, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Delta Junction, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 1st day of November 2006.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08