

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 Fairbanks, Alaska
9 March 22, 2006
10 8:30 o'clock a.m.

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14
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16
17 Craig Fleener, Chairman
18 Sue Entsminger
19 William Glanz
20 James Nathaniel, Sr.
21 Gerald Nicholia
22 Virgil Umphenour
23 Larry Williams
24 Amy Wright
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28 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews
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44 Recorded and transcribed by:
45
46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
47 3522 West 27th Avenue
48 Anchorage, AK 99517
49 907-243-0668
50 jpk@gci.net

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

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4 (Fairbanks, Alaska - 3/22/2006)

5
6 (On record)

7
8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: We're already nine
9 and a half minutes past my starting time so why don't
10 we go ahead and call the meeting back to order, if I
11 could have everyone's attention, please, and we'll get
12 started with Proposal 63.

13
14 (Pause)

15
16 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Tom.

17
18 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Members of
19 the Council. The analysis for Proposal 63 is on Page
20 -- starts on Page 92 of your Council books. WP06-63
21 was submitted by your Council and requests that wolf
22 baiting be allowed during the hunting season in the
23 Eastern Interior region. The proposal seeks to provide
24 additional opportunity for subsistence hunters to
25 harvest wolves in the Eastern Interior region.

26
27 Under Federal subsistence management
28 regulations using bait to take wolves is specifically
29 prohibited except with a trapping license during the
30 trapping season. During the trapping season there is
31 no requirement concerning placement of bait in a trap,
32 near a trap or whether a trap must be used with the
33 bait. During the trapping season with a trapping
34 license, wolf baiting is already allowed on BLM, Fish
35 and Wildlife Service and National Park Service lands.
36 But on National Park Service lands you cannot shoot a
37 free ranging wolf with a trapping license.

38
39 Wolves occur throughout the Eastern
40 Interior Region and the populations are healthy.

41
42 There is a harvestable surplus of
43 wolves in the Eastern Interior region. Wolf
44 populations can support the additional harvest that
45 would occur if baiting were allowed during the hunting
46 season. While wolves are usually an incidental take
47 while hunting moose, caribou or sheep, it is expected
48 that some hunters would use this method to harvest
49 wolves during the hunting season. Although it is
50 currently illegal to do so during the hunting season,

1 some have noted that this regulatory change would
2 legalize historic and existing practices during the
3 hunting season. Wolves are attracted to food and do
4 come to fish camps, hunting camps and villages in
5 search of food.

6
7 An individual at the Council meeting
8 last fall noted that he had two different wolves coming
9 into his black bear bait sites in spring 2005 and could
10 have harvested both of them had it been legal to do so.
11 He uses both dog food and horse food for black bear
12 bait and wolves came in where he was using dog food for
13 bait.

14
15 Based on this analysis, actions by the
16 Alaska Eastern Interior and the Western and
17 Southcentral Council recommendations I've updated my
18 preliminary Staff conclusions. I've passed those out
19 to you.

20
21 I recommend the proposal be supported
22 with modification to allow the use of bait to hunt
23 wolves on Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park
24 Service lands in Units 12, 20 and 25.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd be happy
27 to answer any questions that you may have.

28
29 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Tom. Any
30 Department of Fish and Game going to comment on this
31 one.

32
33 MR. KOSKEY: I can read the comments.

34
35 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, thank you.

36
37 MR. KOSKEY: Mr. Chair. My name's Mike
38 Koskey with Subsistence Division, ADF&G, and I'll read
39 the comments for wildlife conservation.

40
41 ADF&G comments are found on Page 100.
42 ADF&G is neutral on this issue.

43
44 Whether or not baiting of wolves should
45 be authorized under hunting regulations
46 on Federal public lands in Units 12, 20
47 and 25 is unlikely to result in much
48 increase in harvest and is not expected
49 to create a conservation concern.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Any
4 other agencies or -- yes, Tom.

5

6 MR. KRON: Yeah, maybe I can add some
7 additional clarification. A number of you were at the
8 State Board of Game meeting, but at their March 10th
9 through 20th, 2006 meeting, the Alaska Board of Game
10 allowed the practice statewide, that's wolf baiting
11 statewide by striking a prohibition against feeding of
12 wolves, fox, coyote and wolverine from the feeding of
13 game regulation.

14

15 Federal regulations do not allow
16 feeding of game, this feeding of game provision.

17

18 Given that WP06-63, this proposal,
19 applies only to wolves, and that it is limited to the
20 Eastern Interior region, it is not appropriate under
21 Federal regulation to extend the allowance statewide as
22 the State Board of Game did or to include the three
23 other species, fox, coyote and wolverine as the State
24 Board did in response to your proposal. That would be
25 something for future consideration.

26

27 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Tom.
28 Barb.

29

30 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 The Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission
32 supports the proposal as written. The vote on this
33 proposal was eight favor and one in opposition.

34

35 The proposal would provide additional
36 opportunities to hunt wolves. We are
37 losing moose and caribou to predators
38 and this proposal will help manage
39 these important subsistence resources.

40

41 The person who opposed the proposal
42 noted that people in his area do not
43 traditionally and customarily bait
44 wolves.

45

46 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Barb.
47 And what about your superiors, what did they have to
48 say?

49

50 MS. CELLARIUS: I wasn't able to reach

1 our wildlife biologist this morning but I believe that
2 we have some concerns about the proposal in terms of
3 the stated intent in -- on the Board of Game proposal,
4 the stated intent related to reducing the number of
5 predators and that's something that the Park Service
6 doesn't traditionally do.

7
8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Ahoy
9 there Vince, do you want to read the public comments on
10 Proposal 63.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I'm trying to get
13 this phone.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: That's all right,
16 you're perfect timing, you came in at just the right
17 time.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS:to work.

20
21 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: It's A-okay with me.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: While, we're waiting we
24 do have one housekeeping thing. You have your travel
25 forms, which are, what color were they, kind of an off-
26 yellow, and if you want to do the streamline method
27 just sign them and say you're going with as Staff has
28 laid it out, and then you could hand them in and then
29 Tom takes them back and we start processing them, you
30 can also send them back in.

31
32 So those are there in case I forget.
33 And if you don't have that form that says depart/arrive
34 and all that, we will get you it but it should be in
35 your packet.

36
37 Okay, the written comments there's
38 three of them. One in support from the AHTNA
39 Subsistence Committee.

40
41 The AHTNA Subsistence Committee, they
42 support this proposal to allow baiting
43 in Unit 12 and portions of 20(A), 20(C)
44 and 25(D). To hunt wolves as long as
45 no edible wild game is used.

46
47 The population of wolves is
48 overabundant and allowing bait would
49 increase harvest of more wolves.

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Two in opposition.

The Alaska Defenders of Wildlife submitted a letter also. They oppose the proposal.

1. Liberal seasons and no bag limits in all three units at present allow sufficient opportunity for subsistence uses of wolves. Baiting is not justified.

2. Even if justification was offered for baiting, the proposal offers no system to administrate or limit baiting practices such as provided in State regulations.

3. There's a serious question about whether baiting as it is commonly practiced is customary and traditional subsistence activity under Section .803.

4. Again, this type of proposal is primarily a predator control measure for which there is no authorization in Federal subsistence law except as a responsibility as the individual land managing agency with additional review and procedures.

So Defender's oppose.

The Alaska Regional Office of the National Parks Conservation Association also opposes this proposal.

If there's a parallel proposal to the Board of Game as this proposal suggests, it's questionable whether the true intent of this proposed regulation can be considered subsistence. The Conservation Association is concerned that the use of bait to increase wolf kills in Units 12, 20 and 25, which includes several; Park units by providing additional opportunity for its hunters is nothing more than predator control in disguise and it

1 should be considered that.

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The Conservation Association does not feel the intent is to provide for subsistence opportunity but it is rather to make killing wolves easier. The opportunity to kill wolves exists under current regulations. Killing wolves for the sake of reducing wolf populations is not consistent with the Congressional intent that units of the National Park Service should be providing for natural and healthy wildlife population, therefore, this proposal should not be adopted.

Now, I got to get my book because that's where all my notes are on all the Councils.

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Tom.

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, Vince and I both checked your record from the last meeting when this proposal was submitted, nowhere in your record does it mention the phrase predator control, nowhere in your proposal to the Federal Board does it mention predator control.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Tom.

MR. MATHEWS: Now, we get into Denali Subsistence Resource Commission support deferring this proposal, and in respect to them I need to find out why they're saying defer -- it's right here -- and then Western Interior took up this proposal and Southcentral would have taken it up.

MR. KRON: Southcentral deferred, too.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay, well, let me find Denali, unless someone -- oh, here it is, Denali, because generally they are very clear on their -- okay, motion to defer the motion was passed unanimously.

Baiting of wolves is not a traditional subsistence activity in Denali Park, therefore, this proposal would have little effect on subsistence users.

1 Western Interior took up this proposal
2 and they opposed it unanimously.

3
4 The Council opposes this proposal
5 because the wolf hides are not in prime
6 condition in spring. Council members
7 shared that waiting for a wary wolf to
8 come to a bait station would not be
9 economical or productive. The Council
10 recognizes there are more subsistence
11 hunters in Eastern Interior that do use
12 bait to harvest black bears and could
13 harvest wolves while hunting black bear
14 over the bait.

15
16 And I apologize my notes are all --
17 Southcentral, you covered that already, I'm sure -- oh,
18 well, that's real simple, for the remaining proposals
19 61, 63 and 64 they deferred to the home region.

20
21 So that's all that I'm aware of.

22
23 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Vince.
24 What are the wishes of the Council.

25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
27 WP06-63.

28
29 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

30
31 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: There's a motion to
32 adopt and it's been seconded.

33
34 Discussion. Sue.

35
36 MS. ENTSMINGER: I have a question of
37 Staff. Since the State Board voted this statewide, how
38 does that affect Federal land, if this was only to pass
39 on these three GMU's, what would happen in the other
40 GMU's, I'm just curious, they would still be allowed to
41 do it, right?

42
43 MR. KRON: Yeah, they'd still be
44 allowed to do it but basically it'd be a prohibited
45 practice under Federal regulations but under the new
46 State regs, when they come into effect, it would be
47 allowed under State regs.

48
49 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: On Federal land.

50

1 MR. KRON: On Federal land.

2

3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Barb.

4

5 MS. CELLARIUS: In terms of the whether
6 State regulations apply on Federal land, on NPS there
7 are some Parks that are closed to subsistence harvest,
8 and then in National Parks and Park Monuments, the part
9 that's Park, rather than Preserve, State regulations
10 don't apply.

11

12 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Barb.
13 More discussion.

14

15 Virgil.

16

17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, this is our
18 proposal and I think we made the record clear at our
19 last meeting when we come up with the proposal what our
20 intent was, to allow more harvest opportunity for
21 wolves and we pointed out, you know, several instances
22 where people had the opportunity to take a wolf while
23 hunting, at their fish camps but it would have been
24 illegal for them to do it. So I'm fully in support of
25 the proposal.

26

27 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Virgil.
30 And if there are no more comments, I just wanted to
31 say, too, that on Page 101 where the National Parks
32 Conservation Association wrote their paragraph of
33 opposition, I don't think they're fully -- I don't
34 think they fully understand what we try to do because
35 here near the bottom of their paragraph it says that
36 this will rather -- rather it is to make killing of
37 wolves easier, and they oppose it because it's to make
38 killing wolves easier, well, that's actually one thing
39 we wanted to do was to make it easier. You know,
40 subsistence hunters and fishermen, whatever a
41 subsistence person is doing out in the woods they are
42 supposed to be epitomizing efficiency, and so any way
43 that we can increase efficiency, which means killing an
44 animal quicker, easier and with less suffering, that's
45 what we need to do and should be doing on this
46 committee. And so I don't think they understand what
47 our -- some of our goals are here but I think we do
48 need to make the killing of wolves easier where the
49 wolf populations are abundant.

50

1 Sue.

2

3 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I had another
4 comment on primeness. I've sewn wolves from all months
5 of the year that they are allowed, I think, past June,
6 I've seen a wolf skin that's not able to do much with,
7 but -- because of them losing their hair and all that,
8 but in August that's really short hair, there is still
9 things you can do with wolf pelts when the hair is
10 short, It's a little more less godly looking if you
11 made a hat out of it than when they're fully prime but
12 most of the wolves are used for ruffs, but on the other
13 hand the animal is still saleable, you can still make
14 things out of it. It might not be the same quality as
15 before but it's still very nice -- for the subsistence
16 user they can still market it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Sue.

19 Discussion.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. ENTSMINGER: Question.

24

25 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Question's been
26 called. Gerald did you have a comment?

27

28 MR. NICHOLIA: No, I was just going to
29 say question.

30

31 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. Question's
32 been called. All in favor of the motion signify by
33 saying aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any opposed, say no.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Motion carries.
42 Thank you, Tom. So the next one is 64, and that's Pete
43 DeMatteo.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm still trying to
46 get.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, we can just
49 skip this one until you can either get a hold of him or
50 whatever, will that work Vince?

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I just need five
2 minutes to find connectors we have to string a line
3 from an office to over here.

4
5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, we'll move to
6 67a then and that's Don Rivard. There's the lovely
7 Don.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Page 110.

12
13 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 For the record, Polly Wheeler with the Office of
15 Subsistence Management. Amy Craver actually developed
16 this analysis but I'll be presenting it. As you said
17 the analysis can be found on Pages 110 to 117 in your
18 book.

19
20 This proposal was submitted by Heimo
21 Korth of Fort Yukon and it requests a positive
22 customary and traditional use determination for moose
23 in Unit 26(C) within the Firth and the Kongakut River
24 drainages be expanded to include residents of Unit
25 25(A). There's a map that can be found on Page 112 in
26 your book.

27
28 As some of you are well aware Unit
29 25(A) includes the community of Arctic Village as well
30 as families and individuals living full and part-time
31 in nearby Chandalar as well as in the other remote
32 areas within the unit. The Korth family has a summer
33 cabin in Fort Yukon, 25(A) where they live for one and
34 a half months a year stocking up on supplies, during
35 the rest of the year, the family runs a trapline within
36 the local vicinity of the Arctic National Wildlife
37 Refuge. They rotate their winter residence between two
38 cabins along the Coleen River and one cabin along
39 Bilwaddy Creek.

40
41 As far as on Page 113 there's the
42 community characteristics section and it basically, the
43 Federal customary and traditional use determinations as
44 we discussed yesterday are based on uses of an area or
45 community or communities. The main focus of this
46 analysis is on the uses of the area in Unit 25(A) and
47 on Arctic Village, the only community located within
48 25(A).

49
50 There are a number of people scattered

1 around Unit 25(A) who live in isolation while running
2 traplines, however there's little information
3 documented regarding these individuals.

4
5 Today, Mr. Korth and his family are the
6 only remaining residents who continue to live a remote
7 lifestyle, 115 miles directly east of Arctic Village
8 along the Coleen River. Up until the recent past, a
9 number of trapping families lived in the area but many
10 eventually moved permanently into larger communities.

11
12 It's difficult to state, exactly, when
13 moose moved into the area but according to Arctic
14 Village residents moose became more prolific and common
15 in the foothills and valleys of the Brooks Range
16 between 1940 and 1950 as is true of a lot of other
17 areas around there.

18
19 Although there's no evidence in the
20 written or oral tradition that the Gwich'in harvested
21 moose in Unit 26, recent community reports note that
22 local moose hunters hunt up river to the Sheenjek area
23 in Unit 25(A) which is northwest of Arctic Village.
24 Since the 1970s the Korth family has lived a
25 subsistence lifestyle in Unit 25(A). According to Mr.
26 Korth's biographer, Mr. Korth regularly harvests moose
27 and he regularly takes at least one moose a year in the
28 vicinity of the upper Coleen River in Unit 25(A).

29
30 So we get to the effects of the
31 proposal which you can find on Page 116.

32
33 While the community of Arctic Village
34 and the surrounding area have a customary and
35 traditional pattern of use for moose within Unit 25(A)
36 they do not appear to have a pattern of use of moose in
37 Unit 26(C), within the upper Firth and Kongakut River
38 drainages. In part, this is due to the distance of
39 over 120 land miles across the Brooks Range between
40 Arctic Village and the upper Firth and Kongakut River
41 drainages. Most significantly it is unlikely that
42 Arctic Village residents would travel to 26(C) because
43 they can still generally travel much shorter distances
44 to hunt caribou and caribou are much preferred.
45 Although, one of Mr. Korth's cabins is located on
46 Bilwaddy Creek and is roughly only 50 miles from the
47 proposed area, the Brooks Range serves as a boundary
48 between Units 25(A) and 26(C), thus restricting travel
49 by snowmachine across the two units. It's unknown if
50 Mr. Korth's hunting area extends beyond the Coleen

1 River.

2

3

4 The Staff recommendation is to oppose
5 this proposal, and that recommendation is based on the
6 rationale that while residents of Arctic Village and
7 the surrounding area have a demonstrated pattern of use
8 of moose in other units, they do not have a
9 demonstrated pattern of use of moose in Unit 26(C).

9

10

Mr. Chair.

11

12

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you.
13 Department of Fish and Game.

14

15

MR. KOSKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Mike Koskey, Fish and Game. I'll read the comments for
17 wildlife conservation.

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ADF&G does not support as recommended
in the preliminary conclusion of the
Staff analysis for this proposal.
Information presented in the Staff
analysis is insufficient to conclude
that residents of Unit 25(A) have a
customary and traditional use of moose
in Unit 26(C).

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Any
other -- yes, go ahead, Wennona.

MS. BROWN: Wennona Brown for the
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The Refuge opposes this proposal for
the reasons that Polly stated in her
analysis.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Any
other agencies or comments or anybody in general.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: None. Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm
getting input from others. Basically the North Slope

1 took this up and they opposed it, correct -- yes, so
2 North Slope opposed 67a, and that's the only Regional
3 Council.

4
5 There are no written comments on this
6 proposal.

7
8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. What are
9 the wishes of the Council.

10
11 MR. NICHOLIA: Move to adopt.

12
13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, do we have any
14 other -- there's no other comments, okay.

15
16 MR. NICHOLIA: Move to adopt.

17
18 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, there's a
19 motion to adopt, is there a second.

20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.

22
23 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, there's a
24 second. Any more discussion.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I guess I have a
29 couple of questions. We have a person that we know
30 lives out in the country year-round who's asking for a
31 C&T determination, although we have no record of him
32 actually using the resources up there, I guess I'm
33 wondering -- so far I've heard everybody opposed to
34 this but I know this guy, I know he lives out there
35 nearly year-round and almost entirely lives a
36 subsistence lifestyle out in the country and he's
37 asking for this determination and I'm not sure what the
38 determination's going to provide. It's not going to
39 give him any additional access because he can still
40 actually hunt.

41
42 But why, for a guy who's been living
43 out there since, I don't even remember, 1980 or
44 something, he's been living there for a long time, he's
45 raised three kids up in the Coleen, and I thought he
46 had three cabins up there but it only says two in his
47 testimony, I'm pretty sure he's got three cabins in
48 three different places up in that part of the country,
49 and I have a hard time not supporting something from a
50 person that I know is out living in the country. Of

1 course, this isn't providing him any extra food but I
2 know he kills moose every year, he kills caribou, he
3 does a lot of trapping and he's basically out there
4 just to live on the land, he doesn't have much in the
5 way of money. He comes to Fort Yukon and tries to work
6 for a month or a couple of months in the summertime
7 just to buy some flour and salt, I guess and to replace
8 his traps and then go back up and really go home.

9
10 And so it sounds like nobody wants to
11 support this, none of the agencies or other Regional
12 Councils, but this is a guy that lives out in the woods
13 and it's not providing him any extra opportunity but
14 it's this old problem of customary and traditional uses
15 again and recognizing, you know, somebody's customary
16 and traditional use, but, I guess does it or doesn't it
17 fulfill the eight factors; I guess you're saying it
18 doesn't meet with fulfilling the eight factors; is that
19 correct?

20
21 Go ahead.

22
23 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
24 think the problem is you've got one community in this
25 unit and then -- Arctic Village, and then you've got
26 these individuals. There's actually some -- dated
27 information for Arctic Village, there's not recent
28 information but there is dated information which talks
29 a lot about their pattern of use and they don't appear
30 to go up into this other area.

31
32 Now, as far as this individual goes, we
33 don't have -- there is the biography of this individual
34 which talked about him hunting but it was kind of
35 sketchy as to what -- it wasn't really clear that he
36 was going up into this area, you're correct, he
37 submitted the proposal to expand the C&T, but the C&T's
38 are based -- you got to base them on something. And I
39 know that Amy had tried to get ahold of him, had talked
40 to his cousin but he's out on the land so she couldn't
41 get ahold of him so it's a tricky one because it's the
42 uses, not the user.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Uh-huh.

45
46 DR. WHEELER:that the customary
47 and traditional use determinations are based on and the
48 pattern of use of the one community in this unit, it
49 doesn't appear to extend into that other area, so it is
50 -- and I know that when the North Slope Council

1 discussed this proposal they were really thinking that
2 he didn't have the access to get into this area, it
3 would probably be by plane access, I think was their
4 concern.

5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah, and generally
7 he does everything by snowmachine. He used to o some
8 by dog team and does a whole lot of walking.

9
10 He does get dropped off by airplane
11 because he can't get there any other way. So Wennona,
12 did you have more comments.

13
14 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Again, Wennona Brown for the Arctic Refuge.

16
17 I was at the North Slope meeting where
18 they did discuss it and part of it boiled down to the
19 fact that access into the area would be very
20 restricted. The Arctic Refuge is in opposition because
21 we're not into the custom of granting C&T use for a
22 single individual when the major community that's in
23 that unit does not use the resources in the area that's
24 being requested.

25
26 Also, and this gets a little bit to the
27 other half, on 26(B), or Proposal 67b, I'm sorry.
28 There is no State moose season in 26(C) and the Federal
29 season in 26(C) is restricted to the residents of
30 Kaktovik by limited permit registration hunt every year
31 because of the low number of moose in the region. So
32 that was also part of the reason of -- when the local
33 residents in that unit are already restricted to the
34 number of moose that they can take, why grant C&T to
35 another user that's going to have as many permits or is
36 requesting as many permits as the local residents have.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thanks. And before
41 you say anything, Polly, I've never really liked the
42 idea that the Federal government or Refuges, especially
43 since that's where I live and I'm surrounded by them,
44 it seems like -- well, I won't say what it seems like,
45 but I don't like the idea of the continual restricting
46 of access.

47
48 You know, one of the things I actually
49 chatted with Heimo at one time and one of the things
50 that he's concerned about and of course everybody's

1 concerned about, losing access to resources but the way
2 that either the law or the rules are written up in the
3 Arctic Refuge is that he's allowed to trap there until
4 he dies and then his children that were born to him
5 while he was out there are allowed to trap but then if
6 they go away, they aren't allowed to come back and
7 start trapping again, and if they die, their children
8 are not allowed to trap.

9
10 So he's living basically the -- either
11 the end or right near the end of the lifestyle that he
12 came to Alaska for and that's going to be taken away
13 from him and the Refuges, it appears to me, continue to
14 erode our ability to have access to the land and
15 resources, even people in Fort Yukon can't go out and
16 build cabins in places that they wanted to build before
17 because of the continual restricting of access to this
18 land that we used to call ours.

19
20 And so this really doesn't -- I'm not
21 saying this to get a response from you, Wennona,
22 because I know you probably couldn't come up with one
23 anyways, but I just don't like the continual erosion of
24 our access to land and, you know, so to say that this
25 is not allowed for individuals, you know, it may not be
26 practice but the Eastern Interior actually did try to
27 do individual recognition, I don't know what was it,
28 about eight years ago and I don't remember exactly what
29 happened but I think eventually we hit the same
30 results, but we tried to get folks recognized for their
31 ability -- so they could have an ability to access
32 resources because we're about inclusion, we're not
33 about exclusion and it bothers me that Refuges, Parks,
34 any of those land management units want to exclude
35 subsistence resources access.

36
37 So I just -- Polly, go ahead.

38
39 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Wennona raises an interesting point and it's actually
41 the same point that was raised last year when we did
42 the C&T determination, or when you did, rather, the C&T
43 determination for non-salmon fish in Unit 12 and that
44 is that C&T determinations, the whole point of C&T
45 determinations is to look at the existing pattern of
46 use, look at a long-term traditional and pattern of
47 use, it is not a tool to -- if there aren't a lot of
48 moose then you don't say, oh, we need to make a really
49 restrictive C&T determination and this is for the
50 benefit, particularly for the new people, I mean C&T

1 determinations go directly to the heart of a pattern of
2 use regardless of the status of the population.
3 That's methods and means. I mean there is a section of
4 ANILCA that's called .804 and part of Section .804 is
5 if there's a problem with the population you can then
6 restrict further, the group of users that are most
7 dependent. It's sort of like the State's Tier II, sort
8 of like, not entirely like, because it's a Federal law,
9 not a State law. But the point of C&T determinations
10 is not to restrict the pattern of use, the point of C&T
11 determinations is to identify those people or those
12 communities that use the resource.

13

14 So I think it's one of those issues,
15 and I'm not pointing fingers or anything but it is one
16 of those issues that's raised a lot when people say,
17 well, there's not a lot of these resources we really
18 need to make a narrow finding, that's not the point of
19 C&Ts. The point of C&T determinations is to identify
20 the pool of users, so it's a subtle distinction but
21 it's an important one because you, as the decision-
22 makers, need to be well aware of that because it's a
23 trap you can get caught into.

24

25 Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thanks, Polly. And
28 I think we have been caught in that a number of times
29 in the past. But if we are going to vote this down, is
30 the only real reason for us to do that because we have
31 to make our determination based on Arctic Village?

32

33 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. No. I think
34 that if you -- I mean the whole point of presenting
35 these preliminary conclusions to the Regional Council
36 is so that you can identify information, I mean often
37 times -- I mean, you know, the information is very
38 spotty. It's dated. And a lot of times it's very
39 limited, and if you have information about a pattern of
40 use that extends up into this area then this is the
41 opportunity to provide that information and then that
42 can be taken into the account by the analyst. So, I
43 mean basically when we present these analysis to you at
44 this point in time it's our best shot. And I mean if
45 you have additional -- I mean we count on you to
46 provide that additional information.

47

48 Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Polly.

1 Gerald.

2

3 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, is there any kind
4 of permit that we could give this family or something
5 so they could like be able to harvest some moose up
6 there legally?

7

8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Wennona, that's your
9 turf.

10

11 MS. BROWN: The Village of Kaktovik
12 gets two permits per year for the entire village for
13 moose in Unit 26(C).

14

15 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And do they harvest
16 those two moose?

17

18 MS. BROWN: They do. They actually get
19 three permits, but only two of them can be from 26(C)
20 and the third one can be from 26(B).

21

22 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, then don't let
23 that scare everybody because there just aren't many
24 moose up there. They don't have a longstanding
25 practice of harvesting moose. Moose just moved into
26 the Arctic Village area, really in any abundance over
27 about the last 10 or so years so, or maybe even a
28 little bit longer to where people are actually able to
29 harvest them in larger numbers. So I mean it sounds
30 kind of scary, but don't be too afraid because that's
31 caribou country and those are caribou people up from
32 about halfway between Venetie and Arctic and north, so
33 the primary animal that they harvest would be caribou.

34

35 Unfortunately I don't have any
36 additional information. I've spoken to Heimo lots of
37 times, but I don't -- I couldn't add any more
38 information about the Firth or the Kongakut or whatever
39 rivers he was speaking about so that's the unfortunate
40 thing from my perspective, at least.

41

42 I know that 26(C) had a moose
43 population that was on the increase and then what was
44 it, about seven or eight years ago they had a
45 tremendous die-off from something where they lost, I
46 think, more than half of the moose population, and so
47 that's probably why they
48 have severe restrictions on access to moose. So it
49 doesn't mean that these guys don't need moose but that,
50 I think, is why they're so restrictive on allowing

1 harvest just for folks to know.
2
3 Any more discussion.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.
8
9 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Question's called on
10 the motion. All in favor signify by saying aye.
11
12 (No aye votes)
13
14 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All opposed, say no.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Motion fails. Thank
19 you, Polly. Okay, let's move on to what was that 67a
20 -- Vince, did you take care of the Pete DeMatteo issue?
21
22 MR. MATHEWS: No, we did not, it's.....
23
24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, then we
25 can.....
26
27 MR. MATHEWS:going to take some
28 more time so.....
29
30 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Then we'll go to 67b
31 then. Dan. Good morning, Dan. Page 118.
32
33 MR. LAPLANT: Good morning, Mr.
34 Chairman. Members of the Council. This is Proposal
35 67b, and whenever we receive a request for customary
36 and traditional use determination as we did from Mr.
37 Korth, OSM always prepares a b portion of the analysis
38 to be able to provide for or to be able to consider
39 providing for a season in the event that the Board does
40 find for a positive customary and traditional use
41 determination.
42
43 Now, in this case you found for a
44 negative determination, or at least that's going to be
45 your recommendation to the Board, so this might not be
46 a relative proposal to go through so I can go through
47 it real briefly for you just so you.....
48
49 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, what are the
50 wishes of the Council, do we want to spend 15 or 20

1 minutes going through this in detail because it's.....

2

3 Go ahead, Virgil.

4

5 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'd say we take no
6 action based on the action of the previous proposal.

7

8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, there's a
9 motion to take no action, is there a second.

10

11 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

12

13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, second. Does
14 that need a vote, Virgil, does that sort of motion need
15 a vote -- well, we'll vote on it anyways. All in favor
16 signify by saying aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All opposed, say no.

21

22 (No opposing votes)

23

24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay.

25

26 MR. LAPLANT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Don't go anywhere
29 yet, Dan, Proposal 33.

30

31 MR. LAPLANT: Oh, okay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Page 128.

34

35 MR. LAPLANT: We're whipping right
36 through these. Mr. Chairman, this is Proposal 33 and
37 it was submitted by the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
38 and it requests to revise the boundary and description
39 of the upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area for moose in
40 a portion of Unit 19(D) to align with State
41 regulations. And the reason this is before the Eastern
42 Interior Council is because Lake Minchumina has
43 customary and traditional use of that area.

44

45 The Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area
46 was modified in State regulations but was never
47 modified in Federal regulations so there's inconsistent
48 boundaries between State and Federal regulations. If
49 you look at the map on Page 132, you can see the
50 difference. That area on the southwest side with the

1 cross lines is the area that the State extended the
2 controlled use area, they did that, I believe, in the
3 year 2001 when the State Board of Game was considering
4 changes to the moose season for the McGrath area for
5 their intensive management activities.

6
7 This extension covered the -- included
8 the drainage of the Takotna River, the Kuskokwim River
9 drainage south of the Big River and the Selatna River
10 drainage and the Black River drainage. The moose in
11 this area, in Unit 19 are at low numbers, that I'm sure
12 everyone is aware of in the state because of the
13 State's efforts to address this situation.

14
15 Unit 19(D) is composed generally of low
16 elevation areas accessible by boats. Unit 19(D)
17 hunters generally come from Unit 19 and Unit 21 and
18 Unit 18. Harvest reports indicate that about 106 moose
19 have been harvested in this area during 2001 and 2002,
20 and I'm talking about all of Unit 19(D) is what those
21 harvest numbers include. There has been no additional
22 harvest information available from the State since
23 then.

24
25 Adopting this proposal would actually
26 align the State regulations of the Upper Kuskokwim
27 Controlled Use boundary with the State boundary and
28 this would expand the area to this area that I just
29 previously described. When the Board of Game of made
30 that change, they made it as a temporary change to
31 facilitate the activities of the predator control
32 program, and that decision was to expire at the end of
33 March in 2006, and at the recent Board of Game meeting
34 they renewed that for another two years so that
35 expanded area is now in State regulations through March
36 31st 2008. And the reason that the Federal program
37 didn't expand the area when the State did is because we
38 knew it was temporary, and, again, the Innoko Refuge
39 has noticed some confusion this causes to local
40 subsistence users and they requested that the Federal
41 agency do the same.

42
43 And if you look on the map you'll see
44 that it really only affects a small parcel of BLM land,
45 one township along the, I guess, the headwaters of the
46 Takotna River and then a few other areas around the
47 Selatna River. So it's pretty insignificant. Those
48 areas are not very easily accessed by subsistence
49 hunters so the main benefit of this activity is just to
50 make the regulations consistent between State and

1 Federal.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Dan.
Department of Fish and Game.

7

8

9

10

11

MR. KOSKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
is kind of a repeat of what Dan's already said since
the Board of Game already voted on this but I'll read
the amended statement.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

ADF&G is neutral. When the boundaries
of the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use
Area were expanded for purposes of
predator management activities the
Board of Game added a sunset clause
that expanded boundaries would expire
on March 31st, 2006, however, the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
asked the Board of Game at the March
2006 to expand the sunset clause for
two additional years.

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

Since the Board extended the sunset
date to March 31st, 2008, the proposed
description will be in effect for two
additional years, and revising the
language as proposed would be
appropriate.

32

33

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Mike.
Any Park personnel or others have comments.

(No comments)

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Nope. Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. There were
no written public comments on this. And, of course, it
covers Western Interior.

Western Interior voted unanimously to
support this proposal because it would
align Federal boundary of this
controlled use area with the existing
State description.

1 So they support Proposal 33.
2
3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Vince.
4 What are the wishes of the Council.
5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
7 WP06-33.
8
9 MR. NICHOLIA: Hear me out first, Virg.
10 I say we move to defer to -- I mean this is way out of
11 our region and we really don't mess around with their
12 stuff, they don't really mess around with our stuff so
13 I'd just leave it to them.
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Withdraw my motion.
16
17 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So are you making a
18 motion to defer to the home region.
19
20 MR. NICHOLIA: I took care of that.
21
22 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, there's a
23 motion to defer to the Western RAC, is there a second.
24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.
26
27 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, there's a
28 motion and a second. Any more discussion.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah, Gerald's
33 right, that's typically -- you know, if we're not in
34 opposition to something that's typically how we've
35 voted in the past and how other RACs have voted on
36 proposals that pertain to us.
37
38 So any more discussion.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MR. GLANZ: Call for the question.
43
44 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Question's been
45 called. All in favor of the motion signify by saying
46 aye.
47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.
49
50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any opposed, say no.

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Motion carries.
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. The
6 options we've got now are we can move into crossovers
7 or I hate to say this, take a break and see if we can
8 find another phone line or we have Staff here that have
9 all the talking points for the proposals that Pete
10 DeMatteo would be presenting.
11
12 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, we'll take a
13 10 minute break and if we haven't found Pete we'll
14 start with Dan and we'll get to Pete later.
15
16 Sound good.
17
18 (Council nods affirmatively)
19
20 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Ten minute break.
21
22 (Off record)
23
24 (On record)
25
26 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, let's go ahead
27 and do Proposal 64, Pete.
28
29 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair. Members of
30 the Council. Analysis of Proposal 64 begins in your
31 book on Page 103 and this proposal was submitted by the
32 Eastern Interior Regional Council who requests that the
33 closing dates of the wolf hunting season in Units 12,
34 20, and 25 be changed from April 30 to a closing date
35 of May 31st.
36
37 A proposed regulatory change would
38 provide an additional 31 days of opportunity for
39 Federally-qualified subsistence users to harvest wolves
40 in the affected areas.
41
42 And, Mr. Chair, if you look at the top
43 of Page 104, the top of Page 104 is the customary and
44 traditional use determinations for this proposal.
45
46 For Unit 12, as you can see the C&T
47 determination is far and wide, it encompasses many
48 units throughout the State. For Unit 20 it involves
49 Unit 20(A), (B), (C), (D), (E), 25(A), 25(B), 25(C). 20
50 (F), Stevens Village, Manley and Unit 26 have C&T use

1 determination for wolves. And for 25(D) rural
2 residents of Unit 25(D) have a positive C&T use
3 determination for wolves in that subunit.

4
5 The proponent of this proposal would
6 like to see additional opportunity for qualified
7 residents to harvest wolves in the Eastern Interior
8 region. The proposed regulations can be seen on Page
9 103 under the heading proposed Federal regulations. A
10 parallel proposal was submitted to the Alaska Board of
11 Game to allow wolf hunting in Units 12, 20 and 25
12 during the proposed 31 day season extension. The
13 proposal to the State was considered by the Alaska
14 Board of Game at its recent meeting in Fairbanks.

15
16 Because wolves are generally harvested
17 by incidental take during the hunting seasons, the
18 affected wolf populations can support the additional
19 harvest that may occur during the proposed season
20 extension of Proposal 64, but if this proposal is
21 adopted by the Federal Board, adoption of the proposed
22 season extension could cause the inadvertent harvest of
23 adult wolves, pups, resulting in the abandonment of
24 young at the den site and subsequent additional
25 mortality. Although the harvest of wolves by firearm
26 generally is through incidental take the proposal would
27 allow for taking wolves during a period when wolf pup
28 survival could be impacted from the harvest of the
29 respective parent wolves and other members of the pack
30 that provide protection for the pups. Also wolf hides
31 during the month of May are generally considered of
32 less monetary value due to their subprime condition due
33 to shedding at that time. Harvest of wolves during the
34 proposed season extensions would not provide Federally-
35 qualified subsistence users with additional opportunity
36 to harvest wolves with prime pelts for the making of
37 clothes and handicrafts.

38
39 Mr. Chair. With that the preliminary
40 conclusion is to oppose the proposal based on the fact
41 that the proposed season could have adverse impacts on
42 the wolf pups and the subsequent population. However,
43 I will add that at your meeting in fall of 2005, the
44 Council stated on the record that fur clothing sewers
45 do use the shorter wolf pelts for making hats. It was
46 also stated on the record by the Western Interior
47 Council at their fall 2005 meeting that the pelts from
48 yearling wolves are highly prized and sought after in
49 the fall time to provide for the making of winter
50 clothing.

1 And, Mr. Chair, this completes my
2 presentation of the analysis.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Pete.
7 Department of Fish and Game.

8
9 MR. KOSKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
10 Department of Fish and Game is neutral on this
11 proposal.

12
13 Extending the closing dates of wolf
14 hunting season on Federal public lands
15 in 12 and 20 and 25 from April 30 to
16 May 31st is not likely to result in
17 much increase in harvest and is not
18 expected to create conservation
19 concerns. Pelt quality may be an issue
20 with wolves harvested late in the
21 season.

22
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Before you go, let
26 me ask you a question. What does it really mean when
27 you say neutral. I've never really understood that.
28 Maybe you're not the right guy to ask, maybe I should
29 have asked Terry yesterday but I mean I know what the
30 word, neutral, means, don't get me wrong, but, you
31 know, generally you -- we're not neutral on any
32 proposals, and I just wonder, if the Department, in
33 their analysis is saying that it will not likely
34 present a conservation concern, then why not support
35 it.

36
37 MR. KOSKEY: Mr. Chair. Of course I
38 can't answer that specifically but what I have been
39 told what neutral means in this kind of thing, is that,
40 it's basically like you guys deferring to the Western
41 Council on that previous proposal.

42
43 In other words Fish and Game decides
44 not to take a position, that's all it is and lets the
45 Council make the decision.

46
47 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, thank you.
48 Any other agency comments. Barb, hey, come on up.

49
50 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence
2 Resource Commission supports the proposal as written.
3 The vote on this proposal was eight votes in favor and
4 one vote in opposition.
5

6 The proposed regulation change will
7 provide additional opportunities to
8 hunt wolves. Additional opportunities
9 to hunt wolves will address problems
10 with predation on ungulates upon which
11 we depend for subsistence. Pelt
12 quality in May is not significantly
13 different than that in August when the
14 season opens and subsistence users
15 would make use of the pelts.
16

17 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Any
18 other comments by -- you've got to push the button.
19

20 MR. HOOGE: Phillip Hooge, Assistant
21 Superintendent Denali National Park.
22

23 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: What's your last
24 name.
25

26 MR. HOOGE: Hooge.
27

28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Could you spell
29 that.
30

31 MR. HOOGE: H-O-O-G-E.
32

33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, thank you.
34

35 MR. HOOGE: The Denali SRC unanimously
36 opposed this proposal feeling like that the wolf pelts
37 were not in prime condition and that it was needlessly
38 controversial.
39

40 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: It was needlessly
41 controversial it said?
42

43 MR. HOOGE: Yeah.
44

45 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, thank you.
46 Any other agency or public comments. Wennona.
47

48 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Wennona Brown speaking for both the Yukon Flats and
50 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Both Refuges oppose

1 this proposal for the reasons stated in the
2 justification.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Wennona.

7 Anyone else.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vince.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman,
14 Southcentral, As I said earlier deferred to the home
15 region on this proposal.

16
17 Western Interior took up this proposal
18 and they oppose it unanimously. The
19 Council felt extending the wolf season
20 into the month of May might be
21 considered a wasteful practice. The
22 hides are of a very poor quality in
23 May. This proposal would allow taking
24 of wolves during a period when wolf pup
25 survival would be impacted from the
26 harvest of the respective parent wolves
27 and other members of the pack that
28 provide protection for the pups.

29
30 So Western opposed. Southcentral
31 deferred to home region.

32
33 And then there were written comments.

34
35 The AHTNA Subsistence Committee support
36 the proposal. The wolf population is
37 abundant and can sustain a longer
38 hunting season.

39
40 The Alaska Defenders of Wildlife. I
41 won't go through all their points,
42 they're the similar points that were
43 brought up in the other one. But they
44 oppose it because it's a wasteful
45 practice.

46
47 Denning is going on in May and it would
48 be inconsistent with sound management
49 principles and this is primarily a
50 predator control measure. And in State

1 regulations all Interior Game
2 Management Units are closed to the
3 taking of wolves on April 30th.
4

5 The National Parks and Conservation
6 Association, the Alaska Regional Office
7 also oppose it. And you can read that
8 on 109, but it's a similar feeling that
9 killing wolves for the sake of reducing
10 wolf population is not consistent with
11 Congressional intent for these units of
12 the National Park System because they
13 were established to provide for natural
14 and healthy wildlife populations.
15

16 Mr. Chairman. That's all the written
17 comments that I'm aware of.
18

19 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Vince.
20 What are the wishes of the Council.
21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
23 WP06-64.
24

25 MR. NICHOLIA: Second.
26

27 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.
28

29 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: There's a motion to
30 adopt and several seconds. Proposal 64.
31

32 Discussion. Virgil.
33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, this is our
35 proposal and we had a pretty good discussion on it when
36 we made the proposal and I still am in support of it.
37 I was just looking for the comments from the State
38 Board of Game, but the State Board of Game did pass
39 this proposal last week and so -- they passed it. And
40 so if it doesn't pass then that means that the -- if
41 the Federal Subsistence Board doesn't pass it, that
42 means we will have different regulations for both the
43 State and the Federal and I know that they always want
44 to keep the regulations in alignment.
45

46 This gives additional opportunity for
47 the subsistence users in the area to harvest wolves,
48 and there's lots of times I've been out bear hunting
49 during this timeframe and had the opportunity that if
50 the season would have been to have been able to harvest

1 wolves and couldn't because the season was closed.

2

3 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Virgil.
6 Vince.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I'm not
9 trying to correct Virgil, but I just received the draft
10 recommendations from the Board of Game proposals from
11 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and this
12 parallel proposal was Proposal 120 which is to extend
13 the season. According to their notes, and Roy's here,
14 oh, I'm sorry these are their recommendations -- I'm
15 sorry. Sorry, I took these.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Never try to correct
18 Virgil, you'll always lose.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: You'll always lose.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any more comments.

27 Yes, Dan.

28

29 MR. LAPLANT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. If I
30 could just clarify a few points on this proposal as
31 Virgil said the Board of Game passed this last week, I
32 guess it was last week, I've lost track of time I've
33 been attending meetings so much, and this was your
34 proposal. And as Tom Kron mentioned before, your
35 proposal made no mention of it being a predator control
36 proposal. Your proposal was for the purposes of
37 providing additional opportunity.

38

39 Over when the Board of Game adopted the
40 parallel proposal, they made it clear on the record
41 that they were doing it for predator control purposes.
42 So that's a difference there that needs to be
43 recognized.

44

45 Without any action by the Federal
46 Subsistence Board this opportunity will be available
47 through State regulations except Federal action would
48 make it available on National Parks and Monuments, and
49 so that's the significance of the decision here on the
50 Federal side is whether this should apply on Parks and

1 Monuments in addition to having the consistency in
2 Federal regulations.

3

4 Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Dan. and
7 one thing to point out as well, is that, no matter what
8 sort of proposal that we submit to the Board of Game we
9 have no control over their discussion, so they can take
10 it a lot of different directions, whether or not we
11 intended them to go those directions as you very well
12 know.

13

14 Virgil.

15

16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 And I might add that during the deliberations of the
18 State Board of Game, two of the Board members actually
19 referred to your testimony before them.

20

21 Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Virgil.
24 Any more discussion.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: If not then I just
29 wanted to point out that we've heard in the testimony
30 that the purpose for doing this is to provide
31 additional opportunity and it's unlikely that
32 lengthening the season will have much of an impact on
33 wolf populations and that the wolf populations are
34 abundant throughout -- generally throughout the region,
35 so I just wanted to make those consolidated statements.

36

37 Any more discussion.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MS. ENTSMINGER: Question.

42

43 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Question's been
44 called on the motion. All in favor signify by saying
45 aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any opposed, say no.

50

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: The motion carries.
4 Vince.
5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Just to
7 advise you, you always have the opportunity to
8 participate in the InterAgency Staff Committee meeting
9 in April, if you do desire to do that, you need to let
10 me know or who that representative is, I'm not telling
11 you what to do but it might be wise on this proposal to
12 be on line to discuss your actions on this proposal.
13
14 So that is always available and that's
15 April 11, 12, 13 and we would advise you when these
16 proposals would be coming up so you don't have to
17 listen to three days of deliberations on proposals.
18
19 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Vince.
20 Remind us again later, would you please.
21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.
23
24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thanks. Okay,
25 what's the next one, 35, is that right. We deferred 34
26 so I think it's 35.
27
28 MR. NICHOLIA: We deferred 33.
29
30 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Did we defer 33.
31
32 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
33
34 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, I don't have a
35 clue where I am, okay, 34 then. That's right, we
36 couldn't have deferred -- you're right, thank you for
37 that correction. 34, Pete.
38
39 MR. DEMATTEO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Proposal -- the analysis of Proposal 34 begins on your
41 book on Page 136 and this was submitted by the Western
42 Interior Regional Council.
43
44 Mr. Chair. This proposal is being
45 presented to the Eastern Interior Council today because
46 it affects the residents of Lake Minchumina who are
47 eligible to hunt moose in Unit 19(D) as in Delta, and
48 it also affects the residents of Tanana who are
49 eligible to hunt moose in Units 21(B) and (C). This
50 proposal would change the closing dates for the fall

1 moose seasons in Units 21(A), (B), (D), (E) and also
2 Unit 24 from the existing closing date of September 25
3 to October 1st. This proposal would also change the
4 closing dates for the fall moose seasons in the Koyukuk
5 Controlled Use Area, Units 21(D) and also Unit 24 from
6 the current closing date of September 20 to October
7 1st.

8
9 Again, Mr. Chair, the part of this
10 proposal that affects the residents you represents are,
11 of course the communities of Lake Minchumina and also
12 Tanana. This proposal was submitted because the
13 proponent feels that warmer than normal fall
14 temperatures are delaying the movements the movements
15 of bull moose during the fall season. The proponent
16 has made the claim that the delay in fall movement of
17 bull moose have prevented subsistence hunters from
18 harvesting moose.

19
20 The proposed regulatory changes are
21 found on Pages 139 through 141 in your books. The
22 season for the John River would remain the same as it
23 is, however, the adjacent hunt area fall seasons would
24 extend to October 1st for the fall seasons, and of
25 course the harvest limit would remain the same.

26
27 Agency resource managers agree that
28 additional climate data is needed before a
29 determination can be made concerning that the recent
30 warmer fall temperatures are part of a long-term
31 climate pattern.

32
33 Analysis of results from population
34 surveys conducted in the northern portion of Unit 24
35 reveal that the moose populations in these areas could
36 support an additional but limited harvest during the
37 proposed six day season extension. Since the advent of
38 dual management system a primary goal has to limit,
39 when possible hunter confusion over regulations. An
40 important means of attaining this is by having Federal
41 and State alignment of regulations. Extensive efforts
42 have been made to ensure alignment in hunting and
43 fishing regulations throughout the affected area when
44 and where possible. If Proposal 34 were adopted it
45 would bring Federal regulations out of alignment with
46 the State.

47
48 Federal and State regulations not in
49 alignment would produce mixed blocks of Federal and
50 non-Federal lands with different season dates around

1 villages.

2

3 Some local residents would have
4 difficulty in determining the difference between
5 Federal and State jurisdictions.

6

7 The non-alignment of regulation creates
8 potential law enforcement issues also. Having a mixed
9 network of lands where hunters may be unaware of
10 differing land boundaries makes them vulnerable to
11 enforcement actions by both State and Federal agencies.
12 Adoption of the proposed regulatory changes may result
13 the need to establish a Federal permit system for the
14 Federal only fall seasons. Because current management
15 objectives prescribe a close watch be kept on harvest
16 levels within the management guidelines.

17

18 If this proposal is adopted by the
19 Federal Board it will also be necessary to do extensive
20 outreach with hunters regarding different land status
21 boundaries -- and also boundaries in order to avoid
22 potential law enforcement situations and also to
23 collect harvest information.

24

25 Mr. Chair. Looking at the biological
26 data, the preliminary conclusion is to support the
27 proposal with the modification to provide the proposed
28 season extension for Unit 21(B) which is essentially
29 the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge and also Unit 24,
30 Federal lands north and east of but not including the
31 Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, or the other way to
32 look at it is it would not support the extension for
33 21(A), 21(D), 21(E) and also that portion of Unit 24
34 that involves the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge.

35

36 And with that, I'll stop there, Mr.
37 Chair, and answer any questions.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Pete.
42 Department of Fish and Game.

43

44 MR. KOSKEY: Okay, thank you, Mr.
45 Chair. Mike Koskey, Department of Fish and Game.
46 Comments are on Page 171. The comments are extensive
47 long for Proposal 34 and if there's questions just stop
48 me.

49

50 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game

1 will develop a position on this proposal after the
2 Alaska Board of Game addresses the moose regulation
3 proposals for Units 21 and 24 at the meetings that
4 occurred last week. Here we point out some issues and
5 concerns that should be a part of the discussion
6 concerning this proposal and related proposal submitted
7 to the Board of Game.

8

9

10 For example, the Middle Yukon Fish and
11 Game Advisory Committee has submitted a
12 Proposal to open the State season
13 August 20 to 30th in Unit 21(D) in
14 order to provide additional opportunity
15 to harvest bull moose and to forego the
16 current December season. Some
17 committee members indicated that the
18 bull moose were not desirable in late
19 September, after September 25th and
20 December due to rutting effects on
21 bulls.

22

23 Proposal 34 appears to conflict with
24 this perspective.

25

26 The Department is concerned about
27 cumulative expansion of moose hunting
28 opportunities in 21(D) and 24 over the
29 past two years as well as the Federal
30 and State proposals seeking further
31 expansion of hunting seasons in 2006.

32

33 If both the Board of Game and the
34 Federal Subsistence Board adopt these
35 proposals as written the total effect
36 of the combined regulations would be to
37 have added 16 days of hunting
38 opportunity over the past two years, in
39 Unit 21(B) a total of 21 days and Unit
40 21(D) an additional six days and in
41 those parts of Unit 24 where hunting
42 pressure is highest.

43

44 Increasing the number of hunting days
45 in the fall season as requested in this
46 proposal should perhaps be mitigated by
47 reducing hunting opportunity during the
48 winter season. However, action 1.2.5
49 in the Koyukuk Cooperative Moose
50 Management Plan identified as a high
priority of the need to maintain winter

1 hunting opportunities. In both Units
2 21 and 24 moose numbers generally have
3 been declining, maintaining good
4 bull/cow ratios has been challenging
5 and the management strategy has to
6 maintain conservative harvest levels.

7
8 Substantial increases in hunting
9 opportunity and harvest likely would be
10 counter-productive to these management
11 strategies. At the same time the
12 Department recognizes that focusing
13 harvest pressure on bulls in the fall
14 is biologically preferable to winter
15 seasons in which a high percentages of
16 cows may be taken.

17
18 Providing more hunting opportunity in
19 the fall must be approached very
20 carefully to ensure that the total
21 harvest does not rise to the point
22 where it could result in a decline in
23 the moose population in the affected
24 areas.

25
26 The Yukon-Innoko Moose Management
27 Working Group discussed the proposal at
28 its November 1st and 2nd 2005 meeting
29 in Holy Cross and agreed by consensus
30 to oppose it. Several members
31 expressed concern about hunting when
32 bulls are going into rut at the end of
33 September and the possibility of meat
34 being wasted.

35
36 The Western Interior and Yukon-
37 Kuskokwim Delta Regional Councils are
38 members of this working group and had
39 representatives present at the November
40 meeting.

41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, very
45 much. and before you go, I'm not sure if you or Roy
46 could answer this question, but are you all in agreement
47 with the Fish and Wildlife's determination that 21(A),
48 21(D) and 21(E) could not support additional harvest,
49 but 21(B) and 24 can support additional harvest.

50

1 MR. KOSKEY: I'll have to defer to Roy
2 on this.

3
4 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And we'll give you a
5 few seconds since I'm kind of catching you off guard
6 with this question and we'll go through the rest of the
7 comments and I'll come back to you, how does that
8 sound, unless you got an answer right now.

9
10 MR. NOWLIN: Can you give me the units
11 again.

12
13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: 21(A) -- actually if
14 you look on this book, Page 156 has in the middle, it's
15 not a graph, what do you all that, it has something,
16 chart, that's the word, it has a chart with those on
17 there.

18
19 Okay, thank you. Thank you. Is there
20 any other agency comments on this proposal -- Wenona.

21
22 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Wenona Brown, this time for the Kanuti National
24 Wildlife Refuge. And the Kanuti National Wildlife
25 Refuge is in the portion of Unit 24 that would be -- or
26 that the recommendation would cover for extending the
27 season and the Refuge is not opposed to extending that
28 season, particularly allowing additional opportunity in
29 the fall for local residents to harvest moose in the
30 hopes that that could alleviate the need for the March
31 season when more cows are likely to be taken.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Wenona.
36 Any other agencies.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vince.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. This
43 proposal did generate quite a bit of comments so I'll
44 do my best to do all those.

45
46 On written comments we received, again,
47 from the Alaska Regional Office National Parks
48 Conservation Association. They support this proposal
49 with modification.

50

1 They explain this proposal because of
2 moose population declines is one of the
3 reasons for the change in the season
4 being suggested.
5

6 Another reason rationalizing is the
7 change is warmer fall seasons brought
8 on by global warming. The suggested
9 revision to the regulations extends the
10 season either by a week or 10 days.
11 Is extending the season contradictory
12 to the concerns about the moose
13 population declines, to address this
14 contradiction, the Advisory Board might
15 want to consider shifting the season
16 later with no change in the length of
17 the season rather than extending it.
18

19 Okay, Mr. Chairman, let's see the Gates
20 of the Arctic Subsistence National Park, Subsistence
21 Resource Commission took this up and they support this
22 proposal unanimously.
23

24 They endorse this proposal for the
25 reasons stated by the proponents.
26 Declining moose populations
27 restrictions on cow harvest and warmer
28 fall weather resulting in later
29 prerutting movements. Bull moose have
30 been increasingly difficult to harvest
31 under current regulations.
32

33 Holy Cross Village Council took up this
34 proposal and they unanimously oppose
35 it.
36

37 The GASH Local Advisory Committee I am
38 speculating since they opposed the
39 parallel State of Alaska Proposal 95
40 since it's the exact same wording, that
41 they also opposed this proposal.
42

43 The Koyukuk River Local Advisory
44 Committee supported this proposal only
45 for the portio north -- well, they
46 supported it for the new Subunit of
47 24(B). And we'll leave it at that, I
48 don't think they said anything on 21(B)
49 as in Boy.
50

1 The North Slope Regional Advisory
2 Council supported with modification
3 from Staff.
4

5 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory
6 Council based on the later season, they
7 didn't support that.
8

9 The Western Interior Regional Advisory
10 Council -- theirs is kind of long here
11 but it's important to get that across
12 to you.
13

14 Their Council recommendation is to
15 support the proposal as modified by
16 Staff to apply the extended fall moose
17 season dates to Units 21(B) and Unit 24
18 Federal lands north and east of, but
19 not including the Koyukuk National
20 Wildlife Refuge. There was a
21 subsequent motion that clarified their
22 action in that the Council's
23 recommendation to go forward with 21(B)
24 is only if the Board of Game does not
25 grant the early August season,
26 requested by the local advisory
27 committees. If the Board of Game
28 grants the August season then the
29 Council recommendation is not to grant
30 the October extension.
31

32 And I apologize I don't know what the
33 Board of Game did, but I'm sure others here do.
34

35 The Council's justification to support
36 the proposal as modified and clarified
37 by their actions was to allow moose
38 hunting opportunity in the fall for
39 bull moose when the moose populations
40 can support that additional but limited
41 harvest. The bull/cow ratio for 21(B)
42 and then that portion in northern Unit
43 24 show that these areas can support
44 this later limited fall harvest. In
45 addition the winter cow moose seasons
46 have been restricted for conservation
47 concerns and elevated fuel costs have
48 limited travel and hunter effort. The
49 Council recommendation provides for
50 economy of subsistence harvest where it

1 can be biologically supported.
2
3 Mr. Chairman, that's all that I'm aware
4 of at this point.
5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Vince.
7 Do you mind if I ask you, so the Western Interior
8 submitted this, and then the Staff made a
9 recommendation to change it and Western Interior
10 supported the Staff recommendations except for the
11 21(B) portion if the State doesn't adopt the proposal.
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Correct.
14
15 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay.
16
17 MR. MATHEWS: If they don't adopt it
18 then they want the Federal Board to take this up in
19 favor of having the season under Federal regulation.
20
21 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So if we were to
22 defer to the Western Interior on the proposal as
23 written, we would we actually need to say we're
24 deferring to the Western Interior's new comments
25 because that's not their proposal or do we just say we
26 -- what do we say if we want to go with the Western
27 Interior.
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think you would
30 go with their actions but Gerald may comment because
31 21(B) is dependent for the community of Tanana and so
32 he may have input on this extended season suggestion
33 because Tanana residents do hunt on the Novi.
34
35 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. And Roy, are
36 you ready, all right, if you don't mind waiting just a
37 second I'll let Roy go.
38
39 MR. NICHOLIA: Go ahead.
40
41 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I just wanted to
42 find out about whether or not the moose populations can
43 withstand the longer season and the Board of Game
44 action if you know it.
45
46 Go ahead, Roy.
47
48 MR. NOWLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 Roy Nowlin, management coordinator for the Interior.
50

1 In answer to your question about the
2 moose seasons that are listed here as in the Staff
3 recommendations for could or could not support, it -- I
4 would agree with 21(A) where they say could not, and in
5 addition the GASH committee there did not want to
6 extend the season, I believe, they had voted not to do
7 that in 21(D). They also -- the GASH Committee, they
8 cover 21(E) as well, and I would agree with the could
9 not support in the 21(E) and the GASH Committee
10 recommended against this extension in both 21(A) and
11 21(E).

12
13 Now, in 21(B) we have implemented more
14 conservative seasons in 21(B), there's a relatively new
15 registration and drawing permit system in there and
16 that was implemented because of concern about low moose
17 densities and low bull/cow ratios, particularly in the
18 Nowitna River corridor. And so I would disagree with
19 the Staff assessment on there on could support.

20
21 And in addition, Board of Game actions
22 in 21(B), the Board did pass the August season as the
23 Western Council wanted, and also the Middle Yukon
24 Advisory Committee and I think the Ruby Committee also
25 wanted to have that instead of extending the season to
26 October 1. I believe, I wasn't at the meetings, but I
27 believe they were concerned particularly about rutting
28 bulls.

29
30 But the State passed an August 22nd to
31 August 31 season in 21(B) for resident hunters, and so
32 that's been accomplished and we would recommend that
33 the Federal system also pass that season in order to
34 align them.

35
36 Now, one of the things that we had
37 hoped to accomplish in that Middle Yukon area with
38 changes that the Board made was to try and reduce some
39 confusion because there is a lot of different kind of
40 hunts there and now people, through that section, that
41 middle Yukon, will only need to have one piece of paper
42 if they want to hunt and that's a registration permit,
43 and so there was a lot of people who were getting
44 really frustrated, I think, particularly out of Ruby,
45 on the Poorman Road because one side was one thing, one
46 side was the other and they couldn't figure out what
47 the heck they were supposed to do and I can't say as I
48 blame them for that.

49
50 Also in -- and I think there's another

1 proposal coming up, there was some other changes in
2 21(B) that the Board made that it would be useful if
3 this Committee could consider those as far as trying to
4 get alignment because when we changed -- when we took
5 the upper Nowitna we took it out of 21(A) and it was
6 put into 21(B) and so this was part of the subunit
7 boundary changes that were made out in the Galena area,
8 and when we did that, and I've got the codified right
9 here that the Board passed on that, it would be good if
10 we could look at aligning the Federal seasons to match
11 the State seasons up there.

12

13 I'll continue on with this.

14

15 In 21(D) because of declines that we've
16 had in moose population and hunting pressure I would
17 agree with the Staff recommendation on that.

18

19 And in 21(D) to make you folks aware,
20 this season -- now, this is outside the Koyukuk
21 Controlled Use Area, the Board of Game passed a --
22 well, I guess there was some changes within the Koyukuk
23 Controlled Use Area and some outside, but outside the
24 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area the Board of Game added
25 this August 22nd to August 31 season and they also
26 deleted the December season. That was a trade because
27 people were -- the State had this December season that
28 basically I think people out there really did not like
29 so there was a trade made in there too, so there's been
30 quite a few changes, and this is a complicated
31 situation we have to be real careful.

32

33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah, I was just
34 going to comment on that because I think I got lost a
35 few steps back so maybe a little less on the actual
36 seasons that you guys made changes to because I don't
37 know if -- the changes are so complicated I don't know
38 if we have the time or even the support to go into
39 those right now so that might -- and you guys will be
40 presenting that information to the Federal Subsistence
41 Board most likely.

42

43 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, and we'll be talking
44 to Staff too.

45

46 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So maybe if you
47 could just focus on whether or not the populations can
48 support or not support the additional harvest for now
49 because I think it's a little too in-depth when we're
50 not really prepared to go into that sort of depth right

1 now.

2

3

MR. NOWLIN: Okay.

4

5

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Roy.

6

7

MR. NOWLIN: And so I would agree with
8 the Staff recommendation in 21(D) that the season, the
9 later season in October could not be supported and the
10 reason I say that is because as I just mentioned, we
11 extended in part of 21(D), we supported adding this
12 August 22nd to August 31 season, and the reason I can
13 support what the action that Fish and Game took and not
14 this recommended change for later is because there's
15 going to be less harvest and less impact on the
16 population. There'll be more hunting days created by
17 putting that in August and there'll be less impact on
18 the moose population because let's face it, leaves are
19 up, they're still on, the moose aren't moving as much
20 so there's going to be less impact so we can provide
21 some additional opportunity but without as much impact.
22 So that's the reason for that apparent difference
23 there.

24

25

In Unit 24 we have declining moose
26 populations in 24 as well and as a matter of fact we
27 are looking at some intensive management activities in
28 Unit 24 and we just got done revising the intensive
29 management moose population and harvest objectives with
30 the Board in this unit as part of the overhaul in
31 subunit boundaries.

32

33

I am -- I don't think that we can
34 support extending the season in 24 in this way. I
35 think -- and I don't know how the -- I think the
36 Koyukuk -- Vince, do you know, was the Koyukuk
37 Committee was in favor of this extension in 24 except
38 outside of -- or except within the Kanuti, is that what
39 you had said?

40

41

MR. MATHEWS: Well, the way I
42 interpreted and I'm looking at my notes and Wennona
43 attended that meeting too, was that they supported in
44 the upper portions of the Koyukuk River and not in the
45 lower portions of the Koyukuk River this extension.
46 They did have representatives from Huslia and Hughes on
47 line and they were not comfortable with it but
48 Allakaket, Alatna and Wiseman were in support of it.
49 That's how I took the meeting to go.

50

1 MR. NOWLIN: Okay. Well, I think that,
2 you know, our position on the populations there is that
3 we would not support it from a population point of
4 view. I mean there's other ways that potentially this
5 could be done.

6
7 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, thank you,
8 Roy.

9
10 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yes, go ahead, Pete.

13
14 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair. I'd just
15 like to add at this point to redirect your focus that
16 the issue here is how this proposal affects people like
17 Minchumina and also people of Tanana. Of course, the
18 Council can weigh in on any other part of the proposal
19 that they wish but what we definitely need to walk away
20 from here today with is your comment, your
21 recommendation on how it affects at least those two
22 communities.

23
24 Now, looking at the biological data
25 it's no secret that Unit 19(D), that the moose
26 population is in very serious trouble there. It won't
27 support an additional harvest, but looking at 21(B),
28 that's the lower Nowitna River, surveys there show
29 that there's good calf production and recruitment,
30 slight improvement in bull numbers and continued lower
31 cow numbers, but the trend count areas show an
32 improvement in the overall number of bulls indicating
33 good recruitment. Yes, it's true there has been a
34 slight decrease in calfs from what was seen in the
35 highs in 2003 and 2004 but the current number of calfs
36 is still considered good. So with that the Federal
37 land managers feel that it could support an additional,
38 but limited harvest in late September. And that's the
39 issue here.

40
41 Now, if you look at where the rubber
42 meets the road, the people from Tanana are not going to
43 go way up in the upper Nowitna because usually at that
44 time of year the water is low and it's very rocky and
45 second of all the price of gas just doesn't limit that
46 kind of range. Most people stick with, and Gerald can
47 correct me if I'm wrong, you know, from the Selatna
48 River on down to the mouth which is a whole lot of
49 country because that river winds back and forth.

50

1 So what we're looking at is impact to
2 the lower river where the biog of the data says, yes, it
3 can support a limited but additional harvest of bulls.

4
5 And I'd just like to add that, Mr.
6 Chair. Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you for
9 reiterating your comments, Pete. Are there additional
10 agency or public comments.

11
12 Yes, Roy.

13
14 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
15 Chair. One other thing that comes to mind on these
16 late seasons is concern that we have expressed about
17 disrupting the rut and rut's in full swing by the time
18 you get to the end of.....

19
20 MR. NICHOLIA: Speak up.

21
22 MR. NOWLIN: One of the concerns that
23 we have about these late seasons is disruption of
24 breeding during the rut and when you get to the end of
25 August the rut's in full swing and you get --
26 potentially, if you disrupt that activity what you get
27 is calfs that are born later in the year and you get --
28 and, therefore, the calfs are weaker going into the
29 winter and you potentially can lose more of them. So
30 that's one of the things in addition to the higher
31 harvest that you can get during that time of the year.

32
33 So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Roy. And
36 as you were saying that, the only thing that came to
37 mind is that my 45/70 shells bring an abrupt end to rut
38 for some moose but that's all.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All right. What are
43 the wishes of the Council -- actually before I ask for
44 your wishes, I just wanted to comment that, of course,
45 I'm always concerned about declining moose populations
46 that we should always be cautious. But, you know, in
47 the Yukon Flats, we have a pretty liberal moose season,
48 I think, and we've asked for a liberal season, I don't
49 think it's liberal enough, you know, I wish it was a
50 year-round season to be honest with you, but and

1 primarily because we are going through the same changes
2 that these folks are going through and when I was a
3 kid, when we used to go out moose hunting the end of
4 August, beginning of September, it'd already be snowing
5 and now I can go out on September 10th and it might be
6 75 or 80 degrees out, and so there's a real problem
7 with static -- with short and static moose hunting
8 seasons and so I think we do need to be real flexible
9 with the seasons and take into account that there are a
10 lot of changes that are going on right now and that
11 we're in a period of pretty rapid change it appears
12 like. And so I always support the idea of adjusting
13 seasons to allow for greater opportunity, I think we
14 just need to make sure that we're cautious about where
15 the moose populations are low.

16
17 I like the idea of supporting the
18 recommendations of the Western Interior because they
19 are in agreement with the Staff Committee except that
20 they wanted this additional thing for 21(B), but it all
21 was based on what the State's action was. And so
22 that's it, that's all the comments I had.

23
24 So what are the wishes of the Council.

25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yes, Virgil.

29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'd like to hear from
31 Gerald because this affects his village.

32
33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Gerald.

34
35 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, we go hunting all
36 over around Tanana, around Tanana and we got to go
37 through this permit system down there and I never even
38 got a moose last fall and I hunted from September 5th
39 all the way until the end of it. And the moose weren't
40 even moving around until like the 28th until the first
41 week of October. I'm not going to say what I done but
42 I got some moose meat. They're still in good shape
43 during rutting, no matter what time. When you're
44 hunting out there in the current season too you're
45 still going to mess up their rutting season, you're out
46 there to kill the animal, that messes them up.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 MR. NICHOLIA: You know, and I would

1 appreciate being hunting longer days because all those
2 moose around here, seems like after the 25th they start
3 moving around because there's no more boat traffic on
4 the river. I started noticing that after the last 10
5 years, before they used to run around all the time.
6 Sure there's a low moose population, too, but we're out
7 there trying to feed our families and we face a lot of
8 competition. And if there's low moose population, I
9 did a fly by and counted just 21 moose from Tanana to
10 the Nowitna, but I'd like to be able to hunt legally,
11 you know, I say legally, you know, like from -- there's
12 some moose that are out there that are still good out
13 there in October, almost beginning.

14
15 But right now there's a lot of hunting
16 going on out of season because the majority of hunters
17 in Tanana never got their moose for the winter. And
18 the time they give us is -- because it is too warm and
19 we see a lot of spoilage out there. We try to ask them
20 for the meat but they wouldn't give it to us.

21
22 But I would appreciate it to have, at
23 least in 21(B) another week to hunt moose just for
24 rural residents, but I'd appreciate that, man, I mean
25 there will be people in Tanana that will appreciate it.
26 I don't know about Ruby.

27
28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, the one
29 question I think that would be worth considering is do
30 you think that this additional hunting time is actually
31 going to amount in more moose killed or do you think
32 the same amount of moose will be killed, you'll just be
33 legal.

34
35 MR. NICHOLIA: I think the same amount
36 of moose will be killed, we'll just be legal.

37
38 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So you don't think
39 there's going to be additional harvest?

40
41 MR. NICHOLIA: Not much that's already
42 going on.

43
44 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thanks, Gerald.
45 Virgil.

46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: What I'd like to ask is
48 because I know for 21(D) for sure, and I think Roy said
49 in 21(B) the Board made that August season in 21(B) as
50 well, correct?

1 MR. NOWLIN: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, and I know that's
4 what the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee wanted and the
5 Ruby Advisory Committee and they were pretty emphatic
6 about that and so my question to Gerald is, being the
7 State Board just opened the season and gave you, I
8 think 10 days, nine or 10 days at the start before any
9 of the boat traffic shows up, do you think that that
10 will be adequate or help much or what do you think of
11 that?

12

13 MR. NICHOLIA: Do you mean in the
14 August season?

15

16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct. Because what
17 they did, I think it's going to open up the 22nd of
18 August that's what the Middle Yukon and Ruby Advisory
19 Committees wanted to do, was it open it early because
20 they have better quality of meat and the moose are a
21 lot fatter and better eating and that's why they wanted
22 to do it in August.

23

24 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, it will give us an
25 opportunity but most of the times they'll still be in
26 the lakes, you'll just have to go after them but it
27 will give us an opportunity to go out there and get
28 moose. They'll be in pretty good shape.

29

30 What we've been experiencing around
31 there, they're rutting later and later in the year, I
32 mean it's just a late rut. We see activity even in the
33 second week of October, going around and messing around
34 there and doing fishing stuff. And I don't know what
35 that is, the climate change or anything.

36

37 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Virgil.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, being's I guide
40 -- well, I guide in Unit 24, but 24 and 21(D) is pretty
41 much the same and it's true the weather's been weird.
42 And the last moose season was the strangest I've seen
43 it since I've been guiding over in that area which is
44 13, 14 years, but I know that in 2003 that it got down
45 on the 13th of September, and this was on the Huslia
46 River, but I think the whole region was pretty much the
47 same, but it froze the slough in front of my hunting
48 camp and I had a thermometer, I think it was 17
49 degrees, it was pretty cold and it stayed that way for
50 awhile. That was in 2003. I know last year I got to

1 the hunting area on the 1st of September and I didn't
2 leave until the 27th of September and until I think the
3 25th, which I think was the last day of the season it
4 rained every day but two, between the 1st and the 25th
5 of September and we only had one frost, one night it
6 cleared up, around the 20th or so and we had a frost so
7 it really was unusual last year but I do know that one
8 of my clients that I was personally guiding, he got a
9 moose, I believe on the 9th, and that moose, you know,
10 he had been rutting, he was tearing up -- I called him
11 up, he was tearing up the brush, and, you know, he
12 didn't smell good and so it's just individual moose, I
13 think and even though it seems like it's a lot warmer I
14 know that in 2004, I can't remember exactly how cold it
15 got over there but I know my son guides over in Unit
16 20(A) that he had 18 inches of snow on the ground on
17 the 10th of September and I know we got snowed on as
18 well in the Koyukuk but -- so it's hard to say what the
19 weather's doing.

20

21 One year is different from another
22 year, but last year was the most unusual in that it
23 rained almost every day, every day but two out of 25
24 and it never did get cold and it was hard to hunt
25 because you were sopping wet all day long, I mean
26 walking through wet brush and grass and everything else
27 so it made it harder for everyone to hunt.

28

29 So, you know, this is a hard question
30 but I do know that the Middle Yukon people favored
31 having the season in August because of the quality of
32 the meat and there would be no other hunters around,
33 just the local hunters, no hunters outside from the
34 area. And another thing I might mention is, you know,
35 because this takes in 21(D) as well, is the State Board
36 also made that drawing permit at this meeting last week
37 and so that's going to eliminate a whole gob of hunters
38 that would have otherwise been there. Because
39 everything all around there was made drawing permit two
40 years ago and so that just transferred people from
41 hunting the Nowitna and places like that, that didn't
42 draw a permit, they moved down to Kaltag and Nulato to
43 hunt is what they did. And so the Board made that a
44 drawing permit as well and so that's going to eliminate
45 a number of hunters that are out, you know, non-local
46 hunters in the area.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Virgil.

1 We could probably talk all day long about how things
2 have changed and are changing and last year was a
3 strange year in the Yukon Flats as well. We started
4 out thinking it was going to be whatever normal is, we
5 started out thinking it was going to be normal because
6 it was cold fairly early and then it warmed up again
7 and so everybody got geared up to go hunting and then
8 it turned 80 degrees and, you know, towards the end of
9 August beginning of September which was pretty bizarre
10 after this two week cold spell we had. And so
11 everybody got geared up and ready to go out and it was
12 80 degrees again and then we had to wait again because
13 we did go out hunting but nothing was moving. I don't
14 know if the moose started moving when it got cold and
15 then stopped or what, but a lot of people came back
16 empty-handed. Fortunately I went back out -- well,
17 unfortunately for me, I saw one moose for three seconds
18 this fall, it was the only one moose I saw, fortunately
19 I'm fast on the draw.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: But I only saw one
24 moose and it was for three seconds and it was real late
25 in the season as well, so we're having some pretty
26 strange seasons. And so I like flexible seasons, I
27 like long seasons for subsistence hunters because it
28 gives them more opportunity and as I said before I'd
29 support -- although I hate permits and the idea of
30 permits, I'd support some sort of permit system that
31 gave all subsistence hunters year-round access to the
32 resources and I've talked about this before, other than
33 the fact that I hate filling out paperwork and everyone
34 else does, too, year-round access is much better
35 because it fits in with the subsistence lifestyle. You
36 go out and get the moose when you need it, not just
37 during a 10 day period when the government tells you
38 you need it or when they think it's biologically sound
39 to go get it.

40

41 You may need, you know, one family --
42 well, my family we eat a moose in about five months so
43 one moose really isn't enough and we're eating moose
44 and salmon and everything else we can sink our teeth
45 into. And so more -- I always like the opportunity of
46 more opportunity if the population can withstand it.

47

48 So what are we going to do with this.

49 Anybody going to make a motion.

50

1 MR. NICHOLIA: I move to adopt Proposal
2 34 with Staff modification.

3
4 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: We have a motion, is
5 there a second.

6
7 MS. WRIGHT: Second.

8
9 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. The motion is
10 to adopt Proposal 34 with Staff recommendations.

11
12 Any more discussion.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MR. GLANZ: Call for the question.

17
18 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Question's been
19 called. All in favor of Proposal 34 signify by saying
20 aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any opposed, say no.

25
26 (No opposing votes)

27
28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Motion carries.

29 Vince.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That
32 brings us up to crossover proposals, which are
33 Proposals 3, 4 and 5 -- oh, we got to do Proposal 35.
34 We spent a lot of time in 21(B), I forgot. We need to
35 do 35, which deals with the December moose season in
36 21(B).

37
38 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Go ahead, Pete.

39
40 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair. The analysis
41 for Proposal 35 begins in your book on Page 174. And
42 Proposal 35 was submitted by the Alaska Department of
43 Fish and Game. This proposal would establish a
44 December 1 through 10 moose season in Unit 21(B) as in
45 Baker with a harvest limit of one antlered bull.

46
47 Residents of Units 21(B), 21(C),
48 Tanana, Galena and Ruby have a positive customary and
49 traditional use determination for moose in Unit 21(B).
50

1 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
2 submitted Proposal 35 to the Federal Board and a
3 similar proposal to the Alaska Board of Game for its
4 consideration at its recent meeting.
5

6 The intent of the proposals is to
7 provide users the opportunity to harvest bull moose in
8 a remote area not easily accessed during the fall moose
9 season. Adoption of Proposal 35 would align Federal
10 and State regulations if the proposed regulations are
11 adopted by the Federal and State Boards.
12

13 The proponent will request -- the
14 proposed Federal regulations can be seen on Page 174 of
15 your book under the heading of proposed Federal
16 regulations. The proposed regulations are stated with
17 the State boundary changes for Units 21(A) and (B).
18 And, Mr. Chair, if you'd please take a look at Page 174
19 under proposed Federal regulations displayed with the
20 proposed State Units 21(A) and 21(B) boundary changes,
21 you'll see there's two hunt areas there. The first
22 one's Unit 21(B), that portion of the Nowitna River
23 drainage, formerly in 21(A) and the second one is Unit
24 21(B), that portion as existing Unit 21(B). The second
25 one there, Unit 21(B) which is the lower Nowitna River
26 and the first one on top there is the upper Nowitna
27 River. These descriptors that are used as language
28 they would not be permanent. That's just for purposes
29 of the analysis, and for conversation sake. But if
30 this is adopted, of course, there would be more
31 appropriate language put into regulation.
32

33 The result is that the entire Nowitna
34 River would now be in Unit 21(B) if this proposal is
35 adopted.
36

37 This means that the November season for
38 the upper river that was in Unit 21(A) is now Unit
39 21(B) and qualified residents have lost the November 1
40 through 30 season but on the other hand have gained the
41 proposed December 1 through 30 season.
42

43 The lower Nowitna River that remains in
44 Unit 21(B) as it has been, would gain the proposed
45 December 1 through 10 season with one antlered bull
46 harvest limit. These regulatory or hunt area
47 descriptions are temporary as I mentioned before, Mr.
48 Chair, and of course the whole Nowitna River would now
49 be in Unit 21(B).
50

1 If the proposal is adopted by the Board
2 the proposed season would provide an increased
3 opportunity to harvest moose in the areas of Unit 21(B)
4 where the population can support the harvest of bulls
5 that are not easily accessed during the fall season.
6 Adoption of the Federal and State proposals would
7 simplify regulatory complexity and should help to avoid
8 confusion for the users. Federal lands are not closed
9 to any community but would align State and Federal
10 regulations and provide opportunities for harvest while
11 trapping and also traveling on the river to conduct
12 other activities.

13
14 The proposed December 1 through 10
15 season will also simplify hunting activity on the Ruby
16 Poorman Road where hunters are currently permitted to
17 hunt and harvest moose only on the west side of the
18 road during Unit 21(D) as in Delta December season.
19 Total annual harvest for the affected area is not
20 anticipated to change as a result of adoption of this
21 proposal. If hunter harvest is shifted to include more
22 bull moose and fewer cows then population decline will
23 likely be decreased by retaining more cow moose.
24 Because cow are the limiting reproductive component of
25 the population, at this time any increase in the
26 productive capacity of the population will potentially
27 result in the population growth and more moose
28 available for harvest.

29
30 Because Federal lands in the upper
31 Nowitna River drainage are very remote and costly to
32 access, no adverse impacts to the area moose
33 populations are anticipated should Proposal 35 become
34 adopted by the Federal Board.

35
36 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
37 anticipated that with the additional opportunity for
38 bull harvest in the lower Nowitna River and the Yukon
39 River portion of Unit 21(B) during the time of year
40 when the bulls still possess their antlers unreported
41 harvest of cow moose during the remainder of the winter
42 should be reduced.

43
44 Because of the vast remoteness of the
45 upper Nowitna River drainage in conjunction with the
46 high cost of travel, the majority of moose harvest is
47 expected to occur in areas closest to the communities
48 of Ruby and Tanana.

49
50 Mr. Chair, with that, the preliminary

1 conclusion is to support this proposal and I'll stop
2 there.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Pete.

7 Department of Fish and Game.

8

9 MR. NOWLIN: Thank you Mr. Chair. Roy

10 Nowlin. We discussed this in relation to your last

11 proposal as well and, again, consistent with what the

12 Western Council had desired, their -- what the Board

13 passed here is an August 22nd through August 31 season

14 and did not adopt a December season in there.

15

16 So what we have now is.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Hey, Roy, before you

19 go on, what did the Western Council do?

20

21 MR. NOWLIN: Well, the Western Council

22 wanted to have an August 22nd through 31 season in

23 there rather than a December season and that's what the

24 Board passed.

25

26 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, thanks.

27

28 MR. NOWLIN: And also that was the

29 desire of the Middle Yukon AC, and also the Ruby AC.

30 And so what we have in there currently is an August

31 22nd through August 31, and then a September 5 to

32 September 25 season.

33

34 Now, there is some variation in there

35 because up river we have a registration permit that

36 applies along the -- within two miles of the river

37 corridor and then outside of that it's a general

38 harvest ticket is the way that all shook out. But that

39 August 22 through August 31 applies in State regulation

40 over the entire 21(B) and there is no December season

41 in there.

42

43 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So then this is a

44 Department of Fish and Game proposal initially that you

45 all -- that was a proposal also with the Board of Game

46 that you made changes to so you're no longer supporting

47 your proposal in the form in the book, instead you want

48 it to read 21(B) August 22nd through 31 and September 5

49 through 25.

50

1 MR. NOWLIN: That's correct. This was
2 submitted as a placeholder before -- way early on
3 because of the -- you know, there's always a problem
4 with timing here.

5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah.

7
8 MR. NOWLIN: Because the Federal
9 proposals have to be in much earlier than ours do so we
10 submitted a placeholder on the Federal side in order to
11 have the option of trying to bring seasons in alignment
12 between the State and the Federal system.

13
14 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, thank you.
15 Gerald.

16
17 MR. NICHOLIA: Is that December 1
18 through 10th hunt in 20(F) still in effect?

19
20 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Roy.

21
22 MR. NOWLIN: Through the Chair. I
23 don't believe there was any changes made in 20(F) on
24 the existing seasons.

25
26 MR. NICHOLIA: Well, in the regulation
27 book, as I read it, we're still allowed to hunt in
28 20(F) December 1 through December 10th, you know, I
29 just don't see a reason why it shouldn't just carry
30 over to 21(B). Because what you guys are doing is just
31 giving us like a checkerboard hunt, you know, and it
32 just seems ridiculous to me how you guys just play
33 around with us, man, in some of my words -- I don't
34 want to say, but it's just unfair to us as rural
35 residents to be given -- to be given like a chunk of
36 meat and then take it away is just, I don't know, you
37 guys are just high and mighty in my book, I guess, we
38 cooperate and you manage.

39
40 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Go ahead, Roy.

41
42 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, yeah, I
43 can appreciate Member Nicholia's sentiment about that
44 but we were, through all of this process, we were
45 keying off of the Ruby AC, off the Middle Yukon AC, and
46 off the Western Council's desires in trying to overhaul
47 this moose -- I mean we do have -- we recognize that
48 this stuff gets really complicated and what we've been
49 trying to do is work with both the Federal system and
50 the State system to simplify it and I was asking about

1 the Tanana AC and evidently when these proposals came
2 up the Tanana AC met prior to these proposals getting
3 in the book, so I don't think we got Tanana.

4
5 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I'm the Chairman
6 of that and we didn't have these proposals before us.

7
8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, thanks, Roy.
9 Are there other agency comments.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, Vince.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There
16 was one written comment in opposition from the Alaska
17 Defender's of Wildlife.

18
19 They urge caution and recommend more
20 conservative action. Late season
21 winter moose hunts advocated by
22 Proposal 35, 38 and 68 invites driving,
23 herding, harassing moose with
24 snowmachines, activities currently
25 prohibited under Federal subsistence
26 law. Enforceability is extremely
27 difficult in remote areas at this time
28 of year.

29
30 Abuses connected with this method of
31 hunting can diminish healthy
32 populations of the moose in the area
33 which is counter to Section .802 of
34 Title VIII of ANILCA.

35
36 Unless it's absolutely necessary to
37 provide a subsistence opportunity that
38 is lacking in earlier seasons, we urge
39 the Board to take a very conservative
40 approach.

41
42 Mr. Chairman. The Western Interior
43 took up this proposal and they did something different.
44 This is the first time Western Interior, to my
45 knowledge, has done this.

46
47 Proposal 35, the motion was to support
48 the proposal, died for lack of a second
49 so the Western Interior Council took no
50 action on this proposal.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Vince.
4 Yeah, it does seem to be kind of complex and I was
5 thinking myself we should probably take no action on
6 the proposal since it was a Department of Fish and Game
7 proposal that they no longer support. And if they
8 wanted to sort it out with the Federal Subsistence
9 Board maybe that'd be the best place to do it or, you
10 know, if Gerald has a counter -- you know, an amendment
11 you want to make, you're certainly welcome to do that.
12 I don't like these split seasons myself either, here,
13 August 22nd to 31, and then four days of no hunting and
14 then September 5 through 25th, I don't like that. I
15 can't stand that sort of thing because if I see one on
16 the 1st of September and that's the only moose I'm
17 going to see in that 40 day time period, something got
18 to die.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I mean it's a
23 terrible to have to say but the family's got to eat.
24 Like I said I only saw one moose for just a few seconds
25 this year and boy it tasted good, too.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Anyways, my first
30 impression was we should just let it die because it's a
31 Department of Fish and Game proposal that they're no
32 longer supporting. The Staff Committee tried to make
33 it.....

34

35 MR. NICHOLIA: Let me help you out.

36

37 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Gerald.

38

39 MR. NICHOLIA: I move that we take no
40 action on Proposal 35.

41

42 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, there's a
43 motion on the table to take no action.

44

45 MS. ENTSMINGER: Second.

46

47 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And there's a
48 second. So as I was saying, the Staff Committee, I
49 think tried to make it more workable but even their
50 recommendations are now out of compliance with what the

1 State wanted, so I don't know if we could fix it unless
2 we came up with something completely different.

3

4 But is there any more discussion.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

9

10 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, the question's
11 been called. All in favor of taking no action on 35
12 signify by saying aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any opposed, say no.

17

18 (No opposing votes)

19

20 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: That motion carries.
21 Thank you, very much. Okay, let's go to Proposal No. 3

22

23 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. Members of
24 the Council. Proposal No. 3 begins on Page 181, and we
25 actually have three proposals, they're 3, 4 and 5,
26 they're all very similar.

27

28 But starting with Proposal 3, this was
29 submitted by Mr. Brian McGuire from Anchorage and he's
30 requesting that the Federal subsistence users forfeit
31 to the State of Alaska for auction all antlers from
32 caribou and moose taken in Unit 13.

33

34 The proponent claims that Federal
35 subsistence hunts have been abused by some and become a
36 trophy hunt. He states that subsistence users need the
37 meat but not the antlers. He has also stated that
38 subsistence hunters are using ATVs and accessing non-
39 Federal lands while they're harvesting moose from using
40 Federal subsistence management regulations.

41

42 Subsistence hunters would be required
43 to forfeit the antlers from both moose and caribou.
44 The proponent states that the proposed regulatory
45 change would help keep the peace between Federal
46 subsistence hunters and other hunters. And you can see
47 on the bottom of Page -- or the middle of Page 182 that
48 new regulatory language that he's proposing to say that
49 in Unit 13 you must forfeit to the State for auction
50 the antlers of caribou or moose taken in Unit 13.

1 There's a regulatory history here that
2 is available for you to take a look at but I'll skip
3 over to the effects of the proposal.

4
5 The effects of this proposal, it
6 doesn't respond to any specific, in our view, any
7 specific biological concerns in caribou and moose
8 populations in Unit 13. While there's serious low
9 density biological issues with moose in Unit 13 this
10 proposal would not solve the proponent's concerns that
11 some moose or caribou may be taken by Federally-
12 qualified subsistence users outside the Federal public
13 lands or by using ATVs. Although there is some
14 likelihood that this is occurring, law enforcement
15 officers have indicated that this is not a significant
16 problem in Unit 13 where the proponent has expressed
17 his concerns.

18
19 Subsistence hunters, some of whom use
20 the antlers as part of their regalia for arts and
21 crafts or just for spiritual memory of the hunt would
22 be required to forfeit the antlers from their moose and
23 caribou. Other subsistence hunters who normally leave
24 the antlers in the field would be required to pack them
25 out to comply with this proposal. Many subsistence
26 users would feel insulted by this requirement. Non-
27 Federally-qualified users would not have to forfeit
28 their antlers from their moose or caribou.

29
30 Mr. Chairman. Our recommendation, or
31 preliminary conclusion is to oppose this proposal.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you.
36 Department of Fish and Game.

37
38 MR. KOSKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Mike Koskey again. ADF&G does not support this.

40
41 Although antler forfeitures might help
42 to address the trophy hunting issue
43 it'd likely create more problems than
44 it would solve. Antler forfeiture
45 would prevent hunters from using moose
46 and caribou antlers for any purpose
47 including the production of arts and
48 crafts.

49
50 If Federally-qualified subsistence

1 users hunting under the Federal
2 regulations are harvesting moose on
3 State managed lands as alleged by the
4 author of this proposal, such problems
5 should be addressed by the Federal
6 enforcement personnel.

7
8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Mike.
11 Any other agency comments. Barb.

12
13 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence
15 Resource Commission unanimously opposes the proposal as
16 written.

17
18 The proposed change would unnecessarily
19 limit subsistence users. Subsistence
20 users often make use of the entire
21 animal and this proposal would deny
22 them the opportunity to use the antlers
23 for handicrafts or other traditional
24 uses.

25
26 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Barb.
27 Any other agencies.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any individuals.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vince.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. For
38 written comments, there were three, Mentasta
39 Traditional Council, AHTNA Subsistence Committee and
40 the Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee, they all
41 opposed it.

42
43 The Denali Subsistence Resource
44 Commission opposed it unanimously.

45
46 Requiring Federal subsistence hunters
47 to forfeit the antlers places an
48 unnecessary restriction on subsistence
49 users. This proposal does not respond
50 to any specific biological concern.

1 Mr. Chairman. I apologize that I don't
2 have Southcentral's actions here. Either my printer
3 didn't print the second page or it was not provided to
4 me, so I do not know what Southcentral did on Proposal
5 3, 4 and 5, and they would have taken this up since
6 it's Unit 13. So maybe someone else who attended the
7 Southcentral meeting would know, my guess is they also
8 opposed it.

9
10 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Barb.

11
12 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair. I was at
13 Southcentral and I believe they unanimously opposed all
14 three of the proposals.

15
16 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Okay,
17 what are the wishes of the Council.

18
19 MS. ENTSMINGER: I'll make a motion to
20 support.

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.

23
24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, we have a
25 motion to adopt this proposal and a second. Any more
26 discussion or any discussion, I should say.

27
28 Go ahead, Virgil.

29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, I'm going to
31 oppose this proposal for a number of reasons. But I
32 think it's not well thought out and a very poor
33 proposal, and it discriminates against the citizens of
34 the state of Alaska.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Virgil.
39 Other comments.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MR. NICHOLIA: Question.

44
45 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Question's called on
46 the motion. All in favor signify by saying aye.

47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Aye.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any opposed say no.
2
3 MS. ENTSMINGER: He was mistaken.
4
5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No, it's too late.
6
7 (Laughter)
8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, I meant.....
10
11 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No, it's too late,
12 you can't take that vote back. Any opposed say, no.
13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, I'm going to take
15 my vote back.
16
17 MS. ENTSMINGER: He made a mistake.
18
19 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: It's not my fault he
20 made a mistake.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 MS. ENTSMINGER: But he never makes
25 mistakes.
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any opposed, say no.
30
31 IN UNISON: No.
32
33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Motion carries.
34 Only one supporter.
35
36 (Laughter)
37
38 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, let's go on to
39 the next proposal. Proposal No. 4, Dan.
40
41 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. Just to
42 clarify the record, you just stated the motion carried,
43 I believe you meant motion failed.
44
45 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Oh, yes, that's what
46 I meant.
47
48 (Laughter)
49
50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, Dan, Proposal

1 No. 4, please.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

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MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. Proposal No. 4 beginning on Page 188, and like I said before this is similar to the other proposals and was submitted by Mr. Brian McGuire of Anchorage. He requests that regulatory language for moose harvest in Unit 11, 13 and 15 be changed to require that a legal moose meet the State of Alaska requirements for a legal bull in those units.

He states that current Federal regulations allow any bull during State hunting seasons and thus increases the odds of poaching.

The regulatory language that would be added is in the middle of Page 188 and it just states that a legal bull shall meet the State of Alaska definition of a legal bull for that hunt.

The effect of this in Unit 11, the effect would be that State antler requirements for moose is spike-fork antlers or 50-inch with three or more brow tines on one side. Now, the Federal antler requirement with the same season dates is one antlered bull, that's the difference between the State and Federal. As the State hunting regulations don't apply to National Park lands the affected area where this difference occurs is on National Preserve lands and National Forest lands, which is about 40 percent of the unit.

Therefore, if adopted, the Federal harvest limit on National Preserve lands and on Forest Service lands would be changed to spike-fork 50 with three or more brow tines, again, from the current one bull hunt requirement.

In Unit 13, the State has two seasons. It has a Tier II subsistence hunt for one bull and that's from August 15th to the 31st and they have a general hunt for one bull with a spike-fork 50 antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on one side and that's from the 1st of September to the 20th of September. And, again, as State regulations don't apply to National Park lands the affected area where the difference occurs is on National Preserve lands, BLM lands, and National Forest lands and this is less

1 than five percent of the area of Unit 13. The Federal
2 season is currently for one antlered bull from August 1
3 to September 20th [sic]. Therefore, if adopted the
4 Federal harvest limit would be changed to spike-fork 50
5 with four or more brow tines for that period September
6 1 through the 20th [sic].

7
8 Mr. Chairman. I won't go through what
9 the changes would occur in Unit 15 because that's
10 probably not as much concern to you.

11
12 But the BLM office, the law enforcement
13 office there, they work closely with State law
14 enforcement officers and they have told Staff that they
15 have not documented any violations of Federal
16 subsistence hunters taking moose from outside Federal
17 subsistence hunting areas. If adopted this process
18 would increase the work load for law enforcement
19 managers and would result in increased violations by
20 Federally-qualified subsistence users by increasing
21 this antler requirement.

22
23 Mr. Chairman. The Staff recommendation
24 is to oppose the proposal.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Dan.
29 Department of Fish and Game.

30
31 MR. KOSKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
32 Department of Fish and Game is neutral on this
33 proposal.

34
35 Although having the same moose antler
36 requirements and restrictions would
37 simplify the State and Federal
38 regulations, such provisions are not
39 necessary in Units 1 [sic], 13 and 15
40 at this time. If regulatory changes
41 are needed in the future to address
42 moose conservation concerns in any of
43 these units, modifying the antler
44 requirements is one option that should
45 be considered by the Federal
46 Subsistence Board.

47
48 And that's it, Mr. Chair, thanks.

49
50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And you probably

1 meant GMU 11, 13 and 15 instead of 1.

2

3 MR. KOSKEY: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: That's fine, just
6 wanted to clarify that for the record. Thank you.

7

8 Other agencies. Barb.

9

10 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair. Wrangell-
11 St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
12 unanimously opposes the proposal as written.

13

14 The proposed change would unnecessarily
15 limit subsistence users.

16

17 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Barb.

18 Other agencies.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any individuals.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Nope. Vince.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. The Denali
29 Subsistence Resource Commission also unanimously
30 opposes this proposal.

31

32 It's an unnecessary restriction on
33 subsistence users. This proposal does
34 not respond to any specific biological
35 concern in the moose population. This
36 requirement for sealing the skull --
37 oops, sorry, wrong one, but they oppose
38 this one.

39

40 The proposed modification and current
41 subsistence hunting regulations is
42 unnecessary for the conservation of
43 healthy moose populations. It adds
44 complexity to regulations and removes
45 an important element of the rural
46 preference established by the Federal
47 Subsistence Board in accordance with
48 Section .802 of ANILCA.

49

50 The Mentasta Traditional Council, the

1 AHTNA Subsistence Committee, and the
2 Alaska Regional Office of the National
3 Parks Conservation all opposed this
4 proposal.
5

6 In particular the National Parks
7 Conservation Association shared that
8 this proposal seems contrary to the
9 purposes of subsistence which is to
10 harvest meat to eat regardless of the
11 size and/or age of the animal. There
12 should be a biological reason for
13 restricting harvest to certain age
14 classes and that age restrictions is
15 best implemented by antler size, horn
16 curl or other measures then such
17 restrictions could be used.
18

19 Mr. Chairman. Those are the written
20 comments.
21

22 As Barb already pointed out,
23 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council opposed it. And
24 then the Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee had no
25 comment on this proposal. But they did say that this
26 proposal is not specific enough for them.
27

28 Thank you.
29

30 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Vince.
31 What are the wishes of the Council.
32

33 MR. NICHOLIA: Move to adopt Proposal
34 04.
35

36 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: There's a motion to
37 adopt 04.
38

39 MR. GLANZ: Second.
40

41 MS. ENTSMINGER: Second.
42

43 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And there's a
44 second. Discussion.
45

46 (No comments)
47

48 MS. ENTSMINGER: Call for the question.
49

50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Question's been

1 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

2

3

(No aye votes)

4

5

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All opposed, say no.

6

7

IN UNISON: No.

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All in favor signify by saying aye.
(No aye votes)
CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All opposed, say no.
IN UNISON: No.
CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Motion fails. Let's
move to 05.

MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. Proposal
06-05 is on Page 195. This proposal was also submitted
by Mr. Brian McGuire of Anchorage. He requests that
Federal subsistence users seal the skull of any moose
taken under Federal subsistence management regulations
in Units 11, 13 and 15.

The proponent claims that Federal
subsistence hunts have been abused. He indicates that
subsistence hunters are using ATVs, again, similar to
the other claim, that they're accessing non-Federal
lands where they have been harvesting moose using
Federal subsistence management regulations.
Subsistence hunters would be required to seal the skull
of their harvested moose and the State does not have a
sealing requirement for moose skulls anywhere in the
state. The proponent states that this proposed
regulatory change would help keep the peace, again,
between subsistence hunters and other hunters.

The regulatory language that would be
inserted if this is passed is at the top of Page 196,
and, again I won't go through the biological background
or the harvest history but the effects of this would be
that if passed, this proposal does not respond to any
specific biological concern in moose populations Units
11, 13 and 15, where there are, again, serious low
density biological issues with moose in both Units 11
and 13, this proposal doesn't solve the proponent's
concerns that some moose may be taken by Federally-
qualified users outside of the Federal lands.

Although there is some likelihood of
this occurring, law enforcement officers indicate that
it's not a significant problem in Unit 13 where the
proponent has expressed his concerns.

All Federal hunts in the subject units
are only by Federal registration permit with mandatory

1 harvest reporting. The reporting rate for these hunts
2 exceeds 89 percent and it's ranged in the past between
3 a low of 82.9 percent to a high of 100 percent. So
4 sealing with in person reporting would be cost
5 effective -- excuse me -- sealing in the in person
6 would not be cost effective in advancing to 100 percent
7 reporting rate in these hunt areas, and would impose an
8 unnecessary administrative burden on subsistence users
9 and on the Staff.

10

11 Additionally, some subsistence hunters
12 leave the skull in the field rather than bringing it
13 out and this would place a burden on them, and this
14 proposal is also detrimental to subsistence users who
15 cook the head in the field or immediately after they
16 return from the field so sealing the head would not be
17 appropriate for those users.

18

19 So, Mr. Chairman, the Staff
20 recommendation here is to oppose the proposal.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Dan.
25 Department of Fish and Game.

26

27 MR. KOSKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
28 Department of Fish and Game is, again, neutral, so
29 deferring in other words.

30

31 Although the Department of Fish and
32 Game does not object to Federal
33 Subsistence Board requiring that skulls
34 of moose be taken in Units 11, 13 and
35 15 be sealed, the proponents concerns
36 can be addressed in part by active
37 monitoring of hunts in these areas
38 during the hunting season by Federal
39 enforcement officers.

40

41 In Units 11 and 13 Federally-qualified
42 subsistence users must contact the
43 Bureau of Land Management in Glennallen
44 if they have harvested a moose and must
45 report harvest location and date of
46 harvest within five days of the
47 harvest. These provisions are positive
48 steps in monitoring these hunts. We
49 can support efforts by Federal managers
50 to follow up on non-reporters to ensure

1 that monitoring efforts are accurately
2 documenting both harvest and hunter
3 efforts.
4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6

7 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Mike.
8 Other agencies. Barb.
9

10 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence
12 Resource Commission unanimously opposes the proposal as
13 written.
14

15 The proposed change would place
16 unnecessary requirements on subsistence
17 users.
18

19 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Other
20 agencies.
21

22 (No comments)
23

24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Individuals.
25

26 (No comments)
27

28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vince.
29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We
31 had a fair amount of written comments on this.
32

33 AHTNA Subsistence Committee, Mentasta
34 Traditional Council, Paxson Fish and
35 Game Advisory Committee and the
36 National Parks Conservation Association
37 all oppose this proposal.
38

39 The Parks Conservation Association
40 opposed it because subsistence
41 regulations should be culturally
42 sensitive and not include unnecessary
43 administrative actions such as sealing.
44

45 The Denali Subsistence Resource
46 Commission took up this proposal, as I
47 said earlier and they unanimously
48 oppose this proposal because it's
49 unnecessary and it would put an
50 unnecessary restriction on subsistence

1 users.
2
3 They also go on to say that requiring
4 Federal subsistence hunters to seal
5 skulls place an unnecessary restriction
6 on subsistence hunters who already have
7 a very high compliance rate for harvest
8 reporting.
9
10 Mr. Chairman. Those are the ones in
11 opposition.
12
13 The Defender's of Wildlife support this
14 proposal.
15
16 They support it because sealing
17 requirements are limited statewide and
18 usually only apply to bears and
19 furbearers, however, if evidence of
20 abuse is substantial in an area sealing
21 requirements may be necessary to avoid
22 damage to the resource. If moose are
23 being taken outside of Federal lands a
24 sealing requirement is justified.
25
26 Federal managers may choose to specify
27 a portion of the animal other than the
28 skull if this is determined to be
29 impractical for field transportation
30
31 That's all, thank you.
32
33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Vince.
34 What are the wishes of the Council.
35
36 MR. NICHOLIA: Move to adopt Proposal
37 05.
38
39 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: There's a motion to
40 adopt Proposal 5, is there a second.
41
42 MS. WRIGHT: Second.
43
44 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: There's a second.
45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.
47
48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Question's been
49 called. All in favor of the motion signify by saying
50 aye.

1 (No aye votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All opposed, say
4 nay.
5
6 IN UNISON: Nay.
7
8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: The motion fails.
9 Vince.
10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Let the
12 record reflect that when you're in alignment with the
13 Staff recommendation that we can go forward with the
14 justifications provided by Staff as your reasoning.
15
16 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: You can use that as
17 your reasoning, and if we've given additional testimony
18 you can use that as well.
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 The reason I do that is it makes it easier as we work
22 these through different levels so when people say,
23 well, why did they do it, they just voted, so that's
24 the only reason I'm doing this.
25
26 Thank you.
27
28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, maybe we have
29 some secret motives we don't want you to know about.
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: You ever consider
34 that?
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: It has been considered.
37
38 (Laughter)
39
40 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All right. We have
41 Proposal 62, that is the only remaining proposal, am I
42 correct.
43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And I
45 went through my notes and I believe you passed the
46 motion, that it was on the consent agenda.
47
48 MS. ENTSMINGER: That's right.
49
50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay.

1 MR. MATHEWS: So since you've done that
2 you could ask if anybody wants you to reconsider, but
3 no action would be needed if no one asks you to
4 reconsider.

5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yep. So that's
7 basically what I wanted to do was give folks one last
8 chance and since nobody's saying anything then it's a
9 done deal.

10
11 MR. SMITH: The muskrats are going to
12 get it.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Let's move on then,
17 what, wildlife issues.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
20 Remember, these agendas are created months in advance
21 so your next one is wildlife issues kind of in general.
22 It can be a joint presentation if you would love to
23 have an overview of the Alaska Board of Game, I think
24 that's already been covered by Staff but that's your
25 option now if you would like to have an overview of
26 what the Board of Game did last week.

27
28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So these are no
29 longer pending proposals, these are actions that have
30 already been taken and so we would just be getting an
31 update on actions that have already taken and would
32 this be -- who would be giving this report?

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it could be the
35 State, and, again, the reason pending was in there is
36 you guys were going to meet before the Board of Game
37 and the Board of Game has met.

38
39 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So is the Council
40 interested in hearing an update on all the actions that
41 are going to impact the Eastern Interior.

42
43 (Council members nodding affirmatively)

44
45 (Council members shake head negatively)

46
47 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I see a couple heads
48 nodding yes and a one or two nodding no, okay, we'll go
49 ahead and do it then. So would that be you, Roy, or
50 would that be who -- who's prepared to do this?

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. In respect
2 to Mr. Nowlin, that's a huge task, so I think the
3 Council may want to narrow that down a little bit
4 because.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: You can do it Vince.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: I already quoted the
11 recommendations as Board actions so I'm not trying to
12 interfere with the State, I just know that over a week
13 long meeting last week and then to try to summarize all
14 that the Board of Game did for your units of 12, 20 and
15 25, it's up there, it's a pretty major task, but maybe
16 they can do it.

17
18 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, why don't we
19 --instead of we ask for everything that's been changed,
20 if there are any really big changes that we're going to
21 have a lot of -- that we may have some grief over or
22 some concerns over it, if there was one day added to a
23 hunting season we're probably not too interested in
24 that but it doesn't look like Roy's even prepared to do
25 this and it might be kind of overwhelming to ask him.

26
27 Are you prepared to do something like
28 that?

29
30 MR. NOWLIN: (Shakes head negatively)

31
32 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No. So let's strike
33 this thing from the agenda, it's gone. Let's move on.

34
35 It's a great idea but if we don't have
36 anybody prepared to talk about it I'm not going to sit
37 here and waste 15 minutes trying to find someone to
38 talk about it.

39
40 So what's the next one, Vince.
41 Organization.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Well, remember we
44 experimented with this agenda which somewhat worked, is
45 that organizations could move their topic up earlier,
46 that possibly could be struck because you're getting
47 real close to agency reports anyway.

48
49 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, it's stricken
50 unless a Council member has a concern with me striking

1 it.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Nope. Let's move to
6 fisheries then.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I believe,
9 I'm not sure, Polly -- Polly will do that and then
10 we'll need to break a little bit to allow Kimberly to
11 figure out how to do her PowerPoint presentation that
12 Kim has. After Polly we will need a break.

13

14 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: How long will you
15 take, Polly.

16

17 DR. WHEELER: About 30 seconds.

18

19 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Oh, well.....

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN FLEENER:you go right
24 ahead then the floor is yours.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: You can have 40
29 seconds.

30

31 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
32 Council members. Tina's handing out the annual project
33 performance report to the Regional Advisory Councils on
34 all the projects that have been funded by the Fisheries
35 Information Services through the Fisheries Resources
36 Monitoring Program.

37

38 If you remember, and, again, those of
39 you that are new, you don't remember because you
40 haven't experienced this, but at the fall meetings we
41 will go through the projects that are being recommended
42 for funding for 2007. The Technical Review Committee
43 met last week and reviewed the Yukon proposals. The
44 initial proposals, and then made their recommendations
45 for which are going to be forwarded for an
46 investigation plan. So at your fall meeting we'll have
47 that discussion.

48

49 This handout is a summary of all the
50 projects that have been funded by the program to-date

1 in the Yukon River region. It's got a list of the
2 completed projects and then an update of the ongoing
3 projects, and rather than go through each one I figured
4 we could just give you the handout, you can look
5 through it, if you have questions at any point in time,
6 my phone number and Cliff Schleusner's phone number is
7 on the front page, the 800 number no less so you can
8 call at cost to you, and we would be happy to answer
9 your questions.

10
11 But it just kind of gives you an update
12 of the ongoing projects.

13
14 And also I would remind you that if
15 there's any project reports, any reports that you see
16 on this list of completed projects that you'd be
17 interested in, let me know and I can get you a copy.
18 We do have things on the web site but I recognize that
19 sometimes the cost of getting on the web site,
20 especially if you have dial up and downloading these
21 things, because they can be kind of lengthy, so I'm
22 happy to make copy of any of these reports, if you're
23 interested and get them to you.

24
25 So that's really it, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Polly.
28 Any questions for Polly.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All right, thank you
33 very much. Kim.

34
35 MS. ELKIN: Well, to make it easier, I
36 can go ahead and.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Come on up to the
39 microphone, then, you could do anything you want.

40
41 MS. ELKIN: All right. For those of
42 you who don't know me, I'm Kim Elkin, I work with
43 Tanana Chiefs Conference. I was going to give you a
44 nice presentation with lots of pictures but I can
45 basically tell you what we've been doing with our
46 program.

47
48 Since 2002 we have hired and trained
49 over 70 people from the TCC region and currently we
50 have one biologist, which is myself, one director, Mike

1 Smith back there and he can jump in and say anything
2 any time he wants as well. And we also have two
3 interns this summer and we hire up to six seasonal
4 technicians to work on projects.
5

6 Currently we have four fishery
7 projects. One, of which is the Kanuti whitefish radio
8 telemetry project. We've been working with Randi Brown
9 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on that one. And
10 our main job in that was to insert radio transmitters
11 into the whitefish and Randi has been flying aerial
12 surveys on that project and that will continue through
13 2007 and it will wrap up, I think the report is due May
14 of 2007.
15

16 In 2004 we tagged humpback, broad and
17 least ciscos and in 2005 we tagged humpback, broad
18 whitefish and that was in the SouthFork Koyukuk and
19 then in 2004 that was in Kanuti Lakes. And basically
20 the objectives of this study are to identify whitefish
21 spawning habitats, overwintering habitats and feeding
22 habitats as well.
23

24 One of our other projects we have is a
25 floating board resistance weir on Henshaw Creek. This
26 is a cooperative project with U.S. Fish and Wildlife
27 Service, and we contracted out with the Allakaket
28 Traditional Council and hired six technicians, which we
29 rotated them every two weeks to work on the weir in
30 2005.
31

32 The basic objectives of this study are
33 to determine daily escapement and run timing of adult
34 salmon, to gather age, sex, and size composition of
35 adult salmon and to monitor non-salmon species
36 migration.
37

38 2005 escapement, these are interpolated
39 counts because there was seven days that we were unable
40 to count due to high water. 237,481 summer chum salmon
41 migrated up Henshaw Creek, and 1,059 chinook salmon,
42 and we also did get about 18 coho, or not coho but pink
43 salmon, so that was interesting.
44

45 And the third project we have is on the
46 Good Pasture River, we have a counting tower there to
47 monitor the chinook salmon escapement in association
48 with the Tech Pogo Mine and Bering Sea Fishermen's
49 Association. We hired Dot Lake technicians to help
50 with the counting tower, there were two from that area.

1 And in 2005 the escapement was 1,035 chinook salmon,
2 and that will be an ongoing project for the life of the
3 mine.

4
5 And then the last one I just wanted to
6 talk a little bit more to you guys about because I
7 know, what, one, two, three of you are from the Yukon
8 Flats area, is our science camp that we held this
9 summer just outside of Fort Yukon.

10
11 The objectives of this camp were to
12 provide a forum for various people to interact such as
13 elders, youth, fish biologists, social scientists and
14 fish managers, and it was also to provide a training
15 for high school students from the Yukon Flats area to
16 get exposed to fisheries science by integrating Western
17 and Traditional knowledge and also to collect
18 biological and anthropological data that could possibly
19 be used in future fish management.

20
21 We had eight students at our camp.
22 They represented Fort Yukon, Circle, Arctic Village and
23 Beaver, and we also had elders from Fort Yukon, Arctic
24 Village and Beaver as well and then we also invited
25 participants from State and Federal agencies as well as
26 the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Staff. And some of
27 our topics included, we did traditional fish trap
28 making, and fish spear making, stream ecology,
29 invertebrates, did a little bit on water quality and
30 fish identification. We also went through traditional
31 fish cutting and had a fish dissection lab with the
32 kids. We did a little bit on pathology and Federal
33 fish management. So there were seven different
34 sessions in all.

35
36 And all of these projects will be
37 continuing this year. And if you guys have any
38 questions you can ask me.

39
40 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Are
41 there any questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No questions, thank
46 you very much.

47
48 MS. ELKIN: All right, thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: .805c results.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this
2 is when I step up to the mic.

3
4 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Step on up.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: It's in your vanilla
9 folder, it's Item No. 3. For the new Council members,
10 I believe I covered this in the training, but it's
11 possible I did not, but basically it's required in
12 ANILCA that the Board reply to you in writing why they
13 rejected a recommendation and then those three criteria
14 come into effect that they can reject it if it wasn't
15 based on substantial evidence; if it's detrimental to
16 subsistence or it does not conform with recognized
17 principles of wildlife conservation.

18
19 The program, since day one has just
20 incorporated a summary of all. So you have that on No.
21 3. I'm not going to go through them all.

22
23 If there's any in there particular as
24 to why you want to know the Board did the action they
25 did we can answer that. You should have received this
26 in the mail, hopefully, and it didn't make your book
27 because of the publication timelines that we're subject
28 to.

29
30 So it's in your court to review it.
31 The advantage of reviewing it is you may see a
32 potential proposal you want to submit to the Federal
33 Subsistence Board this round on fisheries.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Vince.
38 Are there any questions for Vince.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Why don't we take a
43 few seconds to look this over, it looks like people are
44 reading it so we'll do that.

45
46 (Pause)

47
48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. The reason
49 that I wanted to give everybody extra time to read
50 this, and I think we've done this in the past as well,

1 is if the Federal Subsistence Board rejects something
2 that we've wanted them to pass we've actually passed
3 them again and you can take some sort of action like
4 that if you wanted to. I just wanted to give you a
5 chance to read it, think about it and if you don't want
6 to do anything, then that's fine, and we can move on.

7
8 But since we own the microphones --
9 well, actually she owns them, but since we're borrowing
10 them we could do whatever we want don't forget.

11
12 MS. ENTSMINGER: I have a question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Sue.

15
16 MS. ENTSMINGER: I have a question, on
17 Proposal 06-02, it states the Board action was -- it
18 says adopt with modification, the modification is
19 similar to the recommendations of Eastern Interior and
20 so on, it isn't clear to me what they adopted. Was it
21 just those two communities or did they add Slana to the
22 ones that we requested, Slana and Gakona, I believe.

23
24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vince.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Are you asking then,
27 because it was hard to hear because of the plane in the
28 background what the actual modification was that the
29 Board adopted?

30
31 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: I'm going to have to lean
34 on other Staff, I do not have all my records on what
35 the Board did on Proposal 02, on the customary and
36 traditional use determination for the residents of
37 Chistochina for freshwater fish. There may be others
38 in the room, and it's not a big deal, I mean it's in my
39 office, I can get it, I just don't have it right at my
40 fingertips.

41
42 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, Vince, if
43 you'd take a look at the bottom of Page 2, it has -- if
44 you're talking FP06-02, Board Action, Adopt with
45 Modification. Modification is similar to the
46 recommendations of Eastern Interior, then it goes on to
47 say and Western Interior, except to exclude Federal
48 public water. So is that not clear enough, you're
49 wondering how similar it is to ours?

50

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: Right.
2
3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay.
4
5 MS. ENTSMINGER: Because we had added a
6 community.
7
8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Maybe the
9 justification on the next page would.....
10
11 MS. ENTSMINGER: It doesn't say.
12
13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: It doesn't say.
14
15 MS. ENTSMINGER: No.
16
17 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vince.
18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, we
20 can find out that information. Some of the Staff are
21 going through their memory banks and feel that, and
22 they can correct me if I'm wrong, is that the only
23 difference would have been that exclusion of waters
24 within Denali National Park and I can't remember why
25 that was.
26
27 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, it says here,
28 the very last sentence on Page 3, all eight factors are
29 met for making a positive C&T for Mentasta Lake and
30 Chistochina for freshwater fish except for headwaters
31 within Denali Park and Preserve.
32
33 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay.
34
35 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So I mean if all the
36 factors are met they must have agreed with it or else
37 they would have said, the factors are not met, because
38 they can't disagree with something if all the factors
39 are met; is that correct?
40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I mean they -- I
42 mean just like you can do anything you want, I'm
43 sure.....
44
45 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Of course.
46
47 (Laughter)
48
49 MR. MATHEWS:but I'm sure that
50 the Board did go forward with it. What we're stumbling

1 about is the exact details and we can get that but it
2 appears to be, as you have pointed out, that statement
3 tells what the Board did. If you need clarification
4 why except the headwaters of the National Park we could
5 find that out. We have Staff here from the Park and
6 files.

7
8 MS. ENTSMINGER: These two aren't very
9 clear.

10
11 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: She wants to know
12 whether these two communities were included.

13
14 MS. ENTSMINGER: The two not mentioned.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Polly's looking at some
17 information. Again, this is the advantage of having
18 Staff here, while she gets up there, this is also the
19 advantage of having Staff Committee Staff here because
20 they have to struggle through these, too, so you're
21 lucky to have.....

22
23 DR. WHEELER: Well, really it's the
24 advantage of having computers here because non of our
25 brains work that well enough to remember what happened
26 six months ago.

27
28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, we'd like to
29 take advantage of that advantage so go ahead.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 DR. WHEELER: Okay. The Federal
34 Subsistence Board action on Proposal 06-02 was to adopt
35 with modification to include Slana and residents
36 between Mentasta Lake and Chistochina, so it did add
37 Slana, Sue, yeah, that was your concern.

38
39 Thanks.

40
41 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Polly.

42
43 DR. WHEELER: Thank Steve.

44
45 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thanks Steve.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thanks everybody.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thanks Mike.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I think
6 this points out, which I will carry through back to
7 Staff, that we need to follow the same pattern that we
8 do with your recommendations, that when I have to write
9 up your recommendations, I have to explain what the
10 modification is, not say modification from Staff
11 because Staff don't exist anymore when it hits the
12 Board level as far as their modification.

13

14 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: So I will carry that
17 forward that somehow or another we get in there really
18 clearly what the Board did.

19

20 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thanks, Vince.

21 Gerald.

22

23 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I'm getting pretty
24 fed up with this system where we try to use it to
25 protect the genetic integrity of the Yukon king salmon,
26 and they say a 40 pound fish is big. Heck when I was a
27 kid that was just a medium size fish. And we're just
28 -- this Proposal 4 right here or whatever, that got
29 shot down to restrictive measure -- what does it take
30 to make the Federal Subsistence Board, the higher ups,
31 Tom Boyd, Pete Probasco and the State Department that
32 the genetic integrity of the Yukon king salmon is
33 diminishing. It's happened right before my eyes. I've
34 been living on that river 40 year plus and I could see
35 it. I mean can, what, what do you slap them up on the
36 head with a fish or what, it's getting ridiculous, man.

37

38

39 We rely heavily on that fish. I know
40 it's diminished. I can see it, man, I've been there 40
41 plus years. There's elders there that count jacks now
42 as big fish. And, man, what else could we do. And to
43 keep putting in proposals year after year
44 and only have them shot down is like a slap in the face
45 to me. If we can't use this system to protect the
46 genetic integrity of those fish, man, what else can we
47 do?

48

49 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Virgil.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, I'm going to add
2 to what Gerald's talking about.

3
4 I bought, over by where Gerald lives,
5 between there and the bridge, I looked it up, or my
6 wife looked it up the other day, but I bought 1,430
7 king salmon in District 5, which is between Tanana and
8 the bridge, and out of 1,430 king salmon about half
9 were caught with fishwheels and about half were caught
10 with gillnets, there was one that weighed 40 pounds and
11 one that weighed 41 pounds, that's out of 1,430, and
12 there was only 10 that weighed 30 pounds or more,
13 that's including the two, the one that weighed 40
14 pounds and the one that weighed 41 pounds.

15
16 The average weight of the fish,
17 counting all of them, because what we did and I think I
18 explained this at the meeting in Tanana, but Stan Zuray
19 had the kids camp, high school kid's camp going and
20 it's kids that have been to that camp with him a couple
21 of times and what we did is because the Department
22 never weighs the fish when they sample them, they just
23 measure how long they are from the middle of the eye to
24 the fork of the tail in millimeters or centimeters and
25 pull a couple scales off so they can age it. But what
26 we did was Stan -- and then they sex them as well. But
27 what we did is Stan actually split the fish open a
28 little bit enough to see for sure whether it was male
29 or a female and then we weighed them on calibrated, by
30 the State weights and measures, Department scales,
31 electronic scales and then we correlated length,
32 measured the exact same way and the science teacher
33 from Huslia was also there as one of the people
34 helping, and we weighed that fish but we didn't take
35 scales to age them, but they were sexed, measured for
36 length and weighed. And so what the Department -- this
37 is -- I was kind of thinking about this this morning,
38 any time the Department gives a report on the size and
39 age of king salmon, especially when they have all these
40 teleconferences in the summer time, they give the age
41 classes and the size of king salmon from fish caught in
42 the large mesh gillnets in the test fishery and the
43 commercial fishery and they do not include the king
44 salmon and this is an age composition, they'll say, oh,
45 it's 50 percent six year olds or whatever it is and 50
46 percent males or whatever it is, but they don't include
47 the king salmon that are caught in the six inch mesh
48 gillnets in their test fishery for some reason.

49
50 And so what we're getting is misleading

1 information. The State Board of Fisheries gets
2 misleading information, we get misleading information,
3 the whole public gets misleading information because
4 it's only information, they don't say, but these fish
5 are caught in eight and a quarter inch mesh gillnets,
6 they don't say that, they say the age composition of
7 the Yukon River king salmon for the year is four year
8 olds, one and a half percent or something like that, or
9 it's always less than two percent, and then they'll go
10 to five year olds and say whatever percent they got and
11 then six year olds, whatever percent they got and then
12 when they define the difference between a large king
13 salmon and a small king salmon it's a 655 millimeter
14 king salmon which is 25.76 inches from the center of
15 the eyeball to the fork of the tail. If it's larger
16 than 655 millimeters they call that a large king
17 salmon.

18
19 Well, the reason why we weighed all
20 these king salmon because it also says in their notes
21 on their test fishery data from their various projects
22 such as the fishwheel in Nenana that any fish over 655
23 millimeters is considered a large king salmon and
24 weighs 14 pounds or more, well, I knew it didn't weigh
25 14 pounds or more and I've been arguing about this for
26 years and how did they ever come up with this, it's
27 ridiculous. And so we weighed, Stan Zuray and I and
28 that school teacher from Huslia and his four high
29 school kids that are at his camp there, and we weighed
30 them, they average around seven pounds, that's all they
31 are, 655 millimeter king salmon is seven pounds, it's
32 not 14 pounds, it's half that in weight.

33
34 But Dr. Kosan, when he did the
35 ichthyophonous study he weighed the fish as well as
36 measured the length of them and sexed them and so he's
37 getting us that information.

38
39 But Gerald and I are both super
40 frustrated because the genetic integrity of the king
41 salmon on the Yukon River is going away, almost all
42 king salmon stocks, almost every place they've been
43 exploited commercially and that is the eight year olds
44 are now extirpated. The former Director of Commercial
45 Fisheries Division admits that, admitted that to me and
46 Mike Tinker, the Chair of the Fairbanks AC, he's now
47 head of National Marine Fisheries Services for the
48 State though, out at Juneau.

49
50 And the seven year olds, if you look at

1 the Gisasa weir and we asked for the study and Gerald
2 mentioned it earlier in the meeting of what's happened
3 to the age classes on the Yukon River, and so we have
4 this report that Cliff Schleusner and some other people
5 did on the age, sex and length of chinook salmon in the
6 Yukon River, but it's a totally flawed report, and it's
7 not Cliff's fault that it's flawed, it's the data that
8 he was forced to use that's flawed. The data from the
9 Canadian stocks is back in the '80s so the newest data
10 he's got is, I think 16, 17, 18 years old and the
11 oldest is over 20 years old, that's comparing the king
12 salmon that travel the furthest up the river, super old
13 data. Then they used the data on the Salcha and the
14 Chena River from the carcass counts, which is the fish
15 that get hung up on gravel bars and stuff and they go
16 measure how long they are and take samples and see how
17 old they are. Well, that's flawed data as well because
18 the small fish all float down the river, or the
19 majority of them are going to float down the river or
20 foxes can haul them off, seagulls can haul them off and
21 everything else. And then they totally ignore the best
22 data of all which is the Tozitna River weir because
23 they say that project hasn't ran long enough.

24
25 Well, the Tozitna River weir is the
26 only project we've got that really tells stuff.

27
28 And the Department always wants to
29 point to the Andreafsky River weir, a stock that is not
30 targeted commercially, the commercial buyers do not
31 want to buy any Andreafsky River king salmon and the
32 fishery even for subsistence is closed on the mainstem
33 Yukon directly below the confluence of the Andreafsky
34 River because they don't want those fish. It's like
35 going and catching one in the backyard of this place
36 catching one in the Andreafsky River, the one there
37 isn't going to be any better to eat as one caught right
38 in front of this hotel we're sitting in because they're
39 short run fish.

40
41 And so I'm really frustrated over this
42 and so I've thought of a number of proposals that we
43 can propose and the Fairbanks Advisory Committee is
44 going to propose a whole bunch of them and so when we
45 get time to -- and that is to the State Board of
46 Fisheries and that we should submit them all to the
47 Federal Subsistence Board, including this one over
48 again, and try to get all the back up data we can to go
49 in with them so that means I'll have to work with Vince
50 to get some of this stuff gathered up but I've been

1 going through some of my old Board of Fish paperwork
2 and I found the study done on the Taku River that says
3 that these eight and a quarter mesh nets, if you use
4 them and, of course, this was on the Taku River chinook
5 salmon, but they're chinook salmon, that if you use an
6 eight and a quarter inch mesh net 99 percent of the
7 female fish are susceptible to harvest but only 16.7
8 percent of the males and that's what's happening to the
9 Yukon River. If you look at the Tozitna River weir,
10 and all these five year old fish State Fish and Game
11 likes to claim the five year old fish is a big adult
12 fish, hell if it is, the five year old fish is only --
13 all the five year old fish are going to be less than 10
14 pounds.

15
16 They're small fish. They're these damn
17 jacks about this long is what they are, that's a five
18 year old fish.

19
20 And so I'm really -- we're going to
21 really just have to keep the pressure up on both the
22 State Board and the Federal Subsistence Board to
23 protect the integrity of the Yukon River king salmon
24 because I damn sure don't want them to be like the
25 Columbia River, of course, those are mostly all fake
26 fish anyway, but the average king salmon down there now
27 is 12 pounds and it's because of selectivity of
28 gillnets and change in the genetics of the king salmon.

29
30 I think I've beat on this subject
31 enough, we can address it later in the agenda when we
32 go to do proposals for both Boards.

33
34 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Virgil.
37 And I don't think you've beat on this subject enough
38 and I know people out in the audience might get tired
39 of hearing about it but I never get tired of hearing
40 about it and I almost think that our efforts here,
41 submitting regulatory proposal changes is just about
42 useless.

43
44 I think we need to take it the next
45 step, and I don't know what that next step is but I
46 think that ANILCA basically requires that, not just
47 regulatory changes to meet our needs, but actually
48 other changes to meet our needs. There's a mandate for
49 the Federal government, not just to provide a
50 subsistence priority but as I've told people in the

1 past, if you give us a priority over nothing that
2 priority's useless, so we need a priority over
3 something. And so I think we need to take it to the
4 next level, whatever that level is, I don't know and
5 maybe Vince or some other Federal Staff can help us
6 with a good reading of the right sections in ANILCA.
7 But I think we need to, you know, push this a little
8 bit harder.

9
10 And if the Federal Subsistence Board is
11 only capable of making regulatory changes then we need
12 to go higher or further or broader, but we need to do
13 something. Because we've tried this, how many years
14 now, Gerald, at least the 10 we've been on, we've been
15 trying to do something.

16
17 I've gone down, Gerald's gone down,
18 Virgil's gone down to the folks in the lower Yukon, and
19 a lot of other people have as well, and have pled our
20 case and said we need to do something to protect these
21 stocks and it's not being done so we need to do
22 something, we need to do something more.

23
24 Is it true, Vince, is the Federal
25 Subsistence Board basically limited to regulatory
26 changes or can they do more or anybody else that knows?

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you touched on this
29 topic yesterday also and I can give you the response
30 that I'm aware of, that we manage the uses.

31
32 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So what does that
33 really mean?

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Well, just what I said,
36 you manage the uses of it, not the actual resource
37 itself. And, again, someone else can get up to the mic
38 on this, but then that would go to the land managing
39 agencies, and I'm not trying to couple this with
40 predator control, but the Board is there to manage the
41 uses of subsistence. What you're saying is, is in
42 ANILCA is there something else there, and my limited
43 knowledge of ANILCA is it would be in your annual
44 report, the annual report requires -- doesn't require,
45 suggests that you can have in there what are the
46 current subsistence needs, are they being met, are the
47 current -- what are the current uses, are they
48 adequate, and there's other wording that I'd have
49 to.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, let me
2 interrupt for a second, Vince, I'm sorry to be rude.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: That's okay.

5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: But the annual
7 report thing, in my opinion, is just about useless.
8 We've gotten no positive responses in the decade I've
9 been involved with sending stuff in the annual report.

10
11 We've complained for years about
12 everything, anything, and I don't believe we've ever
13 gotten a positive response. I don't think that the
14 annual report has come back and said, oh, you're right,
15 yeah, we should have thought of that, but it hasn't.
16 So we need to do something -- I mean we can put it in
17 the annual report, and by golly we should and maybe we
18 should say right now we want to put it in the annual
19 report, but we've put things in the annual report
20 including fish problems and have gotten nothing in
21 return.

22
23 And we need to do something and we need
24 to take action now and so what I'm going to ask is
25 maybe some folks, after we take our break for lunch,
26 maybe we get together and take a look at the law and
27 see what other avenues of approach we have and so if
28 there's two or three Federal Staff, if you don't mind
29 getting in trouble helping me look for something in the
30 law, I know your boss will probably put the hammer on
31 you later on but just blame it on Fleener.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So we need to take a
36 look at the law and see what we can do.

37
38 You know, this isn't about -- it isn't
39 about doing something crazy and stupid and whacked out,
40 this is about trying to make sure that there's enough
41 salmon for tomorrow, and it's about making sure we're
42 getting enough to the spawning grounds, which we're
43 not, and it's about meeting that need, and the need is
44 the subsistence priority. A priority over nothing is
45 no priority at all, and so we need to do something, and
46 I think we need to take action now, because if we don't
47 it isn't going to matter much in the future, and we're
48 on the very verge of being exactly what Virgil said,
49 just like Columbia River or many of the other salmon
50 streams around the world that have been overharvested

1 and now they think that a 10 pound fish is a big fish.

2

3 So we don't need to be at that point.

4

5 And, you know, even the people with the
6 State understand that this is a problem, they're just
7 not doing anything.

8

9 The guy that called me up about the
10 salmon I caught, I told him there was a few more salmon
11 this year it seemed like, but they were all small,
12 every single one of them that we caught were small and
13 he said, you know, every person I've talked to on the
14 river has said that but, you know, that doesn't matter.
15 They can talk to every person on the river and it's not
16 going to make a change until they're, what, two pounds.
17 You know maybe nothing will ever be done.

18

19 So I've probably talked about it too
20 much but we need to do something.

21

22 And, anyways, are we done taking a look
23 at the .805 letter. Does anyone else have any
24 comments.

25

26 MR. NICHOLIA: When are they going to
27 realize that selective fisheries, of fishing for big
28 fish at the mouth has impacted Yukon River king salmon;
29 when are they going to realize that?

30

31 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: You would hope they
32 would realize it. I mean the State and Federal
33 government have both realized that targeting large
34 moose actually genetically selects for smaller moose
35 and they've made restrictions around the state and
36 that's a much smaller population of animals and they
37 recognize it there, so I don't know why they don't
38 recognize it that using large mesh gillnet is targeting
39 large salmon, or maybe they recognize it and they're
40 just not doing anything about it.

41

42 I don't know.

43

44 But it would be a common sense thing.
45 I think the problem is, as the problem always is with
46 fish, you can't see it, they're under the water,
47 they're in the water, and the folks down at the mouth
48 of the river have a lot of power and they get access to
49 every single fish that comes in and their word is just
50 a whole lot stronger than ours and their word is, oh,

1 there's plenty of fish, there's nothing to worry about.
2 But when you get about halfway up the river and more
3 than half of the fish have peeled off to their various
4 spawning grounds and the river starts flattening and
5 widening, then you really start seeing the problems.

6
7 Any other discussions on the .805
8 letter.

9
10 MR. NICHOLIA: No.

11
12 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, well, I think
13 the .805 letter is a dead issue yet, we'll talk about
14 that more later but we'll move on.

15
16 We can either go to lunch now, Vince,
17 or we can take up this letter C, how long do you think
18 that will take?

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. When it
21 was done in Koyukuk it took about 25 minutes but we're
22 in Fairbanks and you've already laid the ground work of
23 concerns about fisheries so it may take longer.

24
25 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah, let's go ahead
26 and take an hour and 15 minute break for lunch.

27
28 (Off record)

29
30 (On record)

31
32 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All right. Let's
33 get this show on the road.

34
35 (Pause)

36
37 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vince, what are we
38 on, Letter D -- oh, no, we didn't do.....

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we're on Letter
41 D.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS:no, we're not, we're
46 on Letter C as in Charley.

47
48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah, we're on C.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Yukon-Charley. It was

1 going to be Yukon River initial discussions concerning
2 2006, salmon outlook and there is various Staff here to
3 assist with that.

4
5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So we're on letter C
6 for Chuathbaluk. All right, good. Don't you wish the
7 table was a little closer.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MR. WISWAR: Do you want me to get
12 started?

13
14 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yes, please.

15
16 MR. WISWAR: Okay, thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thanks, David.

19
20 MR. WISWAR: First of all, good
21 afternoon. My name is David Wiswar, and I'm with the
22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Fairbanks Fishery
23 -- what do we call ourselves now, Fish and Wildlife --
24 Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office.

25
26 And on my side here is Bill Buchar, and
27 Bill is with the alaska Department of Fish and Game and
28 he's an assistant manager.

29
30 MR. BUCHOR: Yes, I'm the assistant
31 fall season manager for the Yukon area and the project
32 leader for the Yukon area subsistence salmon monitoring
33 program on the Yukon.

34
35 MR. WISWAR: Okay, earlier this morning
36 I handed out these and I believe you should all have
37 one, it's the one that says 2006 Yukon River Salmon
38 Season Outlook, it's got the Department of Interior
39 buffalo on the left side and the Fish and Wildlife
40 Service emblem with a duck and a fish on the right
41 side. I have additional copies and if anybody else
42 misplaced theirs and would like one now, sure.

43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Tina, you got an extra
45 of those.

46
47 MR. WISWAR: Sure.

48
49 REPORTER: Here you go.

50

1 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Here you go, I've
2 got two.

3
4 MR. WISWAR: Okay. I'm here today
5 representing the Federal in-season Subsistence
6 Management Program. The handout which was passed out
7 provides additional salmon outlook information for your
8 reference beyond the summarized I am providing here.

9
10 Similar to the last five years a joint
11 information sheet reviewing the 2005 fishery and
12 discussing the 2006 outlook will be published and
13 distributed this coming May. So what you have here is
14 kind of a draft or a preliminary. The 2006 salmon
15 outlook has been summarized from information authored
16 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game managers.
17 The Department is anticipating a below average to
18 average return of chinook salmon, an average to above
19 average return of summer chum and fall chum salmon, and
20 an average to above average return of coho salmon to
21 the Yukon River in 2006.

22
23 Everybody got that.

24
25 (Council nods affirmatively)

26
27 MR. WISWAR: Okay. Both Federal and
28 State Yukon River fishery managers are planning to
29 start the fishing season using the Board of Fisheries
30 windowed subsistence salmon fishing schedule beginning
31 in late May or early June. The returns for all four
32 salmon runs should provide for escapements, normal
33 subsistence harvests and some commercial fishing
34 opportunities. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
35 Commercial management decisions will be based on in-
36 season assessment information and harvest amounts will
37 be dependant on markets.

38
39 Anticipated commercial harvest ranges
40 for each salmon run are 30,000 to 60,000 chinook
41 salmon, 500,000 to 900,000 summer chum salmon, 100,000
42 to 400,000 fall chum salmon, and between 50,000 and
43 70,000 coho salmon.

44
45 Thank you for this opportunity to
46 provide you a brief outlook and I'll try to answer any
47 questions, perhaps between Bill and I we can address
48 them.

49
50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Are

1 there any questions.

2

3 MR. NICHOLIA: I do.

4

5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Go ahead, Gerald.

6

7 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, my one question
8 is, do you think the run will be as good as somewhat,
9 or just comparable to last years?

10

11 MR. WISWAR: That's -- I would say yes.

12

13 MR. BUCHOR: I would say it would be
14 similar anticipated -- which run are you talking about
15 first of all?

16

17 MR. WISWAR: Yeah.

18

19 MR. NICHOLIA: All.

20

21 MR. BUCHOR: Well, I mean the chinook
22 run, summer chum.

23

24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: King salmon.

25

26 MR. BUCHOR: King salmon, yeah,

27 similar.

28

29 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. Go ahead,

30 Virgil.

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. When I was
33 at the YRDFA meeting, the Department stated that what
34 they were planning on doing this year was opening up
35 the commercial fishery at the quarter point, which they
36 haven't done since 2000, are they still anticipating
37 doing that, that's at the quarter point of the run?

38

39 MR. BUCHOR: It's my understanding that
40 they will -- the manager will plan to harvest
41 commercially provided there's enough fish for
42 escapement and subsistence needs in the middle portion
43 of the run, the chinook run. So the quarter point,
44 that was still -- it could be the quarter point or
45 after that, but the manager was still -- it will be
46 dependent upon if the fish were there, it wouldn't be
47 an automatic opening at the quarter point, it would
48 still be based on assessments of the run.

49

50 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, thank you. But

1 what they had done after 2001 is they waited until they
2 figured they were close to the midpoint before they
3 opened the commercial fishery. And my understanding at
4 the YRDFA meeting was that if it appeared that there
5 was enough fish to prosecute a commercial fishery that
6 they were going to start at the quarter point instead
7 of waiting until the midpoint.

8

9 MR. BUCHOR: And, again, correct, if
10 the run was assessed at the quarter point, at that
11 point in time, sufficient for subsistence and
12 escapement needs be met, then, yes, but it would be in
13 the middle portion which would, the range between the
14 quarter and the three quarter point. So I, you know,
15 it can be at the quarter point, I suspect, but it would
16 still be based on what the assessed run is.

17

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

19

20 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Any more
21 questions from the Council.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I wonder if you all
26 are -- not you all, the two of you are aware of any
27 discussions within your agencies sort of in the same
28 regards of what we talked about before lunch with our
29 concerns about the decreasing size in salmon and our
30 concerns that there are fewer large salmon, which
31 probably means fewer female salmon and have you guys
32 had many of those discussions or are we the only ones
33 complaining about that? Are there any discussions
34 within the agencies and if there are, what plans are
35 there to fix those problems if you see it as a problem?

36

37 MR. WISWAR: There were other
38 discussions with us both in-house, sometimes very
39 informal among biologists and it was an item at the JTC
40 meeting, although I wasn't there. There was also a
41 preliminary meeting in November and I think it was
42 brought up at that point, too.

43

44 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And could you share
45 any of the insight as to if there are plans to do
46 something about -- do they agree with us that it's a
47 problem or do they not see it as a problem, and if they
48 do what sort of plans are there? What's the outlook
49 for trying to fix the problem?

50

1 MR. WISWAR: I don't have an answer for
2 that, other than, you know, it has been addressed or at
3 least begun to be addressed with that age, sex and
4 length report that OSM came out with from Ms. Hyer,
5 Karen Hyer, I believe her name is and Cliff Schleusner,
6 so I mean it's a matter of getting a lot of the data
7 together. And as has been pointed out earlier today,
8 there's kind of a discontinuance line in the data, some
9 of it from way back which was brought up, you know, 40
10 years ago, it may not be there to make the comparisons.
11 So you're dealing with data that may be only 10, 15, 20
12 years old, which is only about, with the salmon --
13 chinook salmon, you're only looking at three
14 generations perhaps.

15
16 So it's a difficult, you know, it's a
17 very difficult thing to get a hold on, you know, life
18 cycles, when you have to consider everything else.

19
20 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And what you just
21 said right there, are you saying then that the folks
22 that you're working with at the JTC and back in your
23 agencies are not yet willing to admit that it's a
24 problem because of the shortness of the data set.

25
26 MR. WISWAR: I wouldn't construe my
27 comments to reflect that, no. I think it's recognized
28 as a problem, you know, it's a question of what, you
29 know, what needs to be done to deal with it, including,
30 I think, changes in, perhaps net size or something like
31 that, the same things that have been floating around.
32 It's a matter of how to get a handle on it.

33
34 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Virgil.

35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Are any of the agencies
37 going to do any analysis of any of the ichthyophonous
38 rates or any research pertaining to ichthyophonous and
39 the effects on the spawning population?

40
41 MR. WISWAR: Okay. There's a proposal
42 in -- okay, let's see how can I make this more clear.
43 Through the Federal government there's a fund that
44 addresses fish diseases. One of the things they looked
45 at in the past is burgling disease, that's probably not
46 up here, but it's something that money's gone into in
47 the Lower 48 and there are funds available up here with
48 a proposal that's being considered right now on how to
49 address, you know, how to apply that to ichthyophonous.
50 It's a joint thing with Dr. Kosan and the Fairbanks

1 Fish and Wildlife Field Office. I don't know -- it's
2 an ongoing discussion, I know that, as far as
3 tightening up the investigation plan and where it sits
4 right now I don't know. Many of the people involved in
5 that are at the Yukon River Panel meeting in Whitehorse
6 this week.

7
8
9

MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Back to the talk
11 about the problem with the salmon getting smaller. You
12 say that it's recognized to be a problem, is there --
13 have you started looking at potential solutions? I
14 mean you mentioned gear, mesh size and we tried that
15 and it failed dismally so I'm wondering if you all have
16 looked at some other approaches or if you have
17 recommendations for us because you probably get tired
18 from hearing from us how big of an issue this is, so
19 you know it's important to us, are there
20 recommendations that you all have that we could take to
21 try to help resolve this problem?

22

23 MR. WISWAR: Okay. First of all as a
24 conservationist myself and a biologist, I don't get
25 tired of hearing it.

26

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: That's good.

27
28

29 MR. WISWAR: No, I mean I consider it,
30 I mean for the genetic integrity of our species, you
31 know, all the resource species I consider it very
32 important, however, I don't know where they're going
33 with it. I don't have an answer to give you for that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. And, Bill, I
36 haven't heard from you on this so I wonder if, do you
37 know if your side of the house is in agreement with
38 what you've just heard, does the State recognize this
39 as a problem and, if so, have they got any plans to do
40 anything about it?

41

42 MR. BUCHOR: Well, I believe the State
43 recognizes that there is a problem that people on the
44 river are recognizing a problem and I don't have
45 specific answers to your questions. I can talk to
46 regional Staff and get back to you, and to the Council.

47

48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So I wonder if --
49 since some people recognize that there's a problem, I
50 don't know what a good solution would be, but is there

1 a way that we can, we, meaning the State, the Federal
2 gang and the village folks can -- the village
3 people.....

4

(Laughter)

6

7 CHAIRMAN FLEENER:if there's
8 anyway we can get together to try to come up with a
9 solution? I mean can we have a side meeting, a forum,
10 something where we can come together and talk about
11 this, because, you know, once you lose genetic
12 diversity it's awfully hard to get it back. You guys
13 know that better than I do. But if we keep managing
14 our fish populations and continue to generate smaller
15 salmon it's not going to look good for large salmon in
16 the long run.

17

18 You know, the State of Alaska, this is
19 just a side note, but it's a similar issue, that State
20 of Alaska called me up on the phone, some wildlife
21 biologists because I frequently complain about the low
22 moose population and they said, well, we have lots of
23 problem moose around Anchorage on railroad tracks and
24 in Anchorage, how about if we ship up about 500 of
25 them, and I got to looking at the data and found out
26 that these things were genetic -- well, I don't know if
27 you want to use the word, inferior, I'll use it though
28 because that's the kind of guy I am.

29

(Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: But they're
33 genetically smaller, they're a lot smaller really,
34 physically, smaller antlers, smaller body size and so I
35 told the guys, no, we don't want those animals, because
36 they're inferior to the ones we have and why should we,
37 you know, have a negative impact genetically on what we
38 already have. It's a great idea but we don't want to
39 fool with the natural genetics that are already out
40 there. And so the State sees that, you know, that
41 there are issues with genetics and -- well, everybody
42 does, so I'm wondering is there a need for it, should
43 we pull together some sort of a meeting and try to
44 resolve this issue; what do you guys think, and will it
45 be helpful?

46

47 MR. WISWAR: Yes. But, you know, I
48 can't recommend that avenue at this point. You know, I
49 think you need to talk with some of the, you know, in a
50 side session and talk with some of the managers and see

1 where they want to go with it and where to take it
2 because you're dealing with the regulatory process as
3 well.

4
5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And what do you
6 think, Bill, would you -- if we were to have a meeting
7 and we invited you, would you come?

8
9 MR. BUCHOR: I would come, but I would
10 concur, too, that I would talk to regional Staff for
11 the Council.

12
13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So who do you guys
14 mean, I should talk to who?

15
16 MR. WISWAR: For our shop I would start
17 with Russ Holder.

18
19 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay.

20
21 MR. WISWAR: He's the in-season
22 manager.

23
24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And that's also who
25 you were also referring to or are you talking
26 about.....

27
28 MR. BUCHOR: No, I'm referring to Dan
29 Bergstrom.

30
31 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. And what
32 would I be asking them, is this a good idea to have a
33 meeting, or is it a dumb idea to have a meeting or what
34 would I ask him?

35
36 MR. WISWAR: Just what you said.

37
38 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay.

39
40 MR. WISWAR: Yeah.

41
42 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And I'm really not
43 going to ask him if we should have a meeting, I think
44 we should have one, it's just a matter of how to
45 properly format it, because I don't think there's
46 anybody that has shown us, maybe Virgil knows, he's a
47 lot more fish -- and Gerald, maybe they know, they're a
48 lot more fish-oriented than I am, but I don't think
49 anybody's presented us with any evidence, of course, we
50 haven't asked for any that we're starting to get larger

1 salmon and more salmon and that everything is cool.

2

3 So I think we're getting smaller
4 salmon, we're getting fewer salmon, we're getting
5 lighter salmon, and there are other issues, so I think
6 that it would be a good idea to have a meeting. So I
7 know that's not what you guys came to talk about but I
8 wanted to get your impressions because your impressions
9 are important to me.

10

11 So are there any more questions for
12 these fellows.

13

14 MR. NICHOLIA: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Gerald.

17

18 MR. NICHOLIA: You know, you could have
19 all the meetings you want between the Fed, State
20 agencies and us but what it's going to take, is it's
21 going to take action. It's going to take action to
22 restrict -- I hate to say this, but to be restrictive.
23 It's probably going to end up down river against up
24 river again, but they're starting to realize that too,
25 down in the YK, the people I talk to, they're starting
26 to realize the difference in the size and the weight of
27 the salmon.

28

29 I'd like to see action. I wouldn't mind
30 meetings, but I'd like to see action, we've been
31 talking about this for the last 10 years, you know,
32 these agencies really have to take to heart what these
33 elders that are still around, they have to go out and
34 listen to the traditional and ecological knowledge
35 because they're the ones that know, they're the ones
36 that visualize, they're the ones that have been there
37 over 50 years. And you've got to go out there and get
38 that information before it's too late because there's a
39 lot of people passing away in Tanana that knows all
40 about that, that tells me, they rag on me, so it just
41 goes back to ragging on you.

42

43 You know I get tired of this and these
44 meetings, but what it's going to take is it's going to
45 take direct action on the fisheries on the people, on
46 the folks out there fishing, and it's going to come
47 hard, man, to compromise it now any further I think
48 we're going to lose the genetic integrity of the king
49 salmon because it's happening before my eyes.

50

1 MR. WISWAR: Well, wasn't that -- are
2 you restricting net sizes, an intent to do that?

3
4 MR. NICHOLIA: I don't think it would
5 take that, like what you said, the quarter points at
6 the YRDFA meeting, midway points, it's going to take
7 some drastic action that's going to piss a lot of
8 people off I'd say.

9
10 MR. WISWAR: Exactly. And it goes to
11 the regulatory process which goes through, you know,
12 people passing proposals and if they don't get passed
13 they don't go anywhere.

14
15 MR. NICHOLIA: But in my eyes and the
16 way the elders tell me it's almost too irreversible
17 right now because they don't see no more big eight year
18 olds or seven year olds, they're almost gone. And to
19 call a 40 pound fish now days a big fish is just --
20 it's just, I don't know, in my eyes it's almost too
21 late to do something now, but to have meetings is good
22 but to take action now would be the deal and it will
23 have to come from your guys' bosses to come down to
24 your level to say that action needs to be done before
25 it's too late, and I believe it's almost too late to do
26 anything because we identified this 10 years ago. And
27 our elders are telling us to do something, telling me
28 and all I can do is sit here and tell you but action
29 needs to be done.

30
31 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thanks, Gerald. And
32 I think Gerald made a couple of really good points.
33 One of the points is we have gone through the
34 regulatory process year in and year out to try to get
35 changes made and they're not adopted.

36
37 Typically they're not adopted because
38 they're not supported by the State, they're not
39 supported by the Staff, and they're not supported by
40 other advisory committees, yet, I continue to hear
41 there's a problem with the salmon population. And so
42 what it's telling me is people aren't willing to try
43 new things. I mean a gillnet mesh restriction is -- to
44 me it makes a lot of sense to give something like that
45 a try. You know, I recommended a moratorium on all
46 fishing down at the mouth, that didn't slide too well
47 either. But we've tried to do things the regulatory
48 way and we'll continue to do that, I mean that's what
49 this Council is here for, but the State hasn't agreed
50 almost in every case with fisheries proposals we've

1 submitted that would try to answer some of these
2 problems, and the Federal government hasn't supported
3 them, the Staff Committee hasn't supported them and of
4 course the Regional Advisory Committee's who they will
5 affect at the mouth of the river have always opposed
6 any kind of limitation on their harvest. And at
7 meetings that I've gone to down at the mouth of the
8 river, they said that they don't feel like there should
9 be any restrictions on their fishing whatsoever and so,
10 you know, this Council here sees a lot fewer fish than
11 they do and we actually made statements in the past
12 that we would be willing to restrict our own harvest in
13 order to get more to the spawning grounds and to have
14 more fish available. But the folks at the mouth who
15 have access to every single salmon are just being far
16 too greedy and they want everything that comes up the
17 river and something needs to be done about it because
18 that kind of greed is only going to cause the salmon
19 stocks to continue to decline.

20

21 Any more questions for these guys, or
22 comments, if not we could probably let them step down.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. David.

27

28 MR. WISWAR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 MR. BUCHOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31 Council.

32

33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you very much,
34 appreciate it.

35

36 Vince.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That
39 brings us up to the segment, call for fisheries
40 proposals. There's several ways to deal with that.
41 People bring up ideas and we can get Staff to help
42 flesh them out or bring up ideas, or actually proposals
43 and then we work with the mover of the motion, with the
44 approval of the Chair on the final language, or you can
45 try wordsmithing by Council but it takes quite a bit of
46 time.

47

48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: We won't be doing
49 that.

50

1 Virgil.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: What I did at lunch, my
4 copy machine fouled up on me and I didn't get to make
5 all the copies I wanted, but I went over and I dug up
6 this old report, annual performance report for a study
7 of chinook salmon in Southeast Alaska done by Sportfish
8 Division in 1975. And so I made a copies of the
9 important pages -- well, here you can hand those down.

10

11 MR. GLANZ: Thanks.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: And then I've got some
14 for the Staff, I made some extra copies. And I only --
15 because the copy machine messed up, I only made four
16 cover sheets, so I'll hand a couple of them down so you
17 can see what it says.

18

19 And the important part of this thing is
20 found on Page 11, which I made a copy of, findings 1975
21 driftnet gillnet mesh study.

22

23 Gillnet mesh studies were conducted in
24 the Taku Inlet gillnet fishery during 1975 to attempt
25 to harvest the various size and age classes of maturing
26 chinook salmon in proportion to their abundance. The
27 eight inch and larger mesh gillnets which have been
28 fished during king season for the last 80 years are
29 highly selective to chinook from 669 to 900 millimeter
30 mid-eye to fork length. This subjects nearly 99
31 percent of the female Taku chinook population to the
32 gillnet fishery but only about 16.6 percent of the
33 males. The harvest of the large numbers of female
34 chinook from this declining stock is unacceptable and
35 studies indicate the chinook that mature at a younger
36 age have a tendency to pass the trait to their progeny.

37

38 Therefore, by annually allowing the
39 escapement of large numbers of these small males, the
40 age, size and reproductive potential of the run will
41 decrease.

42

43 During 1975 over 75 percent of
44 escapement into the Nakina River were one and two ocean
45 precocious males. For the people that are not
46 scientists, that means horny teenagers.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MR. UMPHENOUR: In other years, between

1 48.1 percent and 73.8 percent of the escapement have
2 been precocious males.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm going to flip over
7 to -- well, I'm not going to waste everyone's time on
8 this thing. What happened here, as you can see, the
9 Taku River chinook salmon were subject to a commercial
10 harvest with large mesh gear for 80 years, the
11 following year the commercial fishery was closed. Does
12 anyone in the room have any idea how long it took
13 before they decided they might be able to go commercial
14 fishing again, that was 1976, last year, it took 30
15 years before they would even have a limited commercial
16 fishery again.

17

18 They attempted to do it when I was on
19 the Board, and I didn't say no, but, hell, no, not
20 until you do three things.

21

22 One of them is do another mesh study
23 and you're not going to use those large mesh nets and
24 just target the females and the large fish, but anyway
25 they totally changed the Board and it's dominated by
26 greedy commercial fishing interests from Seattle and so
27 they opened it back up.

28

29 But it took 30 years before they would
30 even agree to go fishing again, and the Salmon Treaty
31 between Canada and the United States.

32

33 So I have a suite of proposals that
34 address this issue.

35

36 The first one is our proposal that the
37 Board rejected and the Board of Fisheries rejected as
38 well, which is shorten the depth of the nets to no more
39 than 35 meshes for large mesh gear.

40

41 Second proposal would be to do like the
42 Kuskokwim River and like Cook Inlet and some other
43 fisheries in the state where no nets can be used larger
44 than six inch mesh. Now, this study here that you only
45 have the one page on, that's what it's all about, using
46 different size mesh nets and determining what size fish
47 it catches. There are studies out there besides this
48 one as well.

49

50 So that would be the second proposal.

1 The third proposal would be to
2 implement the windows the way the Board intended it to
3 in 2001 and that is, that the only time any fishing of
4 any kind, I don't care what kind it is, can take place
5 is during two 36 hour periods a week, whether it's
6 commercial, subsistence or whatever it is and the
7 windows will never be broken until after the 15th of
8 July when the majority of the king salmon are past the
9 lower Yukon.

10
11 That would be the third option.

12
13 And there's a -- go ahead.

14
15 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I just wanted to
16 ask, would that be through the commercial season as
17 well?

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's right.

20
21 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay.

22
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's for commercial,
24 subsistence, all gear, no gear could be in the water
25 except during two 36 hour periods per week so we would
26 have true windows.

27
28 And then there's one other option, and
29 it's what Dr. White wanted done to the Kuskokwim
30 instead of the way I wanted to do it on the Yukon and,
31 that is, what they do on the Kuskokwim, is they have
32 four days of fishing and then three days of absolute no
33 fishing of any kind. And I've been talking to some of
34 the people from the Kuskokwim and they think that the
35 size of the king salmon is starting to change a little
36 bit and they're getting more large fish on the spawning
37 grounds.

38
39 So that's the fourth option.

40
41 What we need to do is give both Boards
42 options that all address the same subject, and that is
43 that we're altering the genetic integrity of the fish
44 and continuing to target the large fish is going to be
45 what this study says, it's going to change the genetics
46 of the fish. And that study shows and they reference,
47 and even the Tozitna River weir is referenced, Dr.
48 Ricker, you know, in one of their reports, the latest
49 one, Dr. Ricker saying the same thing, the guy that
50 made the Ricker model, how they try to guess how many

1 fish are going to come back, he says the same thing,
2 that the smaller fish, when they reproduce, produce
3 smaller fish or younger fish and in the case of king
4 salmon, when they come back younger they're smaller
5 naturally.

6
7 But that gives the Boards four
8 different options that address the same issue.
9

10 The first one would be shortening the
11 depth of the nets because there's a lot of information
12 and maybe a lot of it's anecdotal that the larger fish
13 swim deeper in the water column. And then get rid of
14 the six inch mesh nets. And then do the windows with
15 two 36 hour periods or change it and let them fish
16 three or four days and then not fish three or four
17 days. But it has to be true windows, it can't be --
18 and just because they have a commercial fishery doesn't
19 mean that they throw away the windows because that was
20 never the intent of the Board when they passed it
21 originally. They tried to say they were mind readers
22 and it was, some of the Staff did, but Dr. Wheeler
23 knows it wasn't because she typed the damn report and
24 it took her until 3:30 in the morning doing it, right?

25
26 DR. WHEELER: Yeah.

27
28 (Laughter)
29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: So anyway that's the
31 four options that I would like to put out and put them
32 in the form of a proposal to the Board of Fisheries and
33 to the Federal Subsistence Board both, and I can help
34 Vince with some of that because I have some of the old
35 reports, and some of the -- like you can see this was a
36 record copy before the Board of Fish, I submitted it in
37 2001.

38
39 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Virgil.
42 Is there any opposition to these proposals going
43 forward.

44
45 MS. ENTSMINGER: No.

46
47 MR. NICHOLIA: I move.

48
49 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Do we need to make
50 this -- we don't have real proposals in front of us yet

1 but can we just all agree by unanimous consent
2 basically and submit these, Vince?

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you can, but it's on
5 the record that you are in consensus and that the final
6 language will be worked out before the mover of
7 the.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Sounds good.

10
11 MR. MATHEWS:motion.

12
13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So is there anyone
14 opposed to us submitting thee proposals.

15
16 (No opposition)

17
18 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No. Okay, we'll
19 submit these proposals then and I would urge Virgil and
20 whoever can provide as much information as possible.
21 Because I think what's going to happen is the same
22 thing that's happened before, the State will oppose it,
23 the Staff Committee will oppose it, and then the Board
24 will oppose it, but if we can get as much scientific
25 background behind these as possible, such as this
26 report, you know, I think that's going to be a whole
27 lot more powerful, and so let's provide these people
28 with 200 pieces of paper instead of just a one sheeter
29 to give some evidence for why we want these things to
30 take place.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 Go ahead Gerald.

35
36 MR. NICHOLIA: I would like to mention
37 something also, is that to look at other river systems
38 within the United States and see how -- and have the
39 Board and -- the Board of Fish and the Federal Board
40 that that selective fishing does diminish the genetic
41 diversity of the fish that's being fished selectively.
42 Because there's been studies that have been done
43 outside of the state of Alaska that will help these
44 proposals and show that selective fishery does have a
45 direct impact on the fish.

46
47 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Virgil.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: I know that David
50 Wiswar has a heck of a lot of information over there at

1 his place of business and he's helped me in the past
2 obtain some of this stuff and so I was wondering if
3 David would work with Vince and the Council to help
4 gather up the back up data that we need for these
5 proposals.

6
7 MR. WISWAR: I would like for some more
8 specific information but I would help.

9
10 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah, we'll probably
11 ask for stuff after we've written up the basic
12 proposal, I guess.

13
14 Vince.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. In follow
17 up to Gerald, and he can clarify me if I get this
18 wrong, Gerald are you suggesting that your proposals as
19 written should be shared with the managers of rivers
20 like the Columbia River and other rivers that you may
21 think.....

22
23 MR. NICHOLIA: No. No, no, no, Vince,
24 get the information from the Columbia River and the
25 other rivers that shows that selective fishing does
26 have a direct effect on the genetic diversity of the
27 fish that's being selective fished.

28
29 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Virgil.

30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, I overlooked Fred
32 Andersen at National Park Service. I don't know what
33 kind of data they have in their library over there but
34 I'm sure that they have quite a lot of it as well.

35
36 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So we'll be calling
37 you, too, Fred.

38
39 MR. ANDERSEN: That's fine.

40
41 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Okay,
42 any more comments on this.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Are there any other
47 fisheries proposals that we want to talk about right
48 now.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I think this is
2 definitely the issue before us and it's been before us
3 for a long time so I think we continue to push and see
4 where we can go.

5
6 Anything else, Vince.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: You need anything
11 else regarding these four proposals?

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: No, as far as the Council
14 is agreeing with consensus and it's laid out in the
15 process and it's clear to everyone that the Chair is
16 going to be the final approval of the language of it,
17 and it's Virgil's concern that he expressed to me
18 during break that this action has taken place during
19 the window to submit proposals, we can work as best we
20 can to get the best proposals forward, even though the
21 closure date is this Friday but the action for it
22 happened before Friday so we have some lead time there
23 to work on this because it's not fair to the Council to
24 turnaround proposals of this magnitude in one or two
25 days.

26
27 So I'm sure there's other Staff here
28 that understand that we'll do that. I'm not saying you
29 got four months to write it but I'm just saying that
30 we'll probably have to work within probably a week,
31 maybe a little longer, but at least a week window to
32 write these proposals up.

33
34 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Vince.
35 Then I guess we can move on to the next agenda item
36 which would be our annual report.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's
39 in our vanilla notebook, it's Item No. 4.

40
41 I apologize that they were not.....

42
43 MR. ANDERSEN: Is that manilla or
44 vanilla.

45
46 REPORTER: Manilla. It's supposed to
47 be manilla.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Manilla?

50

1 REPORTER: Yes.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Is that what it is.
6
7 DR. WHEELER: Yes.
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: All these years when I
10 went to parochial school they always said it was
11 vanilla.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: So if Sister Clarissa is
16 still alive I'm going to have to talk to her.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Anyways I'm sorry I come
21 from the midwest.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 DR. WHEELER: That explains a lot.
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: But anyways, Mr.
30 Chairman, what I was apologizing for before all the
31 laughter was that due to other duties I wasn't able to
32 get this annual report out to all the Council members
33 ahead of time. I did get it to the Chair to look at.
34
35 At this point, for the new Council
36 members, we didn't cover annual reports extensively in
37 the training, but basically this is an opportunity to
38 -- from ANILCA, it's in the law, for you to submit to
39 the Federal Subsistence Board issues of concern, and
40 then the Board takes these up July and then they give
41 you a written response by your next meeting. And these
42 are topics that were generated at your last meeting and
43 this is my attempt to write up what you thought on that
44 and now it's before you to approve and then we can do
45 some more wordsmithing if needed, and then I get ahold
46 of the Chair for his approval and final signature. Due
47 date on this is, I'm drawing a blank, I think it's
48 April 4th I have to have them submitted.
49
50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Vince.

1 Let's take a few minutes to look over it.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 MR. NICHOLIA: So you'd be saying
6 there, Vince, that this is report is final or we could
7 add anything to it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: We could anything we
10 want, it's our meeting, this letter hasn't gone out
11 yet.

12

13 MR. NICHOLIA: Well, back on the very
14 end of it, status report, I would like to see this
15 Council presented with a report of how OSM or any one
16 of the agencies are doing to protect the genetic
17 diversity of the Yukon king salmon. And that may also
18 be added where it's already mentioned in Issue No. 1,
19 but I'd like to see some kind of report to us that
20 they're doing something about it instead of just
21 shooting down or proposals or shooting down our
22 recommendations all the time.

23

24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any problem with
25 that proposal by Gerald.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: No.

28

29 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, go ahead and
30 write that in there under No. 7 then.

31

32 Vince.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And I
35 was going to give you an update on this and I'll
36 attempt to do it now and I believe I mailed you copies
37 of it.

38

39 Western Interior, even though they
40 opposed you on the net depth proposal wrote a very
41 strong letter to the Federal Subsistence Board
42 requesting what is the Board doing and what is the
43 State doing to address this genetic diversity in size.
44 There has not been a response to that letter but I know
45 that it's forthcoming. So you do have some parallel
46 requests coming from your next Council down river, just
47 so you're aware of that.

48

49 And I'm sure that their concurrence
50 that that information or letter be shared with you,

1 whatever that response is. Just so you're aware that
2 there's, not as strong as in the annual report, but a
3 separate letter that was drafted and sent. I was that
4 the response would be here at this meeting, but it's
5 not.

6
7 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Sue.

8
9 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
10 Chair. On the lines that Gerald just brought up I feel
11 that a status report on our No. 6 would be nice to hear
12 about, five, 10 year plan for the Federal Subsistence
13 Program that we requested here.

14
15 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, I think that
16 No. 6 is actually going to be the status report because
17 we haven't received a five or 10 year plan, have we,
18 Vince?

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: No, not to my knowledge.

21
22 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Right. So there is
23 no five to 10 year plan, we actually asked them for
24 one.

25
26 MS. ENTSMINGER: Right.

27
28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So that is basically
29 going to give us the status of it.

30
31 MS. ENTSMINGER: And it doesn't need to
32 be listed under 7?

33
34 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No, the status
35 report is separate, we just want specifics on these
36 four items so far, what is the status, for example, of
37 Avian Flu.

38
39 MS. ENTSMINGER: Right. Okay.

40
41 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Although, we can put
42 it if you want. I think actually No. 6 is going to be
43 a status report in itself.

44
45 MS. ENTSMINGER: Maybe we need to knock
46 them over the head, sometimes -- it clearly set up that
47 we wanted these reports, but if you feel that it's
48 going to do it as No. 6, then that's fine.

49
50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, thank you,

1 Sue.

2

3

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.

4

5

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vince.

6

7

MR. MATHEWS: I hesitate to do this,
8 but I'm sure Sue will correct me. I think what she is
9 asking, and she can correct me if I'm wrong, is, if you
10 look at what you're asking for, the Regional Council
11 would like the Office of Subsistence Management to
12 develop with Regional Council input a long range plan.
13 Is Sue asking, now, what is the five, 10 year plan
14 that's in effect now, is that what you're asking for
15 Sue? Because here you're asking for a joint one to be
16 done for five to 10 years, so I hesitate, but I think
17 maybe Sue is asking, well, what is your plan now?
18 What's in effect at this moment, is that what you're
19 asking for Sue?

20

21

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Sue.

22

23

24

25

26

(Laughter)

27

28

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, I don't know
29 it. I don't think they've clearly expressed a five or
30 10 year plan, I mean if -- well, I won't speculate but
31 I don't think they've expressed a five or 10 year plan.
32 I haven't seen one, have I, have you seen one? Where
33 is it Vince?

34

35

(Laughter)

36

37

38

39

40

(Laughter)

41

42

MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I've
43 not seen it. I don't want to hoodwink you that there
44 is one out there or there isn't, I don't believe there
45 is one, and I think Sue is flagging -- I don't know if
46 she is or not, I'm just saying this is asking to work
47 together to develop one, and I'm wondering if she's
48 asking, what is your plan now for the five, 10 years?

49

50

MS. ENTSMINGER: You did a good job.

1 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So is that what you
2 want?
3
4 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: You want a status
7 report on the current five to 10 year plan.....
8
9 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it actually.....
10
11 CHAIRMAN FLEENER:that probably
12 doesn't exist?
13
14 MS. ENTSMINGER: Sure. If there isn't
15 one I want to see that.
16
17 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All right, we'll put
18 that down.
19
20 Well, actually is there any opposition
21 to that request.
22
23 MR. NICHOLIA: No. And I'd also like
24 to add, you know, there was a lot of promises made when
25 this program first started and I'd just like to see if
26 they're going to keep those promises of protecting our
27 rural way of subsistence living.
28
29 And another thing that I'd like to add
30 to this report, too, concerns intensive management. We
31 have nothing in here that -- requests that steps need
32 to be taken by directing or asking the wildlife Refuge
33 managers who to go about intensive management. You know
34 we don't have the steps outlined here. I'd like to see
35 steps, like if we tell the Refuge manager, we want to
36 do wildlife management, if we have to go nationally,
37 we'll go nationally.
38
39 What are the steps to be taken to do
40 intensive management on National Wildlife Refuges and
41 Parks and just quit beating around the bush and ask for
42 it.
43
44 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Gerald.
45 Virgil.
46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: On that issue, of
48 course, this really affects the Western Council more
49 than us, but the Board of Game passed some liberalized
50 methods and means for harvesting wolves. And so that's

1 now going into State regulation, but these methods and
2 means are not going to be -- they can be used on BLM
3 land but not Fish and Wildlife Service land, and so I
4 don't know what our procedure is but I believe we were
5 told -- or everyone was told at the Board of Game
6 meeting that it can be done but it will have to go all
7 the way back to Washington, D.C.

8

9 And so I'd like to ask Roy Nowlin,
10 whether in our RAC's area, I know in Unit 20(E) was
11 there some regulation passed there that would allow
12 position of hunters for wolves with snowmachines in
13 20(E) because I know there are -- there's BLM land
14 there, but I think that's probably all there is.
15 Except for there's Park Service land and I know that on
16 Park Service land and Fish and Wildlife Service land
17 they said that those things couldn't happen, even if
18 the State passes them.

19

20 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Go ahead, Roy.

21

22 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
23 that is going to be possible in 20(E), I believe that
24 they did because it's a -- you know, it's a control
25 area, number 1 and there were some other areas down
26 river where that was passed as well, but it can't --
27 there is an exclusion for State lands, not BLM as you
28 mentioned, but Fish and Wildlife Service, and certainly
29 Park Service, you know, getting Fish and Wildlife
30 Service not being as restrictive, I guess, as Park
31 Service, Park Service being the most restrictive agency
32 given their mandates.

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: So what I'm wondering
35 is whether there is some way we could address this
36 issue in this. Because we've addressed intensive
37 management and, you know, the lack of it, and so beings
38 that there have been and we asked this -- Gerald and I
39 asked this question before, what do we have to do and
40 we kind of -- I never really got a clear answer of what
41 we do. What the Council can do to request that we can
42 have these more liberal methods and means like using a
43 snowmachine to position the hunter when hunting wolves
44 on Fish and Wildlife Service land. We've been told it
45 can be done, but never how -- how do we start the
46 process, that's what I'm wondering, how do we start the
47 process and we need to make a request to start that
48 process, I think.

49

50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I think, Virgil,

1 that we can put something in this letter. Like I said
2 before I think this letter is pretty useless but we
3 need to write it anyways.

4
5 I think we should include something
6 along these lines in the letter and also the Federal
7 government -- I don't know where this is written, Roy
8 could probably share it or maybe someone else, but when
9 we were talking about intensive management in the Yukon
10 Flats and allowing predator control, the Fish and
11 Wildlife Service wrote a letter to the Board of Game
12 reminding them of the exclusion -- I guess there's an
13 exclusionary clause on Federal land, and so maybe we
14 can ask that that exclusion clause be removed, and I
15 don't know where that's written at. Roy, do you know
16 what I'm talking about because I barely do?

17
18 MR. NOWLIN: Mr. Chairman, you mean in
19 State regulation.

20
21 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, there's State
22 regulation that allows for predator control if the
23 Board of Game agrees with it but then there's something
24 that's included in there, and it was brought up at the
25 Board of Game meeting when I was there that said -- it
26 reminded the Board of Game remember we're to be
27 excluded in intensive management and aerial, of course,
28 the Airborne Hunting Act is another issue, but in
29 predator management there's an exclusion for Federal
30 land, at least some pieces of Federal land.

31
32 MR. NOWLIN: That's correct. The
33 Federal agencies, I believe it was about a year ago,
34 that exclusion had been dropped out of State regulation
35 and the Federal agencies that is Park Service, and I
36 should be more specific, the Park Service and Fish and
37 Wildlife Service asked that that exclusion be put back
38 in and the Board of Game did that and it is in State
39 regulation. I could find it for you if you're
40 interested.

41
42 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So I guess what I'm
43 getting at is what is that exclusion based on, is that
44 based on a Federal law or is that just them saying,
45 please exclude us in your predator management or
46 intensive management?

47
48 MR. NOWLIN: Boy, I think you should
49 have one of the Federal agencies to answer that
50 question because it came as a request to the Board of

1 Game and they had quite a bit of testimony on that. So
2 I'm out of my depth definitely on that one.

3

4 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: You and me both,
5 thank you. Go ahead.

6

7 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman. Fred
8 Andersen with the Park Service. It is a matter of
9 Federal law relative to National Park Service units.
10 There are legal prohibitions against managing one
11 species of animal to benefit another.

12

13 What I understood Mr. Gary Edwards of
14 Fish and Wildlife Service to say at the Board of Game
15 last week, that although the Federal Subsistence Board
16 has no jurisdiction over predator control, there are no
17 prohibitions, no legal prohibitions on Fish and
18 Wildlife Service managed lands. They're not doing it
19 as a matter of policy, an internal decision. He went
20 on at some length about it and said there were other
21 policies to consider and balance the diversities policy
22 -- or biological diversity for one, that I recall. But
23 that he said, a couple of times over, that there were
24 no prohibitions against predator control on Fish and
25 Wildlife Service lands, and further that, that someone
26 interested in a predator control program on Fish and
27 Wildlife Refuge, for example, need to petition that
28 agency.

29

30 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So is it really true
31 that it's in their policy that they're not to manage
32 one species for the benefit of another?

33

34 MR. ANDERSEN: National Park Service
35 regulation, yes.

36

37 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So what about
38 managing populations for people, I mean don't we do
39 counts so we can understand what the populations are
40 and if they get too low we restrict human access?

41

42 MR. ANDERSEN: Help me out here
43 Clarence.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, I mean I guess
48 I'm just considering that I wouldn't be as brave to
49 talk about my non-Native brothers and sisters but those
50 of us who are Native folks consider ourselves part of

1 the natural diversity of the landscape and so I would
2 say that they've been managing resources to the benefit
3 or the detriment -- now, they may say it in law or it
4 may be written that way, but I don't think that that's
5 accurate.

6
7 MR. ANDERSEN: I don't mean to be
8 argumentative, but.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No, be
11 argumentative, I like arguing, it's fine.

12
13 MR. ANDERSEN:I think with
14 respect to.....

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 MR. ANDERSEN:Park Service units
19 I think it is accurate. I can't quote it line and
20 verse for you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay.

23
24 MR. ANDERSEN: But if you like, I think
25 I will follow up and get that for you. I need to
26 clarify it in my own mind.

27
28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, that'd be
29 great. Okay. And then so if you could recap what you
30 were saying before I rudely interrupted you, we need to
31 follow another line if we want to try to get something
32 like this passed.

33
34 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman. Maybe Sue
35 can help me out, but what I heard, what I remember, is
36 that Mr. Edwards said that if one person or group is
37 interested in pursuing predator control on Fish and
38 Wildlife Service lands, that that agency has no
39 prohibitions against it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well.....

42
43 MR. ANDERSEN: He said that it was a
44 rather high bar to cross, there were other policies to
45 consider, and like Virgil mentioned earlier, it's a
46 decision that ultimately won't be made in Alaska.

47
48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, it is the
49 truth. I've heard the exact same thing from the Yukon
50 Flats Refuge manager, that there is no prohibition,

1 it's just real hard to get it passed.

2

3 What I've been told is they reserve
4 that right as a management tool but they just most
5 likely won't implement it, so I've heard the same
6 thing.

7

8 MR. ANDERSEN: Let's hear what Mr.
9 LaPlant heard.

10

11 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Mr. LaPlant.

12

13 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. A few
14 additional comments, and some of it you've heard
15 before. But as you know the Federal Subsistence Board
16 doesn't have that authority and when the program was
17 set up, the Secretary of Interior put predator control
18 in the same category as habitat management. So you
19 need to focus your efforts, for getting predator
20 control with the individual land management agencies.

21

22 And as Gary Edwards said to the Board
23 of Game, as Fred just stated, that on Fish and Wildlife
24 Service land the bar is pretty high, but there is a
25 process. And as you know on Park Service land the bar
26 is even higher. And BLM land it's lower. And the
27 State process is working on BLM land. So using that
28 analogy that the bar is high, you also need to add to
29 that that there's a lot of hoops to jump through to get
30 there.

31

32 So I would suggest that you focus your
33 efforts on communicating with the Refuge Staff or the
34 Refuges and ask for an explanation of what those hoops
35 are, what is the process to get there.

36

37 The Bristol Bay Regional Council asked
38 that question of the Alaska Peninsula Refuge a few
39 years ago and they got a very detailed letter from the
40 Refuge explaining what the Fish and Wildlife Service
41 process is for getting predator control established on
42 the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuge. And in that
43 includes gathering data on population, and it's very
44 difficult to survey wolves in that part of the state
45 but as a result of that the Refuge is working on survey
46 techniques for wolves, they're collecting data and
47 started in a process. Now, again, it's a long ways to
48 go and a lot of hoops to jump through but the first
49 step should be to ask them for a detailed explanation
50 of what that process is and they already have that

1 letter that was submitted to the Bristol Bay Council as
2 a basis for responding to your question.

3
4 Mr. Chairman, you can put this in the
5 annual report, but I'd suggest that you focus your
6 effort on communicating directly with the Refuge.

7
8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Dan.
9 Thank you, Fred.

10
11 MR. LAPLANT: You're welcome.

12
13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And so is this
14 something that we could include as a status report,
15 maybe, a request and follow that up with a letter
16 specifically to maybe Gary Edwards in the form of a
17 formal proposal, petition and a letter asking for
18 action.

19
20 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Does that sound hip.

23
24 MR. NICHOLIA: I'd like to just ask,
25 you know -- anybody could answer this but you really --
26 you know you manage the resource and then you manage
27 the users of the resource, don't you -- you manage me
28 and I'm out there hunting and stuff, don't you?

29
30 MR. LAPLANT: Yes, correct. As stated
31 before, the Federal Subsistence Board manages the uses
32 of the resource.

33
34 MR. NICHOLIA: Well, I'm the top of the
35 food chain and I'm the worst predator of all, and
36 that's -- you know, it just seems like we're going in
37 circles, but manage predators for the -- one -- to the
38 detriment of this predator, you know, I'm always
39 managed, I'm always getting cut off from this and that,
40 but to say they're not managing predators, man, I don't
41 know, I don't know where these laws come from, from
42 maybe down there in D.C., but maybe we have to go to
43 D.C. and get these things changed.

44
45 You got to realize you're managing the
46 worst predator of all and that's man.

47
48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vince.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Maybe to

1 help you through this would be in your annual report,
2 that you would request to know the steps that are
3 necessary to have intensive management on all Federal
4 lands and that you are going to submit a formal
5 petition to X Refuge and now you have to fill in that
6 X, but I think I know what it's going to be, that X
7 Refuge start the process to look -- start the process
8 for intensive management on that Refuge and then they
9 would have to respond. I don't know what words Bristol
10 Bay did, but they would have to respond in kind to you
11 what are the steps to do this intensive management on
12 that Refuge. So then the Board is informed that you
13 want to know the steps of doing this and that you're
14 going forward to the individual Refuge to take action.

15
16 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And I like those
17 words, Vince, but I think I would include maybe some
18 specific animals, maybe we can talk about predators,
19 maybe we could mention the word, predator in that line,
20 and also salmon, because we're not intensively managing
21 salmon, we're doing something with salmon but it's
22 still going down. So I think we could mention some
23 specific species and maybe we should mention all the
24 Federal land that we're interested in, not just the
25 Yukon Flats Refuge, but ask for how to do it on all
26 Federal land within the Eastern Interior and then we
27 can say that we'll specifically direct letters to those
28 appropriate agencies.

29
30 Is anyone in opposition to that.

31
32 MR. NICHOLIA: No.

33
34 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Everyone in
35 agreement.

36
37 (Council nods affirmatively)

38
39 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay, we'll do that
40 then. Any more for this report.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All right, now we're
45 getting somewhere.

46
47 Is there anything else that we've left
48 out that we've talked about in detail that we really
49 want that we haven't been getting that we can include
50 in this and then find another method to really get it

1 done, anything else that we've talked about?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: If not, then shall
6 we say that this is the letter that we'll proceed with
7 other than the additions that Vince and I will work on.

8

9 (Council nods affirmatively)

10

11 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. So far we
12 have under the intensive management we have include
13 specific steps on intensive management in there.

14

15 On status reports, we have how agencies
16 are protecting the genetic diversity of salmon on the
17 Yukon River.

18

19 What are the current five and 10 year
20 plans.

21

22 Providing a detailed explanation of how
23 to implement intensive management/predator control for
24 various species on Federal land.

25

26 Is there anything else.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vince.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And I'm not putting
33 words in your mouth, but also that you would tell the
34 Board that you're submitting a formal petition so that
35 the Board is aware that you're going to individual
36 agencies, so the Board doesn't come back and say you
37 got to go to the individual agencies.

38

39 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah, I think we
40 said that, didn't we?

41

42 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you said that.

43

44 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, you said it,
45 then I said it, then you said it again.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So you want to say
50 it Virgil.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No, okay, so I think
4 we're done then. We're done with this. Any problems.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Go ahead with it,
9 okay, let's move on.
10
11 (Council nods affirmatively)
12
13 MR. NICHOLIA: I got a problem.
14
15 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay.
16
17 MR. NICHOLIA: Just don't pass the buck
18 this time.
19
20 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No buck passing.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vince.
25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That
27 brings us up to Office of Subsistence Management
28 reports. The first one is the review of the rural
29 determination briefing, now that's basically, unless
30 I've been misinformed, that's basically there for you
31 to read in your booklet. The Board will be taking that
32 up in July to determine where it's going to go with
33 that list that you guys looked at last year for
34 different communities.
35
36 So right now there is no action item
37 there unless you have questions about the rural
38 determination process.
39
40 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Are there any
41 questions.
42
43 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah.
44
45 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Go ahead.
46
47 MR. NICHOLIA: You know, I fought up
48 and down to keep Delta out of it and I read in the
49 papers that they're trying to form like a borough to
50 tax the Pogo Mine or whatever, and I was just wondering

1 all that arguing and spitting I did at the Federal
2 Subsistence Board is going to go down the chute because
3 they're going down that path.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. I think I
6 can answer that. The actions of the State to create an
7 additional borough would not have an affect on what the
8 Board will be addressing. They're looking at, and
9 Polly can help me on this, they're looking at changes
10 in community characteristics. They use the borough for
11 you guys to look at, existing North Star Borough, to
12 say, do you guys want to look in there, if there's
13 additional communities, but I don't think they looked
14 at that because it's got the borough name. So if
15 there's a new borough called the Delta Junction
16 Borough, our Board's not going to, you know, change --
17 or if there's a borough that's established for Fort
18 Yukon, it's not going to -- I don't think that
19 classification under State is going to trigger any
20 review of rural at this time.

21

22 Now, at the next census that may be a
23 different situation. And hopefully there's others in
24 the Staff that realize I'm struggling here but that's a
25 whole separate issue, what the State's dealing with,
26 however they call their areas.

27

28 DR. WHEELER: Right.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: And Polly said right
31 so.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Okay.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the next one is one
36 that you dealt with a little bit last time when you had
37 to look at closure reviews and you've had one proposal
38 that's come out of that closure review and now we're
39 looking at the draft closure policy.

40

41 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Go ahead, Dan.

42

43 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. On Page
44 206 of your book is a briefing on this draft closure
45 policy, and I'll let you folks read through this, but
46 basically it says that the Board received a letter from
47 the Secretary -- Under-Secretary of Interior, this was
48 in response to a letter to the Governor expressing
49 concerns about how the Board was doing business in
50 relation to not only closures but to C&T determinations

1 were also an issue that was addressed.

2

3

4 But specifically for closures, as a
5 result of this the Under-Secretary has asked that the
6 Board develop a policy, a written policy on how to
7 review closures that are in Federal subsistence
8 regulations. So in response to that, the OSM Staff has
9 prepared this draft policy that starts on Page 207, and
10 we're asking for your review and comments on this and
11 to provide them to our office by the 1st of April or
12 around about that time, at the conclusion of this
13 series of Council meetings the Board will be taking
14 this issue up and I believe they've actually scheduled
15 it for their discussion at the May Board meeting when
16 they do the wildlife proposals. So they'll be
17 finalizing it at that time and then sending it off to
18 Washington, D.C.

18

19

20 So this is the draft policy that we
21 have and I can just go through it real quickly with
22 you.

22

23

24 It states the purpose there and the

25 types of existing closures.

25

26

27 Probably some points of interest here,
28 on Page 208 it lists the types of closures that we have
29 in Federal regulations right now and you see the
30 bullets there on the top of the page.

30

31

32 The first one is season closures that
33 were carried over from State regulations in 1990. We
34 call that a closure, or category of closures here, but
35 really it's a category of situations where we just
36 don't have Federal regulations to offer a season. An
37 example would be brown bear in many units of the state.
38 When the Federal program began and we adopted the State
39 regulations, there was no subsistence brown bear
40 hunting in State regulations, so that's how we ended up
41 with no brown bear regulations in Federal regulations.

41

42

43 Since then several units have --
44 Regional Councils have asked for brown bear regulations
45 so we have them. But for example in Unit 15 there is
46 no Federal subsistence brown bear hunting.

46

47

48 Anyway the source of that is the
49 transfer from State regulations.

49

50

50 The second category is closures to

1 subsistence uses for conservation purposes. And we
2 have several of those around the state. An example
3 would be Unit 18 moose moratorium that was passed by
4 the Board here two years ago now. So we do have
5 closures to Federal subsistence users for that reason.

6
7 We also have closures for public
8 safety, campgrounds and so on. As it says here that
9 most of those are actually instituted by the individual
10 agencies. The only one I can think of that's really in
11 Federal subsistence regulations is closures along the
12 pipeline in Unit 13, and that's primarily for safety
13 purposes.

14
15 And then we have closures to non-
16 Federally-qualified subsistence users, and there's two
17 types of those. Those for conservation purposes. An
18 example of that would be Unit 25(D) moose, or Unit
19 25(D) west moose. Another example would be the Arctic
20 Village sheep closure which we talked about yesterday.
21 Part of that closure is for the purposes of
22 conservation and the other part of that closure, as was
23 discussed, is for purpose of continuing subsistence
24 uses and conflicts with other users.

25
26 So those are the two types of closures
27 to non-Federally-qualified users that we have in our
28 regulations.

29
30 Our office is going to maintain lists
31 of closures and there are two tables attached to this
32 draft policy that identify all those closures that
33 exist in regulations. In fact, Appendix A is all the
34 closures to non-Federally-qualified users and there are
35 30 of those on that table, actually there's one more
36 that I recognize that I missed here when I put the
37 table together and that's moose in -- no, excuse me --
38 yeah, moose in Unit 26(B) is not listed on here so that
39 one has to be added as well.

40
41 But Table B identifies all the closures
42 to Federally-qualified subsistence users or another way
43 this is all the situations in Federal regulations where
44 we don't have a season for Federally-qualified users
45 and that originated from a variety of reasons as I
46 explained earlier, some of those adopted from the
47 State.

48
49 So farther down on Page 208 is a list
50 of criteria for establishing future closures and,

1 again, the two major categories there is the one for
2 establishing those closures because of a conservation
3 concern, needing these closures to conserve for healthy
4 populations, and then the second bullet there on the
5 bottom of Page 208 is when necessary for continuation
6 of subsistence uses. Those are the two that have been
7 used most often. And then the other two, for public
8 safety and for administration that exist in the
9 regulations.

10

11 The bottom line here, the actual policy
12 itself is described here on the bottom and what that is
13 saying is these closures to non-Federally-qualified
14 users of which we have about 30 or 31 of them in
15 regulation, we're going to set up a process to review
16 those every three years. And as you recall last fall
17 we brought some of those reviews to the Councils and as
18 a result of that review proposals came out of that and
19 one of them, dealing with Arctic sheep is an example
20 and there's, I think, six of them in this round of
21 wildlife proposals that came from that review process
22 that we started last fall.

23

24 This policy just puts into a policy
25 what we actually started doing last fall, so it's
26 consistent with that review process.

27

28 And the other thing it says in this
29 policy is on the top of the upper of Page 210, it says
30 closures other than for conservation reasons or to
31 continue subsistence uses shall be reviewed by the
32 Federal Subsistence Program when conditions warrant.
33 These closures would be reviewed as proposals are
34 submitted through the annual Subpart C and D proposal
35 cycle. So whenever anyone wants to submit a proposal
36 to address one of these other situations where there is
37 no season for Federally-qualified users the Board will
38 look at those as proposals are received so that can be
39 done every year, the proposal window, as you know, is
40 in the fall and so those closures will be addressed as
41 proposals are submitted and the other ones will be done
42 every three years.

43

44 So that's the draft policy and I
45 encourage you to read through it and if you have any
46 comments please get them to our office here within the
47 next -- well, we say in the briefing by the 1st of
48 April, but around about that time.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Dan. Any
2 questions for Dan.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vince.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. Several of
9 the advisory committees took this up and they would
10 like to share their comments with you if you would like
11 a summary of those. Okay.

12
13 The Southeast Regional Advisory Council
14 took this up at their March 6th meeting
15 I believe it is. They strongly oppose
16 this policy. Their main points were
17 that the Council believes that policy
18 should emphasize ANILCA findings at
19 Section .801.3, which identifies how
20 continuation of the opportunity for
21 subsistence uses of resources on public
22 land -- on public and other lands in
23 Alaska is threatened by increasing
24 population of Alaska. When resultant
25 pressures on subsistence resources.
26 This finding refers to anticipated
27 competition for resources.

28
29 (B) The current language appears to be
30 counter to ANILCA intention. ANILCA
31 saw that competition for resources
32 would occur, and that subsistence
33 priority would be necessary.

34
35 And, (C) finally, a three-year review
36 which would involve laborious
37 justification of every closure in the
38 Federal regulations is not necessary
39 and would serve no useful purpose. The
40 current system within the Federal
41 program responds to proposals, works
42 very well. Imposing a top-down process
43 is counter to the Council process.

44
45 The Western Interior took up this
46 proposal and they endorsed the draft
47 closure review policy. They felt that
48 the policy seems fair to address
49 subsistence needs and has merits.
50 That's pretty much what they did.

1 And then Southcentral comments on this
2 is take no action. The Council
3 listened to the briefing on the draft
4 closure policy. The Council stated
5 that there is no loss of the public
6 process, and the goal is to review the
7 issues on a regular basis.
8

9 Those are the three that I am aware of.
10 Other councils probably did not take specific action,
11 if that's the term to use.

12
13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Vince.
14 Can you give me those three Councils in order again
15 that you -- and how you read them off?

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Southeast Regional
18 Advisory Council obviously strongly opposes. Western
19 Interior endorses the closure policy. And then
20 Southcentral basically said to take no action.

21
22 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. Thanks,
23 Vince.

24
25 I guess the only problem I have is that
26 I thought the Federal Subsistence Board had a policy.
27 I mean, if you're going to have a closure, it's got to
28 be based on something. They haven't just been closing
29 for no good reason. So it seems like this is an
30 additional burden, and it looks like it's nicely
31 written, but how much extra work did the Governor cause
32 these folks when they actually already had a process in
33 place. So, you know, I almost want to just reject it
34 out of the principle of the matter, because I think we
35 do have a practice -- or a policy in place on how to
36 conduct closures. We talk about closures here in our
37 meeting. Then it goes to the Federal Subsistence
38 Board, they talk about it. They probably pay Staff a
39 whole lot of money to do analysis, and then they make a
40 determination. And so, you know, I don't know what the
41 rest of you think, but I kind of like the idea of
42 rejecting this just out of the principle of the matter,
43 basically making the Federal Subsistence Program work
44 harder when it really didn't need to do so, because the
45 State folks don't like the Federal system within their
46 boundaries. So that's a problem I have.

47
48 Dan.

49
50 MR. LAPLANT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I

1 just wanted to add that those criteria that you see on
2 the bottom of Page 208, the four basic criteria, those
3 are directly from Section .815 of ANILCA, and that's
4 what the Federal program has been using as guidelines
5 for initiating closures in the past. And this policy
6 just puts those criteria and the policy, and then we
7 added the factors that are considered. And it explains
8 how the Federal Board has been implementing those
9 criteria in the past actually. So there will not be
10 much of a difference.

11

12 The main focus here that this policy
13 does that we haven't had before is it sets up the
14 schedule for regularly reviewing them.

15

16 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So you're saying
17 then that we had a policy in place. It was a policy
18 with these four criteria that we, we meaning the
19 Federal Subsistence Board, had to use and has used.
20 And the Governor in his letter here is saying that the
21 standards -- he's basically questioning the standards
22 being used, but those are the standards in Federal law,
23 right?

24

25 MR. LAPLANT: That's correct. I
26 wouldn't go so far as to say we had a policy, but we
27 recognized what the standards were in Federal law, and
28 that's what we had been applying. But we didn't have
29 that outlined in a formal policy.

30

31 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, you may not
32 have a formal policy, but you sort of have a policy
33 that's developed over years of practice, and it becomes
34 the policy just by virtue of you operating in that way.
35 I mean, it's an operating policy whether it's written
36 or not.

37

38 So what are the wishes of the Council?

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. If you have
43 no wishes, we'll just move on to the next agenda item
44 then.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. And the
49 next agenda item actually we don't need, the avian flu
50 update. We had plenty of discussion on that, unless

1 there's some specific discussion that we didn't address
2 the other day.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. We'll scratch
7 it, and we'll take a 10-minute break.

8

9 (Off record)

10

11 (On record)

12

13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All right. Let's go
14 ahead and get back to meeting.

15

16 And unless there's something else,
17 we'll move into organization reports, number 13.
18 Anything else.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
21 only thing that would be, and I think Nolan (ph) and
22 Roy has worked very well to get this all set up, would
23 be after he presents, you had extensive questions about
24 transporters and that, and I believe their Staff has
25 arrived to possibly answer some of your questions on
26 transporters. I think it might be good to take that
27 right up after Roy, if that's okay. That way, you know
28 -- it's your call.

29

30 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: That sounds good to
31 me. So we'll go ahead and start with 13.A. and then
32 Roy will be next. Okay. Any native corporation -- are
33 there any native corporation or tribal council reports
34 or presentations? I don't think we had anybody
35 identify themselves, and Mike left. Nothing?

36

37 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Go ahead, Gerald.

40

41 MR. NICHOLIA: As the realty director
42 for Tanana Tribal Council, manage six programs. One of
43 them is subsistence, you know, fish and game, wildlife
44 and parks. And I don't know who to thank, but me and
45 Geoffrey from Galena Park Service, we tried to do a
46 moose count survey between Nowitna and Tanana, but due
47 to the weather, we get off the ground. We did try,
48 just to get some kind of numbers of the moose that were
49 there. We did do a practice run in the spring last
50 year. Like I said, we counted 21 moose, but we

1 counted, what, 13 right about -- right at the mouth of
2 Mason Slough. They were all together, 13 moose. So
3 there is quite a bit of moose around in that area. But
4 I'd just like to publicly thank them for getting me
5 sick that one day.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Gerald.
10 If you think you get sick flying moose surveys, try to
11 fly a wolf survey. That's really bad.

12
13 Okay. If there are no others, then
14 we'll let the Department of Fish and Game come. Thank
15 you, Roy. So are you a diver?

16
17 MR. NOWLIN: (Nods affirmatively)

18
19 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Right on.

20
21 MR. NOWLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 For the record, Roy Nowlin, management coordinator for
23 Wildlife Conservation for the Interior.

24
25 What I would like to do is give you a
26 quick, and I hope this will be quick, briefing on the
27 update of the -- or the revision of the Fortymile
28 Caribou Herd Harvest Plan. We talked about this
29 yesterday in relation to one of the proposals.

30
31 And this is a -- this plan is going to
32 run 2006 through 2012. The reason we're doing this is
33 because the old one has expired.

34
35 This effort, the old plan that's
36 currently reaching the end of its life, and this
37 effort, were a bit different than the other planing
38 efforts the Department of Fish and Game has done. Our
39 role in this was as a supporting role. And the folks
40 that are listed on this slide were -- really took the
41 lead role, particularly the fish and game advisory
42 committees. Fairbanks, Upper Tanana, Fortymile,
43 Central, Delta and Eagle advisory committees. And also
44 you folks, Eastern Interior have had -- at the major
45 meeting we had, had a couple of representatives. Sue
46 was there, and Andy Bassich from Eagle was there as
47 well. And this has been a -- rather than the kind of
48 plan that you saw in the Yukon Flats where Fish and
49 Game took a major role in coordinating and
50 facilitating, on this one it was the advisory

1 committees really that were front and center on this.
2 And Fish and Game's role here is to be supportive, to
3 be a cooperator, to provide some data.

4
5 Mike Tinker with the Fairbanks AC was
6 really the chair of this thing. He chaired a meeting
7 that we had last summer in Tok. And all the advisory
8 committees were invited to that. I think the only one
9 that was not there was the Central committee. And we
10 had funding, we paid for folks to get there. The
11 Division of Boards paid for that.

12
13 And we sat down for, I think it only
14 took us a day actually to do it, but we sat down with
15 the old plan and worked on the revisions. So I wanted
16 to kind of set that stage.

17
18 And yesterday we talked as well about
19 some of the history here. And some of you here have
20 been involved in this a lot longer than I have, but
21 back in the early 90s I guess it was was when people
22 thought -- began to think, well, gee, we've got to do
23 something about the Fortymile Herd. And there was a
24 management plan that came about as a result of that,
25 and there were some actions taken there. And that --
26 one of those was this non-lethal wolf control program
27 that came about. There was a lot of trapper activity.
28 There was private activity that went on with that. And
29 as we get into this, I've got a slide that just
30 summarizes what the current status of the Fortymile
31 herd is.

32
33 But it became apparent after that
34 management plan was put into effect that it didn't do a
35 good job of addressing harvest management. And so that
36 was why the ACs and others needed to get together,
37 because Fish and Game needed some guidance on that, and
38 we needed some ground rules on how we were going to
39 proceed.

40
41 And there's a lot of actors here. This
42 is an international herd. You know, we've got Yukon
43 Department of Environment. We've got the Yukon Fish
44 and Wildlife Management Board. First Nations from
45 Yukon as well. The Federal agencies have certainly
46 been a big player in this, Fish and Wildlife Service,
47 Park Service, Yukon Charley. So this has been a real
48 cooperative effort to get to where we are.

49
50 I just told you a little bit about why,

1 this harvest plan expires in 2006, and we needed
2 guidance. And this -- the harvest management plan
3 certainly is important for achieving the growth
4 objectives that have been set for the Fortymile.

5
6 And what I want to request here of the
7 Council is an endorsement of this plan. If you feel
8 like you could support it, we'd sure like to hear from
9 you. I think it's important that we do that. We're
10 also going to go to the Federal Subsistence Board and
11 ask for endorsement from them. In addition, we're
12 going to go over to the Yukon side and ask for a
13 reaffirmation from the Yukoners that they in fact are
14 on board with this, too, but as I said, they were there
15 last summer, so I'm -- my guess is that they will be on
16 board.

17
18 And as I run through this, what I'm
19 going to do is present what the current plan is, and
20 what the plan revision -- the changes that have been
21 made in this plan revision. And I'll highlight that in
22 yellow. I've got a series of slides that I think you
23 will see what I'm talking about here in a minute.

24
25 A little bit of background on the
26 Fortymile. This is the population, our estimates of
27 population from 1994 to 2006. If you recall, it was
28 early 90s we started with the management plan itself.
29 The harvest plan came along in 1999 or 2000 and started
30 giving us some guidance there. But you can see that
31 we've been successful in increasing the herd from about
32 20,000 back in 1994, and we got it up to over 40,000 by
33 2003.

34
35 And what's happened to us since then is
36 we've had something of a decline. And I hesitate to
37 say that there's a declining trend, but it looks like
38 it's leveled off. Some of the affects of the wolf
39 control that we had done, we feel are -- like the non-
40 lethal program, for example, we're asking the Board of
41 Game to completely take that out of regulation, because
42 we finished it. There are no wolf packs out there that
43 are currently holding territories that are sterilized
44 packs. And so the effect of that is going away.

45
46 We've had a couple of winters as well.
47 I mean, weather is certainly a factor with this
48 Fortymile Caribou Herd, because we get -- you know,
49 we've had birth rates lower than what we expected the
50 last couple of years. We've had a couple of dry

1 summers up there, that seems to affect birth rates.
2 Severe winters seem to affect birth rates as well.

3
4 Certainly predation is a big factor as
5 I said. The wolves are eating their share. The bears
6 are eating their share. In fact, here I've got.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Hey, Roy, before you
9 go on, could you go one step back?

10
11 MR. NOWLIN: Sure.

12
13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: The blue colors
14 there, those are only model estimates. So you actually
15 haven't done a count since 2001?

16
17 MR. NOWLIN: That's right. We've been
18 -- what we do is we either do a -- these purple bars
19 are a photo census. And we try to do one of those
20 every year. The last couple of years the smoke in the
21 Fortymile has been so extensive that we haven't been
22 able to get up there, because you've got to do it when
23 they bunch up in late June or early July.

24
25 And so what we do if we can't do a
26 census is we take the information, we've got radio-
27 collared adults, we've had radio-collared calves, and
28 we will look at the mortality and look at the survival,
29 if you want to call it that, amongst those radioed
30 animals, and then we'll model it out. And as you can
31 see though, if you compare the -- if you compare here
32 our models to our actual counts, we've done pretty
33 good.

34
35 But that requires data. And just to --
36 I want to acknowledge at this point that BLM has been
37 providing a good deal of the funding for Fortymile for
38 monitoring the harvest. And they have -- we've got
39 challenge cost share with them, and they have really
40 been great with that. OSM has provided us with some
41 money for monitoring both Nelchina and Fortymile.
42 That's more mixing down there, so we know when the
43 Nelchina's are in there and how to handle that season.
44 So certainly the Federal agencies have been a big
45 partner, not only in formulation of this harvest
46 management plans, but also in funding. And the
47 Legislature also gave us some intensive management
48 money this year.

49
50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And how many animals

1 are collared? And are they collared -- are you
2 collaring more annually?

3
4 MR. NOWLIN: We collared a bunch. You
5 know, I don't know how many adults. We're not doing as
6 -- we're not doing the calf collaring right now. We're
7 collaring adults. And we got some additional money, we
8 put a bunch of collars on adults. I think we're
9 probably 40 or 50. We've got to maintain a minimum
10 number of adults collared in order to do the census,
11 because we need to be able to locate them and then know
12 where the groups are when we want to do the photo
13 census in the spring.

14
15 But we've been -- Rod Boertje is our
16 research person that has been working on this probably
17 for at least five or six years I think in calf
18 mortality. So we think we have a pretty good handle on
19 the Fortymile Herd. But you can come to the end of my
20 knowledge about the research project in a hurry here.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. NOWLIN: But I know the
25 generalities.

26
27 This is one of them. This shows the
28 causes of death in the Fortymile Herd, and this is what
29 we expect is going on this year. This is mid May to
30 mid May. And as you can see, wolves are primary cause
31 of mortality. Second is grizzly bears, and then other
32 predators, and then our harvest.

33
34 It's interesting to note that our
35 harvest role on this, we've kept it very low, and
36 you'll see that as we go through the harvest plan, but
37 it's only about five percent of all the caribou that
38 die out there. So hunters aren't having much of an
39 effect on the Fortymile Herd.

40
41 And so it's the predators that --
42 particularly wolves. And as I said, you know, we get
43 weather events as well.

44
45 MS. ENTSMINGER: What are the other
46 predators? That's substantial, 16 percent.

47
48 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, I think what you're
49 talking about there is eagles, coyotes, black bears,
50 you know, what else would get them out there? Maybe

1 even a lynx takes one from time to time. I've heard
2 that, they'll take calves. Wolverine, too, yeah,
3 that's another one.

4
5 So anyway, the goals of the plan, the
6 current goals we have are this, are for continued
7 growth. And you can see on the left there, I've got
8 current and then proposed means what's in this plan
9 revision. So the current objective, as well as the
10 proposed is to continue growth of that herd, and I've
11 got some specific -- these are -- I've got some
12 specific objectives for that that I'll go over, but --
13 and also to reestablish the former range. That hasn't
14 changed.

15
16 And currently we have to restore
17 hunting opportunity as a goal. And we changed that a
18 bit to increase harvest when the herd grows.

19
20 So you know really over all there's not
21 much change here. And over all in this plan revision
22 there isn't much change.

23
24 Population objectives. The current is
25 to have about a 10 percent growth. And that was
26 projected to be somewhere 77,000 to 80,000 by 2006.
27 And obviously we didn't achieve that. And so the
28 proposed population objective has been changed to
29 50,000 to 100,000. It's a wide range admittedly, but
30 that is what is in the intensive management objectives
31 for the State. And intensive management is what really
32 -- these objectives are what drive things like wolf
33 control or bear control, things that we're doing. And
34 it also drives other things like, well, even fire
35 management, wildfire management, or prescribed burning.
36 So it means a lot of things. But it has meaning in
37 regulation for the State, because it is part of, when
38 you look at this objective, you notice that we're at
39 40,000 for the caribou. It's below the lower end of
40 this objective, this intensive management objective.

41
42 And what that does is it triggers
43 potential action on the Board of Game. There's things
44 that they can legally do now because we are below that
45 intensive management objective. And we'll get into a
46 little bit of that later, too.

47
48 Harvest objectives, we were looking at
49 2600 by 2006. Obviously we didn't achieve that. Of
50 course, you haven't seen the harvest numbers on that,

1 but we're taking about 820 right now. We wanted to be
2 up to 2600, and we're obviously not there. Again, the
3 intensive management objective that you see there, and
4 that's a difference. It's 1,000 to 15,000 is what we'd
5 like to see in that herd. And admittedly, that's a
6 wide range.

7
8 Also in terms of harvest objectives, we
9 were looking currently at taking two to three percent
10 of the estimated population. That hasn't changed under
11 the new plan either. It's still a real small harvest
12 rate, and, you know, hunters are taking such a small
13 portion of this, they're -- hunters have consistently
14 been giving up the opportunity to take Fortymile
15 caribou in order to put it into growth.

16
17 We looked at Alaska-Yukon harvest
18 allocation in this plan. And currently we were
19 operating under two percent of the harvest going to
20 Alaska and one percent to Yukon. And there's not a
21 change there either. And Yukon continues to agree to
22 put their percentage into growth of the Fortymile.

23
24 Within Alaska, as far as the Alaska
25 harvest quota, currently -- in the current plan there's
26 a complicated formula that's based on growth of the
27 herd. We simplified that, and in this -- in the new
28 plan, and just decided to peg it at 850, plus or minus
29 15 percent in a given year. And if the population gets
30 50,000 or greater, then we'll increase it to 1,000.
31 But still the over-all guideline is still a two to
32 three percent harvest.

33
34 And also importantly in that, we want
35 to keep the harvest of cows down to 25 percent or less.
36 And that again is no change.

37
38 Within Alaska, there is another
39 allocation that was made in this plan between fall and
40 winter, because we have a fall season and we have a
41 winter season as well. And fall getting 75 percent of
42 the harvest, winter getting 25 percent. And once again
43 that's no change.

44
45 What we've done in harvest management
46 here is this is -- the outlined area here is the
47 Fortymile hunt area, and we've had it broken up into
48 various zones. You see here where I'm running the
49 cursor around to your left, is the Steese Highway. And
50 that's been -- we've identified that for ease of

1 administering these hunts as zone 1. And in the center
2 we've got zone 2, which we have called basically the
3 roadless area. However, there is a road now into the
4 south going up to the Pogo Mine, but that Pogo Mine
5 road is closed to public access. It's a private road,
6 so that's not really a factor. And on your right here
7 is zone 3, is the Taylor Highway zone.

8

9 And as I've said we had these set up
10 before, but we have -- it's just clearer for everybody
11 if we divide this up and call them zones. It's
12 clearer, because folks had agreed on an allocation of
13 harvest between these zones, and also we need to have a
14 way to communicate to hunters, you know, what -- when
15 we close, and we have done this in the past, we will
16 close by emergency order one zone or the other, and we
17 need to have a way to communicate that fact to hunters
18 and this certainly helps. And so kind of keep this in
19 mind as we go through the rest of this allocation.

20

21 During the fall the current allocation
22 in Alaska for zone 1, and remember that one is over on
23 the Steese, is 35 percent. Zone 2, that's the center
24 one, is 15 percent. And zone 3 is 45 percent. The
25 allocation that is proposed in the harvest management
26 plan for zone 1 is 30 percent, zone 2 is 25, and zone 3
27 is 40. And remember, this is in the fall.

28

29 Now what essentially happened here was
30 that five percent was taken out of zone 1 and put into
31 zone 2, and five percent was taken out of zone 3 and
32 put into zone 2. So that's the drill that led to this
33 change in allocation one to the other.

34

35 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And where is the
36 remaining five percent?

37

38 MR. NOWLIN: Well, we should have --
39 what did we do?

40

41 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, you've got 95
42 percent up there. Is there a missing five percent
43 somewhere, or is that just bad numbers?

44

45 MR. NOWLIN: That's interesting.

46

47 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Canada?

48

49 MR. NOWLIN: No, this is the Alaska
50 allocation. I'll have to go back and look at that.

1 Now that's embarrassing.

2

3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, I just thought
4 maybe there was some hold back or something, but.....

5

6 MR. NOWLIN: No, there wasn't.

7

8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER:there shouldn't
9 be a hold back from an allocation. That's all right.
10 You don't have to worry about it. Just keep on going.

11

12 MR. NOWLIN: You get the idea anyway.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. NOWLIN: My goodness. Now that
17 really bothers me. Anyway. All right. Well, yeah,
18 well, that's pretty embarrassing.

19

20 Yeah. Well, all right. I think this
21 one is right. The arithmetic is a little easier on
22 this one. This is the winter allocation for Alaska
23 between the various zones. And this is a little more
24 complicated, and this is actually -- of course, this is
25 a winter opportunity, snowmachine hunting opportunity.
26 And with zone 1 and 3, whichever one has the most
27 caribou gets allocated 60 percent of the harvest. So
28 it doesn't matter whether -- if most of the caribou are
29 over on the Steese, they get 60 percent, or if most of
30 the caribou are over on the Taylor, they get 60
31 percent. And whichever has the least caribou then gets
32 40 percent between those two sides. Now, zone 2,
33 because it's relatively inaccessible, and there's very
34 few caribou that are actually taken in there in the
35 winter time, they get -- that remains open until the
36 over-all quota is reached. And that's worked pretty
37 well for us. And so as you see in the proposed,
38 there's no change there.

39

40 Okay. Next, the resident seasons and
41 bag limits. There's very little change here as well.
42 You can see that there's a State season there, that we
43 have an August season and then a December season in
44 there. Again, one caribou by joint State/Federal
45 registration permit. And we talked about that joint
46 permit, the need for that, so I'm not going to go into
47 that in any more detail.

48

49 But the only change in the State season
50 that has been proposed is the folks from Eagle

1 expressed a desire to have a to-be-announced season
2 when the caribou were in the American Summit area for
3 one to three days sometime between October 20th and
4 November 30th, because they just -- they felt pretty
5 strongly that they needed some additional opportunity
6 over there to take a few caribou. And so they were --
7 my understanding was they were going to put in a
8 proposal to accomplish that to the Board of Game, but
9 that didn't happen. So, you know, they need -- we'll
10 be working with them on that. If they still want to do
11 that, then it will be up for consideration.

12
13 The Federal season, the August season
14 is the same as the State, August 10 to September 30th.
15 The November season is -- there's a November 1 to
16 February 28th season under Federal regulations. It's a
17 month longer. And again it's one caribou by joint
18 State and Federal registration permit. And there's no
19 change to any of that.

20
21 That special season, this gives you a
22 little orientation on that. The boundaries haven't
23 been drawn on this, or it hasn't been described yet.
24 We were waiting for Eagle to take the initiative on
25 that. But here's American Summit, and here's Eagle,
26 Taylor Highway.

27
28 The non-resident season and bag limit.
29 Currently under the State season, there's an August 10
30 to September 20th with one bull. There's the -- under
31 the proposed seasons, this would be extended to
32 September 30th with no change in the bag limit.

33
34 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And is that proposal
35 for increasing non-resident access, is that by the
36 Department as well, or are the.....

37
38 MR. NOWLIN: That came from the
39 advisory committees. This is to increase the length of
40 the non-resident season.

41
42 In general terms, there's some other
43 provisions in this harvest management plan that are
44 important to note. And one of those is certainly we
45 will continue to monitor the herd in the way that we
46 have in the past, keep radio collars on them, and do
47 census and modeling efforts on them.

48
49 One of the other things that was
50 important to the advisory committees, and to us as

1 well, of course, was they were concerned about roadside
2 kills, and having viscera on the sides of roads, and
3 wanted to require hunters to not leave that on the
4 shoulder of the road, to get it off the road. And, you
5 know, that's a public relations move there.

6
7 Avoid large roadside harvest.
8 Certainly that's an important part of this. There was
9 concern if the caribou are migrating across either one
10 of those roads that they not be -- that those
11 migrations not be interrupted, and that the Department
12 not -- either close or change the season openings,
13 whatever, to make sure that we don't have that
14 disruption and we don't have these large roadside kills
15 that happened historically in that herd.

16
17 The other management recommendation was
18 non-lethal -- well, that we currently have was this
19 non-lethal wolf control. As I said, that is over, and
20 the Department and the advisory committees are in
21 agreement that we should propose to the Board that we
22 have a lethal wolf control problem for the Fortymile.
23 The desire here, of course, is to get this herd started
24 in an upward trajectory again. And it's -- looking
25 back at the sources of mortality, certainly if we can
26 reduce wolf mortality, we can get this herd started in
27 an upward direction.

28
29 Now, that doesn't mean that we can't
30 have weather events that are going to cause -- going to
31 delay that or could help it, one or the other. But
32 certainly weather is going to interact.

33
34 But wolves are a big factor with the
35 Fortymile Herd. And the advisory committees and the
36 Department are in agreement that we should have a
37 recommendation to go with a lethal control program.
38 And I think we'll find a sympathetic Board for that.

39
40 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Seeing how the bears
41 are a quarter of the predation, and these are less than
42 50 percent, are you also looking at lethal bear
43 control?

44
45 MR. NOWLIN: At this point not a bear
46 control program. And the reason being that to -- it's
47 such a large geographic area that we're looking at.
48 We're -- for a lethal control program for the
49 Fortymile, we're looking at including all of 20(E),
50 including eastern 20(D), eastern 20(B), and southern

1 25(C). So it's a huge area. And to try and influence
2 the bear population over that large an area, I think
3 that we're probably spitting in the wind.

4
5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: How about are there
6 any increase -- have there been any increased
7 opportunities for harvest recommended in those areas,
8 like getting rid of the \$25 tag fee for brown bears and
9 changing it to one a year instead of one every three
10 years or four years?

11
12 MR. NOWLIN: We currently have over the
13 entire Interior a one bear per year bag. And we do
14 have a tag fee waiver in all -- now in all of those
15 units. The Board passed a waiver in 25(C) on the basis
16 of Fortymile caribou that we had not had before. We
17 also have a two-bear, grizzly bear bag limit in 20(E).

18
19
20 But the problem is trying to -- well,
21 trying to get people to take more bears, and we still
22 have not been successful even in the identified bear
23 control area in 20(E) with taking additional grizzly
24 bears. We have baiting in there. Right now we have an
25 unlimited bag limit for anyone who participates in the
26 control program. And now we have sale of hides, sale
27 of grizzly bear hides that the Board just passed that
28 will be allowed in the bear control area in 20(E). But
29 it's -- we'll see how that works out.

30
31 I mean, it's a tough problem. Unless
32 you can provide some sort of incentive, there's only so
33 many bears that people want to take, and that's been
34 our experience.

35
36 As a summary, the population objective
37 was 10 percent of growth. It's been changed to a more
38 definitive 50,000 to 100,000. Harvest objective, the
39 2600 was changed to 1,000 to 15,000. The Alaska quota
40 was changed from based on growth to 850 plus or minus
41 15 percent annually, and with increase to 1,000 if we
42 can get the population at or above 50,000 animals.

43
44 Also, again summarizing this, here we
45 go with the zones again. Can I blame that on the
46 advisory committees?

47
48 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

49
50 MR. NOWLIN: Okay.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. NOWLIN: Anyway, let me look back
4 at that and I'll find out where we -- how come that
5 happened, and I'll get back to you.
6
7 Anyway, non-resident season expanded by
8 10 days to August 10th to September 30. And again
9 adding this American Summit to-be-announced season of
10 one to three days during October 20 through November
11 30th. And also a recommendation for lethal wolf
12 control.
13
14 Oh, that's what happened. So it was my
15 fault after all.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 MR. NOWLIN: Well, now you have to
20 realize that I was putting this together very late last
21 night, so that's my excuse, and I'm sticking to it.
22 Anyway, at least we got that cleared up.
23
24 Endorsed by -- what we'd like to do is,
25 again as I said, get the endorsement of the RAC. And
26 this plan was endorsed by the Board of Game, and we are
27 requesting an endorsement from you folks and the
28 Federal Subsistence Board. And I had -- I don't know
29 if Vince has passed it around, but I did up a draft
30 endorsement letter for you. And, you know, it's just a
31 suggestion, you can do whatever, including use it for
32 fire starter if you want to. It's very similar to what
33 the Board of Game passed as well.
34
35 So with that, I'll answer any questions
36 that you may have.
37
38 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Are
39 there any questions.
40
41 MS. WRIGHT: Yes, I have a question.
42
43 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Go ahead Amy.
44
45 MS. WRIGHT: If you go back a slide,
46 one more. Okay. One more.
47
48 MR. NOWLIN: One more. Okay.
49
50 MS. WRIGHT: Maybe it's one more.

1 Sorry. Okay. Well, I'm getting to the point where it
2 says one to 15,000 that you're going to harvest. I
3 guess that's way back there. Sorry.

4
5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Let's see. No, it
6 was actually on the (indiscernible, mic not on).

7
8 MS. WRIGHT: Oh, it was? Oh, I missed
9 it.

10
11 MR. NOWLIN: Okay. We'll go forward
12 again. I'll make everybody dizzy.

13
14 MS. WRIGHT: Sorry. There we go, yeah.
15 How come that's such a huge range? I'm a little
16 confused about how come it went from 2600 to possibly
17 15,000.

18
19 MR. NOWLIN: Well, the Board of Game
20 when they set these intensive management objectives,
21 and you notice that the -- I mean, look at how wide the
22 population objective. I mean, it's 50,000.

23
24 MS. WRIGHT: Right. Oh, that's why.
25 Okay. Thank you.

26
27 MR. NOWLIN: And that was -- yeah, that
28 was -- when the Board set these objectives, what they
29 did was they looked at what historically had occurred.
30 And they do that for moose populations as well as
31 caribou. And we had -- I mean, some of the estimates
32 are that we could have, gees, I think it was 120,000
33 historically in this herd. It's been huge. And it
34 ranged all the way from the Steese Highway in 25(C)
35 clear over to Dawson. And so the idea here is -- in
36 intensive management is to think about what potential
37 we have out there. What have we had in the past?

38
39 MS. WRIGHT: So basically you're just
40 not going to increase it until the population gets -- I
41 hate this thing. So you're just going to continue
42 increasing the harvest as the herd increases, right?
43 That's the idea?

44
45 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah. The.....

46
47 MS. WRIGHT: You're not going to all of
48 a sudden going to say, okay, we've got 50,000 caribou,
49 let's harvest 10,000?

50

1 MR. NOWLIN: Well, we'll go up to --
2 you see, there was this complicated -- in the existing
3 plan there was kind of a complicated formula where it
4 was going to -- if the herd increased by a certain
5 percentage, then the harvest would increase, and the
6 ACs and others felt that it would be better to kind of
7 simplify this thing, and that's what they did. I think
8 if we can get up -- you know, if we can get that herd
9 in the next six years up to 50,000 or greater, and we
10 could increase it to 1,000 harvest, then you can bet
11 that we'll be taking a look at increasing opportunity.
12 But again we want to go back and touch bases with the
13 ACs and see what desires are.

14
15 You know, hunters are -- the main
16 point, I have said this a couple of times, is the
17 hunters are taking a very small portion of this herd.
18 The hunters have given up a lot and cooperated. We
19 have very good cooperation on taking bulls rather than
20 cows, particularly in the fall season. And so we've
21 got a lot of cows left out there that are having
22 calves, and, you know, I think this is -- again as I
23 said yesterday, that I think this is one of the
24 conservation success stories in this State.

25
26 MS. WRIGHT: Thank you.

27
28 MR. GLANZ: If I could.

29
30 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah, go ahead.

31
32 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, the reason the cows I
33 think were established when we went through our ACs was
34 there was a lot of waste. People were shooting cows
35 accidentally and not hauling them out. So that's why we
36 said, well, let's make them where we could do it
37 legally.

38
39 And this year the caribou haven't been
40 around our area, but the wolves are. I got a call from
41 some of my neighbors, and my wife said on the phone
42 that the wolves -- right by the generator station in
43 Central, the wolves went in and got their dogs right on
44 their chains. And then went down to the Steese corner
45 and got a big old Labrador out of the road. So some of
46 the guys were trying to snare the wolves, and they
47 said, hell, we can't snare the road, because they're
48 using the road just like, you know, like we do. So the
49 wolves are definitely still there, guys. That's about
50 it.

1 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Sue.
2
3 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr.
4 Chairman. I don't know if I did my math right here,
5 but given that chart you gave us, the 5 percent, 16
6 percent and so on.....
7
8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: She's talking about
9 mortality of caribou.
10
11 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, the mortality.
12 I come up with like if hunters are killing 850 animals,
13 other comes up to somewhere over 900. I mean -- yeah,
14 other. And then the other predators was 2500, grizzly
15 bears are 4300 and wolves are taking 7600. Does that
16 sound right?
17
18 MR. NOWLIN: We're going to loose --
19 see the -- excuse me. You can see at the top of the
20 slide there, we're going to -- what we expect with the
21 current population is about 16,000 caribou will die.
22
23 MS. ENTSMINGER: That's about what I
24 came up with.
25
26 MR. NOWLIN: Is that what you came up
27 with?
28
29 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yep.
30
31 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah. That's -- I had
32 absolute numbers in here and I took them out last
33 night, because I thought it would be easier to look at
34 the percentages. But there's a lot of caribou that die
35 from -- you know, out there every year, and a lot of
36 them are being killed by wolves and bears.
37
38 MS. ENTSMINGER: Do you have a figure
39 like, you know, based on what wolves were taken from
40 the lethal program last year, what caribou might have
41 survived this year?
42
43 MR. NOWLIN: I don't have an estimate
44 on that. We -- certainly the lethal program -- current
45 lethal program overlaps the Fortymile range, and they
46 would have benefitted, but that would be pretty tough
47 to try and pin that down at this point. I think I
48 understand your question, but I don't have an answer
49 for it. I don't think we do.
50

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: You couldn't put a
2 percentage like you did here on this graph?

3
4 MR. NOWLIN: No.

5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I was going to ask,
7 do you know what the northern range is so far, the
8 furthest north that you've either recorded the caribou
9 going, or maybe the further north a collared caribou
10 has gone from the Fortymile Herd?

11
12 MR. NOWLIN: We had them -- you know,
13 we've had them in -- well, let me go back to the map
14 here.

15
16 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And while you're
17 looking for that, I guess the reason I bring it up is
18 because I heard stories when I was a kid about the
19 Fortymile caribou actually being seen at Fort Yukon.
20 And you mentioned that you'd like to see them return to
21 the Steese highway, but we've had them as far north as
22 Fort Yukon and further north, and so the people in
23 Circle, you know, my uncles and cousins down there told
24 me about seeing hundreds of them swim across, and that
25 certainly wasn't Porcupine caribou they were talking
26 about. So I just wanted to say that if they can return
27 to their former range, whatever it is, they actually
28 went as far, as far as I know, or maybe even further.
29 I don't know if Larry knows from Venetie, but I know
30 that they went as far as Fort Yukon. And I was just
31 wondering what the furthest north, if you know, how far
32 they've gone so far. I know they're right behind
33 Circle. People have been doing some hunting on the
34 Central Road back behind some mountain over there. I
35 forget what it's called.

36
37 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, I think the
38 traditional knowledge out of Fort Yukon's probably
39 better than anything we've got. The maps that I've
40 seen have them going up into 25(C), you know, up into
41 -- you know, up to, what is it, the Schwatka area
42 and.....

43
44 MS. GRONQUIST: No, their historic
45 range.

46
47 MR. NOWLIN: Oh, okay.

48
49 MS. GRONQUIST: It's far beyond the
50 Porcupine way over past the White Mountains.

1 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, Ruth is just showing
2 me a map here that I actually hadn't seen this one.
3 But it does show them going clear up to north of Fort
4 Yukon actually, up on the Porcupine even.

5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Right. That part I
7 was aware of. But I was just wondering if you have any
8 knowledge of the current herd and how far they've gone
9 so far.

10
11 MR. NOWLIN: Oh, currently they've been
12 -- you know, we've had them, let's see, winter before
13 last, they were up in here, and you folks from Central
14 may -- probably know about that, too, but they were up
15 in here, and then, of course, you know, all through
16 this country, because we had a rather short Steese
17 Highway hunt a couple years ago, because they were into
18 that. Yeah. And then they've also crossed, let's see
19 -- I don't -- I haven't heard that they crossed into
20 Canada this year, but the two previous years they
21 crossed in pretty large numbers into Canada, and that
22 was a significant event, because they haven't -- they
23 hadn't done that for a period of time in any numbers.
24 I guess they were crossing at Eagle, but at any rates
25 there's -- yeah, they've shown expansions already. I
26 think this is -- it's -- this is a resource with
27 tremendous potential.

28
29 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thanks, Roy. Any
30 more questions or comments.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So are you -- is
35 this Council ready to -- interested in endorsing this
36 plan?

37
38 MR. NICHOLIA: I move.

39
40 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. There's a
41 motion to endorse this plan. Is there a second?

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

44
45 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. Any more
46 discussion.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: The question's been
2 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All opposed say no.
7
8 (No opposing votes)
9
10 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: The motion carries.
11 Thank you, Roy.
12
13 MR. NOWLIN: Thank you very much.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair. That motion
16 included using the language that Roy provided in the
17 letter other than we're not supposed to use the word
18 RAC, so I can clean that up, but other than that, do
19 you agree with the draft letter that he passed out as
20 an endorsement.
21
22 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: What's wrong with
23 the wrong RAC? we've been ourself a RAC for many
24 years.
25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it was just --
27 we're trying to avoid that, because it is -- I don't
28 know, I don't remember the reason, but that's what I
29 was told. We're not supposed to -- I'm not supposed to
30 call you a RAC.
31
32 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Who told you that?
33
34 MR. MATHEWS: One of the meetings we
35 had, we're supposed to avoid the word RAC. Anyway,
36 it's no big deal. Our policy is that we use Council,
37 parenthesis-Council.
38
39 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. Thank you. I
40 guess we'll move into our, not guides, outfitter
41 discussion, right?
42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Transporter.
44
45 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Transporter. That's
46 whatever they call themselves.
47
48 MR. MATTHEW: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
49 believe Richard Voss can answer questions. He's the
50 refuge manager for Arctic Refuge.

1 Again, as I prepped Staff on that was
2 to answer questions in general about guides,
3 transporters. I think he has a handout that's specific
4 to the Arctic, but I again asked him to look at general
5 questions on how refuges manage or don't manage guide/
6 transporters. But the reason I'm saying all that is I
7 don't know if the Council wants to revisit the full
8 discussion of guides in the Arctic Village area. If
9 they so desire, I think Richard's up to speed on that.
10 But that wasn't the request that.

11
12 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No, the only -- the
13 real question about guides was how many guides, and
14 that was identified as one. And so I don't think that
15 was the issue.

16
17 I think the issue was transporters
18 monitoring their trash, monitoring how many they can
19 bring in, what the policies are, how they -- you know,
20 how they're allowed to do it. But I think we had Sue
21 and Virgil were the two that were most interested. So
22 anybody that has answers to some of these questions,
23 please come up to the microphone.

24
25 And Wennona, are you staying back
26 there? You're not part of this? Okay. That's fine.

27
28 MS. BROWN: Do you want me up there?

29
30 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No, only if you've
31 got answers. If you don't have answers, then you can
32 check your email. Okay. Do you have any specific
33 presentation for starters, or do you want us to just go
34 right into questioning?

35
36 MR. VOSS: Sure.

37
38 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Push that button.
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. VOSS: Yeah, I do have a handout
42 based on my conversations with Joanne and Wennona on
43 the questions that were asked yesterday, so I've
44 included background information about how we select
45 guides. In this case it's Arctic Refuge, how we select
46 guides, how we review the proposals. Also air taxi
47 operators and commercial recreation guides. The
48 current program as it is right now. And then I've also
49 put together a map that show the guide use areas,
50 including the Red Sheep Creek area, how it exists

1 within the commercial guide use area. And then also
2 numbers in 2005 of the total commercially guided and
3 transported sport hunters, and then I've also included
4 a south side version of the num -- this happens to be
5 2004, because we're still waiting for the data for 2005
6 back from the guides and transported. But we have the
7 numbers of hunters and their harvest by guide area, and
8 also the number of commercially transported hunters
9 out. We do this by drainage. It happens to be Coleen,
10 Sheenjok and Wind River. I don't have it by individual
11 guide unit areas. The air taxi operators go across
12 boundaries from guide use areas.

13

14 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vince, do you want
15 to grab these so we can distribute them, please?

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you.

20

21 MR. VOSS: And if you want, I also have
22 the special conditions that we issue the permits to
23 commercial guides and air taxi operators, the ones that
24 they -- conditions they have to adhere to in their
25 program, so.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: We'll take
28 everything you've got.

29

30 MR. VOSS: Okay. Hunting guides, air
31 taxi.

32

33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So these numbers
34 here on the third page are actual numbers then of.....

35

36 MR. VOSS: Guided hunters on the south
37 side by guide unit.

38

39 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And their take.

40

41 MR. VOSS: Correct. Their clients and
42 their take.

43

44 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All right. Thank
45 you.

46

47 MR. VOSS: There's also commercially
48 transported, but those aren't guided hunters, just
49 people that air taxi operators take out.

50

1 There's a third element which would
2 just be Alaskan hunters who've got their own planes, or
3 get their buddy to take them out, and we don't have a
4 hard number on that. It's just too vast an area to
5 track that. We do have estimates of what that number
6 is, but it varies by unit, and we certainly wouldn't be
7 able to tell you Unit 7 or -- some of that data could
8 be inferred by going back to the Alaska Department of
9 Fish and Game take, which goes by basin. But we
10 typically do that not every year, but that can be
11 collected.

12
13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. Thank you.
14 Virgil, do you have specific questions you'd like to
15 start with?

16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, the thing I was
18 wondering about was the air taxi operators that drop
19 off hunters, and I guess I didn't see that addressed on
20 this second page. It just says commercial air taxi
21 permits and.....

22
23 MR. VOSS: Correct, that's just the
24 process.

25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: And so these people are
27 mainly dropping off I guess just floaters and
28 sightseers and fishermen then?

29
30 MR. VOSS: And hunters, too.

31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: And they're also doing
33 hunters.

34
35 MR. VOSS: Right.

36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: And do they report the
38 number of hunters to you in an annual report?

39
40 MR. VOSS: Yes. Yes. That's what you
41 have on one of those blue pages, transported -- it
42 talks about the number of people they dropped off. And
43 we can find out whether they were hunting, fishing,
44 photographing, things like that.

45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: And so they are
47 permitted then? They have to be permitted on the
48 refuge?

49
50 MR. VOSS: The air taxi operators,

1 correct.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Thank you. And
4 there's no -- well, I haven't had to chance to really
5 look at this, but how many of them do you have then?

6

7 MR. VOSS: Across the refuge I believe
8 16. No, that's hunting guides. I think there's seven.
9 One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine,
10 ten -- 12 air taxi operators. That's across 19.6
11 million acres.

12

13 MR. GLANZ: I understand that, but
14 they're all working the rivers though, they're not
15 (indiscernible, mic not on).

16

17 MR. VOSS: Well, actually these people
18 are taking backpackers.....

19

20 MR. GLANZ: Okay. But I'm.....

21

22 MR. VOSS:so they're going up to
23 a lot of different places.

24

25 MR. GLANZ: I was just -- I just
26 assume.....

27

28 MR. VOSS: Mostly rivers.

29

30 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. What I was thinking
31 about was I used to hunt up there on the Coleen until
32 Frenchie started flying people in, and he's got a
33 person every half a mile on that river. I think
34 somebody's not counting properly.

35

36 MR. VOSS: 2005, I've got 25 hunters
37 taken out by Frenchie.

38

39 MR. GLANZ: That's on the Coleen or --
40 yeah.

41

42 MR. VOSS: This would be Refuge.

43

44 MR. GLANZ: Oh, okay. Well, I just
45 can't.....

46

47 MR. VOSS: Sure.

48

49 MR. GLANZ: Statistics don't lie, but
50 or a lot of the figures -- figures don't lie, but liars

1 figure.

2

3

MR. VOSS: Yeah.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And do you -- is that -- the numbers you're quoting there, did you give us that handout?

7

8

9

10

11

12

MR. VOSS: This is private -- that's what those charts are from, consolidated. I didn't give you the individual charter's name and the number of people.

13

14

15

CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Oh, okay. I see.

16

17

18

19

20

MR. VOSS: But you have the consolidation on there.

21

22

23

24

MR. VOSS: But he asked a question about Frenchie, so I looked at that.

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

MS. ENTSMINGER: I have a question. On these guided ones, you've only listed some of the areas that you have all these guide use areas for?

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

MS. ENTSMINGER: So somebody does have.....

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

MR. VOSS:the whole -- I have the whole shebang, but I just put the south side.

48

49

50

MS. ENTSMINGER: But there are actually four, five, six, which isn't mentioned, is right next to 12 where the closed area is.

51

52

53

54

55

MR. VOSS: I have that data. I just didn't bring it with me. I focused on the south side of the Brooks Range.

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: So can you tell me
2 what -- on both of the.....
3
4 MR. VOSS: I don't have them with me.
5
6 MS. ENTSMINGER: Oh, I thought you said
7 you had.....
8
9 MR. VOSS: I can get it to you. It
10 will look just like this, except it will say north
11 side. Guided hunters, north side.
12
13 MS. ENTSMINGER: Right.
14
15 MR. VOSS: And then the two of them
16 together.....
17
18 MS. ENTSMINGER: Do you have any idea
19 what the total is for clients?
20
21 MR. VOSS: Yeah. If you look at that
22 last -- the commercially guided and transported hunters
23 for the Arctic Refuge, this one.
24
25 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay.
26
27 MR. VOSS: That has the total number,
28 in 2005 it looks like a little over 220. I -- that's a
29 bar graph. If I had my computer I could punch up the
30 number, but I don't have it.
31
32 MS. ENTSMINGER: We need your computer,
33 because if I'm looking at this, the way I'm seeing it,
34 I'm seeing total guided hunters in the south side at
35 32, and then I'm seeing unguided. Is that also in the
36 south? If I.....
37
38 MR. VOSS: It's in the Coleen, Sheenjek
39 and Wind River drainage. See, the difficulty is
40 they're collected and they drop off hunters.....
41
42 MS. ENTSMINGER: In the drainage.
43
44 MR. VOSS:in different areas.
45
46 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I understand.
47 But would you say it's similar.....
48
49 MR. VOSS: Yes.
50

1 MS. ENTSMINGER:land mass as what
2 you're reporting here at 32, the 59?

3
4 MR. VOSS: No, actually the 32 is a
5 larger area than the Coleen, Sheenjek and Wind River
6 is, because 32 includes Units 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
7 and 16.

8
9 MS. ENTSMINGER: I guess what were
10 concerned about here is this is the over-all, these
11 numbers over 200 on your last.....

12
13 MR. VOSS: Correct.

14
15 MS. ENTSMINGER:number of
16 commercially guided and transported. And what we were
17 concerned about is the numbers of transported is pretty
18 significant compared to guiding. So I see.....

19
20 MR. VOSS: Twice as much. Twice as
21 much, yeah.

22
23 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And how the
24 Refuge regulates that.

25
26 MR. VOSS: It's -- the air taxi permit
27 program, they're required to have business licensing,
28 they're required to be safe operators, and we look at
29 their past history of, you know, aircraft accidents,
30 things like that. But beyond that, we'll special
31 condition their flight -- their landing areas, their
32 impacts to harassing wildlife, but they don't -- we
33 don't control the hunter's behavior that the air taxi
34 operator drops off.

35
36 MS. ENTSMINGER: What about the.....

37
38 MR. VOSS: Through the air taxi permit,
39 but we do.....

40
41 MS. ENTSMINGER: What about the
42 numbers? How.....

43
44 MR. VOSS: No, we're not traffic
45 controllers.

46
47 MS. ENTSMINGER: Do you have any means
48 to do so, the numbers of clients they drop off? Do you
49 have any means in your -- in the refuge system.....

50

1 MR. VOSS: Well, probably a full-blown
2 public use management plan, or a coordinated
3 conservation plan, you could go through limiting
4 numbers of people. But we haven't done it through the
5 commercial permit process.

6
7 MS. ENTSMINGER: But do I hear that it
8 can be done, but it's pretty intense?

9
10 MR. VOSS: It's intense stuff, you
11 know, a full public use process where you, you know, go
12 out to all the public and collect the data of what's
13 actually happening. Yes, that type of thing could be
14 done. We'd have to work with the State also. There's
15 two different programs. There's the State air
16 transporting process, and then there's a refuge special
17 commercial use permit process.

18
19 MS. ENTSMINGER: Well, have you heard
20 many complaints that there's an over-abundance of drop-
21 off hunters in the refuge?

22
23 MR. VOSS: Depending on units, yes, I
24 think -- I have heard complaints. Other units where
25 there's no complaints, depending on which area. But,
26 yes, I have heard complaints.

27
28 MS. ENTSMINGER: Probably where there's
29 lots of game, correct?

30
31 MR. VOSS: Coleen. Would you call that
32 a lot of game?

33
34 MR. GLANZ: Negative.

35
36 MS. ENTSMINGER: No.

37
38 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Actually for the
39 Yukon Flats, the Coleen is kind of a jackpot, so
40 there's not a lot of game in the Yukon Flats, so the
41 Coleen is a good -- is one of the best. And, of
42 course, the Sheenjok drainage is also good, expect down
43 where there's a zillion grizzly bears.

44
45 MR. NICHOLIA: It kind of seems to me
46 that you guys have pretty good control over the guide
47 service, and they don't pose too much of a problem to
48 what's being proposed around Arctic Circle. But it
49 seems to me that you guys have no really control over
50 the transporters. And the transporters leave people

1 out there, that it seems further to me that you have no
2 control over those people that they leave out there.
3 And there's got to be some things put in place before I
4 see anything happening up there, because I've dealt
5 with transporters before around Tanana and it's not a
6 pretty picture. It's very controversial, and it's very
7 contentious, and there could be some critical outcomes
8 of that. And I would like to see more control over the
9 transporters and who's being dropped out there, because
10 -- before I like vote to approve any kind of opening
11 the Arctic Village area. Because I place a higher
12 value on the subsistence lifestyle than the sport
13 hunting deal. And to impact those Arctic Village
14 people like that is just -- it's not showing -- to me,
15 if we approve that, to me all we're showing is that we
16 don't care about their lifestyle, because we're
17 allowing people to dirty the area and to not have --
18 show no respect. Around Tanana when we dealt with it,
19 they didn't show no respect to us at all. Actually
20 they scared people away from traditional hunting areas.
21 And we had a lot of complaints. We had state troopers
22 come out there and take the guy out, and I believe he
23 moved to Anaktuvuk Pass after that. You know, I just
24 don't want to see the Arctic Village people from that
25 region be impacted in that way, because it's just -- it
26 goes no -- for us to really support something like that
27 shows no respect for those people is what I'm trying to
28 say.

29

30 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Gerald.
31 And I'll add to that a little bit. I don't know if
32 Joanne gave you -- well, she probably did, I know
33 Joanne -- a good background of what the discussion was
34 about yesterday, but we had teleconferenced in several
35 people from Arctic Village regarding the sheep hunt.
36 And I don't think I heard a whole lot of folks say that
37 the primary concern was too many animals going out.
38 Some people complained about that a little bit, but one
39 of the primary complaints, and something I've been
40 hearing for years was that all of the people coming in,
41 they're really dirtying up the country. They don't
42 have a lot of respect for things.

43

44 And, you know, a few years ago the
45 people from Arctic Village and the Arctic Refuge Staff
46 actually had to go to a couple of these landing strips
47 and clean them up. I don't know if you were part of
48 that. I think it might have been before your time,
49 unless you've done some since then. But it really
50 shouldn't be the responsibility of the folks in Arctic

1 Village and Arctic Refuge Staff to go clean up after
2 dirty people. And that's a real serious problem. And
3 it's a problem that the folks in Arctic Village see as
4 only getting worse if you open the area up.
5

6 Of course, when we talked about whether
7 or not the -- it should be opened up for sheep hunting,
8 we didn't feel like there was any real evidence to open
9 it up. It was basically we don't know what the
10 population is. Arctic Village isn't shooting any, so
11 it should be opened up. And so we didn't hold to that
12 theory too well. We thought that there needed to be
13 more evidence.
14

15 But our concerns are over, you know,
16 too many people being dropped off all over the place.
17 It seems like little respect to the country and to the
18 other people. And also being pretty dirty. And, of
19 course, Gerald has brought up, and other people have
20 brought up the wastefulness of a lot of people who end
21 up shooting too much game. And I don't know how much
22 dall sheep meat is wasted, because it's such a small
23 animal that you could probably get it all out pretty
24 quickly.
25

26 But we've had people floating into Fort
27 Yukon, who have landed on the Sheenjek -- as a matter
28 of fact there were -- there was a raft full of people,
29 I think there were five or six people, maybe five or
30 six years ago that rafted down the Sheenjek, and they
31 had I think 10 or 12 caribou, and they'd been floating
32 in August for about 15 days. And I don't need to tell
33 you what condition the meat was in, but they needed
34 rescuing, because they were on a log raft floating down
35 the Sheenjek. And that's kind of the tragedy of some
36 of the people that get dropped off there. And it
37 wasn't a pretty sight.
38

39 Now, I didn't see that personally, but
40 a friend of mine saw it, and a friend of mine was the
41 one who actually rescued them. And, you know, he
42 didn't mind rescuing them, but he was pretty disgusted
43 by the waste of meat, as we all should be.
44

45 And so there's concern over the
46 behavior of these folks just dropping people off.
47 Gerald's talked about folks getting dropped off, and
48 some being left, some being left for a long time, and,
49 you know, if you kill a -- if it's a warm day
50 especially, if you kill a moose early on when you're

1 dropped off, and you don't get picked up, if you don't
2 know how to properly care for that animal, it's going
3 to be -- a lot of the meat is going to go to waste, and
4 so I think those are some of the problems that we
5 wanted to present.

6
7 And I hope -- I don't know if the -- it
8 seems like we had a lot more fervor when we were
9 talking about this yesterday, and so I don't know if
10 all of the questions have been answered or not, but if
11 there are more questions, now is the time for the
12 Council to ask them, because we're leaving here very
13 soon. So if you've got more questions, you'd better
14 ask them now.

15
16 MR. VOSS: Could I make a quick comment
17 on your comment?

18
19 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yes, please.

20
21 MR. VOSS: Yes, we do go through clean
22 up every year.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Every year?

25
26 MR. VOSS:with Arctic Village and
27 Kaktovik. We go out to guide camps or to landing
28 strips. In fact, we cleaned up an area within the Red
29 Sheep Creek this year. So it's a process, but, you
30 know, whether we're putting a dent in the whole
31 problem, we do it a piece at a time as dollars and
32 money allows.

33
34 WE also work with outreach. We have
35 kiosks which are visitor panels at Arctic Village now.
36 We work with the community to inform the public, since
37 this is a major drop off point and transfer point, that
38 talks about refuge values and subsistence and
39 traditional knowledge and clean up. Leave no trace
40 practices. And we have those information kiosks at
41 both villages, and we also work at the Dalton Highway
42 Coldfoot visitor's center with putting information out,
43 trying to educate the public.

44
45 But certainly along with education
46 goes, you know, take names, kick ass, so.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah. Well, and
49 I've been told for years by Staff from the Department
50 of Fish and Game, some of my friends, that the typical

1 fly-in/fly-out hunter and the typical person guided or
2 taken out by a transporter are wonderful people and
3 generally practice extremely good ethics, but when you
4 talk to the people from Arctic Village who participate
5 in these clean ups and actually see people filthying up
6 their country, you know, it's real hard to believe that
7 they are practicing good standards. And to me that's
8 cause for alarm and concern. And, you know, if it was
9 my yard, which I guess the Arctic Refuge is my yard
10 since I'm a taxpayer, if it was my yard and some
11 knucklehead came in and dirtied it up, first of all I'd
12 beat the crap out of him, and then I'd throw him out of
13 my yard and I wouldn't let him back in. So maybe we
14 ought to take some serous action and look at -- I mean,
15 we can't, of course, it's your yard, but the -- maybe
16 some action needs to be taken to teach these dirty
17 people a lesson. And unfortunately, when you get the
18 dirty ones, the clean ones suffer, you know, because I
19 know that there are people out there that have good
20 practices. We have some guides that sit on this
21 Council who constantly talk about good practices and
22 maintaining good -- well, a beautiful country really.

23

24 Sue, you had a question or a comment.

25

26 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.

27 Chairman.

28

29 I wanted to just kind of give a quick
30 synopsis here. I served on the Big Game Commercial
31 Services Board '91 to '93, and we heard all of these
32 same problems at that board then. And it was sunset
33 for 10 years. It just now got back into place. We
34 went our comments in to help that two years ago to try
35 to get it back into place, and it's a dire need. It
36 should have never sunset, but it did.

37

38 And here I'm hearing solutions here. I
39 feel like the report that was just given to us would be
40 a good place for the refuge people to take to the Big
41 Game Commercial Services Board. They actually came up
42 with some ethics at their last meeting in December, for
43 transporters which I think can help the situation. But
44 there's so much information here that I think needs to
45 be shared with all of the entities that's involved, and
46 actually the refuge, too.

47

48 I think when you're working with these
49 transporters when they get their permit from you, they
50 could use a meat care themselves requirement. And that

1 the meat is in -- that they are actually relaying that
2 to the hunters they're dropping off. And then maybe
3 talking to the communities, the villages, where people
4 would actually share the meat. If they had properly
5 taken of meat, there are people that would share that
6 meat and take that meat if it was good looking meat.
7 So, I mean, I see some solutions here, guys. Maybe
8 Virgil can comment on it.

9

10 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I wonder if
11 anybody's ever talked about the idea of some sort of a
12 deposit or something as well. If you're having to
13 spend my money to go out and clean up the refuge every
14 year, my tax paying dollars, to go out and clear up
15 something that you didn't dirty, I wonder if you can
16 require some sort of a deposit where all of the
17 transporters are required to pay \$1,000 deposit, and
18 you go out and check, and if it's clean, they get their
19 deposit back. If it's not clean, then you keep the
20 dollar amount that it costs to clean their filth up.
21 Because why should there be a taxpayer burden because
22 you're providing them an opportunity to hunt within
23 this beautiful country that we live in.

24

25 William.

26

27 MR. GLANZ: I seen them on the Charter
28 River, and they weren't even outfitters. They were GIs
29 and average hunters, and they leave a big mess up there
30 on the river when we go in behind them.

31

32 And also I have to defend Frenchie,
33 whenever he has extra meat, like the people from out of
34 state don't want the meat, he does call the community
35 and the meat is distributed throughout the Central
36 community, so there's no waste. Frenchie does haul all
37 the meat out. I've never seen that man -- and I've
38 followed a landing where he was putting in hunters. I
39 landed right after he left. There was no meat there.
40 So he'd honest in that respect.

41

42 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, yeah, I know a
43 number of folks that do that around the State and I
44 think it's a good practice.

45

46 Virgil.

47

48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. You said that
49 you had went up to -- well, I can't remember the name
50 of that creek. Red.....

1 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Red Sheep.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR:Sheep Creek or
4 something, and cleaned up trash up there.
5
6 MR. VOSS: No, in the unit, not.....
7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: So it's been closed, is
9 that where you went?
10
11 MR. VOSS: In the unit, not in Red
12 Sheep Creek. It was actually Timber Lake.
13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So being as
15 there's no hunting allowed there now, so I guess that
16 trash came from the backpackers or.....
17
18 MR. VOSS: No, you could be hunting
19 moose or bear, caribou. It's just the sheep in the
20 closure. So we don't -- the air taxi operator reports
21 that we see don't indicate a lot of traffic in that
22 area.
23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Thank you. I
25 spend a lot of time out in the field and the biggest
26 piles of trash I've seen have been from the prospectors
27 and miners.
28
29 Thank you. Mr. Chair.
30
31 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All right. Any more
32 comments. Any more questions.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, we've given
37 you some recommendations. I don't know what you'll do
38 with them, but thank you for your time. I appreciate
39 it.
40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. What that
42 brings you up to is if there's any other Fish Game
43 reports. I believe there is one. And then after that
44 is Bureau of Land Management. And the Park Service has
45 informed me, unless I got it wrong that there's no
46 reports from the Park Service.
47
48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I'm back. Hi.
49
50 MR. BUCHOR: Mr. Chairman. Council

1 members. For the record my name is Bill Buchor. I'm
2 with the State of Alaska Commercial Fisheries Division.
3 And I'm the Yukon area subsistence harvest monitoring
4 project leader.

5
6 And there should be a five-page handout
7 passed around, and there's a stack of them in the back,
8 on the back counter.

9
10 Okay. And just briefly, I'm just going
11 to talk about just what the harvest -- the preliminary
12 harvest was for 2005 season on the Yukon River. Okay.
13 And pretty much you can -- I'm just taking notes off
14 the first page here.

15
16 Post-season surveys were conducted --
17 are conducted annually and usually take place in
18 September and October of each year after the fishing
19 season. In 2005, 1200 households were selected to be
20 surveyed drainagewide. The Fish and Game surveyors
21 contacted approximately 83 percent of those households,
22 selected households, and data collected from those
23 surveyed households were expanded to estimate total
24 harvest by species.

25
26 Additionally, approximately 400
27 subsistence permits were issued to households to fish
28 in permit-required areas of the river. And about 93
29 percent of those permits have been returned that were
30 issued. And then the harvest numbers of the permits
31 are added to the results of subsistence surveys to
32 generate total harvest for the Yukon.

33
34 And the preliminary subsistence salmon
35 estimates for the last portion of the Yukon River
36 drainage was 52,400 chinook salmon, 88,800 summer chum
37 salmon, 88,500 fall chum salmon, and about 29,900 coho
38 salmon.

39
40 There's four additional -- first of
41 all, are there any questions. I was just reporting
42 preliminary harvest. The numbers maybe change still.
43 We haven't frozen the data base. There has been -- the
44 process of getting harvest reports back in takes a
45 little while. Those folks that we do not meet up with
46 in the communities when we're surveying are sent
47 letters, follow-up letters and then a follow-survey
48 form. And we're still getting a few trickling in right
49 here, and then pretty quick now we're going to freeze
50 up the data base and call it good and make the final

1 numbers.

2

3 And then we are still getting some
4 permits back in from folks.

5

6 Moving to the harvest trends, Pages 4,
7 5 -- I should say 2 through 5, show by species harvest
8 trend for the last 15 years. And there's several
9 bullet points below. It just kind of gives you a
10 little bit of idea what's transpired over time. And I
11 won't go reading all those bullet points. You can read
12 them for yourself. And just make comment.

13

14 I'll point out the second bullet point
15 for chinook salmon on the second page. Chinook salmon
16 harvest decreased significantly in 2000 due to three
17 poor return which restricted management action to
18 occur, and that's an indication there of the real low
19 subsistence harvest there. In 2003, 4 and 5, the last
20 three years, subsistence harvest was above average and
21 most escapements were met, including Canadian border
22 passage, while commercial fishing was considered,
23 totally managing the Alaska portion of the drainage.

24

25 And if you have any questions on
26 chinook or anything.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MR. BUCHOR: Looking at the third page,
31 trends in subsistence harvest for summer chum on the
32 Yukon area. The first bullet, subsistence harvest of
33 summer chums in the early 80s through 1997 were driven
34 commercial roe fisheries in the middle Yukon River
35 area. The commercial harvest ceased because the market
36 value dropped to the level where it was no longer
37 really economical to export product out of that remote
38 area.

39

40 And then also the last bullet there, in
41 2001 for the first time on record since 1931, no
42 commercial fishery occurred during the summer season
43 due to poor returns of both chinook and summer chum.
44 And it's indicated there in 2000, probably the lowest
45 harvest from summer chum.

46

47 And moving on to the next page to fall
48 chum salmon, the trends there, the first bullet, fall
49 chum salmon runs have been extremely weak in the recent
50 years due to observed decline in productivity. The

1 subsistence fisheries have been restricted or closed in
2 efforts to reduce harvest along with complete closures
3 to commercial fishing '93, 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2002.

4
5 And then reviewing the last bullet
6 there, although the run size appears to be on the
7 rebound as observed in the last three years, harvests
8 have not and are not expected to return to, it says
9 normal levels. It probably should say pre-1997 levels,
10 due to changes in the fishery. And to elaborate on
11 that, the markets have not rebounded, and so the
12 harvest may not rebound in the foreseeable future, but
13 we're hoping that it will.

14
15 And looking at the last page there,
16 trends in coho salmon, there's just one bullet point
17 there. A lot of -- the coho salmon subsistence harvest
18 decline is directly related to actions taken to
19 management of the Yukon fall chum salmon. Since they
20 do overlap on the Yukon River, and we have a fall chum
21 salmon management plan, and we -- many of the
22 restrictions are based on the fall chum, we do --
23 inadvertently the coho salmon harvest is less.

24
25 In some years, however, the harvest of
26 coho salmon was allowed using time, area and gear
27 restrictions that can target coho salmon specifically,
28 but require the release of fall chum. A fish wheel
29 with live boxes or people on the fish wheels.

30
31 And in the years when attempts were
32 made to supply some salmon harvest to offset the loss,
33 the percentage of coho salmon did not go as low as it
34 would have if the entire fishery would have been
35 closed.

36
37 And so that's just a quick review of
38 the 2005 preliminary numbers and kind of the trend
39 that's going on in the fishery.

40
41 I guess that's all I have to say, and
42 I'll be open for any questions from anyone.

43
44 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Bill.
45 Any questions.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I have a question
50 related, and this isn't specific to your presentation,

1 but the amounts necessary for subsistence, I see that
2 the majority of these, maybe all of them, over the last
3 10 years or so are at the lower level, and even below
4 in some cases, of the amounts necessary for
5 subsistence. There's none at the upper level, or even
6 close to the upper limit. Some are almost half way
7 with the chinook. Is the Department looking at doing
8 something to try to increase the population to get the
9 harvest up to the upper limits of the amounts necessary
10 -- to meet the amounts necessary for subsistence at the
11 upper level of the range there?

12

13 MR. BUCHOR: I don't specifically think
14 the Department's looking to increase the harvest to get
15 to the upper end of the.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I wasn't really
18 referring to the harvest, increase in harvest, but
19 increasing.....

20

21 MR. BUCHOR: The run size?

22

23 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yes, increasing the
24 population so we can actually meet our needs.

25

26 MR. BUCHOR: Yeah, I don't -- I'm not
27 sure how to answer that question. I don't -- I mean,
28 we were trying to provide for escapement and for
29 subsistence needs, and then other opportunities if
30 there is a surplus. And the ANS.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Let me -- you
33 mentioned that if there's a surplus. So I guess there
34 has been a surplus according to the State and Federal
35 fish biologists over the past few years on king salmon,
36 but folks are still not having their subsistence needs
37 met, and if you look at the graph, it's at the lower
38 level the last, one, two, three, four, five years, if
39 you want to use that as an -- well, just look at the
40 running average, the 15-year average is at the low
41 level of the amounts necessary for subsistence. If it
42 continues to be at the lower level of the amounts
43 necessary for subsistence, if the State prepared to
44 take more severe actions, more tightening, for example,
45 to allow us to be able to meet our subsistence needs?
46 Basically, is anything going to be done to reduce
47 commercial, or to allow more fish to come upriver to
48 get these numbers up? That's a tough question.

49

50 MR. BUCHOR: It is a tough question and

1 I probably should defer it to, you know, the regional
2 Staff.

3

4 MR. NICHOLIA: Well, Craig, it depends,
5 you know, on how much they cut off at the mouth, and
6 how much political pressure is put on the Department.
7 And we could try like heck to put pressure on them, but
8 we're just end users of it, considered in some views,
9 minds. And the Department is doing something. They
10 established windows and shorter periods and -- but what
11 I hope you're not getting at is like lowering the
12 amounts necessary for subsistence, because it -- just
13 keep those amounts there, you know, just.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No, actually I think
16 the amounts necessary for subsistence is too low. The
17 amount that I've seen that are reported for the Yukon
18 Flats, they're nowhere near enough to meet our needs.
19 And if we're managing at the lower level -- if this has
20 been our goal, is to keep the salmon populations above
21 the lower level of the amounts necessary for
22 subsistence, that number is too low. It should be
23 nearly double, or maybe double in some cases, which
24 means that these numbers instead of being here at
25 48,000, if those are in thousands, yeah, should be up
26 to 90,000, which means we're nowhere meeting
27 subsistence needs, but we're managing on the wrong
28 scale. So, no, I'm not saying we should reduce the
29 amounts necessary for subsistence, because that just
30 means we're going to -- we're telling people we don't
31 need as much as we need.

32

33 And so what I'm hoping we could get at
34 is somebody in the Department saying, yes, we've got a
35 problem, yes, we need to start doing some belt-
36 tightening so we can have more fish getting to the
37 spawning grounds, we can have more fish getting to the
38 plates of the people that need it. But nobody wants to
39 really say that except me, and I know you've got
40 superiors to keep their eye on you, so that's difficult
41 to say.

42

43 But that -- you answered my question,
44 Bill. Thank you.

45

46 Are there other questions.

47

48 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, they could pretty
49 much hear what we're saying, because I voice a lot of
50 opinions from the Tanana/Rampart Advisory Committee,

1 too, is that something needs to be done. Sometimes
2 it's just going to take us bopping them over the head
3 with something, you know. It's not these guys that we
4 have to pick on, it's the bosses, it's their bosses
5 that we have to pick on, the Governor we have to pick
6 on, the Legislature if we want to have like have equal
7 opportunity. I've been fighting this battle since I
8 don't know how long to try to get the equal
9 opportunity, a reasonable opportunity for the upriver
10 people to have the same as the downriver people.
11 That's going to be a continuous fight. And we'll still
12 be there, you know.

13
14 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I think you're
15 right, Gerald. And I really don't like to pick on the
16 biologists, because they're doing the job that is put
17 before them. But in one respect I like to pick on the
18 biologists, because the Federal Subsistence Board won't
19 go against its biologists. If the Federal Subsistence
20 Board -- they rarely do I should say. If the Federal
21 Subsistence Board has a recommendation from its Staff
22 Committee or its biologists, they're going to go with
23 that recommendation almost every time.

24
25 And I don't like the recommendations
26 that they're getting sometimes. I don't think there's
27 enough salmon getting to the spawning grounds. And
28 we've been saying that for a decade now. And instead
29 of getting more salmon to the spawning grounds -- I
30 mean, we're trying with windows. I love the windowed
31 approach. But to make exclusions for commercial
32 fishing where they don't have to abide by the windows,
33 but us that are trying to subsist? That just doesn't
34 seem right at all. It seems criminal in fact.

35
36 And so it tells me that there's a --
37 that the system is not -- that it's broken. We need to
38 get -- even in years where we think, hey, we've got a
39 few extra, well, why do we have to catch all of them?
40 Why not let a few extra go. I tried to make a
41 recommendation a few years back that we have a
42 moratorium on commercial fishing for one or two life
43 expectancies of a king salmon just to see what happens.
44 Because you can look at this, we're managing at
45 extremely low levels, and it's fluctuating around
46 extremely low levels. And instead of saying, let's try
47 to produce a few more, we say, let's reduce the amounts
48 that need to go to the spawning grounds. What do they
49 call that?

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Escapement.

2

3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: That's the word.
4 They say, well, let's just reduce escapement levels and
5 that will fix that problem. And I know it's not that
6 simple, and I don't want to make you upset by saying
7 that, but that is what happened.

8

9 Yeah, that is what's happened, and I
10 think more drastic action needs to take place. But
11 what I -- why I keep saying this to the biologists is
12 because the Boards listen to the biologists in some
13 cases more than they listen to the people in the
14 communities, and if a biologist says, no, this
15 population is A-okay, then that's the recommendation
16 they're going with. It doesn't matter if Gerald
17 Nicholia says, gee, these salmon don't look quite right
18 any more, or they're not quite as big as they used to
19 be. Well, Gerald, he's just providing anecdotal
20 information, and he's just some backwards hillbilly
21 like Craig Fleener, and so we'll believe our Ph.D.
22 educated U.W. students instead, so -- and that's -- if
23 you take a look at a number of our regulation proposals
24 that we've submitted, that's the direction they've gone
25 is they've taken the Staff recommendation instead of
26 our recommendations in things that are very important
27 to us.

28

29 Virgil, go ahead.

30

31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. Thank you. The
32 four proposals that we are forwarding on to both Boards
33 are addressing this issue. The issue of reasonable
34 opportunity, because when the Board passed the windows
35 in 2001 and established the fishing schedule that they
36 call windows, it did it for two reasons. The one
37 reason was to get better quality escapement on the
38 spawning grounds, more of a cross section of the fish,
39 try to get unmolested fish past the first 150 miles of
40 the river where they have such tremendous harvest
41 power. And then the second reason was for reasonable
42 opportunity upriver. And that's why when that
43 subsistence fishery schedule was made, District 5(D)
44 was allowed to fish seven days a week. And what I used
45 in deliberations when it was deliberated was that, and
46 I've heard this lots of times on teleconferences where
47 subsistence fishermen in Y-1 who were also commercial
48 fishermen would get on the teleconference and say the
49 guys up river don't know how to fish when they're
50 saying that they aren't getting their subsistence needs

1 met. And that I've heard guys say they've caught as
2 many as 130 king salmon in eight hours in Y-1.

3
4 And so I use that information in
5 deliberations to pass it on to the other board members
6 to get those windows passed, because when the fish are
7 concentrated that are going to all these various
8 tributaries all the way to British Columbia, and to the
9 headwaters of the Tanana River and all over the place,
10 that when they're all concentrated in one channel like
11 they are in parts of Y-1, then they're real easy to
12 catch. But once they get all spread out and get up in
13 the Yukon Flats, or not even as far as the Yukon Flats,
14 there's not near as many fish available to harvest, and
15 the method of harvesting, using a fish wheel, you have
16 to find a good spot or you're not going to catch hardly
17 any fish.

18
19 But anyway the Board did consider that
20 in 2001, and I'm hoping that when these proposals come
21 up, whoever we send to the Federal Subsistence Board
22 and the Board of Fisheries meetings, that we can get
23 that point across so that they take a good hard look
24 and try to take some positive steps, because we've
25 given them four options, that all four would be
26 positive actions to improve subsistence opportunity for
27 the upper river users, and improve the escapement as
28 well.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Virgil.

33
34 Okay. If there's no more questions or
35 comments.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you very much.
40 BLM. The BLM folks split I think. Okay.

41
42 Fish and Wildlife Service. Come forth.
43 Go ahead, Wennona.

44
45 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll
46 be very brief. Salena is passing out the copy of
47 activities for both the Yukon Flats and the Arctic
48 National Wildlife Refuges. Just some of the projected
49 work coming up over the summer that we wanted you to be
50 aware of.

1 Both refuges will be doing some avian
2 flu testing this summer. The Yukon Flats will be
3 testing pintails on Long Lake, which is, you know,
4 downstream from Beaver, and the Arctic Refuge will be
5 working on shore birds on the North Slope.

6
7 If you have any questions, I'll be
8 happy to answer.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MS. BROWN: Yesterday I also brought in
13 handouts and I'm not sure what went with them for the
14 Earthwork Quest Program that we're sponsoring for
15 interns throughout the summer, if anybody has people,
16 you know, youth in their villages that are interested,
17 those applications and information is floating around
18 here some place, and if not, get ahold of me, and I'll
19 get those in touch with you.

20
21 And yesterday I also did pass out some
22 information on the avian flu. One of the posters, or
23 handouts, has got my 800 number on the bottom. If you
24 have any questions or whatever, you know, please give
25 me a call. And they have also made that into a bigger
26 poster that are also floating around here some place,
27 if anybody wants to take them home to post them in your
28 villages. And if any of the villages do want us to
29 come out and do a presentation about what we know about
30 the flu, please give me a call.

31
32 Oh, Connie just -- or Joanne just found
33 the Earthwork Quest information. And the closing date
34 on that is April 21st.

35
36 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Wennona.
37 Any questions.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Anybody else from
42 Fish and Wildlife Service. Connie. Canary.

43
44 MS. FRIEND: Canary yellow. Thank you,
45 Mr. Chair. My name is Connie Friend. I'm the
46 subsistence coordinator and refuge liaison for Tetlin
47 National Wildlife Refuge.

48
49 And we're happy to announce that we
50 have a new manager. His name is Tony Booth, and he

1 came to Alaska nearly 30 years ago fresh out of
2 graduate school, and he's worked in the Fish and
3 Wildlife Service in Fairbanks from 1977 until 1992 when
4 he transferred to the regional office in Anchorage.
5 There he became the subsistence coordinator for all of
6 the refuges in Alaska, and later as that position
7 evolved, he took on other duties. Tony has two
8 children living here in Fairbanks, and he likes to
9 hunt, fish, participate in ice hockey and live a
10 subsistence lifestyle. And so we're looking forward to
11 having him with us for many years.

12

13 Our moose hunt was open from November
14 20th to 30th and there were 29 permits issued for
15 bulls, with no harvest reported.

16

17 Our Federal subsistence caribou hunt
18 opened December 6th, and the permits were issued for
19 the first time in a long time, the first time ever I
20 think for either sex caribou. Sixty-nine permits have
21 been issued to date. Three designated hunter permits
22 have also been issued. And at this time five caribou
23 have been reported harvested, four males and one
24 female. And the hunt will remain open until probably
25 some time in April when the Nelchina pass back through.
26 It will close after that.

27

28 Our traditional ecological knowledge
29 upper Tanana subsistence fishery study is progressing
30 into its final stages, and the partners will be meeting
31 next week to analyze the interviews from elders and
32 expert fishers, bring together data relating to the
33 various fisheries of the upper Tanana region, and I'll
34 be again writing the report this spring, and hopefully
35 you should have the next -- the final report by next
36 winter's Council meeting.

37

38 Refuge information technicians met in
39 Bethel February 7 through 10th, and that meeting agenda
40 included a presentation regarding avian flu and how we
41 might educate the public regarding safe handling and
42 consumption of waterfowl, which has become a topic of
43 concern for waterfowl hunters. The RITs are available
44 to assist Council members in a variety of ways. The
45 regional office in Anchorage has hired an avian flu
46 coordinator, that's Deborah Rocque, and she told me
47 personally that you're welcome to call her at the
48 number listed her, or you can also call myself if you
49 have questions, or if you'd like us to come to your
50 village, especially in the upper Tanana.

1 And that concludes my report. Thank
2 you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Connie.
5 Are there questions.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: You're going to let
10 her off the hook that easy? Okay.

11
12 Are there any other agencies or groups
13 that have a presentation. Why it looks like there is.

14
15 MS. ROBINS: Mr. Chair. Members of the
16 Council. My name is Becka Robins, and I'm with the
17 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, YRDFA.

18
19 And you're getting a summary from our
20 annual meeting which was in Ruby just last month, and a
21 copy of the six resolutions that were passed at that
22 meeting. And I just want to go over a couple issues
23 that you guys have already touched on, and one new
24 proposal that I think was mentioned earlier, too, and
25 just go over what was discussed at the meeting, and
26 then take any questions that you have on those.

27
28 The first is one we've all talked a lot
29 about, and that's the fish size issue, and this was a
30 big issue also at the YRDFA annual meeting. As your
31 know, there's some disagreement between lower and upper
32 river fishers on if this is happening, although at the
33 meeting we actually had a few lower river fishers even
34 who admitted that the fish were getting smaller.

35
36 And basically what I wanted to let you
37 on the Council know is that YRDFA is committed to
38 working on this issue. We've done some studies already
39 that confirm Fish and Wildlife Service's reports that
40 the fish size is changing, and our plan is to continue
41 to facilitate discussions on this. We're planning in
42 the fall to try to get the State and Federal agencies,
43 as well as people on the river together and try to talk
44 through solutions to this that everyone can deal with,
45 and maybe have everyone sitting in the room talking
46 about it rather than trying to debate it in the forms
47 of proposals in front of the Board of Fish or the
48 Subsistence Board.

49
50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: We lost Pete. Hang

1 that up. Thank you.

2

3 MS. ROBINS: No problem. And so I just
4 wanted to give you that update on YRDFA's work on fish
5 size and let you know that it is something that we're
6 concerned about and are working on, too, and welcome
7 your continued input in that.

8

9 The other thing that I think was
10 mentioned earlier, too, was this quarter point
11 proposal. The YRDFA Board approved a proposal to allow
12 a limited commercial opening at the quarter point of
13 the run, and that would be used by management to assess
14 run strength, will distribute the harvest throughout
15 the run, and will allow a limited amount of fish to be
16 caught early in the season for marketing purposes.

17

18 And I just wanted to clarify couple
19 things on that proposal, that it wouldn't mean that
20 more fish would be allowed to be caught in the
21 commercial harvest. It would still be the same amount.
22 It would just be opened earlier, and it would be a very
23 short opening, and would be opened only if the run is
24 strong enough. If the run isn't going to support a
25 commercial opening, they wouldn't do an early opening.
26 And it's a chance mainly to do some more marketing and
27 have a few fish early in the season to get to market.

28

29 And I think that those are the two main
30 issues that I wanted to bring up for you.

31

32 The other thing I want to just touch on
33 a little, because I saw it in your annual report
34 document, is the issue of salmon by-catch and the
35 excluder device. This year in the pollock fleet in the
36 Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea area, they've already
37 caught 55,000 chinook salmon, and we're not even half
38 way through the year yet. So this is a real big
39 concern I think for all of us. And the North Pacific
40 Fisheries Management Council is meeting in a couple
41 weeks in Anchorage to continue working on this, and
42 we'll be there, and I encourage anyone who's around to
43 go testify there, too, as to what a big concern this is
44 for us.

45

46 And just briefly on the salmon excluder
47 device, they're still researching that and they haven't
48 developed anything that they're able to catch pollock
49 with and avoid salmon.

50

1 And I can take any questions you have.

2

3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any questions.

4 Gerald.

5

6 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, when you guys
7 discussed the hatchery issue in Ruby, did you guys
8 bring up the fact that all these hatcheries started out
9 as a loan from the State and that they are not -- when
10 they first start, it's in the State's regulation,
11 there's a statute that they're not supposed to impact
12 the wild stocks in any way. The reason I'm asking
13 that, we brought it up, me and Charlie Stevens at the
14 Board of Fish meeting about five, six years ago. They
15 just ignored us then. I mean, the Board of Fish just
16 ignored us that time about what we brought up that
17 time. And I'd like to see it mentioned in one of these
18 proposals next time. Maybe I should have been there,
19 but I was too busy doing something else.

20

21 MS. ROBINS: Yeah, Virgil is actually
22 working with us right now to get a letter out. We've
23 kind of been going back and forth with the Commissioner
24 of Fish and Game, but hatcheries is another thing that
25 stood out as an issue people are really concerned
26 about, and we're trying to -- there were some promises
27 to reduce hatchery production 13 percent from 2000
28 levels, and we're trying to push to enforce that. And
29 I'm not sure how we're going to do that exactly yet,
30 but we're working on that one as well.

31

32 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any other questions.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I have a couple of
37 questions. I'm really glad that YRDFA is concerned
38 about the fish size problem, because we -- those of us
39 in the upper river have been pushing this for a long
40 time. But YRDFA says it's concerned, but I notice that
41 nearly every proposal that the Eastern Interior has
42 submitted, YRDFA's been opposed to. And so I'm
43 wondering what is your -- being concerned is great, but
44 what is that going -- how do you translate that into
45 action? What are you going to do, what is YRDFA going
46 to do to try to get the size of salmon up if it's a
47 concern to YRDFA?

48

49 MS. ROBINS: I think that the emphasis
50 from YRDFA on this is what came out of the last Board

1 meeting as well, is the desire to work things out
2 between the fishermen on the river. And so I mentioned
3 this having a meeting in the fall to sit down and talk
4 about -- well, one of the things that Andy Bassich
5 actually put forth is the idea of windows as a way to
6 allow bigger fish to get up to the spawning ground.
7 And that seemed like it had some support from the
8 Board, although they didn't reach consensus or vote on
9 it at all at that point in time. And I think that
10 that's the solution that YRDFA's working towards.

11
12 Also I think that the data has just
13 come out really I think that allows us to make that
14 strong case that the size of fish is changing. And I
15 think that there's -- the support for doing something
16 is growing within YRDFA as well.

17
18 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, I'm glad the
19 support is finally growing. I've gone to several such
20 meetings where the lower river people and the upper
21 river people got together, and those of us in the upper
22 river like a bunch of suckers, we decided to let the
23 lower river folks off as -- I think we did it twice
24 where we got together at joint meetings where we said
25 there's a problem. The lower river people said it's a
26 problem somewhere else, it can't be us. Don't do
27 anything to limit our harvest. And like a bunch of
28 suckers, that's what we did. And the problem is still
29 there. And so I won't be participating. You know, I
30 hate to be a nay sayer, but -- and I hope it is
31 different. I hope the people at the lower river are
32 willing to do something for a chance that can really
33 fix this problem. And I'm glad Andy's involved,
34 because he's an optimistic guy. And about 10 years ago
35 I used to optimistic as well. But after going to
36 Kotlik and what's the other name of that.....

37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Ruby.

39
40 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah, but there's
41 one more. It starts with an M.

42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Emmonak.

44
45 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Oh, yeah, it start
46 with an E. It just has M's in it. Emmonak. I knew
47 there was an M involved. But after going to several
48 meetings, I'll just say that since I don't know where I
49 was at, and I don't know when it was, after going to
50 several meetings, it was all the same. The lower river

1 people aren't willing to give up anything. That's
2 exactly the message. And the mayor of Emmonak was very
3 eloquent in a speech that he made that they shouldn't
4 give up any fishing whatsoever. They shouldn't even
5 adopt windows. They weren't interested in that. If we
6 introduced the idea of windows and they go along with
7 it, the next thing we're going to do is try to take all
8 fishing away from them. I mean, that was the message
9 that he gave. And I went down, you know, with whatever
10 weapons I had, which was pretty much nothing, trying to
11 ask folks down in those villages, will you please
12 consider us in the upper river end and consider the
13 spawning grounds. And the response at that meeting, in
14 meetings in Anchorage and at other meetings was always
15 the same. We're not willing to give up anything. And
16 so I hope that that's changed.

17
18 And that doesn't have any impact on
19 YRDFA, but what YRDFA can do is start supporting our
20 proposals. Our proposals have never been supported by
21 YRDFA, and so I've -- you know, I used to participate
22 in the YRDFA teleconferences, but I boycotted them
23 about three years ago, because the information that I
24 was providing was never used in the benefit of the
25 folks in the upper river. The information was always
26 used to do whatever was necessary to get commercial
27 fishing opened down at the mouth.

28
29 And I know this is maybe way more than
30 you want to hear or even talk about, but I'm encouraged
31 that fish size is an important issue, but I hope that
32 you guys take the right action, and the right action
33 isn't fishing 24/7 365. The right action isn't going
34 after as many commercial fish as you can get. The
35 right action isn't going after as many commercial fish
36 as you can get. The right action isn't excluding
37 commercial fish from the windows. If we're going to
38 get any of those large salmon up to the spawning
39 grounds, if we're going to protect the genetic diversity
40 -- the genetic integrity of those salmon, we have to
41 let some go through. We can't kill them all. And so
42 that has to be the message of YRDFA, or if the message
43 of YRDFA doesn't change to protecting genetic diversity
44 and meeting subsistence needs, which is the number 1
45 priority after subsistence -- or, excuse me, after
46 escapement, then I don't think YRDFA's doing the right
47 job. It's focus isn't correct.

48
49 And I know it's hard to change that,
50 because YRDFA is made up of a whole lot of commercial

1 fishermen. And by folks like me backing out and not
2 participating, that just means that there's that many
3 more commercial fishermen participating.

4
5 I guess that's all. Those are the
6 comments I have. But I'm glad that you're commenting
7 that fish size is an important issue, and I agree with
8 you and I hope that you guys can influence some change,
9 some decisions.

10
11 MS. ROBINS: And I will let you know
12 that our positions on proposals are the whole board
13 votes on those, or comes to consensus on those. And so
14 I'll definitely bring your comments back to them.
15 Unfortunately I don't make the decisions. They do.

16
17 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Right. Sure. I
18 realize that.

19
20 MS. ROBINS: So I'll bring that back.
21 And I'd also -- I do -- it is, you know, a membership
22 organization, so the more people we have expressing
23 that opinion, then the further that goes, so I would
24 encourage people to participate in the teleconferences
25 and the annual meetings as well.

26
27 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Any more comments or
28 questions.

29
30 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah. You know, we've
31 been battling up and down this river, and this upriver
32 Eastern Interior's been sacrificing and sacrificing,
33 you know. I almost feel like putting out a proposal
34 for a moratorium on commercial fishing for chinook
35 salmon in Federal controlled waters. You know, that
36 will be a real uproar, you know. That's the way I
37 feel. I've been at this for so long, and I see these
38 salmon shrinking, you know. I grew up around them. To
39 be continued and continued to have our proposals turned
40 down without any modification or anything to them by
41 YRDFA, you know, I'm very much involved with them, but
42 it's -- I don't want to see it come to Y-K against the
43 Eastern with the Western stuck in between. I don't
44 want to see that again. It took too much to get out of
45 it. But we've been sacrificing a lot in this region to
46 their benefit, you know, because we stick to the
47 windows and they don't. What Virgil brought up earlier
48 is that the windows got to stick whether it's
49 commercial or subsistence. There's got to be some --
50 just because they have commercial fishing doesn't mean

1 they have to drop the windows. They've got to fish
2 commercial, subsistencely and commercially in those
3 windows. That's the only way we're going to have fish.
4 I know, I dealt -- I always felt so welcomed in some of
5 those communities, but after I spoke, I was the
6 outcast. But if it wasn't for John Hanson and Harry
7 Wilde, I wouldn't be around here. I'm not afraid to
8 speak up in different countries, but that's just the
9 way I feel, is that something has to be done now before
10 it's too late. And I have a sinking feeling that it's
11 already too late.

12
13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Gerald.
14 Any final comments or questions.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, thank you Ms.
19 Robins.

20
21 Anyone else have anything to say to us?
22 I promise I'll be nice. Bring up mosquitoes. We've
23 got lots of them. No problem.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: We need a break you
28 say? All right. We'd better take 10.

29
30 (Off record)

31
32 (On record)

33
34 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vincent Mathews.
35 Let's go ahead and go on with the Council charter
36 update. Okay. We're doing the Council charter update.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That is
39 just strictly informational. The signed copy by --
40 computer signed by the Secretary of Interior's in your
41 book on Page 239. So there's no action on that So I
42 can roll if you want me to roll.

43
44 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Roll, baby, roll.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next thing is
47 elections of officers. They're usually done at this
48 time. So you have three positions: Chair, Vice Chair
49 and Secretary. The full Council needs to realize that
50 your present chair didn't reapply. You could elect

1 him, but then you'd have to elect someone else at the
2 next meeting.

3

4 MS. ENTSMINGER: Sounds good.

5

6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And I'm actually --
7 we're at election of officers. Yes, I'm not going to
8 accept a nomination for Chair.

9

10 MS. ENTSMINGER: Why?

11

12 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Because I don't want
13 to be Chair any more. I'm getting ready to get off
14 this Council, so I don't want to do it. And so I
15 recommend you nominate someone else.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. This
18 Council has had a policy, if you're not here, you can
19 also be elected.

20

21 MR. NICHOLIA: It's Andy.

22

23 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: What's that?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: You've had a policy in
26 the past, I think that's actually how you got elected.
27 If you're not there, you get elected. I mean, it's not
28 off the screen that if you're not present that you can
29 be appointed. I have not had time to talk to Andy
30 Bassich to ask if he's even interested, but I don't
31 think they asked you if you were interested when you
32 were elected at one time.

33

34 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No, I think I was
35 there, wasn't I? I wasn't there?

36

37 MS. ENTSMINGER: I think you were on
38 duty.

39

40 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Oh, was I?

41

42 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, you were elected
43 in Beaver.

44

45 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah? Okay.

46

47 (Pause)

48

49 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, we can't
50 change the subject. We have election of officers. Is

1 anybody going to nominate anyone for any position.
2 Anybody want to nominate someone.
3
4 MR. GLANZ: I was trying to nominate
5 Virgil here, but he doesn't know if he can do it,
6 because his term is up.
7
8 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: He's got no say in
9 the matter. You nominate whoever you want.
10
11 MR. GLANZ: Well, no, he has -- his
12 term has expired he said on the board.
13
14 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Oh, I guess that
15 does matter.
16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, my term has
18 expired, but I don't know, you know, I reapplied. I
19 don't know when they're going to decide who gets
20 reappointed or not, or who they appoint.
21
22 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So is it just the
23 two of us that are outcasts, or is there a third?
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: I'm drawing a blank right
26 at this.....
27
28 MS. WHEELER: Larry Williams.
29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Larry, Virgil and Craig
31 were up this term.
32
33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Polly.
34
35 MS. ENTSMINGER: Did you all reapply?
36
37 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I didn't.
38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: I did.
40
41 MS. ENTSMINGER: Did Larry?
42
43 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Did you reapply,
44 Larry? Yeah? Good. At least we've got some Gwich'in
45 presence on here. Gwich'in warrior.
46
47 Yeah, we have no nominations as of yet.
48
49 MR. WILLIAMS: I nominate Gerald
50 Nicholia for chair.

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: We don't need seconds,
2 do we?

3
4 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, we're in
5 nominations so you can -- no, you don't need a second
6 for a name, but if there are any other names, you can
7 present them now. If not, then someone can move to
8 close nominations for that position.

9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll move to close
11 nominations.

12
13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. There's --
14 well, we really don't even need to vote then really,
15 because if there's any one person -- Gerald, do you
16 have any -- are you opposed to -- no, you're happy with
17 it, so you're chairman. Good.

18
19 What's the next position, Vice Chair,
20 is that what it's called? Second Chair, Sub Chair?

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Vice.

23
24 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. All right.
25 That was Gerald, right?

26
27 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, it was.

28
29 MR. NICHOLIA: I nominate Sue.

30
31 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. Sue has been
32 nominated for Vice Chair. Any other nominations.

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move nominations
35 close.

36
37 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay.
38 Congratulations, Sue. You're Vice Chair.

39
40 All right. Now we have
41 Secretary/Treasurer, or what do we call that person?

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, don't
44 focus too much on the title. It's just the third in
45 the row that we go through, but it is -- the title is
46 Secretary.

47
48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: There's no money, so
49 there's no treasurer. Can we have some money, please,
50 so we can have a treasurer?

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: We don't need much.
4 Okay. We're open for nominations for Secretary, which
5 was Sue. And so we'll need a replacement for her.
6
7 MR. NICHOLIA: Andy.
8
9 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Andy?
10
11 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I nominate him.
12
13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. Andy's been
14 nominated. Is there another nomination?
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move nominations close.
17
18 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay.
19 Congratulations, Andy, when you read this.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Gerald, would you
24 like take over now?
25
26 MR. NICHOLIA: No, you go ahead and
27 finish it up.
28
29 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. Thank you.
30 We're done with election of officers.
31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. Under
33 appointments, I don't know of any for the Subsistence
34 Resource Commission. That's just on there so we don't
35 miss it.
36
37 You appointed Paul Starr to Denali SRC.
38 My understanding that seat is still in good shape.
39
40 You appointed Chuck Miller to Wrangell-
41 St. Elias. That seat I think comes up in November. So
42 at your next meeting you can address that, unless
43 Gerald knows something different on the SRC.
44
45 MR. NICHOLIA: I just go back from
46 (indiscernible, mic not on).
47
48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Is he still
49 interested in that position, or is that what you were
50 just hoping to find out?

1 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know. He left me
2 a message to call him, but I haven't had a chance to
3 call back Chuck.

4
5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So we can address
6 that one at the next meeting then.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, you have to address
9 -- his seat isn't up until the next meeting anyways.

10
11 Okay. Then that moves us into the
12 Coordinating Fishery Committee, so that's just to
13 reaffirm you still have Gerald and Virgil as your
14 standing members, and then Andy was the alternate. So
15 do you want to change that? If not, we just move on.

16
17 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Nope, we'll move on.
18 That's good.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. There are no --
21 well, if any other Staff know of any other
22 appointments, please speak up.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: No one's speaking up, so
27 there is no other appointments. That's just on there
28 in case there are some others.

29
30 Correspondence sent and received.
31 There's a lavender sheet in your.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Vanilla folder?

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Manilla.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: And again I had -- it's
40 just sent and received, and you get copies in the mail.
41 There was one or two things that didn't get on there,
42 but they were covered. So I don't know if you want to
43 deal with that. That's the policy we've had. It's
44 lavender. Not pink, lavender.

45
46 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All the guys were
47 reaching for the pink, I know my colors.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Isn't that this?
2 Hey, I know my colors.
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I
5 don't think there's a problem on that. I'll just move
6 along.
7
8 The next topic is -- well, there's
9 three parts of it. One is, does the Council -- well, let
10 me ask the first part. You have the option, I
11 mentioned it earlier, and this is a reminder time, the
12 Chair or his designee can attend by teleconference the
13 Staff Committee. I'm not saying you have to.
14
15 Are there any issues on the proposals
16 that you feel warrant that you want to be available on
17 teleconference to the Staff Committee. That's the
18 question before you. And we answer that one and then
19 we go to the Board meeting.
20
21 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yes. I think there
22 are issues, Virgil and Gerald, there's several issues
23 that you all should probably be available for.
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: I've got to turn to the
26 Staff Committee on that. I don't know if we -- do we
27 put multiple.....
28
29 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All it is is a
30 telephone.
31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I understand that. I
33 mean.....
34
35 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, we'll stick
36 nine people on the other end of the form.
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: I'm informed that we can
39 have as many people within reason.
40
41 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, we'll sneak
42 them in if we're not allowed.
43
44 MR. MATHEWS: No, it's not. But anyway
45 so then I understand that Gerald and Virgil would like
46 to be available on April 10th, 11th or 12th, and
47 we'll.....
48
49 MR. KESSLER: And the 13th, and it may
50 be extended to the 14th.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, my God. 11th, 12th
2 or 14th. It doesn't mean you'll be on all those days.
3 We will negotiate. But basically it's going to be me
4 calling you every now and then saying, we're an hour
5 away, no, oh, Steve talked more on this, we're two
6 hours away.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: But it's not that you're
11 going to be on the whole time, unless you want to
12 listen to Southeast proposals and Bristol Bay and.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I don't think they
15 want to do that. Virgil.

16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: I won't be available.
18 I go bear hunting on the 10th.

19
20 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: You've got your
21 satellite phone, don't you?

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: I've got my satellite
26 phone, but the battery runs down fast on that thing.

27
28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. Perhaps Andy
29 would be available then and Gerald on the fisheries
30 issues at least. I think some of our more -- no?

31
32 MS. ENTSMINGER: Wildlife issues.

33
34 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Wildlife issues,
35 yeah. Excuse me.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Andy wasn't here so it
38 will be difficult for him to carry what you talked
39 about here, even though I can brief him extensively. I
40 would think it would not be fair to him to be put on a
41 teleconference not really having been here.

42
43 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, they've done
44 that to me.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Well, okay. Well,
47 whatever. Gerald would be primary and Andy would be
48 secondary?

49
50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Or we'll let Gerald

1 worry about who can participate at a later time.
2
3 MS. ENTSMINGER: I can participate.
4
5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: And Sue can
6 participate. There you go. She just volunteered.
7 You're wonderful.
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then we --
10 that brings us into the Federal Board meeting. Who
11 would be representing the Council at the Federal Board
12 meeting.
13
14 MS. ENTSMINGER: Gerald.
15
16 MR. NICHOLIA: When's that going to be?
17
18 MR. MATHEWS: 9th, 10th and 11th of
19 May.
20
21 MS. ENTSMINGER: May 10th to 16.
22
23 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: 15th and 16th?
24
25 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah.
26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. It's 15th and 16th
28 of May. That's correct. It does -- it changed by a
29 week. And it's in Anchorage, usually downtown. We can
30 work this out later, but it's easier for the Council to
31 know.
32
33 MR. NICHOLIA: Could they have their
34 board meeting in Fairbanks?
35
36 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: 16th through 18th.
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: 16th through the 18th. I
39 mean, we can ask that it be in Fairbanks, but it's.....
40
41 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah, they've never
42 had one up here, have they. It's about darn time they
43 come up here. Let's make that an official request.
44 Anybody got a problem with that?
45
46 MS. ENTSMINGER: No.
47
48 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No. There you go.
49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. But assuming that

1 that's going to take time to be analyzed and et cetera,
2 what.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Better ask them
5 tomorrow them so they have a lot of time.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. But assuming it
8 stays in Anchorage, who would be the one going?

9

10 MS. ENTSMINGER: Chair first.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it's usually the
13 Chair first.

14

15 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Gerald will go.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, Gerald. Okay. Yeah,
18 he's -- they love him at the Board.

19

20 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: We all love him.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then that brings
25 up.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I love him.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS:topic E. And topic
30 is if you have any topics that you want Gerald to bring
31 up at the end of Board meeting, global topics, other
32 topics that cross regional, not specific proposals,
33 because they're addressed in the regular meeting, this
34 would be the time to share them or call him or call me.
35 Okay.

36

37 MR. NICHOLIA: I believe the topics
38 I'll probably bring up at the Board meeting is in our
39 annual report more or less.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then we've worked
42 through that. But if you have additional topics, give
43 Gerald or I a call so he can be prepped on that.

44

45 Okay. Then we get into the.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Hold on a second.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

50

1 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I think that --
2 there's a couple of things I was talking to some Staff
3 members about. One of the things that I think would be
4 important to bring up, and we talked a little bit about
5 it, but that is the subsistence use amounts. I think
6 we need to put it on the record, and maybe this needs
7 to be an issue we bring up to whoever is willing to
8 listen, but if you think about subsistence use amounts
9 being too low, there is an additional problem on top of
10 the fact that they're too low. If you're talking about
11 salmon, if they're too small, if they're smaller than
12 they used to be, and it's too low, you sort of have a
13 double problem. You have a problem of there not being
14 enough salmon, and then on top of that you have a
15 problem of having too few and not enough. So you may
16 -- even if you get the amount of salmon, the numbers
17 that you may have needed 50 years ago or 100 years ago,
18 and they're 20 percent smaller, that means you're
19 getting 20 percent fewer fish. So I think that's an
20 important issue that we need to bring up.

21
22 And there's actually some action items
23 I think we need to take on these. I'm not sure where
24 to go with them yet. But that's one of the things that
25 I need to bring up.

26
27 Something else that -- it won't matter
28 at the Board, because they can't do anything, but I
29 think we need to ask the Department of Interior to
30 create a policy on the implementation of predator
31 management on Federal lands.

32
33 Also just the -- not only this idea
34 about salmon and subsistence use amounts, but I think
35 the overall amounts necessary for subsistence need to
36 be re-evaluated, and not just have a bunch of Federal
37 employees telling folks how much they need, but they
38 need to work with the communities. And I think we need
39 a basis for subsistence use amounts to be what's the
40 bare minimum you need, you know, what do you wish you
41 had, and what is a happy medium. I think we need to
42 have three numbers that we need to base this on, and
43 then we can create the upper and lower limits of our
44 actual subsistence use amounts based on the bare
45 minimum we need to live on, what we wish we had, you
46 know, if conditions were perfect, and then some middle
47 of the road number.

48
49 And that's it for now. I think those
50 need to be brought up though.

1 Anything else need to be brought up at
2 the Board meeting.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: No? Okay. Vince,
7 let's continue.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. That gets you into
10 future meeting plans. If you look in your manilla, you
11 have two calendars. And one's for August 28th through
12 August 20th (sic), and I have updates to that. I'm not
13 ignoring the fact that your recommendation for Tanana
14 was for a tri-council meeting to be announced in
15 November. But the window for the fall is August 28th
16 through October 20th, and I'm supposed to encourage and
17 guide you to stay within that meeting window.

18
19 MR. NICHOLIA: I know there's not --
20 hasn't been any really -- there isn't pressing issues
21 down the road, but we never had no meeting in the upper
22 Tanana River, Eastern Interior for quite a while now.
23 And since Delta is under that review closure process, I
24 would recommend meeting in Delta or something like
25 that, somewhere close to Delta.

26
27 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: What do you think,
28 Sue?

29
30 MS. ENTSMINGER: I don't have any
31 problem with that, but in our -- that is GMU 20, Delta,
32 and upper Tanana is 12, GMU 12. And the people on the
33 upper Tanana are more concerned probably about wildlife
34 proposals than they are fisheries proposals, so if we
35 met in Unit 12 sometime in the future during wildlife
36 proposals, I would really appreciate, but I mean, I
37 hear Staff saying that it would be really nice to take
38 up this rural issue, because it's coming up for the
39 next meeting. Following that -- yeah. So I don't -- I
40 think that would be fine, but I would like to see
41 something happen in 12 the following meeting.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. The Board
44 will take up in July which areas it's going to do
45 further study on. So the Board may decide the Delta
46 Junction, four areas might come up, or may decide it
47 does not. So I think it would be wise to assume that
48 the Board might so you're prepared for it, but it may
49 also end up being -- they may decide in July, no, that
50 Delta Junction area aggregate has not changed enough or

1 whatever. So that's all I'm trying to say is that it's
2 possible that issue will be important for Delta
3 Junction, or it might just disappear.

4
5 MR. NICHOLIA: So what you're saying so
6 is have the meeting next spring at Delta or somewhere
7 up there and then on the river system for fisheries?

8
9 MS. ENTSMINGER: I think that's more
10 likely to -- I mean, the people in that area, the
11 fisheries isn't near as important as it is in your
12 area, and I like hearing about the fisheries stuff in
13 the region where people have the most information, yes,
14 but I don't have any problem of us meeting in Delta the
15 next meeting, and then maybe putting an alternative for
16 it if what he says goes through and it isn't -- it's a
17 non-issue, then we could say, okay, we have an
18 alternate place that we'll meet. So that would be up
19 to you guys on the river system where you think that
20 would be.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it sounds like that
23 it would be Delta Junction, and then if the issue of
24 rural determination, that you want an alternate. Any
25 offers of an alternate location in case the Delta
26 Junction rural determination issue is not important at
27 that -- or disappears.

28
29 MR. KESSLER: It won't disappear, it's
30 just (indiscernible, mic not on)

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Craig, do you feel
33 like hosting it?

34
35 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Fort Yukon?

36
37 MR. NICHOLIA: Or Venetie?

38
39 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: I don't mind. But
40 we haven't been down in that neck of the woods in a
41 couple of years, so, you know, we've been to -- we've
42 been up in this neck of the woods for a few years.
43 When was the last time we were south of Fairbanks at a
44 meeting?

45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Nenana.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, it was Nenana would
49 have been the last meeting that you had south of
50 Fairbanks.

1 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah, so maybe we
2 should.....

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: I believe it was three
5 years ago.

6
7 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Maybe we should
8 focus a little further south.

9
10 MR. GLANZ: Well, Sue, didn't you
11 express some concern about having one down in Tok in
12 that letter I got from you?

13
14 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes, I did. But, you
15 know, that's -- we should have had this meeting in Tok.
16 Why Fairbanks was my biggest complaint. Because when
17 you guys talk about fisheries stuff, they don't have
18 near the interest in the fisheries in our areas as you
19 do in all of the river system. That's the things that
20 Gerald and I have in mind when I come to hear all the
21 stuff on the river system, it's a completely different
22 world than us on the road system. And that -- all I'm
23 saying is I don't mind us going to Delta this time.
24 But if it -- he said something about it's going to be
25 an issue regardless, this rural thing?

26
27 MR. KESSLER: Steve Kessler with the
28 InterAgency Staff Committee.

29
30 Well, Delta Junction is being studied.
31 And in June the Federal Subsistence Board is going to
32 come out with a proposed rule. Now, that proposed rule
33 may say Delta Junction should be included as non-rural
34 or it may say it should stay the same way it is. But
35 what the Federal Subsistence Board will come out with
36 is a proposed rule for comment. And the expectation is
37 that there will be a number of hearings around the
38 State and particularly probably in areas that have the
39 potential for change from rural to non-rural.

40
41 So I don't know what's going to happen
42 with Delta Junction. I have no idea. But it will be
43 on the table. It will be in the rule and saying,
44 here's what we're going to do with Delta Junction. And
45 so it seems like it might be a wise idea to have the
46 meeting there for that purpose.

47
48 Other meetings around the State are --
49 there is an attempt being made to schedule some of the
50 meetings associated with the rural determination

1 process so that the Councils have that opportunity to
2 hear directly from the local people, and then there
3 would most likely be a hearing at the same time.

4

5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So do you think
6 there would be a problem with us scheduling a winter
7 meeting down there? Do you think we would miss any
8 opportunity to comment?

9

10 MR. KESSLER: The schedule for the
11 rural determinations is that the proposed rule would
12 come sometime after June, probably July or August,
13 and.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Of 2007?

16

17 MR. KESSLER: 2006.

18

19 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: 2006.

20

21 MR. KESSLER: And that the final
22 decisions will be made on rural at a meeting already
23 scheduled for sometime in December. I don't have the
24 exact dates.

25

26 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So then a meeting
27 between August and October isn't going -- it will be
28 too late.

29

30 MR. KESSLER: That is when -- that's
31 going to be.....

32

33 MR. NICHOLIA: Could I cut in for a
34 moment?

35

36 MR. KESSLER: It's going to be during
37 the comment period so that all the Councils can
38 comment.

39

40 MR. NICHOLIA: I was at that Board
41 meeting when they came up, and there's that one Council
42 member, Board member, what's his name? Mitch
43 Demientieff told me, he said, you guys should try to
44 have a meeting in Delta. That's why I mentioned that.
45 Even if it's going to be a fisheries scheduled meeting,
46 we should have it there just to get their comments.
47 I've been a Chairman for this Board for more than six
48 years, and, you know, it's a hard thing to do to keep
49 the river system and the road system in the same time,
50 and it seems like to me we've been meeting on the river

1 system for quite a bit now, and I'd like to focus on --
2 even if it's not a fisheries issues region, I would
3 like to focus our attention on that region, because it
4 feels like to me we're leaving them out a little bit,
5 because we're always focused around the Yukon.

6
7 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All right. It's
8 Delta. What are the dates? I know that Andy had a
9 problem with -- I don't like August and September,
10 because I'm going to be hunting. I don't know about
11 the rest of you, but even the first couple of weeks in
12 October is rough. What was Andy's issue last time
13 about freeze up?

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: It was freeze up
16 basically, that October at that time they can be
17 freezed out or in.

18
19 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Right. And what was
20 he saying? He would prefer the meetings to be around
21 what time?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: I reread the transcript
24 on that and it ended up being around November 10th if
25 that's when the Marine Corps.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Oh, the Marine Corps
28 birthday. That's right.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

31
32 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: We've got meet
33 around there. You all can sing to me.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: But, Mr. Chairman, that's
36 outside the window, and again I'm supposed to encourage
37 and guide you to stay within the window.

38
39 MR. NICHOLIA: How about the 16th, the
40 week of the 16th.

41
42 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: The week of the
43 16th. Any problem with that?

44
45 MS. ENTSMINGER: I don't have any.

46
47 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. There it is.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 And then if we -- we'll just leave it at that. So then

1 we move to the winter one, and I think you're
2 indicating that might be Tok, not to put words in your
3 mouth.

4
5 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah, I think
6 another meeting down there would.....

7
8 MS. ENTSMINGER: Right. Right.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Right. And then with
11 that, if you look at the one that's in your book, it's
12 -- I don't what to tell you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Let's say Tok, March
15 19th. Any problem with that?

16
17 MS. ENTSMINGER: Right.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. When you say March
20 19th, you're going to give me flexible during the week
21 of March 19th?

22
23 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yes, of course.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, thank you. Because
26 it's easier for you guys to travel on Monday, meet on
27 Tuesday, Wednesday or something.

28
29 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yes. That's what I
30 was intending, I'm sorry.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: I try to avoid Sunday
33 travels, because I think it conflicts with church.

34
35 Okay. That's I think all the issues
36 that I know of that I have to address. So then it's
37 just closing comments.

38
39 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Larry, do you have
40 any closing comments?

41
42 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. When I
43 first joined this Board, the purpose of the Board I
44 figured was to address the subsistence issues of the
45 rural residents. And I tried very hard to have a
46 meeting up in Venetie, my home town, but that didn't
47 quite pan out, and I was very disappointed.

48
49 What we have up there is we have 1.8
50 million acres that is privately owned by the Arctic

1 Village and Venetie corporations. I shouldn't say
2 corporations, but the tribal councils. And when we --
3 when I say the tribal councils, also include the
4 village councils in that designation.
5

6 But anyway we don't follow the State or
7 Federal regulations as such. We know they're there,
8 but what we do is we follow the age-old traditions of
9 our unwritten rules concerning fish and game and
10 wildlife. We go out and we take what we need. And I
11 wanted this Board and all the Staff people to be up
12 there to explain to the people how we are trying to
13 help and not hinder the subsistence issues. Because up
14 there we had an unfortunate incident some years back,
15 and now every time somebody come in and they say
16 they're from the Fish and Game or whatever agency they
17 happen to be from, everybody's warning antenna goes up,
18 because of that unfortunate incident. And I'd like to
19 get that straightened out, but it looks like the way
20 things are going right now, we're not going to have a
21 chance to do that.
22

23 And like I said, you know, we control
24 quite a big area of land, and we have our own rules and
25 regulations. And it's hard for me to understand, maybe
26 it's not hard for you guys, but it's hard for me to
27 understand living in a different village how you can go
28 from one Federal land over to State land by crossing a
29 stream or highway or maybe a fence or whatever.
30 Because we don't have that up there. You know, I'm not
31 college educated, and I'm not very well spoken. But I
32 see in the meeting here, I see in the agenda where we
33 had a time set aside for people of my area to address,
34 to talk to these staff people and also to the Council
35 about their concerns and their traditional knowledge,
36 and we didn't have it here.
37

38 You'll notice that myself and James are
39 very quiet during this meeting, because everything that
40 was being said, it seemed like it didn't pertain to us,
41 or our area. And like I said, I don't know too much
42 about downriver or on the highway system or any place
43 else. All I know, all I can talk about is the Yukon
44 Flats.
45

46 So I'd like to meet in the village.
47 Since this Board is charged with subsistence issues,
48 I'd like to meet in the village as much as possible so
49 the people there can tell you their beliefs and their
50 practices concerning game and fish.

1 And I'd also like to thank Vince for
2 doing such a good job of coordinating and putting us up
3 and getting all our travel coordinated. And I'd like
4 to thank Gerald for bringing up the fishing issues,
5 which is of great concern to me personally, because I
6 fish about 30 miles above Beaver every summer. And I
7 also noticed that the fish are getting smaller. I'd
8 like to thank everybody for coming and sitting through
9 this long sessions and hanging in there. Tank you very
10 much.

11
12 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Larry.
13 Virgil.

14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't really have
16 anything else to say today.

17
18 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Virgil.
19 William.

20
21 MR. GLANZ: Like Virgil, I don't really
22 have much to say. I've mostly dealt with State issues,
23 and this is the first time I've touched the waters here
24 with the Federal issues, and so I've quite enjoyed it.
25 I'm sure I'll learn more as we go along, but I enjoyed
26 it. Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, William.
29 James.

30
31 MR. NATHANIEL: I, too, was
32 disappointed when the meeting was transferred to
33 Fairbanks, which we should have it in Venetie. And I
34 don't know what the cause of the transfer of the
35 meeting to Fairbanks. And a lot of my people back
36 home, you know, they're concerned about having meeting
37 within native villages instead of a big city like here
38 in Fairbanks. They -- a couple of them asked me if
39 they could have a meeting in Yukon Flats like in Fort
40 Yukon, Venetie or Arctic Village. And those are the
41 people that could host a meeting. Like Arctic Village
42 concern yesterday with they'd like to have us up there
43 to meet with them, which is not being done. And I
44 don't know what the reason for transferring this
45 meeting to over here to Fairbanks.

46
47 I think that's all I have. Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, James.
50 Sue.

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman. Yeah, I'd just like to thank James and Larry
3 for sitting through all this meeting on a lot of this
4 stuff that really doesn't pertain to their region. I
5 can understand how they feel sometimes when I sit
6 through some of the fisheries stuff on the Yukon River.
7 It doesn't really apply to me personally, but some of
8 the people I guess in our area it does. And I'm
9 looking at this map, and I want to say I really
10 appreciate anyone that lives close to a lot of Federal
11 land, because this Council, that affects you greatly,
12 because that's where -- that's your regulations is what
13 happens on Federal lands around your area.

14
15 So I want to also thank everybody for
16 coming to the meetings, and hope that we can do a
17 better job. Maybe the Staff could consider some type
18 of method to meet the village needs when meetings
19 aren't held in their village and they do have concerns
20 that aren't being met. Maybe there's a way that the
21 refuge or the Federal land they're close to, there's
22 some way to get into those villages and hear what their
23 concerns are.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Sue.
28 Amy.

29
30 MS. WRIGHT: Coming in cold I guess,
31 never having say on any kind of a board before, this
32 has been quite an eye opener. There's a phenomenal
33 amount of information. You guys area all incredibly
34 professional. You sit through this, and you provide
35 with all this information, and I really honestly don't
36 know if we're doing it justice, because it's all being
37 kind of thrown at us pretty, but I hope we'll all get
38 up to speed and figure it out. But there's a lot of
39 issues to be dealt with and I guess that's why we're
40 here. But I think two meetings a year just -- I don't
41 see how we can cover it all. I really honestly think
42 there's got -- going to have to be a lot of
43 communication between us over the next six months
44 before our next meeting, or however many months it is.

45
46 And anyway, thank you all very much for
47 coming.

48
49 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Amy.
50 Gerald.

1 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I'd like to thank
2 everybody, the Staff, State, both Federal agencies,
3 Vince. And once in a lifetime, thank you, Vince.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MR. NICHOLIA: Another thing I'd like
8 to say is that I really pushed for this meeting in
9 Delta just because of that rural whatever, closure,
10 what it is. But I wouldn't mind going to Venetie or
11 Arctic Village somewhere, because we owe them that
12 much, you know. We excluded Beaver for like three
13 years, and three years later we planned it and planned
14 it, but there are circumstances that some of us can't
15 be available all the time, because some of us wear a
16 lot of hats, and it's -- I don't mind being the
17 Chairman, you know, but I know the Board minds. They
18 personally voiced their opinions to me. But I'll give
19 them hell. That's what you put me here for. But I
20 appreciate it, and I hope the new members get up to
21 speed, because it's a lot of territory to cover. It's
22 really -- don't feel overwhelmed, because it's an
23 overwhelming position to be in. It's hard to represent
24 people for the road system and the river system and in
25 between. There is times that I was on this where I
26 only had two members on it, and there's a lot of things
27 that we didn't take up, because there was no
28 representation from certain areas. And I'd just like
29 to encourage the new members that are here, don't feel
30 overwhelmed and don't give up now matter how big a
31 mountain it is to climb. Just keep on going.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Gerald.
36 I'd like to thank everybody as well. I thank you for
37 your closing comments. Thank you for your
38 participation. Once again I think that everyone's done
39 a great job supplying the information that they have
40 and thanks to all the Staff who have given us all this
41 information.

42
43 I guess as an answer to Larry and to
44 James about why the meeting changed, we couldn't have
45 the meeting at the time we wanted, because there were
46 three Council members that were not going to be
47 available, and we were not able to reschedule in
48 Venetie for the time that we wanted to have the
49 meeting, and so that's one of the reasons we had the
50 meeting here.

1 Also, I think we've always pushed for
2 trying to have as many meetings in the villages as
3 possible. And sometimes we end up having a meeting
4 here really as part of a backup. Early on we thought
5 we should never meet in Fairbanks, we should always
6 meet in the communities, but then it turned out that we
7 got less Staff support meeting only in the communities.
8 And so, you know, there sort of was a change in
9 thinking about having at least one meeting in Fairbanks
10 every now and then so we could get more Staff
11 participation, because in small places and, you know,
12 far away places, we can't get the Staff support that we
13 need. And so once in a while we felt that it was
14 necessary to come here. But I agree that we should
15 spend as much time as we can in the rural part of the
16 State.

17
18 And it seems kind of odd that we're
19 representing rural subsistence users, and we're in the
20 second largest city in the State. So it's best not to
21 be here, but sometimes it's necessary.

22
23 Thank you, Vince, for all your support.

24
25
26 And before we go to adjournment, I did
27 want to bring these points up again, and I'm not sure
28 what sort of action we can take on them, but I'd like
29 maybe some suggestion from Gerald and Sue and Virgil
30 and those with a lot of experience in these areas, but
31 is there any specific way that you think we can do
32 something with these issues that I mentioned earlier:
33 re-evaluating the amounts necessary for subsistence,
34 asking the Department of Interior to create a policy on
35 the implementation of predator management, and looking
36 at subsistence use amount at not only being too low,
37 but being really too low because of the size of the
38 salmon has changed. We actually haven't taken any
39 action on those, and I'd like to do something before we
40 adjourn the meeting. So I'm looking for some
41 recommendation. Maybe we can include it in our annual
42 report, but as I've said before, that's just going to
43 fall on deaf ears. So if there's another way to do
44 something, I think we need to take some action.

45
46 The Thomas Kron affair. Go ahead.

47
48 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. On the
49 subsistence use amounts, ANS question, I'd earlier
50 drafted up a summary of your discussion on that, and

1 one way to address the size of fish issue and the
2 impact on, you know, pounds of salmon available to
3 users would be to add a little bit of additional
4 wording on that particular comment which then would be
5 included in what goes to the Staff Committee and the
6 Board on that issue.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you, Tom.
11 That's a good recommendation.

12

13 Any other recommendations. Sue.

14

15 MS. ENTSMINGER: The second one was?

16

17 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: The second one was
18 asking Department of Interior to create a policy on the
19 implementation of predator management on Federal lands.

20

21 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and didn't we
22 stretch something? Didn't we have an idea there? I
23 forgot what it was now.

24

25 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, I think we've
26 talked about intensive management. I think we wanted
27 to put it in the annual report. As a matter of fact, I
28 think it is in the annual report, but as I said a
29 hundred times, that's a useless piece of outhouse
30 paper, and I think we need to do something a little bit
31 more.....

32

33 MS. ENTSMINGER: Directly to the refuge
34 managers?

35

36 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Well, I think it
37 needs to go to them, but to their bosses. But I don't
38 know what process.

39

40 Virgil, what do you think?

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think what we should
43 do is send a letter to the regional director through
44 the refuge manager is what I think we should do. A
45 request to implement some type of a predator control
46 plan for the Yukon Flats is what I think we should do.
47 And that way it would go through the refuge manager to
48 the regional director.

49

50 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. That sounds

1 good to me.

2

3 MR. NICHOLIA: Not only that, not only
4 to the regional directors, to both Secretaries of
5 Interior and Agriculture, and so that way it will be
6 coming from the top -- it will be going to the top.
7 Because some I feel sometimes it stops whatever level
8 we go, but if we go directly to the top with it, it
9 will have some kind of effect, maybe a ripple effect or
10 something but we've been arguing this up and down. We
11 might as well just go to the top.

12

13 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah. I like the
14 idea of talking about a specific predator management
15 program, but I also like the idea of talking to them
16 about creating a policy so other people can see, how
17 can we do this in our area.

18

19 William.

20

21 MR. GLANZ: No, I would say the same
22 thing he was saying only we go right to the Secretary
23 of Interior, the State Director of the BLM in
24 Anchorage. I mean, get them all. Everybody get a CC
25 of that, and that's what I would on it.

26

27 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Maybe we should just
28 write it to the President.

29

30 MR. GLANZ: Certainly. Really. That's
31 the only way you get things done I found.

32

33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: All right. Dear Mr.
34 President. Okay. So I guess we'll do these in the
35 forms of letters, does that sound good to everyone?
36 Okay.

37

38 MR. NICHOLIA: And not lose sight of
39 the fact that we're looking for how to start the
40 process, you know. If they say go to the refuge
41 manager and the manager directs us back to the Board,
42 but it's got to start somewhere, so we're looking for
43 the process to start.

44

45 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: So I'll work with
46 Vince on drafting those letters, and anybody else I can
47 get help with.

48

49 Sue.

50

1 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I just
2 remembered something. Alaska Professional hunters and
3 the Board of Game were entertaining a meeting with the
4 Secretary of Interior on just this issue. And maybe
5 somebody -- if that really occurred, somebody from this
6 Council or some subsistence user would be great to
7 attend that.
8
9 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Now, that would be a
10 meeting I would be willing to go to.
11
12 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay.
13
14 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yeah, I think
15 that.....
16
17 MS. ENTSMINGER: I'll hear about it, so
18 I'll let you know, Craig.
19
20 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. Okay. Well,
21 that's all I had. Is there any other comments.
22 Vincent.
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Did
25 you indicate that you feel that there should be a
26 representative of the Regional Advisory Council at that
27 meeting?
28
29 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Yes.
30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Thank you.
32
33 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Thank you. Is there
34 any motions on the table?
35
36 MR. NICHOLIA: Motion to adjourn.
37
38 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: Okay. There's a
39 motion to adjourn.
40
41 MS. ENTSMINGER: Second.
42
43 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: A second.
44
45 MR. NICHOLIA: Question.
46
47 CHAIRMAN FLEENER: We're adjourned.
48
49 (Off record)
50 (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 210 through 413 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, LLC on the 22nd day of March 2006, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. in Fairbanks, 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 3rd day of April 2006.

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