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VOLUME II

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EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL REGIONAL  
SUBSISTENCE COUNCIL MEETING

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February 28, 1999

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Delta Community Hall, Delta Junction

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14 Members Present:

15

16 Charles P. Miller, Sr., Chairman

17 Philip J. Titus, Vice Chairman

18 Nathaniel Good, Secretary

19 Craig Fleener

20 Davey James

21 Gerald D. Nicholia

22 Lincoln Tritt

23 Calvin M. Tritt

24

25 Vince Mathews, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 8:44 a.m)

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Call the meeting back to order. And we're into proposals. Did you have something, Craig? Do you want to revisit a proposal?

MR. FLEENER: I'd like to go back and revisit Proposals 9 and 11 to correct some wording that I made a mistake on yesterday. And George helped me out with this wording so it can be a lot more like the other proposal we dealt with that said that the 1344 permit holders could gain access to the park. I don't remember which one that was, but let me go back to Proposal 9. What page is that on.

Yeah, it was Proposal 25 that we want this to be really similar to, the one that dealt with Dan O'Connor. Instead of adding a name on there, we said that all 1344 permittees should be recognized.

For 9 and 11 I'd like to change the wording to "and members of Wrangell-St. Elias, resident zone communities or individuals or families with Wrangell-St. Elias 1344 permits." And that would be my motion.

MR. GOOD: I second.

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any discussion?

MR. FLEENER: And I just want to point out that the Eastern Interior, Western Interior, Southcentral Regional Councils support C&T for 1344 permit holders in this area. So does the SRC. And I spoke with the author of this proposal and he was agreeable to language similar to this last night.

MR. GOOD: Question.

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, question has been called. All in favor of the Proposal 9 and 11 as modified, please signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

(No opposing responses)

CHAIRMAN MILLER: Now which proposal we on?

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1 MR. GOOD: Vince will tell us.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think there  
4 needs to be a revisit -- oh, I'm sorry.

5

6 MR. CALLAWAY: Just as a point of  
7 information, a number of the people we interviewed are not  
8 1344 permit holders, they're members of resident zoned  
9 communities, so I'm not sure what the impact of your wording  
10 is going to do if it eliminates resident -- I guess if your  
11 intent is for 1344, I'd say 1344 or resident zoned.

12

13 MR. FLEENER: In the motion it says "and  
14 members of Wrangell-St. Elias resident zoned communities or  
15 individuals or families with Wrangell-St. Elias." That was  
16 my motion.

17

18 MR. CALLAWAY: Sorry.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chair, I think since  
21 we're revisiting proposals, I think there some discussion on,  
22 what was it, Proposal 60, that we need to address. And,  
23 again, we're not redigging into this, Pete just wants to  
24 bring up something, if you desire to revisit the issue, so be  
25 it, if not, then we move on. Proposal 60.

26

27 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 60, which  
28 you took action on yesterday, it was submitted by the Eastern  
29 Interior Council and it requested an alignment of the Federal  
30 season with the State for the caribou season in Unit 25(C).  
31 If this proposal is adopted by the Federal Board, and at this  
32 point I don't have any reason to think that it won't be, it  
33 seems like everyone is in agreement that it should be in  
34 alignment, then the season will be aligned.

35

36 Understand that the population of that herd is  
37 somewhere around 1,500 animals total and the State annual  
38 harvest quota is 30 bulls. As an informational item I'm  
39 bringing to you a concern from the BLM biologist who couldn't  
40 be here today, I believe his name is Jim Furgus. His concern  
41 is this, that in the event -- during the winter season, which  
42 after the alignment will be February 1st through March 31st,  
43 if the herd would congregate along the Steese Highway  
44 corridor there may be a run on hunters that would go up from  
45 Fairbanks and take a few of those caribou. The State would  
46 probably be forced to close the season through emergency  
47 order.

48

49 His concern is at that point the Federal season would  
50 remain open and we'd go through the exercise like we did with

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1 the Fortymile Herd, we'd have to go through a Federal Special  
2 Action to close that season, which, as you know, we saw this  
3 last summer, can take a week or better to occur. He  
4 suggesting, as an informational item, that you may want to  
5 think about writing into Federal regulations that the Federal  
6 season will close when the total of 30 bulls have been  
7 harvested between both the Federal and the State seasons to  
8 avoid the potential problems that we saw with the Fortymile  
9 Caribou Herd.

10  
11 So I'm offering this as an informational item. Your  
12 options are either let it stand as is, just you support that  
13 the Federal Board should just align the seasons and let it go  
14 at that. Or you can vote to revisit this and then discuss  
15 how to amend it.

16  
17 MR. FLEENER: Well, I think it's definitely  
18 worth bringing back on the table. What, should I make a  
19 motion to say that we want to amend Proposal 60? How would I  
20 bring it back on the table without actually making -- yes.

21  
22 MR. DeMATTEO: Just one more bit of  
23 information, is that understand that the State would close  
24 the season and then the Federal season would remain open  
25 until a Special Action went through. During that period it  
26 would just remain open to Federally qualified users.

27  
28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We need to vote to  
29 reconsider.

30  
31 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, I'll make a motion to  
32 reconsider Proposal 60.

33  
34 MR. GOOD: I'll second it. Mr. Chairman.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Nat.

37  
38 MR. GOOD: We had another proposal where we  
39 established the bag limits and we said 55 and -- do you  
40 recall and.....

41  
42 MR. DeMATTEO: That was Proposal 55, that was  
43 for the Fortymile Caribou Herd. We readjusted the allocation  
44 of the first 100 for the fall season to distribute it between  
45 Unit 25(C) and 20(E).

46  
47 MR. GOOD: Well, I guess my question has to  
48 do with that. That also had Steese Highway in it, too.

49  
50 MR. DeMATTEO: Correct, because 25(C) is

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1 divided between north and south.

2

3 MR. GOOD: Right.

4

5 MR. DeMATTEO: Right. This particular bit of  
6 land is the north section -- the north and west of the Steese  
7 Highway, the White Mountains.

8

9 MR. GOOD: Okay. So where we are -- we are  
10 treating it as one side of the highway and another side of  
11 the highway.

12

13 MR. DeMATTEO: Just the one side, the north  
14 side. North and west of the Steese Highway.

15

16 MR. GOOD: So the caribou aren't allowed to  
17 cross, right?

18

19 MR. DeMATTEO: No, they are not, not without  
20 a permit.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. GOOD: I just wanted to get that  
25 straight, it was getting a little confusing here.

26

27 MR. FLEENER: I call for the question to  
28 reconsider the proposal. We have to vote on whether or not  
29 we want to reconsider.

30

31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. All those in favor  
32 of reconsidering Proposal 60 signify by saying aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

37

38 (No opposing responses)

39

40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Proposal 60 is back on the  
41 floor.

42

43 MR. FLEENER: Is there any comments by State  
44 or.....

45

46 MS. T. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Terry Haynes,  
47 Department of Fish and Game. We're a little bit confused  
48 about what Pete has -- the information Pete has conveyed, so  
49 maybe that can be discussed again as part of your  
50 deliberations.

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: He's saying the Feds are  
2 slow in closing down the hunt, so there's a possibility of  
3 more caribou actually being taken than the 30 allowable.  
4 (Indiscernible - away from microphone)

5  
6 MS. T. HAYNES: Yeah, I think we just may  
7 have missed some of the explanation that Pete was giving and  
8 if he could repeat some of what you said. David James may  
9 have some additional comments.

10  
11 MS. HILDEBRAND: That's a C&T proposal, 60 is  
12 a C&T proposal.

13  
14 MR. FLEENER: No, it just the dates.

15  
16 MR. DeMATTEO: I'm on Page 83 of Section Q of  
17 the book.

18  
19 MR. SCHULTZ: Look at Page 81 and read the  
20 proposal. It says "establish customary and traditional use  
21 determinations."

22  
23 (Indiscernible - multiple voices at same time)

24  
25 MR. DeMATTEO: The proposed regulation, the  
26 next block down. If you look on the far right there's a  
27 highlighted section that says "February 1 through March  
28 31st". I'm referring to the action the Council took  
29 yesterday to support that.

30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: The confusion is that there is  
32 an error in the executive summary and that's where people are  
33 focusing on the general description. This is not a C&T  
34 proposal, someone inadvertently put that in there. So the  
35 executive summary is wrong on Page 81, the actual proposal is  
36 on Page 82, which is what Pete is addressing. Sorry for the  
37 error.

38  
39 MR. P. TITUS: So what they're asking for is  
40 to have 30 moose [sic] harvested for both State and Feds.  
41 They don't get 30 each is what I'm saying.

42  
43 MR. DeMATTEO: Correct.

44  
45 MR. P. TITUS: So what's the problem? Just  
46 pass it and continue the meeting. We don't need to hear all  
47 this stuff, we heard it yesterday.

48  
49 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, do you guys -- would  
50 the State see any problem with us making this amendment to

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1 the proposal where we say the Federal season would  
2 automatically close the harvest at 30 caribou?

3

4 MR. DAVID JAMES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
5 David James with Fish and Game. I readily admit that if I  
6 had been able to stay here last night after 4:00 I probably  
7 would understand better what the Council is dealing with  
8 here, but I had a previous commitment.

9

10 My immediate reaction is, if I understand this  
11 correctly, we're talking about having a winter Federal  
12 registration permit system in place simultaneous with the  
13 State registration permit for the same group of caribou in  
14 the same area; is that correct?

15

16 MR. DeMATTEO: The Eastern Interior Council  
17 submitted a proposal to the Federal Board to align the  
18 Federal winter season with the State because the Federal  
19 winter season was shorter. So if it was adopted it would be  
20 in line with the State, February 1 through March 31st.

21

22 MR. DAVID JAMES: And the Federal permit  
23 system has been in place all this time?

24

25 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes. Correct.

26

27 MR. DAVID JAMES: And the BLM office, I  
28 assume it would be, has coordinated with the area biologist  
29 in Fairbanks to monitor that quota?

30

31 (No audible response)

32

33 MR. DAVID JAMES: Okay, that answers my  
34 concern.

35

36 MR. DeMATTEO: For clarification for the  
37 State. What I'm doing here is offering an informational item  
38 to the Council that a BLM biologist has a concern that the  
39 Federal season would remain open in the event the State  
40 passes an emergency order to shut the State season when the  
41 caribou congregated along the Steese Highway. Currently  
42 under the Fed side sometimes it takes, maybe, a week to get a  
43 Special Action through to close it. The BLM biologist just  
44 wanted me to convey to the Council that that concern is there  
45 and that they have the option, maybe, to proposal language in  
46 the regulation that would give the BLM administrative  
47 authority to shut the season down without going to the  
48 Federal Board to ask for Special Action in the event that the  
49 herd congregated along the highway.

50

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1 MR. DAVID JAMES: I do wonder why there's a  
2 Federal permit system in place, unless the purpose is to  
3 restrict non-Federally qualified users in that area. Maybe  
4 that can be explained.

5  
6 MS. GRONQUIST: And maybe Pete has that  
7 history, I'm just not sure. But a few years ago this Council  
8 made a proposal to put a Federal permit in place there in the  
9 winter, mostly to gather information, to see what the  
10 subsistence use was in that area. And I don't recall -- I do  
11 think it came -- actually, I think it came from the Council  
12 as a proposal. Do you remember, Vince?

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: No, I don't, but I have all the  
15 minute here, I'd have to go through and see, but.....

16  
17 MR. DeMATTEO: If I may add, the bases was  
18 because that herd butts up against the Fortymile range and  
19 the White Mountain Herd is only about 1,500 animals and  
20 there's concern for that herd, although it supposedly  
21 somewhat stable and may be increasing in slowly. So there  
22 was an effort to try to monitor the harvest of that herd.

23  
24 MR. FLEENER: So would the State have any  
25 problem with us adopting this amendment to this proposal?

26  
27 MR. DAVID JAMES: No.

28  
29 MR. FLEENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

32  
33 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, understand that  
34 closure of the Federal season would just affect the Federal  
35 rural residents -- Federally qualified rural users. And that  
36 closure would be in the best interest of conservation efforts  
37 to consider the herd as the annual quota has been set at 30  
38 bulls. And it would give the BLM the administrative  
39 authority to slam on the brakes, as we saw yesterday with the  
40 Fortymile situation.

41  
42 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

43  
44 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make  
45 a motion that we adopt language into Proposal 60 that says  
46 that when the combined State and Federal harvest reaches 30  
47 that the season be closed.

48  
49 MR. GOOD: Second.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, will that take care  
2 of it?

3  
4 MR. DeMATTEO: I think I might defer to Vince  
5 or maybe other staff. With that, could we write into  
6 regulation the words we need to make that happen?

7  
8 MS. DETWILER: I'm Sue Detwiler with Fish and  
9 Wildlife Service Subsistence Office in Anchorage. And I  
10 think the language that Craig proposed would be sufficient to  
11 accomplish what you're trying to accomplish, which is to make  
12 sure that the season is closed in a timely fashion when the  
13 combined Federal/State quota has been reached.

14  
15 MR. FLEENER: So instead of us waiting for an  
16 emergency order, once 30 has been reach -- basically, we'll  
17 probably just align with the State because they're monitoring  
18 the numbers so well. If they find out it's closed, they'll  
19 give the Federal folks a call, probably, and say, "hey, we  
20 reached 30" or they'll produce their emergency order saying  
21 that the harvest is shut down and then ours will  
22 automatically close as well, so it'll go smoothly with what  
23 we wanted to do, which is to align the proposals -- align the  
24 season, excuse me.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Will that work with the  
27 State?

28  
29 (No audible response)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Vince.

32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: Not to muddy it up, but in the  
34 proposal you did yesterday you said, according to the  
35 Management Plan instead of a number. This herd moving in  
36 population then we wouldn't have to visit this in two years  
37 or something. Is there a plan? And yesterday you used the  
38 plan as the -- or allow harvestable surplus. You used some  
39 terminology like that. I don't know if that's necessary now  
40 or not, but.....

41  
42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You just muddied it all up.

43  
44 MR. DeMATTEO: I think the plan you're citing  
45 is the Fortymile Plan, this is the White Mountain Herd.

46  
47 MR. FLEENER: There's no plan?

48  
49 MR. DeMATTEO: There's no plan that I know  
50 of. And the estimated population is about 1,500 animals and

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1 from what I've been told it's stable to slightly increased.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, sorry. I thought there  
4 was a plan.

5

6 MR. FLEENER: Question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Nat.

9

10 MR. GOOD: Yeah, I had a question first. We  
11 are voting on Proposal 60, as amended, correct?

12

13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, correct.

14

15 MR. GOOD: Okay.

16

17 MR. FLEENER: Question.

18

19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. All those in favor  
20 of Proposal 60, as amended, please signify by saying aye.

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

25

26 (No opposing responses)

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us up  
29 back on to the schedule and I think the next proposal is 5  
30 and 6, they're combined. These are -- I don't know how  
31 George is going to do this, but these are the Healy Lake  
32 proposals and they start on Page 2, I believe, or so, under  
33 Tab S, as in Stevens Village.

34

35 MR. SHERROD: If we could flip that page back  
36 to Page 1 for a second. Proposal 5 and 6 basically deal with  
37 caribou in Unit 11. The Number 6, if you look over there in  
38 the right-hand column with the wording, the section that says  
39 to exclude Chickaloon, that was withdrawn by the proponent of  
40 the proposal, so we can scratch that. And the same is true  
41 under Proposals 13 and 14, so that these proposals are  
42 basically identical.

43

44 If you go all the way down to Proposal 23/24, 23,  
45 basically deals only with Healy Village. And if the Chair  
46 would approve and the Council and other members wouldn't  
47 disagree, I would like to deal with 5 and 6, 8, 10, 13, 14  
48 and 23 simultaneously. So although they deal with different  
49 species, they deal with the same unit and the same user  
50 group.

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, that'll work for us.

2

3 MR. SHERROD: Okay. Most of you are familiar  
4 with the Healy Lake proposals, we visited Healy Lake now, I  
5 think, for either the fourth or the fifth time. A couple of  
6 nights ago several of you were out at Healy Lake. The -- I  
7 suppose the critical question in all of these proposals is  
8 the nature use of this area by Healy Lake.

9

10 Evidence indicates a sporadic level of use over the  
11 historical period. And although sporadic it is somewhat  
12 consistent and it is patterned in that the use is associated  
13 with residents of Healy Lake visiting relatives in the Copper  
14 River area and expressing a desire to be able to hunt with  
15 them when they are down there. I think the question that  
16 this body has to decide and put forward is this type of use,  
17 which is, I suppose, has a greater social dimension and  
18 importance than it does an economic dimension. Is this the  
19 type of use that would be considered a subsistence use and  
20 the type of use that Title VIII is proposing to protect.

21

22 And the other two things that must be considered, in  
23 Proposal 10 the original proposal was for goat north of the  
24 Sanford River. Currently there are no goats north of the  
25 Sanford River, although there is some indication that there  
26 may have been, historically, goats in that area. The staff  
27 has modified that proposal to read, simply, Unit 11. Because  
28 to grant C&T for an area where there are no resources doesn't  
29 make a lot of sense and testimony indicated that, in fact, in  
30 the past residents of Healy Lake have traveled south of the  
31 Sanford River and hunted goats or other resources with  
32 relatives further south.

33

34 The staff recommendation is to support all of these  
35 proposals, and in other words, grant Healy Lake C&T for use  
36 of that area based on the desire to continue to interact and  
37 harvest resources with their relatives and friends in the  
38 Copper River Basin.

39

40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, this will just  
43 take a second, but it makes a record clean for you by the  
44 fact that you need to know that comments that were submitted  
45 on all of these proposals, so I'll try to be as brief as I  
46 can. The Delta Junction Advisory Committee for Proposal 5  
47 supports the Healy Lake amendment. Proposal 6 appears to be  
48 excluding rural Federal subsistence users from hunting. We  
49 oppose excluding Healy Lake, Dot Lake and Chickaloon.  
50 Obviously Chickaloon has been discussed here.

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1 Proposal 8, they support the proposal.

2

3 9 they support adding -- oh, sorry, we're not on 9.

4

5 10, we do not see why Unit 11 should be divided into  
6 to areas, we object to making things more complicated,  
7 especially for hunters and enforcement. We support adding  
8 Healy Lake.

9

10 Proposal 13 they support.

11

12 And I don't know if there's a representative from  
13 Upper Tanana here, I have all their comments, too. Proposal  
14 13 apparently they didn't comment on.

15

16 This is Delta Junction, Proposal 14 is an  
17 exclusionary proposal, the Committee opposes it.

18

19 Proposal 23, that's the last one, right? Correct?

20

21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: 23, they support 23. So now I  
24 suppose the cleanest in the record would be that you have  
25 comments of all the others in your book. I can either read  
26 them or you can acknowledge that you have them in front of  
27 you in your book. And we obviously have comments submitted  
28 by the State of Alaska, and I'll assume they will explain  
29 their comments for these series of proposals.

30

31 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I make a motion that  
32 we adopt Proposals 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14 and 23.

33

34 MR. GOOD: Second.

35

36 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, as far as what Vince  
37 was saying, I'd like to ask for comments on 5 and 13 and 14,  
38 were those -- were they not happy because the exclusion of  
39 Chickaloon and would they now be happy that we've removed the  
40 exclusion of Chickaloon?

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, we have some people  
43 from the Advisory Committee here, it would probably best for  
44 them -- I did see a head shake, but I don't know if that was  
45 for coffee or something else, but I think if they want to  
46 come up to the mike and explain that then the record would be  
47 clear on the Delta Junction position on these proposals.

48

49 MR. FENTON: I'm Larry Fenton, Chairman of  
50 the Delta Advisory Committee. We didn't want to exclusion of

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1 any of the areas -- or the people in the areas because we  
2 didn't believe it was right.

3

4 MR. FLEENER: So it was the exclusion of  
5 Chickaloon that you guys were unhappy with?

6

7 MR. FENTON: And the other ones where the  
8 exclusion of Dot Lake was not included -- they weren't  
9 included.

10

11 MR. FLEENER: Okay. So some of these  
12 proposals do not include Dot Lake, but there's none that  
13 specifically excludes them, right?

14

15 MR. FENTON: Not anymore. Not anymore, no.

16

17 MR. FLEENER: Okay. So with these exclusions  
18 removed then you're.....

19

20 MR. FENTON: We're happy, yeah.

21

22 MR. FLEENER: Okay. Thank you.

23

24 MR. FENTON: Okay.

25

26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We want the short version.

27

28 MS. T. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I  
29 will make it very short. The Department of Fish and Game  
30 continues to have some problems with these C&T proposals.  
31 There's a very clear process laid out in the Federal  
32 regulations for how customary and traditional determinations  
33 are to be made. We do not dispute the fact that people from  
34 Healy Lake go other places to harvest resources with  
35 relatives, that's a common practice throughout Alaska. And I  
36 think, as Mr. Sherrod mentioned, one of the questions is,  
37 does this -- you know, you're kind of shifting from the eight  
38 factor process for making C&T determinations to looking at a  
39 more social dimension and does that provide the necessary  
40 supporting evidence to determine that there are these  
41 customary and traditional uses.

42

43 We would like to see more specific data from Healy  
44 Lake. For all the times that these proposals have been  
45 before you and under consideration there hasn't been much  
46 evidence prepared about Healy Lake's subsistence use patterns  
47 and so that makes it difficult not only for the analysis to  
48 provide the kinds of information that you need, but it also,  
49 in our judgment, doesn't allow the Council to evaluate the  
50 C&T analyses on the basis of the eight factor process that's

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1 in the regulations.

2

3 So we would feel more comfortable if there was more  
4 specific information about Healy Lake provided in the  
5 analysis so that we could evaluate the eight factors and  
6 then, you know, assess their use patterns from there.

7

8 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I wonder if we could  
9 hear from Mr. Sherrod a little bit. He's said that he's been  
10 in that community a number of times working with the people  
11 and maybe we can get a little bit of feedback on the results  
12 of his meeting with those people.

13

14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: George Sherrod then Connie  
15 Friend from Tanana, she's been working on the from the start  
16 of Healy Lake, she should have documentation now to.....

17

18 MR. FLEENER: I think for the sake of  
19 argument and to make it -- if we are to pass these, to make  
20 it easier at the Federal Board meeting to pass, it would be  
21 wise for us to look through these and make sure we have  
22 enough background.

23

24 MR. SHERROD: If I can add, while Connie is  
25 passing that out. We wrote this analysis a little bit  
26 differently, I co-wrote it with the anthropologist from  
27 Southeast and if you notice in the beginning section, we  
28 relied fairly heavily on testimony that has come before this  
29 body and the Federal Subsistence Board as contributing to  
30 that body of evidence, an attempt integrate local traditional  
31 knowledge which as been a desire of not only this Council but  
32 other Councils. So I would say that while we lack any  
33 detailed harvest studies I do think that we have justified  
34 our actions, to some degree or if not totally, based on the  
35 testimony of residents of those communities.

36

37 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair. And that testimony  
38 is included in this as you pointed out?

39

40 MR. SHERROD: It's in -- yes, it's in the  
41 beginning, I think from Page 3 up through the section dealing  
42 with the cultural dimensions, basically, at Healy Lake. It  
43 was only done once and referenced in the later sections.

44

45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Just out of curiosity,  
46 Vince, was the State notified of our trip to Healy Lake  
47 Friday?

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: I've been bouncing around here.  
50 If the question is was the State notified of the meeting --

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1 dialogue meeting, in Healy Lake, yes, they were. It was a  
2 late notice, I'll acknowledge that very quickly, but the  
3 logistics and safety concerns had to be brought over, but  
4 they were advised of that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I guess the point I'm  
7 getting at, Terry, here is, you know, we went over and  
8 listened to testimony in Healy Lake and as this Council has  
9 always had problems with that eight point criteria, we think  
10 that -- you know, we never really -- it doesn't really do  
11 what it's supposed to do as far as we're concerned. So, you  
12 know, we like to go out and listen to the people and hear  
13 what they have to say about things instead of just relying on  
14 the criteria like was said. I know that's what we're  
15 supposed to do, but it's something -- I guess, maybe, I was  
16 wondering were you guys planning on sending anybody out there  
17 or was that.....

18

19 MS. T. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, we apologize  
20 for not being able to attend that meeting. I had a  
21 commitment, I was in Healy attending another meeting on  
22 Thursday and didn't get back in time to come out for that  
23 meeting. I notified Vince ahead of time. I mentioned it to  
24 Craig Fleener and indicated that if questions or comments  
25 came up at that meeting it should be directed to the  
26 Department and we'd be happy to try to address those this  
27 weekend.

28

29 An understanding that you did obtain some information  
30 at that meeting that directly applies to the topics discussed  
31 here today. I didn't know if someone might be planning to  
32 summarize what was discussed there, so that your record here  
33 would reflect additional information that doesn't appear in  
34 these analyses. That would certainly be helpful.

35

36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Connie.

37

38 MS. FRIEND: Mr. Chairman, on that note, I  
39 also talked with Tom Boyd yesterday and he assured me that  
40 that testimony would be recorded. And so, you know, before  
41 your next meeting you should have copies of that testimony.  
42 But I'm prepared today to summarize, at least part of it.

43

44 My name is Connie Friend and I'm here at the request  
45 of Healy Lake.

46

47 COURT REPORTER: Need to have the microphone  
48 facing you directly. Thank you.

49

50 MS. FRIEND: Uh-huh. First of all the people

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1 of Healy Lake would like to thank the Council and the various  
2 staff people for all of your support though these processes,  
3 they're kind of new to it and there are things that they  
4 would like you to know about themselves. They're not a new  
5 village, as you'll see in the paper that I gave you, they've  
6 been around for at least 11,000 years. Part of the lack of  
7 documentation, the lack of the kinds of information that the  
8 State and you may be looking for is due, in fact, to  
9 conditions beyond their control, to famine, to epidemics,  
10 such as small pox, tuberculosis, influenza that actually  
11 wiped out their village from time to time. And they would  
12 regroup and rebuild and return. And the people there today  
13 are the direct descendants of these ancient peoples who have  
14 peopled this land for at least 11,000 years.

15  
16 I'm kind of lost here.

17  
18 The paper that I gave you, I tried to show, first of  
19 all, that their being here into antiquity. Secondly, their  
20 relationships and contacts and ties to the Upper Tanana and  
21 to the Ahtna regions. And those are many and they're  
22 longstanding and they're in the process of being documented.  
23 We're working -- the Park Service staff and myself, are  
24 working on genealogies and we're talking to a lot of people  
25 who are still available, but there are many, many, many  
26 people who are not here any longer who could have supplied a  
27 lot of that information that you're seeking.

28  
29 Healy Lake is a very small band of people, even  
30 today. The houses that are occupied are under 10. The  
31 village is still very nomadic, very mobile. The population  
32 varies from 20 to 60 people at any given time. And the  
33 people are in direct relationship to the land and directly  
34 dependent upon subsistence. Their lifestyle is very  
35 traditional.

36  
37 When I was over there for one of my visits doing some  
38 research study, I had dinner with one of the elders and we  
39 had moose head soup, we had chusanat (ph), which is moose  
40 stomach soup, we had smoked heart meat. That was our dinner,  
41 and we had macaroni and cheese, that was our dinner, that was  
42 our food. And that's very typical, that's not the exception.

43  
44 From the testimony at the Lake when were over two  
45 nights ago, it was -- for some people who have paying jobs  
46 and have an income, they're dependence upon subsistence is  
47 maybe 50 percent, but for others it's 100 percent, and that's  
48 probably more than less. I'm almost certain that that would  
49 be more than less of the population. So they're directly  
50 dependent.

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1           And so I kind of take issue with what George  
2 mentioned earlier that when Healy Lake people travel to their  
3 relatives it's recreational as opposed to economical. Let me  
4 tell you for these people, for many of use in the Bush, this  
5 is what we're saying is the difference between the urban  
6 lifestyle and the rural lifestyle. When they travel, even if  
7 it's for recreation, there is an economic consideration.  
8 People from Healy Lake would have been here to testify for  
9 themselves today, except that there was not transportation.  
10 They wanted to come, they were prepared to come. Economics  
11 is always a consideration and the food exchange with their  
12 Ahtna neighbors or they share is critical to their survival.  
13 And as it was brought out in the meeting in Healy Lake, these  
14 people are surviving people. They were born and bred to  
15 survive. They have a very ancient connection to the land, to  
16 the animals, to the subsistence lifestyle.

17  
18           And what they're asking is to be allowed to hunt with  
19 their friends and neighbors in the Upper Tanana and in the  
20 Ahtna regions, which is something that they have always done.  
21 And when we were taking testimony in Healy Lake it was not  
22 unusual for it to be mentioned that people in the old days,  
23 we're talking about people who's grandparents hunted and  
24 traveled and shared among all of the Native peoples of the  
25 region.

26  
27           Another thing for them to travel hundred of miles,  
28 they said -- Pat mentioned that his grandpa's knock on the  
29 door of Walter Northway in Northway. That when his grandpa  
30 would walk over the trails and come visiting, just by his  
31 knock they would know this was his grandpa coming, because,  
32 you know, they did this, this was common. His grandpa also  
33 traveled from Healy Lake to Circle, just to find out when the  
34 caribou would be crossing and to make plans for the hunt.  
35 Who would rope, who would do the cutting, you know, they  
36 planned it all out together, it wasn't -- they had communal  
37 -- Healy Lake helped to build the communal fences on the  
38 Fortymile River, in that area.

39  
40           They cooperated, they hunted together, it was part of  
41 their lifestyle. It is part of their lifestyle today, and  
42 that's the basis of their request. I'm probably leaving out  
43 a lot of information from that meeting, you will be getting  
44 those notes. If you like I could kind of briefly go over my  
45 notes, I did take pretty extensive notes at the meeting in  
46 Healy Lake. But if this is enough to help you.

47  
48                           CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Vince.

49  
50                           MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that meeting was

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1 also tape recorded and we have it on tape. And the record  
2 should reflect that Pat Saylor, and others can tell me, that  
3 I think at least two meetings testified before this Council  
4 on Healy Lake's concerns and their traditional uses.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Can we get a copy of that  
7 transcript sent to Terry?

8  
9 MR. MATHEWS: What?

10  
11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Can we get a copy of that  
12 transcript sent to Terry?

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it's in tape form right  
15 now, we're.....

16  
17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, I know, but.....

18  
19 MR. MATHEWS: Somehow we'll -- we'll get it  
20 transcribed?

21  
22 MR. SHERROD: Yes. And if I could say  
23 something else, Mr, Chair. I appreciate Connie highlighting  
24 the fact that I may have indicated the nature of the use was  
25 recreational. That was not my intent, my intent was to  
26 highlight the fact that the consideration here is a little  
27 bit different in light of the eight factors. And I know you  
28 guys have trouble with those. And what I was trying to point  
29 out is that several of the eight factors deal on the  
30 importance of economic efficiency. And what I was trying to  
31 bring forward here was the staff conclusion to provide a  
32 positive C&T determination was based more on the cultural  
33 dimension that this is important for social solidarity and  
34 the viability of not just the community of Healy Lake, but  
35 its neighboring communities. It reenforces this web of  
36 networks that exists between those. And that's an aspect  
37 that difficult to highlight under the existing eight factors.

38  
39 And in talking with other staff and with I'll put Nat  
40 on the spot. Nat, I think there is a consensus that this  
41 type of behavior is basically a behavior of rural Alaska  
42 Natives and not necessarily something that someone -- that  
43 this body should look differently at a request for someone  
44 from Delta Junction wanting to go to Barrow to hunt with  
45 somebody he met on an airplane and is calling a friend. That  
46 this is trying to recognize a cultural practice that we  
47 believe is an intricate and traditional cultural practice of  
48 Alaska Natives to travel to other villages, visit with  
49 relatives and to not be an economic burden at that time.  
50 That it's through these communal acts of hunting, preparing

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1 and consuming these resources that Native culture is  
2 basically reinforced. That knowledge is transmitted, which  
3 is one of the eight factors. That sharing takes place, which  
4 is one of the eight factors.

5  
6 It is economically feasible to go to a neighbor's  
7 community, to a village and use their technology to hunt,  
8 where it may not be to drag your own boat or snowmachine or  
9 something hundreds of miles to participate. That it's done  
10 within the local area, which is part of the eight factors.  
11 So in many ways, when we think about it, the rationale behind  
12 allowing this type of activity to occur, I think, is in the  
13 spirit of the eight factors, even though it's very hard to  
14 categorize or quantify each of the eight factors.

15  
16 And I appreciate Connie pointing out that I may have  
17 given the wrong opinion. Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, George.

20  
21 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

24  
25 MR. GOOD: One thing I'd like to point out  
26 here, too, is Healy Lake people when they have been gone from  
27 their village have been largely residents of the other  
28 communities as well, and they, themselves, are very closely  
29 related to the people in the other communities, and when they  
30 have been in those communities were eligible at that time.  
31 So you're talking mixed eligibility here, we just want to  
32 give it to them as a community.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Connie.

35  
36 MS. FRIEND: Mr. Chairman, there's one  
37 technical point, I'm not sure, but I'm relatively sure that  
38 when we wrote this proposal for Number 23, we included (B)  
39 and (C) and I noticed -- it may have come across when Copper  
40 River submitted their Proposal 22, which they later withdrew,  
41 it was absent from that, but we do have definite proof of  
42 Healy Lake people having hunted on the Nebesna Road and if  
43 (C) were not included in this then Nebesna Road would likely  
44 be omitted, or at least parts of it.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Healy Lake is in 20(D),  
47 ain't it, Nat?

48  
49 MS. FRIEND: Yes.

50

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1 MR. GOOD: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, they're included.

4

5 MS. FRIEND: I have with me testimony from  
6 Logan Rouk (ph) who did hunt repeatedly along the Nebesna  
7 Road and I believe that, Mr. Chairman, you and Pat Saylor may  
8 have also hunted there, so we do have proof that we hunted  
9 there and we'd like to have that included, if possible, in  
10 Proposal 23.

11

12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I think it's already  
13 included.

14

15 MR. GOOD: Yeah, it is.

16

17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, I think it's  
18 included.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the confusion  
21 here again is we just need to get our summaries better. The  
22 proposal in the book on Page 112 for 23 does reflect 13(B)  
23 and 13(C). It's the summary -- that's the problem with  
24 summaries -- difficulty, I should say, it doesn't show 13(B)  
25 and (C) on the chart on Page 1 under Tab S, but it is in the  
26 proposal.

27

28 MS. FRIEND: Okay, thank you.

29

30 MR. P. TITUS: Question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, question has been  
33 called. We just going to block them altogether?

34

35 MR. GOOD: Yeah, they're altogether.

36

37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. All those in favor  
38 of Proposal 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14 and 23, please signify by  
39 saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

44

45 (No opposing responses)

46

47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, they pass. Go ahead,  
48 Vince.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, then for the

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1 record then that you passed supporting the staff  
2 recommendation for those proposals and it was based on the  
3 dialogue meeting in Healy Lake and other previous dialogues  
4 with representatives of Healy Lake and personal knowledge of  
5 their uses and data submitted at this meeting. Correct?

6  
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Uh-huh (affirmative).

8  
9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you.

10  
11 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chair, with regard to  
12 Proposal 24, based on the action you just took you've already  
13 added -- and 24 deals only with 13(B), we've already added  
14 Healy Lake to that determination, so the other communities  
15 requested in this proposal to be added would be -- to the  
16 13(B) determination for moose would be Unit 12 along the  
17 Nebesna Road, Unit 13 -- they're already there, excuse me.  
18 Unit 20(D), except Fort Greely, and Unit 11. And Unit 11, my  
19 understanding is, was erroneously added, if Mr. Good could  
20 clarify that before I go on?

21  
22 MR. GOOD: Yeah, in writing that what  
23 happened was the original proposal for caribou was used for  
24 it, which did have Unit 11 and 12 in it. And there was an  
25 assumption made that that was the same for moose and so it  
26 was submitted that way and when we found out that that was  
27 not the case we submitted that and said we didn't want to  
28 speak for 11 and 12, that that wasn't appropriate and,  
29 therefore, we had to withdraw that.

30  
31 MR. SHERROD: So we're only considering those  
32 residents of Unit 12 along the Nebesna Road and Unit 20(D),  
33 excluding Fort Greely, to be added to the moose determination  
34 for Unit 13(B).

35  
36 In going through the analysis, there was indication  
37 to support, again, of course, the addition of Healy Lake and  
38 to support adding the residents of Unit 12 and Unit 20(D)  
39 excluding Fort Greely, to the C&T determination for 13(C).  
40 You have the analysis in front of you, if you'd like I could  
41 go into more detail. Or if you would prefer just to move  
42 forward and ask questions, we can handle it that way, too.

43  
44 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, I move that we  
45 support Proposal 24 with modification adding the residents of  
46 Unit 12 and 20(D), except Fort Greely, to those with a  
47 positive C&T in Unit 13(B). I'm taking this from the  
48 conclusions on Page 129.

49  
50 MR. FLEENER: Second.

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1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Discussion?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the only comment  
4 that was received was from Delta Junction Advisory Committee.  
5 Nat explained the error in the original proposal and in their  
6 comments submitted they continue the proposal, they feel the  
7 rationale is clear and support it.

8

9 And Fish and Game may want to comment, they submitted  
10 a written comment of no comment at that time.

11

12 MS. T. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, we have no  
13 further comments right now, we may provide some at the  
14 Southcentral meeting after we've had a chance to look at this  
15 proposal in the context of other actions you've taken.

16

17 MR. GOOD: Question.

18

19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Question has been  
20 called, all those in favor of Proposal 24 as amended.

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed?

25

26 (No opposing responses)

27

28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Proposal 24 passes.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think, if I got  
31 the road map right here that gets us -- we've completed the  
32 Healy Lake proposals and then we're on to overlap proposals  
33 with Southcentral. And if George -- I mean, if he agrees, I  
34 think it's Proposal 4 now before us, dealing with a brown  
35 bear season in Unit 11. If not, then they can give direction  
36 as to where we go, but we've completed the Healy Lake ones.

37

38 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chairman, can we take a  
39 break for about five minutes, is that possible?

40

41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, let's take about five  
42 minutes.

43

44 MR. SHERROD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45

46 (Off record - 9:49 a.m.)

47

48 (On record - 10:09 a.m.)

49

50 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I'd like to call the

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1 meeting back to order. Proposal 4.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think we're on  
4 to overlap proposals. If people would turn to Tab S as in  
5 Stevens Village. Proposal 11 is on Page 133, it deals  
6 with.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Proposal 4?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: .....establishing a brown bear  
11 season. Proposal 4, yeah. I'm sorry. It deals with  
12 establishing a brown bear season in Unit 11. Oh, and I do  
13 remember that there was -- Mr. Fleener wanted to make a  
14 clarification on the action dealing with Proposal 5, 6 and et  
15 cetera.

16

17 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman, I guess there was  
18 some confusion to my proposal and it was to adopt the staff  
19 recommendation. And is that clear enough, Mr. Mathews?

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, and there was a staff  
22 recommendation within the meeting book. There was several  
23 people that approached me that was clear what the motion was,  
24 so we need to make sure, and that's what's reflected in notes  
25 and I think Sue has that also in her notes. So we have  
26 multiple recordings that that was the motion, but now we have  
27 it clarified on the record.

28

29 MR. FLEENER: And would that have changed  
30 anyone else's vote, we need to find out.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: No.

33

34 MR. FLEENER: I think everyone understood  
35 that's how the motion was going.

36

37 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Pete.

38

39 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 4 was  
40 submitted by Frank Entsminger and the Upper Tanana/Fortymile  
41 Fish and Game Advisory Committee. This proposal would open a  
42 Federal subsistence brown bear season in Unit 11 for one bear  
43 every regulatory year and the season would be from September  
44 1 through May 21. Currently there is not Federal subsistence  
45 season for brown bear in Unit 11.

46

47 In 1997 a positive customary and traditional use  
48 determination was made for brown bear prompting this request  
49 to the Federal Subsistence Board. There's currently a State  
50 season for brown bear in Unit 11, that's one bear every four

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1 regulatory years, September 1 through October 31 and the  
2 second season is April 25 through May 31.

3  
4 There is no current population estimate for brown  
5 bears in Unit 11, however, the Alaska Department of Fish and  
6 Game considers the population is relatively abundant and well  
7 distributed throughout the unit. This is also the consensus  
8 of other biologists and outfitters and local residents.

9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, the  
11 comments.....

12  
13 MR. DeMATTEO: I'm not done yet.

14  
15 MR. MATHEWS: Oh.

16  
17 MR. DeMATTEO: The mean annual brown bear  
18 harvest in Unit 11 from 1985 to 1995 is eight bears per year  
19 with the management goal of less than 30 bears harvested per  
20 year. In 1966 [sic] through 1997 season only two bears were  
21 taken. And in 1997 and '98 only three bears were harvested.

22  
23 The Federal subsistence harvest is not expected to  
24 meet or exceed recent harvest levels under State regulations  
25 since subsistence use of brown bear meat and hides is  
26 limited. It is concluded that additional harvest resulting  
27 from a Federal season will not negatively impact the brown  
28 bear population for the unit.

29  
30 The preliminary conclusion is to modify. It is  
31 recommended that changing the proposed season dates to  
32 coincide with the existing State hunting regulations, which  
33 run from September 1 through October 31 and April 25 through  
34 May 31. This permits harvest during the period when bears are  
35 most active and available to hunters.

36  
37 It is also recommended that the regulation -- that  
38 the State regulation that any qualified subsistence users  
39 must have a State locking tag, as is currently done for  
40 Federal subsistence hunters in Unit 12. Also any brown bear  
41 harvested under Federal season must be sealed within 30 days  
42 of the kill by Alaska Department of Fish and Game personnel  
43 in the same manner that bears harvested under State  
44 regulation are presently sealed.

45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry. Comments that were  
47 received. Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee support.  
48 were also in favor of elimination tag fees since this is a  
49 subsistence hunt. Delta Advisory Committee support Proposal  
50 4 allowing brown bear hunting in Unit 11. And the State is

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1 present to share their comments.

2

3 MS. T. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, we support this  
4 proposal and the staff recommendation looks fine as well.

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. With the  
7 modification, you mean?

8

9 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion  
10 that we adopt Proposal 4 with the staff recommendation.

11

12 MR. GOOD: Second.

13

14 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd like to ask the  
15 State, is there tag and sealing requirements already in this  
16 area?

17

18 MR. DAVID JAMES: Yes.

19

20 MR. FLEENER: There is? Was that a yes?

21

22 MR. DAVID JAMES: Mr. Chairman, yes.

23

24 MR. FLEENER: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

27

28 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, currently in Unit  
29 13, which is immediately adjacent there, moose population is  
30 very low in number, in fact, almost threatened I think you  
31 might even say. What is the current status of that  
32 population in Unit 11?

33

34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You mean the moose  
35 population?

36

37 MR. GOOD: Right, the moose. I tend to put  
38 -- you know, there's a relationship between the two here. Do  
39 you have any idea, Chair? You wouldn't necessarily know  
40 that.

41

42 MR. MITCHELL: Carl Mitchell, the wildlife  
43 biologist for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, which is most  
44 of Unit 11. The moose populations are below normal there,  
45 roughly 25 to 26 moose per square mile, higher than in some  
46 parts of Interior Alaska, not as high as in Unit 11. They're  
47 not threatened in any way, but they're not abundant either.

48

49 MR. GOOD: The reason I asked that, Mr.  
50 Chairman was currently there are other areas that are doing

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1 away with one bear every four years and going to one bear  
2 every year and eliminating the tag fee as well. Here in  
3 20(D) that step had been taken, I think it's proposed also  
4 for 13, isn't it now? There probably are proposals dealing  
5 with that in 13, which is what made me curious about those.

6  
7 MR. MITCHELL: There are some places in Unit  
8 13 where it is one bear per year and there is not tagging  
9 requirement.

10  
11 MR. GOOD: Thank you. But that's the way it  
12 is in 11.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more discussion?

15  
16 MR. GOOD: Question.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, question has been  
19 called. All those in favor of Proposal 4.

20  
21 MR. GOOD: Aye.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Were there any amendments  
24 to that or just as is?

25  
26 MR. FLEENER: (Indiscernible - away from  
27 microphone) staff recommendation that's in (indiscernible).

28  
29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Signify by saying aye.

30  
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

34  
35 (No opposing responses)

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that brings  
38 us up to Proposal 15, which is on Page 139, which deals with  
39 elimination of requirements to keep sex attached to the  
40 carcass for 11 and 13.

41  
42 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chairman, Proposal 15 was  
43 submitted by the Copper River Native Association. This  
44 proposal would modify the general regulation pertaining to  
45 the possession and transportation of wildlife, to eliminate  
46 that portions of the external sex organs remain attached to  
47 the carcass to provide evidence of sex for moose and sheep in  
48 Unit 11 and 13.

49  
50 The current regulations governing evidence of sex and

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1 identity under possess and transport of wildlife read as  
2 follows: If the subsistence take of Dall sheep is restricted  
3 to a ram, no person may possess or transport or harvest a  
4 sheep unless both horns accompany the animal.

5  
6 If the subsistence take of an ungulate, except sheep,  
7 is restricted to one sheep in the local area, no person may  
8 possess or transport the carcass of an animal taken in that  
9 area unless sufficient portions of external sex organs remain  
10 attached to indicated conclusively the sex of the animal.

11  
12 The preliminary conclusion is to oppose and the  
13 justification is requiring that a portion of the external sex  
14 organs remain attach to the carcass to provide evidence of  
15 sex is a reasonable requirement that protects populations of  
16 ungulates. It does not spoil meat when the animals are  
17 properly field dressed and allows the option of a late bull  
18 moose hunt, after the bulls have shed their antlers.

19  
20 Since the requirement also exists in State  
21 regulation, removing it from Federal regulation would make  
22 enforcement on adjacent lands, which fall under State  
23 jurisdiction very difficult, to the detriment of the  
24 populations that use Federal public lands.

25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, we do have  
27 a few comments on this one. The Denali Subsistence Resource  
28 Commission on Proposal 15 opposes this proposal and  
29 recommends retaining existing regulations governing the  
30 evidence of sex and the identity for the reasons stated in  
31 the justification.

32  
33 The Delta Advisory Committee, their position is as  
34 long as antler remain attached sex is certainly established.  
35 We support the logic of this proposal.

36  
37 The Upper Tanana/Fortymile Committee supports this  
38 proposal and would like to include Unit 12.

39  
40 What's the State's comments?

41  
42 MS. T. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the State does  
43 not support this proposal, we see it as creating a lot of  
44 difficult enforcement problems among other things.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

47  
48 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I make a motion that  
49 we adopt the staff recommendation for Proposal 15.

50

00176

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You mean you oppose it  
2 then?

3  
4 MR. FLEENER: Yeah.

5  
6 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, actually in order to  
7 discuss this, we should have a motion on the floor in favor  
8 of it and then defeat it.

9  
10 MR. FLEENER: Well, I just made a motion.....

11  
12 MR. GOOD: But the staff recommendation was  
13 to oppose. You made a motion to oppose it.

14  
15 MR. FLEENER: We can still discuss it. No, I  
16 guess we can't, can we?

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you can do it either way.  
19 (Indiscernible - away from microphone) positive motion.

20  
21 MR. FLEENER: Okay. I make a motion that we  
22 adopt Proposal 15.

23  
24 MR. P. TITUS: Second the motion.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Discussion?

27  
28 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, I think it's a reasonable  
29 expectation. I do have a question. Is there a winter moose  
30 hunt to where you would not be able to use the antlers as an  
31 identifier?

32  
33 (Indiscernible - multiple voices)

34  
35 MR. SHERROD: There's a Federal moose hunt,  
36 September 20 is the.....

37  
38 MR. FLEENER: I was just wondering because  
39 someone made the argument, when Vince was reading, that

40  
41 MR. SHERROD: Defined in our regulations is  
42 one antlered bull.

43  
44 MR. GOOD: And it is in September, both hunts  
45 -- both units?

46  
47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there.....

48  
49 MS. T. HAYNES: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, did  
50 you want the State seasons?

00177

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, if there was a winter  
2 State season?

3  
4 MS. T. HAYNES: In Unit 11 and 13?

5  
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, 11 and 13.

7  
8 MS. T. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the State  
9 seasons appear to be the same as the Federal seasons in both  
10 of those units.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Terry, I got a  
13 question here. This here just kind of came into effect,  
14 what, the last 10 years or so, that we got to keep the sex  
15 organs attached, because I remember before it wasn't like  
16 that. At least Unit 20(D) it wasn't. And.....

17  
18 MR. DAVID JAMES: Mr. Chair -- oh, excuse me.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN MILLER: No, go ahead.

21  
22 MR. DAVID JAMES: I just wanted to reply,  
23 it's actually been in place for, I'm fairly confident, longer  
24 than that, but it has not been widely enforced in some areas,  
25 in some places. And even to this day it's one of the most  
26 common violations, I'm told by Fish and Wildlife.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I do it every year to tell  
29 you the truth. I say I do it every year, because that how I  
30 was taught to dress out a moose and that's how I do it. So I  
31 was just wondering, you know, how long this thing has  
32 actually been in effect?

33  
34 MR. DAVID JAMES: It's been around for a long  
35 time, I guess, is the short answer. And it's an enforcement  
36 issue, you know, Fish and Wildlife Protection are the ones  
37 that advocate that, and for obvious reasons. I mean it's a  
38 real cut and dry kind of tool for enforcement purposes.

39  
40 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman. Antlers seem to be  
41 a pretty cut and dry tool, too, you know.

42  
43 MR. DAVID JAMES: I'm sure Fish and Wildlife,  
44 if they were sitting here, they can give you lots of  
45 examples. There would be no problem to do that illegally,  
46 all you have to have is a bull moose head.

47  
48 MR. GOOD: Or hind quarters.

49  
50 MR. DAVID JAMES: Well, then you can fill in

00178

1 the blanks with whatever piece of moose you have in addition  
2 to that, you know. That's the argument that you would hear  
3 from them.

4

5 MR. P. TITUS: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, go ahead.

8

9 MR. P. TITUS: It's against common sense to  
10 kill cows for -- because they breed up and cows breed up and  
11 people look for bulls when they hunt in the fall time. And -  
12 - but once you catch a moose it's dead, no matter what, and  
13 no matter what sex it is, you got to take it home and eat it,  
14 so kind of saying we should just -- I skin moose the same way  
15 Chuck skins moose, that's the way we were taught and we try  
16 to keep the meat as clean as possible. This here would  
17 probably spoil the meat. If it got on the meat you can't eat  
18 it. And it's a funny proposal. I'd rather just skin the  
19 moose the way we were taught, I don't know why we need to go  
20 by regulations. It's a new way to skin moose, I guess.

21

22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. So.....

23

24 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Nat.

27

28 MR. GOOD: The only enforcement problem I see  
29 is that you would have two different types of enforcement, so  
30 once you hit, say, the highway system then you'd have to be  
31 able to show that your moose came from a Federal area and not  
32 from a State area. That's where I see the problem with  
33 enforcement coming in. I don't have any big problems, I can  
34 see how you can mix and match parts of an animal, either way  
35 you look at it, front end or rear end, but I guess it's not  
36 -- you come into Unit 11, if you hit the highway system and  
37 the State stops you then you got to be able to show it was a  
38 Federal moose, I guess. Maybe they'll have Fs painted on  
39 them or something, I don't know.

40

41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, I think that would be  
42 the main problem, just the enforcement of it.

43

44 MR. L. TRITT: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You know, I support it, I  
47 guess, in a round about way it's got to coincide with State.

48

49 MR. GOOD: We don't want any criminals here.

50

00179

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We're already criminals.  
2 Go ahead Lincoln.

3  
4 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, where I come from we  
5 don't leave anything -- any meat or anything behind and so  
6 this would just -- to me this gives an idea that they're --  
7 you can do that, you know. And so I -- it just gives all the  
8 bad information is what it does. And I really don't think  
9 this is necessary.

10  
11 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Craig.

14  
15 MR. FLEENER: I think as a point of  
16 clarification evidence of sex is attached to the hide not to  
17 the -- it doesn't remain attached to the meat, so for anyone  
18 that might be concerned about damage to the meat if the  
19 evidence of sex is attached to the hide, it can be kept away  
20 from the meat. And I think that for enforcement it is a good  
21 tool to make sure that people are shooting bulls, you know,  
22 if you got a lot of people hunting along the highway, that's  
23 one quick way to identify. It's awful obvious.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is that how it is in the  
26 regs?

27  
28 MR. FLEENER: Huh?

29  
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is that how it is stated in  
31 the regs, attached to the hide?

32  
33 MR. P. TITUS: No, it just says attached.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Southcentral didn't meet  
36 yet, did they?

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: No.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So we don't know what  
41 their.....

42  
43 MR. MATHEWS: They meet the end of the month.

44  
45 MR. DAVID JAMES: Mr. Chairman.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

48  
49 MR. DAVID JAMES: I'm not reading from the  
50 State codified regulations, I'm reading from the summary here

00180

1 in the reg book. It says -- the wording in here is that the  
2 -- you must keep enough of the sex organs naturally attached  
3 to part of a rear quarter to show sex of the animal.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

6  
7 MR. DAVID JAMES: Just to clarify what Mr.  
8 Fleener was asking about.

9  
10 MR. GOOD: It goes on to say, penis, scrotum,  
11 other, tits, vaginal orifice.

12  
13 (Indiscernible - multiple voices)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any discussion?

16  
17 MR. GOOD: Question.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question has been called.

20  
21 MR. P. TITUS: What's the action?

22  
23 MR. GOOD: The motion is to adopt Proposal  
24 15.

25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: Was that with amendments or  
27 straight?

28  
29 MR. GOOD: Just adopt it.

30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, good.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: To adopt is to remove, huh,  
34 and oppose accept.

35  
36 MR. FLEENER: If you adopt it, it eliminates  
37 the requirements to keep evidence of sex. If you vote  
38 against it, it will remain to keep -- retain that  
39 requirement.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. All those in favor  
42 of Proposal 15 signify by saying aye.

43  
44 IN UNISON EXCEPT MR. FLEENER: Aye.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

47  
48 MR. FLEENER: Aye.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN MILLER: What do we got? Five [sic]

00181

1 for and one against.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Was the vote on that six for,  
4 one against?

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, six for, one against.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Two absent.

9

10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So Proposal 15 passes.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us up  
13 to Proposal 16, which deals with moose season in Unit 11.

14

15 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 16 was  
16 submitted by the Copper River Native Association. It would  
17 lengthen the existing moose season in Unit 11. Current  
18 Federal subsistence regulations in Unit 11 allow a season of  
19 August 25 through September 20 with a harvest limit of one  
20 antlered bull. The general State season in that unit runs  
21 from August 20 to September 20 with a harvest limit of one  
22 bull with a spiked-fork or 50-inch or greater antlers or  
23 three or more brow tines on at least one side, on one antler.

24

25 Federal public lands in the affected area are those  
26 of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and a  
27 very small portion of the Chugach National Forest in the  
28 vicinity of Miles Glacier.

29

30 Persons having customary and traditional use of moose  
31 in that portion of Unit 11 north of the Sanford River are  
32 residents of Unit 11, 12, 13(A, B, C and D) and residents of  
33 Chickaloon and Dot Lake. Persons having customary and  
34 traditional use of moose in the remainder of Unit 11 are  
35 residents of Unit 11, 13 (A, B, C and D) and residents of  
36 Chickaloon.

37

38 The current moose density in Unit 11 is considered to  
39 be stable, but low, with a unit-wide estimate of 0.5 moose  
40 per square mile. The bull:cow ratios are high, reaching  
41 almost 90 bulls:per 100 cows in some areas, but calf survival  
42 though the fall season is low, with fall ratios often below  
43 20 calves:per 100 cows.

44

45 The reported annual harvest since 1993 have averaged  
46 35 bulls with a range of 30 to 38.

47

48 The preliminary conclusion is to support with a  
49 modification on the basis that although the current moose  
50 population in Unit 11 is low, the current low harvest rate

00182

1 and high bull:cow ratio would permit some additional harvest  
2 of bulls without detriment to the population. However,  
3 adding additional days at the end of the season could  
4 increase the harvest significantly and also interfere with  
5 successful breeding. Bulls are very vulnerable during this  
6 period due to the increased movement associated with the rut  
7 and the increased visibility due to leaf fall.

8  
9 It would also concentrate hunters on Federal public  
10 lands in the unit since there would be no other local areas  
11 opened to moose hunting. Harvesting bulls during this period  
12 of harem formation may interfere with breeding, resulting in  
13 a low calf production and reduced survivals due to a larger  
14 number of late born calves during the following summer.

15  
16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the Delta  
17 Advisory Committee on Proposal 16, this would make the moose  
18 season an entire month long. Moose populations cannot  
19 support this kind of pressure. They opposed Proposal 16.

20  
21 And the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has.....

22  
23 MR. FLEENER: Who was that?

24  
25 MR. MATHEWS: The Delta Junction Advisory  
26 Committee opposed the proposal.

27  
28 MS. T. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the  
29 Department's opposition to this proposal is based on the  
30 addition of five days at the end of the season. What the  
31 staff are recommending here is basically aligning the State  
32 and Federal seasons and we would be much more supportive of  
33 that.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That was something like  
36 August 20 to September 20 you're looking at?

37  
38 MS. T. HAYNES: Yeah, that would be -- it  
39 would be better not to have additional hunting time in one  
40 area of that region of Alaska where you could attract a lot  
41 of hunters to an area, and Unit 11 moose population cannot  
42 withstand substantial additional harvest, so.....

43  
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: What's the State season  
45 now?

46  
47 MR. FLEENER: August 30 [sic] to September  
48 20.

49  
50 MS. T. HAYNES: It's August 20 to September

00183

1 20.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So if we were to align it  
4 with the State season that would work better?

5

6 MS. T. HAYNES: Yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

9

10 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion  
11 that we adopt Proposal 16 with staff recommendation.

12

13 MR. GOOD: Second.

14

15 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yes.

18

19 MR. FLEENER: Does the State know the moose  
20 density in that area?

21

22 MR. DAVID JAMES: Mr. Chair, no, I have no  
23 information on that, however, somebody else has.

24

25 MR. MITCHELL: Craig, yeah, again, unit-wide,  
26 it's about a half a moose per square mile. It's not a high  
27 density.

28

29 MR. FLEENER: And what's the size of the  
30 area?

31

32 MR. MITCHELL: I'd have to look it up, but  
33 it's somewhere around 11,000 square miles or something like  
34 that. I don't know how much of that is actually moose  
35 habitat. There are concentrations of hunting along the roads  
36 and the concern is that since moose are particularly  
37 vulnerable to hunting during the rut, and since there would  
38 be no other open seasons that everybody who hadn't gotten a  
39 moose today would suck into that unit.

40

41 We would expect, based on the patterns of harvest,  
42 that an extra five days at the end of the season could as  
43 much as double or even more, increase the harvest. And while  
44 it may not affect the population unit-wide, it would  
45 certainly affect it locally where access is available. And  
46 if you create pockets of low bull:cow ratios and delayed  
47 breeding and everything else, it's not something that we're  
48 trying to do.

49

50 MR. FLEENER: And do you happen to know the

00184

1 overall moose population?

2

3 MR. MITCHELL: No, not off the top of my  
4 head, I'd have to look it up.

5

6 MR. FLEENER: It's just somebody complaining  
7 about a half a moose per square mile and up in Yukon Flats we  
8 got one every 10 square miles, so.....

9

10 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, I was just talking to  
11 somebody the other day though and in the experimental forest  
12 below Fairbanks, they got up to three moose per square mile,  
13 so it depends on what you're used to, I guess.

14

15 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, my only comment  
16 would be that aligning with the State seasons makes sense  
17 and, number 2, not getting as close to the rut also makes  
18 sense, so as the motion was made, it seems to be most  
19 appropriate. It solves everybody's problem.

20

21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other discussion?

22

23 MR. FLEENER: Question.

24

25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question has been called.  
26 All those in favor of Proposal 16 with the staff  
27 recommendations, signify by saying aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

32

33 (No opposing responses)

34

35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: What's our next one?

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: That brings us up to Proposal  
38 17, which is coyote hunting in Unit 11 and 13.

39

40 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 17 was  
41 submitted by Frank Entsminger and the Upper Tanana/Fortymile  
42 Fish and Game Advisory Committee. This proposal would  
43 increase the hunting harvest limits on coyotes on Units 11  
44 and 12 from two coyotes to 10 coyotes.

45

46 Currently the State regs for Unit 12 are no more than  
47 two coyotes may be harvested prior to October 1st. Now,  
48 yesterday you took action on Proposal 52, which is just that,  
49 to align the harvest limit for coyotes with that with the  
50 State, so remember for Unit 12 that would be no more than two

00185

1 coyotes prior to October 1st. For Unit 11 that doesn't have  
2 an additional restriction, it would just up to 10 coyotes.

3  
4 Current Federal subsistence regulations governing  
5 coyote hunting in Unit 11 and 12 provide a season from  
6 September 1 through April 30 with a harvest limit of two  
7 coyotes in both units. Current State regulations in Unit 11  
8 are identical to Federal regulations, however, in Unit 13 the  
9 harvest limit is 10 coyotes, only two of which may be taken  
10 before October 1st. Under both Federal and State trapping  
11 regulations there is no limit on the number of coyotes that  
12 may be taken.

13  
14 The only data on coyote abundance in these units is  
15 provided by trapper responses collected by the Alaska  
16 Department of Fish and Game. This information and citing of  
17 coyotes by Department biologists doing aerial surveys of  
18 other species indicates that the population in these units is  
19 healthy.

20  
21 Providing additional harvest opportunity by  
22 increasing the harvest limit would benefit subsistence users  
23 who hunt and trap for fur animals in the affected units. It  
24 is not expected to have any biological impact to the coyote  
25 population since populations appear to be healthy and no  
26 significant increase in harvest is expected from the  
27 increased limit.

28  
29 The preliminary conclusion is to support.

30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the comments that  
32 we received on what is Proposal 17, the Delta Advisory  
33 Committee support the proposal on this one and the next one  
34 coming up, 18.

35  
36 We have from Upper Tanana/Fortymile, we'll have to  
37 walk through this one. They want to combine -- they say  
38 combine with Proposal 52 for Units 11 and 12. We support the  
39 increased bag limit while allowing no more than two coyotes  
40 to be harvested before October 1st. This is their proposal,  
41 so it sound like they're requesting to modify their proposal.  
42 So I don't know what the State season is or whatever, but  
43 they're asking that no more than two coyotes be harvested  
44 before October 1.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You have it so it can  
47 coincide with the State regulations?

48  
49 MR. FLEENER: No, we adopt the proposal to  
50 shoot 10 in Unit 11, that'll be eight more than the State.

00186

1 State has for Unit 11 it's two coyotes, September 1 to April  
2 30. Unit 12 it's 10, but no more than two before October  
3 1st.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Oh, okay.

6  
7 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I make a motion to  
8 adopt Proposal 17 with -- the proposal that would go along  
9 with their written comments, allowing no more than two  
10 coyotes before October 1st.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, we got a second?

13  
14 MR. GOOD: Second.

15  
16 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd like to ask if  
17 anyone knows if there's going to be a similar regulation for  
18 the State, because this takes -- it only aligns it partially  
19 for Unit 12, it takes Unit 11 out of alignment with the  
20 State. And I see the State supports this, is there going to  
21 be something similar with the State to up the take from two  
22 to 10?

23  
24 MS. T. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I'm not aware  
25 of a companion proposal going before the Board of Game this  
26 year. It's something that could be partially addressed next  
27 year, I guess if having these out of alignment would be a  
28 problem. We didn't discuss the whole issue of having these  
29 seasons aligned with the area biologist that reviewed these  
30 proposals. It's certainly something that we can be prepared  
31 to discuss at the Southcentral Council meeting and ensure  
32 that that topic gets more attention if you're concerned about  
33 it.

34  
35 MR. FLEENER: Well, I think to keep in the  
36 spirit of trying to keep the seasons aligned to avoid  
37 confusion it would be good if -- since the State approves of  
38 this proposal, that if the State would be inclined to make a  
39 proposal to that effect, I think it would be good.

40  
41 MR. MITCHELL: That would probably be fine.  
42 I think one of the reasons it may not have come up is the  
43 vast majority of Unit 11 is Federal land.

44  
45 MR. FLEENER: Right.

46  
47 MR. MITCHELL: There's very little State land  
48 in Unit 11.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more discussion?

00187

1 MR. GOOD: Yeah, one comment here. I think  
2 that the "only two of which may be taken before October 1st"  
3 I think it would be good to include that.

4  
5 MR. FLEENER: I did.

6  
7 MR. GOOD: Okay. Then question.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question has been called.  
10 All those in favor of Proposal 17 as modified signify by  
11 saying aye.

12  
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

16  
17 (No opposing responses)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: 17 passes.

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us up  
22 to Proposal 18, which is a similar proposal for the same  
23 area, except it's for wolves.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Uh-huh.

26  
27 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 18 was  
28 submitted by Frank Entsminger and the Upper Tanana/Fortymile  
29 Fish and Game Advisory Committee. This proposal would  
30 increase the hunting harvest limits on wolves in Units 11 and  
31 12 from five wolves to 10.

32  
33 Current Federal subsistence regulations governing  
34 wolf hunting in Units 11 and 12 provide a season of August 10  
35 to April 30th, which matches that of the State, but the State  
36 harvest limit is five wolves in both units.

37  
38 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates wolf  
39 numbers in Unit 11 over the past five years vary from 95 to  
40 135 animals, which is thought to approach the historic high  
41 population levels of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Annual  
42 harvests have ranged from 11 to 35 wolves from 1993 to 1997,  
43 averaging approximately 19 wolves per year. The harvest  
44 level is considered to be well below that which would  
45 stabilize the wolf population.

46  
47 Department biologist believes that Unit 11 wolf  
48 population is probably at carrying capacity, based on the low  
49 number of ungulates available as prey during the winter and  
50 is probably stabilized by wolf movements to Unit 13 where a

00188

1 large prey base is available rather than by hunter -- by  
2 human harvest.

3  
4 The wolf population in Unit 12 is estimated at 136 to  
5 243 animals and is thought to be increasing. The annual  
6 harvest ranges from 17 to 74 animals. Harvest are generally  
7 below the sustainable 25 to 30 percent of the population  
8 size, however average only about 25 percent of wolves are  
9 harvested by shooting and 75 percent are taken by trapping or  
10 snaring of the total wolf harvest.

11  
12 Increasing the harvest limit from five to 10 wolves  
13 would provide some additional opportunity for subsistence  
14 hunters and trappers to harvests these valuable furbearers.  
15 It is not expected to result in a noticeable increase in the  
16 number of wolves taken.

17  
18 The preliminary conclusion is to support the  
19 proposal.

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, as I stated  
22 earlier, the Delta Advisory Committee supports this proposal  
23 and the Upper Tanana continues to support the proposal they  
24 wrote.

25  
26 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman, motion to adopt  
27 Proposal 18.

28  
29 MR. GOOD: Second.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any discussion? I see the  
32 State supports this proposal also?

33  
34 MR. FLEENER: Yes, however, this would also  
35 take them out of alignment for the same purposes because the  
36 State only has.....

37  
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Five.

39  
40 MR. FLEENER: .....five for both units.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more discussion?

43  
44 MR. GOOD: Question.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question has been called.  
47 All those in favor of Proposal 18 signify by saying aye.

48  
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

00189

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposes same sign.

2

3 (No opposing responses)

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, this brings  
6 us back to the C&T proposal and it's dealing with Unit 13  
7 black bear where there's no determination. And I know George  
8 will remind you of your action dealing with black bear  
9 yesterday, but this is Proposal 19 on 162.

10

11 MR. SHERROD: This was another proposal that  
12 you visited last year. If I recall, I'm having to use my  
13 memory here, this was one in which you put forth the  
14 recommendation of units and adjoining subunits which the  
15 Board then opted not to adopt.

16

17 Th conclusions found on Page 179 address a number of  
18 communities, every effort was made in the production of this  
19 analysis to identify those communities which had some record  
20 of harvesting black bear within Unit 13. But I would again,  
21 as Vince has already jogged your memory, in a similar  
22 proposal for Unit 12 your decision was to defer the proposal  
23 and allow the no determination status to stand, both for  
24 reasons of lacking the necessity to do C&T determinations for  
25 black bear and recognizing that information on black bear  
26 harvest is limited.

27

28 And if there are any questions I can expand or you  
29 can move forwards.

30

31 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Nat.

34

35 MR. GOOD: I know that George doesn't like to  
36 hear this every time we go around, but I'm always concerned  
37 when we look at predators and we look at limiting those  
38 people who will have access to the predators while this is  
39 still our only potential means of predator control and, I  
40 don't know, we can't state that, is that.....

41

42 MR. SHERROD: Well, you can state it. It  
43 doesn't hurt to state it. The reality would be that it makes  
44 no difference. I mean, this proposal, as the regulations  
45 stand today have no impact because anyone can still come  
46 here, hunt under State regulations, which are the same.

47

48 MR. GOOD: Right.

49

50 MR. SHERROD: So you can state it in theory,

00190

1 but realize the practicality, it's not going to have any  
2 effect.

3  
4 MR. GOOD: Yeah.

5  
6 MR. SHERROD: Now, that could change if you  
7 guys opted to remove all harvest limit requirements for black  
8 bear.

9  
10 MR. FLEENER: What a concept?

11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we do have quite  
13 a few comments on that. Upper Tanana/Fortymile oppose it,  
14 it's unnecessarily restrictive.

15  
16 Delta Junction Advisory Committee echoes that, says,  
17 it's unnecessarily restricts the majority of rural  
18 subsistence hunters.

19  
20 Denali Subsistence Resource Commission supports this  
21 proposal as modified in the analysis and the reasons stated  
22 in the justification.

23  
24 MR. SHERROD: I would point out, too, that  
25 last year the Southcentral Committee met after this body met  
26 and they basically supported your -- if I recall they  
27 supported your recommendation to -- which was units and  
28 subunits, so they were, in spirit, I think, agreeing with the  
29 concept there's no reason to restrict and to be as inclusive  
30 as possible.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Craig.

33  
34 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion  
35 to adopt Proposal 19.

36  
37 MR. GOOD: Second.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any discussion?

40  
41 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I think  
42 keeping in the spirit of what this Council has wanted to do  
43 by not excluding people, I would -- I plan to vote no on this  
44 proposal and to keep the no determination so we're not on --  
45 so we're not restricting people unnecessarily.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

48  
49 MS. T. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, just the  
50 approach taken in this proposal is to find positive C&T

00191

1 determination for units or subunits adjoining Unit 13.

2

3 MR. SHERROD: This is a community approach.

4

5 MS. T. HAYNES: There is an area adjoining  
6 Unit 13(E) that is not considered in this proposal. You get  
7 down to Unit 16(A) and you have some communities -- you have  
8 people living in Petersville Road, in that area, that are  
9 very close to the Unit 13 border. And we do have some  
10 information in a technical report that appears to show some  
11 use of Unit 13 by people in that vicinity. And I guess if  
12 there was a recommendation to adopt either this proposal or  
13 the staff recommendation that consideration be given to some  
14 additional people living in adjoining units.

15

16 MR. FLEENER: That's what we tried to do last  
17 year when we made the C&T determinations including the unit  
18 and adjacent subunits, but the Federal Subsistence Board  
19 decided they didn't like that. Our little committee that got  
20 together also decided they didn't like it, I reckon, so what  
21 we've done so far is to stick with no determination so we  
22 don't exclude people, and so that's how I'm intending to  
23 vote.

24

25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That's fine.

26

27 MR. GOOD: Same here. Question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question had been called.  
30 All those in favor of Proposal 19, signify by saying aye.

31

32 (No positive responses)

33

34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Proposal is defeated.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Proposal 22 was withdrawn by  
41 the author, so we won't be discussing 22. That brings us up  
42 to Proposal 26, which deals with a moose season in 13(E).

43

44 MR. SHERROD: Can I -- Proposal 43, we're  
45 jumping one ahead here, but it's also a black bear proposal,  
46 and maybe we can touch on it real quick while we're thinking  
47 about black bears and then let Pete finish the last one after  
48 we're through, if there's no problem, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Sure, go ahead.

00192

1 MR. SHERROD: Okay. Proposal 21 is also a  
2 proposal that you dealt with last year.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN MILLER: 43.

5  
6 MR. SHERROD: I mean 43, I'm sorry. It deals  
7 with black bear in Unit 21 and it's before because of Gerald  
8 and his community being neighboring to it. Again, I -- in  
9 the same way that there has been in the past some tensions  
10 and disagreements between the overlap between the Eastern  
11 Interior and Southcentral, we have a similar situation  
12 between Western Interior and the Delta in terms of trying to  
13 align proposals that allow people to cross that line or  
14 preventing them from going across that line.

15  
16 Since I drafted the original analysis in which I  
17 basically -- and you'll find that on -- the recommendation  
18 for the C&T determination is on Page 216. And be aware that  
19 particularly in this unit there is no black bear reporting,  
20 so trying to come up with -- so basically there is no tag  
21 data, there's no reporting whatsoever, so data here is even  
22 more scare than it is in other areas.

23  
24 My justification was this. There has been an  
25 amendment to that that will go now forward to the Eastern  
26 Interior and this also affects Kotzebue Sound area and that  
27 recommendation is to make the -- let the no determination  
28 stand and defer the proposal. Or actually to defer the  
29 proposal.

30  
31 Given your past actions, you might want to be  
32 consistent in what you do and vote against it, or defer it, I  
33 suppose.

34  
35 Any questions.

36  
37 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

40  
41 MR. FLEENER: George, you mentioned Kotzebue  
42 Sound, that's not very close to Unit 21, is it?

43  
44 MR. SHERROD: Well, through the connection up  
45 by Ambler, there are records that indicate people have  
46 crossed over. There's testimony -- again, it would be not an  
47 intensive use, but an opportunistic use.

48  
49 MR. FLEENER: Okay. I wasn't exactly sure  
50 what you were saying. All right. Thank you.

00193

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you did have  
4 written comments on this, and as George pointed out, this has  
5 been reviewed by the Northwest Arctic Regional Council.  
6 You're reviewing it, Western Interior will be reviewing it  
7 and Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council will be reviewing it  
8 next week.

9

10 The one written comment that I know of from -- and I  
11 don't know that I can pronounce it, but it's from the Native  
12 Corporation for Mountain Village, and they oppose the wording  
13 in there that others that have traditionally hunted in 21,  
14 that it's too vague. The communities of Mountain Village,  
15 Pitkas Point, St. Mary's and Marshall should be added to the  
16 proposed regulation. Currently our residents travel to 21(E)  
17 to hunt moose, and while hunting moose take black bear if  
18 they encounter them. Chances are the "others" wording would  
19 accommodate our residents, but any potential problem should  
20 be avoided if our villages were included in the proposal.

21

22 And the State did submit comments on Proposal 43.

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Terry.

25

26 MS. T. HAYNES: The Department does not  
27 support this proposal as written. We believe there are  
28 additional sources of information that could be consulted and  
29 would show that there is a possibility of black bear use in  
30 Unit 21. I think I just -- if there are questions about our  
31 written comments I would try to answer those. Like I say,  
32 there are additional sources of information available and the  
33 proposal -- the staff recommendation is certainly an  
34 improvement over the proposal because it does try to specify  
35 specific units and communities that should qualify, but we  
36 believe it probably under represents the communities that  
37 should be considered.

38

39 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion  
40 to adopt Proposal 43.

41

42 MR. GOOD: Second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, discussion?

45

46 MR. FLEENER: Hearing the testimony from  
47 Mountain Village and looking at -- and hearing what George  
48 also said about the possibility of it accidentally excluding  
49 people I would be inclined to vote no on this one also.

50

00194

1 MR. NICHOLIA: Mr. Chair.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

4  
5 MR. NICHOLIA: What you're saying, Craig, is  
6 that.....

7  
8 COURT REPORTER: Would you move the  
9 microphone over, please. Thank you.

10  
11 MR. NICHOLIA: What you're saying, Craig, is  
12 that you oppose -- as being from 10 or not hunting in Unit  
13 21?

14  
15 MR. FLEENER: No, absolutely not, that's  
16 nowhere near what I mean. If we adopt this proposal what it  
17 will do is exclude people from down river, outside of Unit  
18 21(E). If we don't adopt it, you still get to hunt there.  
19 Adopting this proposal will give you a C&T determination, but  
20 it will exclude others that we know hunt there, but don't  
21 have a C&T determination. If we don't adopt this it will  
22 still allow you to hunt there.

23  
24 MR. NICHOLIA: Uh-huh.

25  
26 MR. FLEENER: You just won't have that C&T  
27 determination. Adopting it excludes other people, it  
28 includes only the people listed on there, but it excludes  
29 other.....

30  
31 MR. NICHOLIA: Okay.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more discussion?

34  
35 MR. P. TITUS: Okay, just adopt it with  
36 amendments or modification? Could you modify that proposal?

37  
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Just vote no on it.

39  
40 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chair, if I could -- I  
41 should have gone into more detail. Since this analysis was  
42 written there has been a request on the part of the Delta  
43 Community from being extracted from any consideration for  
44 C&T, at this time, for Unit 21 under the belief that they are  
45 going to submit another proposal next year in some form. So  
46 if you were to adopt this you're going to be revisiting it  
47 again. And, as I say, probably given your past actions, it  
48 would make sense, I think, to reject it. And it may be in  
49 front of you and it may not, but rejecting it is not going to  
50 in any way harm potential users and may send back to the

00195

1 Board message that you're uncomfortable making black bear  
2 determinations.

3  
4 MR. GOOD: Question.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question had been called.  
7 All those in favor of Proposal 43 signify by saying aye.

8  
9 (No positive responses)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

12  
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Now, 26. 191.

16  
17 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 26 was  
18 submitted by the Copper River Native Association. This  
19 proposal would lengthen the moose season in Unit 13(E) and  
20 Unit 13 - Remainder from August 1 to September 20, to August  
21 1 to September 25. So it would tack five days onto the end  
22 of the season.

23  
24 Current Federal subsistence regulations in Unit 13(E)  
25 and 13 - Remainder allow a season of August 1 through  
26 September 20 with a harvest limit of one antlered bull by  
27 Federal Registration permit only. In Unit 13(E) only one  
28 permit is issued per household.

29  
30 On non-Federal public lands the State Tier II  
31 subsistence hunt extends from August 1 through August 19, with  
32 a harvest of one bull by permit.

33  
34 The general State season runs from August 20 to  
35 September 20 with a harvest limit of one bull, spiked-fork or  
36 50-inches or greater antlers or three or more brow tines on  
37 at least on antler.

38  
39 Persons having customary and traditional use of moose  
40 in Unit 13 are the rural residents of Unit 13 and the  
41 residents of Chickaloon and Dot Lake. In Unit 13, residents  
42 of McKinley Village and the area along the Parks Highway  
43 between mileposts 216 and 239 also have a positive  
44 determination, except for the residents of Denali National  
45 Park Headquarters.

46  
47 The Department of Fish and Game survey inventory  
48 reports and personal communication with area biologists  
49 indicate that the moose numbers declined dramatically in Unit  
50 13 during the 1990s following a series of severe winters.

00196

1 Harvest have range from approximately 900 to 1,000 bulls per  
2 year for the last five years, while hunting pressure has  
3 exceeded 6,000 hunters in the field.

4  
5 Moose populations are considered stable overall in  
6 Unit 13, but are declining in some areas. Calf production is  
7 adequate, but survival through the fall season is extremely  
8 low. Low calf survival is attributed to heavy predation.

9  
10 Current moose harvest in Unit 13 is considered to be  
11 at the maximum rate that the populations can sustain. Hunter  
12 harvest increases as the season progresses with 26 percent of  
13 the entire harvest occurring September 16 and September 20.  
14 This is due to increasing visibility after leaf fall and  
15 increasing movements of bulls as the rut approaches. Bulls  
16 are more readily seen because of increased movement and  
17 increased vocalization at they search for cows and are also  
18 easier to approach. Their vulnerability increases rapidly  
19 near the end of September.

20  
21 The current September 20 closing date was selected to  
22 protect against overharvest during this period of high  
23 vulnerability and to avoid disruption of the breeding  
24 activity. Hunting after September 20 could interfere with  
25 the rut and cause subsequent second breeding resulting in a  
26 lower calf production and reduced survival due to the large  
27 number of late born calves during the following summer.

28  
29 Extending the season to September 25 would also  
30 increase hunting pressure on the limited Federal public lands  
31 in Unit 13, since no other local areas would be open to moose  
32 hunting during this period. Current moose harvest in Unit 13  
33 is considered to be at the maximum that the population can  
34 sustain. Adding additional days at the end of the season  
35 would increase the harvest significantly.

36  
37 With that the preliminary conclusion is to oppose the  
38 proposal.

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the only comment  
41 besides Fish and Game's comment was Delta Junction Advisory  
42 Committee opposed the proposal because the population cannot  
43 withstand that and they supported shortening the State  
44 season, so they continue to oppose any additional seasons in  
45 this area.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Terry.

48  
49 MS. T. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, let me -- David  
50 may have some language to have, but let me say we, the State,

00197

1 does not support the proposal, we do support the staff  
2 conclusion because that addresses the issues that have been  
3 identified in our comments.

4

5 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I make a motion we  
6 adopt Proposal 26.

7

8 MR. GOOD: Second.

9

10 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any discussion?

11

12 MR. FLEENER: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'm concerned  
13 about this one quite a bit because the -- it appears that the  
14 people in this unit are not able to get their moose. I don't  
15 like the idea of extending a moose season if the moose  
16 population can't handle it, but I am concerned that these  
17 people are not able to get the moose that they need and I'm  
18 wondering what alternatives there are available so that these  
19 people can have moose available to them?

20

21 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Nat.

24

25 MR. GOOD: The problem is the moose simply  
26 aren't available and the bottom line is we have a major  
27 predator problem in GMU 13 and the question now becomes who's  
28 going to deal with it and, I guess, I don't know if anybody  
29 has any answers to that.

30

31 MR. FLEENER: Well, is that a question or is  
32 that.....

33

34 MR. NICHOLIA: I just don't see how we can  
35 add five days to a moose hunt when know the moose population  
36 is low in Unit 20(D). (Indiscernible - away from microphone)

37

38 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, it would certainly be  
39 hard to add five extra days when, you know, they can't add it  
40 -- I'd like to get some numbers if anybody is familiar with  
41 this area. What the cow:calf ratio is? Anybody in the house  
42 know?

43

44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Vince know.

45

46 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, according to the  
47 analysis -- the 1998 calf:cow ratio was only 14 calves:per  
48 100 cows, the lowest in over 20 years.

49

50 MR. FLEENER: And what's the bull:cow ratio,

00198

1 do you know?

2

3 MR. DeMATTEO: Bull:cow ratio is  
4 approximately 18:per 100 cows.

5

6 MR. FLEENER: And do you know the density,  
7 the moose density?

8

9 MR. DeMATTEO: I'm afraid it doesn't mention  
10 that.

11

12 MR. FLEENER: Okay. Yeah, those are some  
13 pretty bad numbers, even Fort Yukon is not that bad.

14

15 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, if I may muddy the  
16 waters a little further here. If you look at the map for  
17 Unit 13(E). You'll notice that the western portion of 13(E)  
18 dips into Denali National Park, but if I'm correct the C&T  
19 does not extend to access near the park. It's in the  
20 resident zoned communities listed in the park. So if you  
21 look at the remainder of 13(E) there, I don't see a whole lot  
22 of land, in fact, I don't see any.

23

24 MR. FLEENER: So why do we have a Federal  
25 registration hunt in an area where there's no Federal land?

26

27 Yes, sir.

28

29 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell, Denali  
30 National Park. The lands in Unit 13(E), the park additions  
31 are opened to subsistence uses and we do have a Federal  
32 registration permit hunt in that area. We typically issue  
33 about between 70 and 80 registration permits to residents of  
34 Cantwell, in that area. Although we didn't have any moose  
35 census done this last year because of snow conditions in that  
36 area, so we don't have any current information to add to what  
37 you have in your report here.

38

39 I will say that the Subsistence Resource Commission  
40 for Denali last year addressed a proposal that would  
41 eliminate the one moose per household provision that exists  
42 in that area, and they oppose that because of their concerns  
43 about the moose population in that area, recommending that  
44 they retain that one moose per household provision. They are  
45 concerned about moose populations in that particular area.

46

47 I guess I'll apologize because I didn't bring this  
48 particular proposal before the Commission yesterday or  
49 Friday, it was an oversight on my part. I would speculate  
50 that they would be very concerned about extending the season

00199

1 as well. I'll also state that I've had a subsistence user  
2 call me last year expressing concerns of not seeing as many  
3 bulls in the area as he had typically seen in the past.

4  
5 So I don't have any official position from the  
6 Commission in terms of this proposal, I would recommend from  
7 the Park Service standpoint that considering the large number  
8 of registration permits that we issue and the fact that the  
9 population is considered to be at a harvested at a high  
10 level, that we take a pretty conservative approach to this as  
11 well.

12  
13 MR. FLEENER: What were the numbers per  
14 census -- when you did the census a few years ago? Overall  
15 population?

16  
17 MR. TWITCHELL: What we were just surveying  
18 is just the area right in Broad Pass, pretty much the park  
19 railroad that goes through that area westward to the park  
20 areas and those would be areas from Cantwell down to Dunkle  
21 Hills and the Chulitna River, which would encompass both the  
22 park lands as well as the adjoining State lands out to the  
23 railroad. And the numbers varied from about 150 to about  
24 190. We did three years of surveying in the early '90s.  
25 Those were done in the fall time and primarily in late  
26 October, early November.

27  
28 Snowfall in those particular times of the year in the  
29 Broad Pass area is pretty high and a lot of the moose that  
30 are in Broad Pass are moved up into the drainages around  
31 Cantwell because of the snow deposition. And so it happens  
32 to be a winter area where moose congregate so that those  
33 numbers represent quite a bit of moose for the geographic area  
34 that we were looking at, but it's the result of the  
35 environmental conditions and the seasonal movement of moose  
36 up into the drainages.

37  
38 MR. FLEENER: Thanks.

39  
40 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you.

41  
42 MR. FLEENER: Do you happen to know if  
43 there's an intensive moose management plan for this area,  
44 Unit 13?

45  
46 MR. TWITCHELL: No, there is not. We've been  
47 asked -- we've been moving to try to do cooperative census  
48 with the State of Alaska. Currently they use a tend count  
49 studies in the Broad Pass area and we would like to work with  
50 them to do a better census in that area using.....

00200

1 MR. FLEENER: It sounds like it's actually  
2 beyond censusing stage and it sound like it would be a good  
3 candidate for some intensive management. I know that the  
4 State has been proposing a lot of intensive management areas  
5 where moose populations are low and this sounds like a good  
6 area. I don't know what the State has to say about that.

7  
8 MR. DAVID JAMES: Mr. Chairman, the Board of  
9 Game, which will be meeting starting next week, will be  
10 reviewing Southcentral proposals and among them is intensive  
11 management identification process. It's pretty likely that  
12 13 will make it.

13  
14 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, if you look at the  
15 map at 13 again, as I see it, they have opportunity to hunt  
16 on BLM lands in 13(B) and there's a better map of it that was  
17 hanging here somewheres.

18  
19 MR. GOOD: It's on the back table now.

20  
21 MR. DeMATTEO: It's on the back table.  
22 There's several corridors there that they have an opportunity  
23 to hunt, but it's not clear to me at this point do Copper  
24 River communities have resident zoned status in the park?

25  
26 MR. TWITCHELL: No. The eligible subsistence  
27 users for this area of Unit 13(E) would be either the  
28 community of Cantwell, which is a resident zoned community,  
29 as well as the residents of McKinley Village, along the Parks  
30 Highway, mile 216 to 239. Those individuals would be the  
31 individuals who have subsistence use permits. McKinley  
32 Village is not a resident zoned community, so we have about  
33 currently six individual in McKinley Village who have  
34 subsistence use permits for the use of the park area. So it  
35 would be Cantwell residents and the six households in  
36 McKinley Village.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Pete.

39  
40 MR. DeMATTEO: Thanks, Hollis. So with that  
41 I -- this defaults this proposal in the affected area, which  
42 is the BLM land along the Richardson Highway and up along the  
43 Delta River. So if this proposal was adopted by the Board it  
44 would concentrate potential additional harvest those last  
45 five days in that area alone. I think we've whittled it down  
46 to that.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Vince.

49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on the parks side

00201

1 of it, maybe the -- since the Subsistence Resource Commission  
2 didn't review it you might support whatever action they would  
3 take if this came back before them. Since only those can  
4 hunt in there and since they're going to get a moose to  
5 provide by one per household, an additional five days -- I'm  
6 having difficulty with this argument that it's going to  
7 concentrate hunting in 13(E) with an additional five days  
8 because you already have a limitation on how many people can  
9 hunter there on park lands.

10  
11 But I think the question that Pete is bringing up is  
12 Copper River Native Association doesn't have status to hunt  
13 with in the park, so I'm just cautioning you when you bring  
14 up seasons like this and you say no, because the population  
15 can't withstand the additional harvest, before you make the  
16 decision to say yes to that, you need to look at are other  
17 uses occurring there that do not have a subsistence priority  
18 before you say the subsistence priority should be restrained  
19 or status quo. That's what I'm concerned about. There's a  
20 step before you jump to the next one.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.

23  
24 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, I intend to vote no  
25 for a couple of reasons. One, September 25th is getting very  
26 late and the seconds would have to be there simply isn't the  
27 resource in this area. And I think that when the Board does  
28 meet they're going to find that this is going to be a very  
29 tough one to deal with and it's going to involve a lot of  
30 controversy.

31  
32 There's going to be a lot of proposals at that State  
33 Board meeting that are going to involved reducing seasons,  
34 there's going to be a lot of interest in doing other things  
35 and I think that that's going to be a pretty hot topic there.  
36 Regardless of what happens, I think we're going to be out of  
37 alignment with the State's present status rather shortly in  
38 that particular area.

39  
40 MR. FLEENER: My main interest in this one  
41 wasn't necessarily alignment with the State, though. My main  
42 interest with this one was because these people aren't able  
43 to get their moose.

44  
45 MR. GOOD: Right.

46  
47 MR. FLEENER: Although I agree, I don't like  
48 the idea of lengthening the season. Some alternatives need  
49 to be brought up to where these people have some way of  
50 getting their moose.

00202

1 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, we have concentrated  
2 on Denali here, but we also have back on the Copper River  
3 side, we have Wrangell-St. Elias, are there any comments from  
4 them?

5  
6 MR. FLEENER: Isn't that in Unit 12 or  
7 something?

8  
9 MR. GOOD: 11. And I would think -- I don't  
10 know who all in 13 would have C&T in Wrangell.

11  
12 MR. MITCHELL: There's an extremely small  
13 piece of Federal land in Unit 13 in Wrangell-St. Elias  
14 National Park, it's a small piece.

15  
16 MR. FLEENER: By Slana?

17  
18 MR. MITCHELL: It's preserved just by Slana  
19 there, but it's such a small area and access is so difficult  
20 it's essentially invisible for us, it's not significant.

21  
22 MR. GOOD: Do any residents of Unit 13 have  
23 C&T in the park? The boundary of 13.....

24  
25 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, some of the resident  
26 zones communities are.....

27  
28 MR. GOOD: Right.

29  
30 MR. MITCHELL: .....physically located in 13,  
31 yeah.

32  
33 MR. GOOD: Yeah, that was -- so far it gives  
34 me part of it.

35  
36 MR. FLEENER: So you're saying there is  
37 opportunity for them to.....

38  
39 MR. GOOD: I don't know that. That was my  
40 question. To what degree, I don't know.

41  
42 MR. MITCHELL: They've got access to the  
43 Federal seasons in 11, certainly.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Any more discussion?  
46 You can make a motion at this time.

47  
48 MR. GOOD: Do we have a motion on the table?  
49 You made a motion, didn't you, Craig?

50

00203

1 MR. FLEENER: Yes, the motion is to adopt  
2 Proposal 26.

3  
4 MR. GOOD: Question.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question has been called.  
7 All those in favor of Proposal 26 signify by saying aye.

8  
9 (No positive responses)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

12  
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is that it?

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that completes  
18 all of the proposals unless someone has one in their hip  
19 pocket.

20  
21 MR. FLEENER: I have 10 of them here.

22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Fleener has 10,  
24 we'll vote them out. I think at this point we can either go  
25 into annual reports, which is the next topic or we can.....

26  
27 MR. FLEENER: Take five.

28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: .....break for lunch and check  
30 out of rooms and do all that kind of stuff.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, we'll probably break  
33 for lunch, huh?

34  
35 MR. P. TITUS: And I think might want to go  
36 to church, too.

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: What time shall we return?

39  
40 MR. P. TITUS: After church.

41  
42 MR. FLEENER: Church gets over at 9:30.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN MILLER: 1:00 o'clock.

45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, 1:00 o'clock should be  
47 fine.

48  
49 (Off record - 11:22 a.m.)

50

00204

1 (On record - 1:17 p.m.)

2  
3 MR. GOOD: Are we ready?

4  
5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, we're ready.

6  
7 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, I move to reconsider  
8 Proposal Number 26. Is there a second?

9  
10 MR. FLEENER: Second.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, moved and seconded.  
13 Proposal 26 is back on the floor.

14  
15 MR. GOOD: We have to vote to reconsider it  
16 now.

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, you need to pass a  
19 motion to bring it back on the table. That's the motion to  
20 reconsider.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, let's so that.

23  
24 MR. GOOD: Question.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

27  
28 MR. GOOD: Question.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: What page?

31  
32 MR. GOOD: Oh, 101.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you. Okay. Question  
35 has been called. All those in favor of bringing Proposal 26  
36 back on the floor signify by saying aye.

37  
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

41  
42 (No opposing responses)

43  
44 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, with regards to  
45 Proposal 26, I move that we defer Proposal 26 to the  
46 Southcentral and leave it for them.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Can that be done?

49  
50 MR. GOOD: Is there a second though?

00205

1 MR. NICHOLIA: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Discussion? Craig?

4

5 MR. FLEENER: I don't -- I'm getting

6 clarification.

7

8 MR. P. TITUS: Why was it given to use if  
9 (indiscernible - away from microphone) region?

10

11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That's one of those joint  
12 proposals.

13

14 MR. NICHOLIA: Call for question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Question has been  
17 called. All those in favor of deferring Proposal 26 to  
18 Southcentral signify by saying aye.

19

20 IN UNISON EXCEPT ONE: Aye.

21

22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

23

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Aye.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the reasoning  
27 from your action is because that it is a Southcentral  
28 proposal and you're showing respect to the home region?

29

30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

33

34 MR. GOOD: That's what we were thinking.

35

36 MR. P. TITUS: That's what we were thinking.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, if there's  
39 no more reconsiderations then we need to move on to the  
40 agenda. And there's been a request to take up an update on  
41 fisheries management.

42

43 MR. P. TITUS: No, we skipped that.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Then we'll go into Annual  
46 Report and we'll.....

47

48 MR. P. TITUS: You skipped the subsistence  
49 resource that I put in there yesterday. After proposal  
50 review and recommendations.

00206

1 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I'm sorry that's correct.

2

3 MR. P. TITUS: You better be sorry. I  
4 brought this up yesterday to put it on record that when we're  
5 dealing with subsistence we deal all the resources, not just  
6 part of it. And we're going to doing the same thing for  
7 fish, because fish go through the whole region, not just --  
8 there's white fish and pike and all different kind of fish,  
9 not only salmon goes around here. We all live on different  
10 species of fish. And if we're going to deal with subsistence  
11 we should just be dealing with all the resources instead of  
12 half of it.

13

14 That's all I got to say on that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So are you saying we should  
17 move on to agency reports?

18

19 MR. P. TITUS: Yes, but put that on record  
20 and it should go into the Annual Report, too.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: So if I understand, when we  
23 talk in the Annual Report that you want it referenced in  
24 there that when discussion about subsistence uses that we  
25 need to look at all the resources that are associated not in  
26 separate each species discussion?

27

28 (No audible reply)

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. That was supported by  
31 the C&T working group if I understood that correctly, that  
32 they wanted it a combined species approach, not a let's talk  
33 moose and then we talk sheep and then we talk something else.

34

35 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I think the special  
36 emphasis is on fisheries though to make sure that fish are  
37 included.

38

39 MR. NICHOLIA: Fish are recognized as a  
40 subsistence resource.

41

42 MR. P. TITUS: All the resources, not only  
43 just moose, whatever you got on the agenda. We don't just  
44 live on meat. That's it.

45

46 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Shall we move on to agency  
47 reports?

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: No, we're kind of jumping out  
50 of the agenda. We have a request to do fishery management

00207

1 update and to do coordination efforts with Fish and Game and  
2 then we would do Annual Report, if that's okay. If that is  
3 alright, then we'll go to fisheries management update which  
4 is under Tab U as in Utopia and Sue.....

5

6 MR. FLEENER: How about Unalaska?

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Unalaska, but there is a  
9 Utopia, Alaska. Sue Detwiler will be presenting the update  
10 and it's under Tab U.

11

12 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Vince and members  
13 of the Council. I'm not sure that you can make any kind of  
14 logical connection between Utopia and fisheries management,  
15 but I appreciate the effort anyway, Vince.

16

17 Okay, Tab U has some written materials on Federal  
18 fisheries management and I'll basically be going through the  
19 outline that's on the first page of the written materials  
20 that you have. And as I think most everybody here knows, the  
21 Federal agencies that have subsistence responsibilities are  
22 preparing to extend their jurisdiction for subsistence  
23 management to the fisheries that are in navigable waters,  
24 which the Federal government has reserved water rights.  
25 That's about two-thirds of the navigable waters in the state.

26

27 And I think most everybody here also knows that that  
28 extension of jurisdiction is a result of the Katie John  
29 decision, that decision was made by the Federal courts in  
30 1995 and in that decision the court said that the  
31 subsistence priority in Title VIII of ANILCA applies to  
32 fisheries that are in Navigable waters within which the  
33 Federal government has reserved water rights.

34

35 Since the court decision in 1995 Congress has imposed  
36 a series of moratoriums that prevent us from actually  
37 implementing expanded fisheries management. Congress  
38 recently imposed another moratorium on us preventing  
39 implementation this year, but the current moratorium is a  
40 little bit different from the previous ones in that it  
41 actually provides for phased in Federal implementation and it  
42 also provides for funding for subsistence fisheries  
43 management, neither or which has been done in the previous  
44 moratoriums.

45

46 The terms of the moratorium are that Congress set  
47 aside \$11,000,000 for subsistence fisheries management. If  
48 the State Legislature acts during this legislative session,  
49 that is before the end of May of this year to put on the next  
50 election ballot an initiative that would allow the State to

00208

1 comply with the rural priority in ANILCA, the State will get  
2 the entire \$11,000,000. If the State doesn't act by the end  
3 of May then the Federal agencies will get \$1,000,000 to  
4 prepare for implementation. And if the State further does  
5 not act by the end of September this year then the Federal  
6 agencies will get the remainder of the \$11,000,000. In other  
7 words, the remaining \$10,000,000 and will actually implement  
8 subsistence fisheries management beginning October 1st of  
9 this year.

10  
11 So we published the Final Rule that includes the  
12 regulations for expanded fisheries management in January of  
13 this year. You've seen the Proposed Rule and I think you're  
14 pretty familiar with the provision in that, so I'll just  
15 briefly go over those.

16  
17 The Final Rule doesn't change much from the Proposed  
18 Rule that you looked at your last meeting. It basically  
19 incorporates most of the State's subsistence regulations. It  
20 identifies the waters in which we will be asserting  
21 jurisdiction. And basically those waters are the inland  
22 waters that are adjacent to or within conservation system  
23 units. So, in other words, it's waters that are adjacent to  
24 or within the parks, refuges, conservation areas, like  
25 Steese/White Mountain area, wild and scenic rivers and also  
26 within the Forest Service units. It does not include waters  
27 that are outside of those Federal units.

28  
29 It also responds to, aside from Katie John decision,  
30 two petitions that were submitted by subsistence advocates  
31 including Stevens Village, Dena'ina Corporation, AITC,  
32 RuralCap, the Native American Rights Fund and then there were  
33 several other petitioners. They submitted two petitions to  
34 which we responded positively in the Proposed Rule. So the  
35 one provision that responds to one of the petitions is to  
36 include lands that have been selected by but not yet conveyed  
37 to Native corporations and to the State. And the other  
38 provision is that it reiterates the Secretary of Interior's  
39 authority to extend jurisdiction off of Federal public lands  
40 to regulated hunting, fishing and trapping off of Federal  
41 public lands, if those activities are causing a failure to  
42 provide for the subsistence opportunity on Federal public  
43 lands.

44  
45 And then in more general terms it adopts State  
46 customary and traditional use determinations for fish and  
47 shellfish, as well as the State's seasons and bag limits.

48  
49 So the bottom line is that we'll start out with  
50 Federal subsistence fishing regulations that are pretty much

00209

1 the same existing State subsistence fishery regulations.  
2 We'll be coordinating closely with the State. We have  
3 neither the intent or the ability right now to establish  
4 stand-alone program that's independent of the State's. We'll  
5 be relying quite heavily on the State's existing fisheries  
6 management program. What we envision doing is focusing  
7 mostly on preseason management planning to make sure that the  
8 State's management plan incorporates subsistence uses. And  
9 then we would anticipate exercising limited Federal oversight  
10 on an in-season basis only over waters that are within the  
11 Federal conservation system units.

12  
13 So we've been coordinating with the State. Our  
14 technical level people are meeting with the State's technical  
15 level people to try and coordinate the processes and that  
16 sort of thing. And also to allow our staff an opportunity to  
17 learn more about how the State fisheries management  
18 mechanisms work.

19  
20 And the Federal Subsistence Board and two  
21 representatives from the Board of Fish, as well as the  
22 Commissioner of Fish and Game and his Deputy Commissioner all  
23 met to try to identify some of the problems that the State  
24 policy level that are inherent in dual fisheries management.

25  
26 There's one piece of pending litigation that would  
27 prevent this expansion of Federal subsistence management. If  
28 it's decided upon in favor of the plaintiffs, the plaintiffs  
29 are the Legislative Council who filed a lawsuit on behalf of  
30 the State Legislature. And the complaint challenges the  
31 constitutionality of Title VIII. The case was dismissed in  
32 July of last year, but has been appealed, and we expect a  
33 decision from the appeals court this summer.

34  
35 So what comes next is to develop an organizational  
36 structure that accommodates expanded fisheries management.  
37 Right now our structure is focused on wildlife, so we'll need  
38 to make some changes to incorporate fisheries. We'll have to  
39 hire additional staff that has fisheries background and that  
40 staff will be working with the regional teams and the  
41 Regional Councils on fisheries issues. We'll continue  
42 working with the State, the Board of Fish and the Alaska  
43 Department of Fish and Game to develop a cooperative strategy  
44 for dealing with both preseason management planning as well  
45 as in-season actions.

46  
47 There are several unresolved issues that we will have  
48 to deal with, including customary trade, developing a  
49 fisheries proposal process and, significantly to this region,  
50 reviewing the Advisory Council structure to make sure that

00210

1 there's cohesive advisory system that deals with the Yukon  
2 River.

3  
4 And then, finally, we'll be looking for opportunities  
5 to have cooperative agreements with Native and Tribal  
6 entities to implement part of the program, and most likely  
7 that would include harvest data collection, monitoring and  
8 the same sorts of things that we've currently been doing that  
9 relate to wildlife, like we've done with TCC.

10  
11 So that was my prepared presentation for fisheries.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any questions? Go ahead.

14  
15 MR. L. TRITT: In your getting ready for  
16 takeover and all that stuff, do you have any kind of  
17 provision for learning from the Natives about what goes on  
18 out there, you know, just like learning about the animals and  
19 plants and the cycle and all that stuff and how we relate to  
20 it?

21  
22 MS. DETWILER: We would probably look to be  
23 doing the same things that we have done with wildlife, and a  
24 lot of that information comes out at the Regional Council  
25 meetings where we hear testimony and listen to Regional  
26 Council members about the things that you're talking about.

27  
28 MR. L. TRITT: I mean, like class or workshop  
29 or whatever on it. We go to a lot of testimonies, but nobody  
30 ever sits down and listens to testimonies.

31  
32 MS. DETWILER: I think that we would be open  
33 to that sort of thing. If you had suggestions that we could  
34 work on to do that, we'd certainly like to hear them.

35  
36 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, I think something in  
37 that direction, yeah.

38  
39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

42  
43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just so I get the  
44 record clear, I think at previous meetings I led this  
45 Council, as well as Western Council, to understand, as she  
46 portrayed in there, that the waters that are within the  
47 conservation units would fall underneath this expanded  
48 program. But when I described that to you in previous  
49 meeting, I said all the lands that were within there. And  
50 Sue can correct me on this, but there is -- the Solicitor is

00211

1 looking into the area from the uplands to the open water,  
2 that area in between is generally State jurisdiction, and  
3 when I portrayed it to you in earlier meetings, I said that  
4 would fall underneath this program, that it would be one  
5 large mass of land that you would be looking over. I was  
6 incorrect on that or corrected. That land between the  
7 uplands and the open water would still fall under  
8 jurisdiction, unless something has changed since I was last  
9 advised of this. So fisheries all the water within the  
10 conservation unit would be under this program. For wildlife  
11 you would still just go up to uplands, that little piece of  
12 land would not fall under this program. And then that's it.  
13

14 I'm pointing this out because that's going to be key  
15 information when you start looking at wildlife seasons if we  
16 go into fisheries because you'll still have that ribbon of  
17 land that may have a different season, different harvest  
18 limits, different requirements. In the past we talked about  
19 it as being all one and that's not correct unless I've been  
20 misinformed.  
21

22 MS. DETWILER: We haven't gotten the  
23 Solicitor's opinion back on that yet, so it's possible that  
24 everything under the ordinary high water mark, including fish  
25 and wildlife, will be included, but we don't know yet.  
26

27 MR. MATHEWS: I just wanted that clear  
28 because when we do get that answer back then we'll have to  
29 revisit this, so this is just to let you know that.  
30

31 MR. NICHOLIA: Mr. Chairman.  
32

33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Gerald.  
34

35 MR. NICHOLIA: If the Legislature doesn't  
36 act, are you guys prepared to take over fisheries management  
37 on Federally controlled lands?  
38

39 MS. DETWILER: Are we right now? No.  
40

41 MR. NICHOLIA: Are you willing?  
42

43 MS. DETWILER: Yes.  
44

45 MR. NICHOLIA: Okay.  
46

47 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Nat.  
48

49 MR. GOOD: This -- the one thing under B  
50 here, selected but not yet conveyed lands within the

00212

1 boundaries, et cetera, is that going to increase the amount  
2 of land which we will then have under our jurisdiction?

3  
4 MS. DETWILER: Yes.

5  
6 MR. GOOD: And that will be no only for  
7 fisheries, then, but for wildlife as well?

8  
9 MS. DETWILER: Yes.

10  
11 MR. GOOD: All right.

12  
13 MR. NICHOLIA: Another question, too, is that  
14 proposal from the Yukon River Drainage Fishery Association  
15 become a Council for fishery management along the whole  
16 Yukon, from the border to the mouth? I know we shot that  
17 down in this Council, but how does the Federal Board or  
18 Federal agencies take that proposal?

19  
20 MS. DETWILER: They haven't made a decision  
21 yet. It's one of the things they have to look at and I don't  
22 know which way it's going to go.

23  
24 MR. NICHOLIA: But I would suggest that it be  
25 considered, because I know I spoke against it the last time,  
26 but I went to their last meeting, I know they face a lot if  
27 issues up and down the river and most of the hardest issues  
28 come from the Fort Yukon area and places closest to natural  
29 refuges and that's why I wanted to know about that now,  
30 because I could tell the people I've been dealing with what  
31 to expect.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, to echo what Sue  
36 saying, that internally we'll be looking at various options,  
37 something similar to Yukon River Fisheries Drainage  
38 Association, a super council, other combinations that could  
39 happen. I believe from now until next fall there'll be this  
40 process and then it should be reported back to the Council --  
41 I assume back to the Council on the various options of  
42 dealing with this because you have Western Interior and Yukon  
43 Kuskokwim Delta Advisory Committee on the Yukon River. The  
44 other river that you touch upon, and hopefully I get my  
45 geography right here, is the relationship with the Copper  
46 River and the Delta -- yeah, and the Delta River, that's  
47 right. I'm sorry, that's correct. So there will be other  
48 river drainages that are important to fisheries that this  
49 Council will overlap with. The Yukon always comes to mind  
50 and Copper, but there will be other rivers that have Federal

00213

1 lands, that have a high dependency, subsistence dependency  
2 on, so there's going to have to be some high level  
3 coordination between the Councils for management as it  
4 proceeds.

5

6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Philip.

7

8 MR. P. TITUS: I've been with the State  
9 Advisory Committee since the mid '70s and in the beginning we  
10 were always fighting with Lower Yukon over fish and I sure  
11 hate to see that start up again. If the community divided,  
12 that's what will happen.

13

14 MS. DETWILER: Uh-huh.

15

16 MR. P. TITUS: I can see it, I went through  
17 it before. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

18

19 MR. NICHOLIA: So what you're saying, Philip  
20 is that this type of association incorporated into the  
21 assumed Federal management of fisheries that there would be  
22 opposition from lower river/upper river regardless of the  
23 association being still intact?

24

25 MR. P. TITUS: It's a common thing in the  
26 association to vote on consensus and being divided, like we  
27 were, during the State -- I could show you proposals that we  
28 submit and they submit that just contradict each other and we  
29 got nowhere. I don't know if it did the fish any good.

30

31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You have something to say,  
32 Lincoln?

33

34 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, do you have anything in  
35 the works for co-management or any kind of a.....

36

37 MS. DETWILER: From what I understand the  
38 direction is coming down from Washington that we're going to  
39 be focusing more in fisheries than we did on wildlife on  
40 doing cooperative agreements with Native organizations and  
41 tribes. We've done that, to a certain extent, with wildlife,  
42 but there's much more pressure now for us to do that more  
43 with fisheries.

44

45 MR. L. TRITT: How about -- just another  
46 question, the State in general, is there any kind of a  
47 vehicle to get the whole state to work together?

48

49 MS. DETWILER: In terms -- you mean the State  
50 administration or.....

00214

1 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah or the different areas to  
2 coordinate and, you know.

3  
4 MS. DETWILER: Uh-huh.

5  
6 MR. L. TRITT: One of the things that I was  
7 interested in when I first got on this Board is that, you  
8 know, we have our own little caucus to catch up on the  
9 behavior of the animals in each of our areas and that way we  
10 know what's going on, you know. And that usually helps to  
11 find out what's going on in other areas out there, how  
12 animals in our area behave.

13  
14 MS. DETWILER: Yeah, I think one of the  
15 things that we're planning on doing is, I might speak to that  
16 a little bit, is having better coordination with the State  
17 Advisory Committees. We've already got a cooperative  
18 agreement with the State now on two of the regions,  
19 Southcentral and Bristol Bay to bring in those Advisory  
20 Committee members to the Regional Council meetings to have  
21 more people from the region to discuss resource issues, and  
22 not just the Regional Council members.

23  
24 MR. L. TRITT: Sometimes when bears or  
25 something disappears from our village, we learn from other  
26 villages where they are, you know.

27  
28 MS. DETWILER: Uh-huh.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Vince.

31  
32 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think Sue  
33 brought up a good point, it is a pilot program with  
34 Southcentral and Bristol Bay. The Eastern Interior was  
35 looked at because of the overlap proposals, but they thought  
36 for a pilot that it would be best to go with Southcentral and  
37 Bristol Bay so they were funding for Advisory Committee,  
38 perhaps to the Council meetings and I think to the Board, I'm  
39 not sure to the Board meeting.

40  
41 And what I'm getting -- preliminary indications is  
42 that it's been well received. We'll have to see and if it is  
43 then expand from there. Because of the make up of the  
44 proposals that you just completed it was too hard to pull in  
45 the other Advisory Committees, because here -- we met here,  
46 so Delta Junction is here, Upper Tanana is here, et cetera,  
47 et cetera, so it was best to keep it separate, but I've had  
48 dialogue with the State on this coordination on Advisory  
49 Committees, so they're quite receptive. The Committees are  
50 on a spectrum of understanding of the Federal program, so I

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1 know that when we go to a pilot or a full blown program here  
2 in the Interior, there's going to be some resistance because  
3 it is a lot to learn, as you know, two systems and how they  
4 integrate, so I would like you, when you hear those concerns,  
5 explain to them the benefits at the same time, but, yes, it's  
6 a whole 'nother book they're going to get and et cetera, so  
7 -- but this meeting here is a perfect example of how well it  
8 could work because Upper Tanana had representatives here.  
9 Frank was representing, I believe, at this meeting Tok  
10 Cutoff, whatever that other name for that one, and then Delta  
11 Junction was present here, so it's one way to go to get more  
12 involvement.

13

14 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

15

16 MS. DETWILER: One other thing I can offer  
17 Mr. Tritt and that is that every year the Regional Council  
18 Chairs, statewide, do get together right before the spring  
19 Board meeting and that's one other opportunity for them to  
20 get together and sort of share information with other regions  
21 in the State and, you know, see if there are any statewide  
22 things that they want to talk about.

23

24 MR. DAVEY JAMES: I got a couple here. On  
25 these -- you're name is Sue, huh?

26

27 MS. DETWILER: Yes.

28

29 MR. DAVEY JAMES: You mentioned you wanted to  
30 hear some other issues there affecting the State fisheries  
31 right now and the process it's going through. My problem is  
32 the process, one of the issues I was talking about yesterday  
33 the Birch Creek and Dall River, the commercial fishermen out  
34 of Fairbanks was sending a proposal to the State Board and  
35 the State Board accepted it and they broke ANILCA and Title  
36 VIII and Federal laws everything there. They repealed it six  
37 months later, but when they accepted that proposal they never  
38 had the courtesy of informing the villages that's going to be  
39 directly affected by the proposal, you know, closing the  
40 fishing season from May to September there, subsistence  
41 fishing.

42

43 And the other process proposal is coming up next  
44 month in the State Board of Fisheries is presented by the  
45 residents of Eagle, they seen a certain amount of king salmon  
46 being eaten -- feeding the dogs with the subsistence fish and  
47 that. And so he's presenting a proposal that shall limit the  
48 take and the seasons of subsistence people there and keep the  
49 commercial and processors takes and season at the same level.  
50 The problem with the State Fisheries Board is that the State

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1 agencies, fisheries, is that they're not respecting the Fish  
2 and Game Advisory Board that they themselves set up. There's  
3 no protocol respect for these Fish and Game Advisories and  
4 that's what my counterpart mentioned there.

5  
6 And it's been proven that any John Doe off the  
7 street, anyplace off the street, can come off the streets or  
8 come off the woods, anyplace, and present a proposal that's  
9 going to directly affect people's way of life. And I don't  
10 think -- they should got through a process, a protocol or  
11 whatever of the committees you got already set up. And  
12 that's what you really need to look at. You can't continue  
13 having this, this is a problem.

14  
15 And the other one there is the enforcement. The Fish  
16 and Game Advisory Board for Eastern Interior has \$10,000 to  
17 meet for four or five different, you can correct me on that,  
18 on Fish and Game Advisory Committees around the northern  
19 area, and that's just barely enough to meet one or two times.  
20 And the Fish and Game Advisory Board coming in on their own  
21 time, they don't get paid. They get paid six or seven months  
22 down the line and the problem with this, too, they changed  
23 the regulations and the funding source of that.

24  
25 We had a problem at Fort Yukon this summer where we  
26 had people that live out in the woods, 25, 30, 50, 100 miles  
27 out, and their fishing and here comes the enforcement officer  
28 with plane and four or five people jumping off and they're  
29 checking their fish wheel. Fish wheel is supposed to stop at  
30 6:00. Well, here's a poor guy who doesn't have no way of  
31 finding out it's supposed to stop at 6:00 and here they told  
32 him they were going to take his food, they were going to take  
33 his fish wheel next time, just because there's two fish was  
34 in there. There was two fish that were in there and check it  
35 at 6:15, you know. And they're writing their tickets after  
36 them.

37  
38 And there's been thousand of dollars going out in the  
39 wood just for two fish and we allow commercial fishermen to  
40 kill off all the eggs in the fish. To get the eggs -- to get  
41 the king salmon and just get the eggs and take the eggs home.  
42 That's killing babies there, too. We made that legal for  
43 them to do that, you know. We have a lot of work to work on.

44  
45 And the other one there is the other organizations,  
46 entities, that say they're speaking up on behalf of the  
47 tribal people there. And there are problems with these other  
48 organizations, big problems. Is our voice being heard or is  
49 it just being played in with other groups? You really need  
50 to look at the other organizations really hard. And does it

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1 really speak for the people. For our people, Yukon Flats,  
2 it's all commercial -- I mean -- excuse me. We're all  
3 subsistence. The one that was commercial license in Fort  
4 Yukon he only sells one or two, few fishes to get gas. Five  
5 or 10 gallons of gas, he goes out with his 25 horsepower and  
6 that's it.

7  
8 And this other organization that's being in place  
9 never really echoes that. We present proposal last month or  
10 last week to them and they didn't even consider it. They  
11 look and they let it go back, but they considered other  
12 proposals that had been passed around on notepads. So it's  
13 really -- you really have to look hard at other  
14 organizations, are they really representing the people. And  
15 if they do, how does the information go to them, these  
16 representatives that supposed to be representing us.

17  
18 So I'm glad that -- first time I heard of the pilot  
19 program here. Thank you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other questions or  
22 comments?

23  
24 (No audible responses)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

27  
28 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

29  
30 MR. MATHEWS: She was also going to bring up  
31 the coordination discussion with Fish and Game and then David  
32 James is going to follow that up with a project that's going  
33 on, if that's all right?

34  
35 MS. DETWILER: This is a fairly short agenda  
36 item, it's further down in your agenda, but it follows  
37 logically with the fisheries because of the coordination with  
38 the State.

39  
40 And right now, as I mentioned earlier, our  
41 coordination with the State is pretty much focusing on  
42 fisheries management, but a couple of years ago there was a  
43 stepped up effort to improve coordination with the State in  
44 terms of wildlife. And a Federal/State working group was  
45 established to identify ways of improving coordination and  
46 communication between Department of Fish and Game and the  
47 Federal Subsistence Program and they identified several  
48 options for making those improvements.

49  
50 One was a sooner opportunity for ADF&G to review the

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1 proposal analyses. Another was to have ADF&G participate in  
2 an interagency Staff Committee meetings, where the Staff  
3 Committee develops their recommendations that they later make  
4 to the Board. And then a third option that this working  
5 group came up with was that ADF&G would make a commitment to  
6 improve their participation at Regional Council meetings.

7  
8 So we implemented two of those changes, Fish and Game  
9 now reviews the technical analyses in the process and they  
10 also make it a point to send, more consistently, their people  
11 to the Regional Council meetings. So that was basically the  
12 outcome of that group. The meetings of that group sort of  
13 dropped off as we started focusing more and more on  
14 developing the fisheries rule, so that was the progression of  
15 coordination between the Federal Subsistence Program and  
16 ADF&G.

17  
18 And that's all I had.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Questions?

21  
22 (No audible responses)

23  
24 MR. DAVID JAMES: Mr. Chair, I just wanted to  
25 give you and the other Council members a very brief update on  
26 an ongoing project that involves the Yukon Flats. A year ago  
27 the Yukon Flats Fish and Game Advisory Committee submitted a  
28 proposal to the Board of Game to allow for a community  
29 harvest. It was a proposal that the Board took a close look  
30 at, but when they looked at what the various legal  
31 ramifications were to try to implement it, they backed off  
32 and deferred. They requested that we, the Wildlife Division  
33 within the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, then enter  
34 into a working agreement to continue the dialogue with the  
35 Advisory Committee to come up with a proposal for the next  
36 meeting, which would be a year from now, next year, to see if  
37 we could come up with a way to accommodate the desires and  
38 the concerns that were the basis for that proposal in the  
39 first place.

40  
41 So what's happened since then is a series of  
42 meetings, both informal and formal, in Fort Yukon and one in  
43 Chalkyitsik and the working agreement, initially with the  
44 Advisory Committee, was to focus on one community to use as a  
45 pilot project. And that was discussed and finally the  
46 Advisory Committee thought that was a reasonable idea and  
47 eventually it got around to one community and that would be  
48 Chalkyitsik.

49  
50 Since that point, that decision was made, some more

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1 dialogue and most recently what's happened is that the Fish  
2 and Game Advisory Committee member from Chalkyitsik, James  
3 Nathaniel, has been requested to approach the -- to bring  
4 this up as an agenda item with the Tribal Council there to  
5 see if there's sufficient support within that community to go  
6 ahead and devote the time and resources that it would take to  
7 come up with a pilot project.

8  
9 We've already, through those series of discussions in  
10 the past year, there has been some certain legal guidelines  
11 and sideboards that restrict the State, you know, we only  
12 have so much flexibility. So the people in Chalkyitsik now  
13 have a rough idea of where we're headed, it's not exactly the  
14 way the proposal was originally submitted to the Board. So  
15 it's up to that community, at this time, whether they want to  
16 proceed with this to see if we can set up a community harvest  
17 reporting system that would sufficiently meet their needs.  
18 All the details have not been worked out yet, there's still a  
19 lot more work to do.

20  
21 If, for whatever reason, the Chalkyitsik Tribal  
22 Council and that community decide that they're really not  
23 interested then that's going to through it squarely back in  
24 the lap of the Advisory Committee and we would then continue  
25 the dialogue with them, to see how they wanted to proceed  
26 from there. And the reason I say that is because it's not  
27 real clear to us -- Chalkyitsik doesn't seem to be charging  
28 ahead full speed right now and we think they have some  
29 concerns, so I'm trying to do a little projection here into  
30 the future, in the crystal ball here, but there's two ways it  
31 could go, either Chalkyitsik will want to say, yeah, let's  
32 give it a try to see if we can come up with a mutual  
33 proposal that we can take to the Board of Game, which for the  
34 Interior will be next year, a year from now, and then try to  
35 implement it and monitor it and see how it works. Or, you  
36 know, take some other tact.

37  
38 So we haven't come up with anything definitive yet,  
39 we don't even have a tentative proposal right now, but we do  
40 have several alternatives or options for a proposal. It  
41 hasn't been discussed so far, we looked at a few existing  
42 State regulatory situations, I guess you could call them,  
43 that provide a precedent or a template, I guess I could call  
44 it, that might apply. I'm referring to a Copper River  
45 fisheries harvest reporting system that we may be able to  
46 borrow from.

47  
48 But at any rate, we're still not there, but we're  
49 still working on it and since that proposal was originally  
50 for all the communities in the Yukon Flats, which is, you

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1 know, a sizable portion of your region that you deal with.  
2 The purpose of my bringing this to you is to keep you  
3 informed and just let you know.

4  
5 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

8  
9 MR. GOOD: I'm just a little bit confused.  
10 The role of the Advisory Committee, then, would be to report  
11 harvest, subsistence harvest, is this what.....

12  
13 MR. DAVID JAMES: No, it would not be the  
14 Advisory Committee. There would have to be -- to this point  
15 we're pretty certain, from the State's point of view, that  
16 there would have to be a centralized data collection point,  
17 somebody -- some entity responsible for collecting the  
18 harvest data. The desire was to get away from the  
19 restrictiveness of the typical, the standard seasons and bag  
20 limits, although harvest quota was something that the  
21 community could understand. And just the overall  
22 administrative difficulty was something that was at the basis  
23 of this proposal in the beginning. You know, the old  
24 standard non-transferability of individual harvest tickets  
25 and so on and so forth that is widely perceived as not being  
26 very compatible with traditional practices of the village.  
27 So the idea was let's see if we can find another system that  
28 would work better and get better harvest report data as well.  
29 It's a pretty ambitious undertaking, but not impossible and  
30 we'll just see what happens here in the next year.

31  
32 That's all I had on that.

33  
34 MR. DAVEY JAMES: You're just talking about  
35 the harvest quota pilot project that Fish and Game Advisory  
36 Committee recommend to look into? Is that what you're  
37 talking about, that harvest quota?

38  
39 MR. DAVID JAMES: Yes, it started out as a  
40 proposal last year at the Board meeting.

41  
42 MR. DAVEY JAMES: What other villages in  
43 Alaska did that community harvest quota? Was there another  
44 community?

45  
46 MR. DAVID JAMES: To my way of -- from what I  
47 know about it, which is pretty limited, because I haven't  
48 been involved in the details of this project, I don't -- it's  
49 not clear to me if the harvest quota has been an integral  
50 part of that, I think the focus elsewhere had been on the

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1 reporting mechanism itself. But the short answer is, I  
2 really don't know because I haven't had first hand experience  
3 with, you know, the involvement with this project.

4

5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any other questions?

6

7 (No audible responses)

8

9 MR. DAVID JAMES: Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, that  
14 brings us up to the Annual Report topic, if you're ready for  
15 that. It's under Tab T for Tetlin. A couple of things I  
16 need to point out there. I failed to put on that copy that's  
17 in front of you and in the other books that this is a draft,  
18 it's not a final.

19

20 And then one of the various subcommittee meetings we  
21 had since the last meeting till present it was suggested to  
22 me that a topic that is on the agenda about your co-  
23 management concept be added to the agenda -- added to the  
24 Annual Report, excuse me. So I think we can do this in two  
25 steps. Step one would be to review the draft Annual Report  
26 before you and step two would be to talk about the suggestion  
27 of adding the co-management concept that you had Board  
28 support for, and the suggestion was to make that a statewide  
29 standard. And then open it up to other suggestions for the  
30 Annual Report.

31

32 Please realize, though, if there's other suggestions  
33 to the Annual Report that you'll have to give up your review  
34 to your Chair because there's not going to be time to get  
35 copies out, unless we set time up, for that. We did it with  
36 Western Interior, meaning if we develop a whole bunch of  
37 other topics to add to this, I would incorporate them in  
38 there, send them out, and you'd have to have comments back by  
39 a certain time and then your Chair would have you authority  
40 to sign off on the Annual report, because it will not before  
41 you for another vote. This is pretty much a final, but it's  
42 open for other topics.

43

44 Is that agreeable to go through existing -- the co-  
45 management and others?

46

47 (No audible responses)

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Let the record reflect that  
50 some heads went up and down and some didn't.

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1           The topics that you have there are basically two  
2 topics and then, of course, a summary of your activities.  
3 Topic number 1, you brought up at the Minto meeting, was  
4 concerns about the Land Protection Plans for refuges. And I  
5 need to advise you the reason that you can comment on those  
6 plans and that is because in ANILCA, Title VIII, under  
7 Section 805 it says the Advisory Regional Councils can  
8 comment on management plans, et cetera. So just so you  
9 understand that.

10  
11           This is a draft that was worked out with the person  
12 who was the main mover of the subject and what I took from  
13 the transcript. So if you want to look at that, if you have  
14 questions we can go from there.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any comments on the Annual  
17 Report?

18  
19                   MR. FLEENER: Yeah, I got a couple of ideas  
20 to put in.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

23  
24                   MR. GOOD: Go for it.

25  
26                   MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, something that --  
27 there are a couple of things that I'd like to see added. One  
28 thing in particular that Council, as well as other Councils,  
29 have been concerned about are low numbers of resources for  
30 subsistence users. And time and time again we come across  
31 proposals that address the ongoing need or unmet need of  
32 subsistence users and somehow I'd like to reflect in the  
33 Annual Report our interest, possibly, in intensive management  
34 of resources with low numbers. And I don't know a better way  
35 to put it, but that we think that which ever agency is in  
36 charge of this specific area should be involved in  
37 intensively managing those resources to continue to provide  
38 the subsistence needs of the communities. And instead of us  
39 having to think about always cutting back on harvest, you  
40 know, maybe we can start increasing harvest so people's needs  
41 can be met. I think that would be a good addition.

42  
43           Another one is that -- we've also discussed this in  
44 the past and this has been of particular interest to me that  
45 local Councils, people that live within specific wildlife  
46 refuges have more public involvement, such as the SRCs do  
47 with the park. I think it would be good if we have something  
48 like an SRC for the wildlife refuges and possibly the other  
49 land management entities as well, but I'm just specifically  
50 speaking for the wildlife refuge because Fort Yukon is in a

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1 wildlife refuge and neighbors another wildlife refuge and I  
2 think that more local input into the management of those  
3 areas would be good.

4

5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I understand the  
8 intensive management option and then some kind of advisory  
9 group. The intensive management option -- I don't want to  
10 debate it, that's not my point here, I just want to inform  
11 you that the information that I understand, and there's  
12 others here that may be able to help, but still it could be  
13 in the annual report, is, if I understand the Federal  
14 Subsistence Board is an allocation board, not a management  
15 board, and I hope someone else helps me out with this policy,  
16 but I think the program is to provide protection that's in  
17 ANILCA for subsistence uses and not management. I know the  
18 reaction from the Council members on that, you can't have the  
19 chicken without the egg, but I'm letting you know now that  
20 intensive management may not be within the authority of the  
21 Board. And maybe others here could address my reservation on  
22 that.

23

24 MR. FLEENER: I think what you're saying may  
25 have some validity, but I know that we've made other  
26 suggestions that -- where we saw some results. We said that  
27 we would like to see something done with the low numbers of  
28 moose and predators in the Yukon Flats and the Yukon Flats  
29 Wildlife Refuge is doing a study on predation on calf moose  
30 and other moose. And so I think that our suggestion -- if we  
31 don't make a suggestion.....

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

34

35 MR. FLEENER: .....nothing is going to  
36 happen, if we do make a suggestion something might happen.  
37 And I know that the refuges are concerned with that. At  
38 least I know the Yukon Flats Refuge is concerned about the  
39 low moose numbers, they've said so themselves. And so this  
40 is a way of getting something in the Annual Report saying we  
41 also are concerned and we'd like to see something done.

42

43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

44

45 MS. DETWILER: Sue Detwiler from the  
46 Subsistence Office in Anchorage, and Craig and Vince are both  
47 right on track. The Federal Subsistence Board only deals  
48 with taking of fish and wildlife, they only deal with seasons  
49 and bag limits and methods and means and that sort of thing  
50 because of the specific language in Section 805 under which

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1 they operate. But Title VIII, as a whole, gives these  
2 Regional Councils broad latitude in making comments on -- and  
3 suggestions to the Federal agencies on subsistence uses, so  
4 your comment about directing your recommendations to the  
5 specific land management agency is right on track.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Philip.

8  
9 MR. P. TITUS: So they can set seasons and  
10 bag limits whether there's resource or not?

11  
12 MS. DETWILER: When the Federal Subsistence  
13 Board was given the responsibility for taking over the  
14 portion of Title VIII that the State lost, it only got the  
15 authority to manage the taking of fish and wildlife, so it  
16 doesn't deal with habitat management or predator management  
17 or anything other than taking of fish and wildlife for  
18 subsistence uses. And that has been the policy of the Board  
19 ever since its been established has only to deal with taking  
20 to meet subsistence needs.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You got something, Ida?

23  
24 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff  
25 Committee member. I believe this was brought up in the July  
26 Board meeting in about 1994. And I just wanted to remind  
27 this Council, as I reminded the Board, the Federal  
28 Subsistence Board is made up of the Directors of the five  
29 Federal agencies plus the appointment by the Secretary of the  
30 Interior of Mitch Demientieff to make a six person Federal  
31 Subsistence Board. Those five agency heads were appointed or  
32 assigned the additional responsibility of being the Federal  
33 Subsistence Board specifically and solely because they are  
34 the managers of the agencies that you wish to make  
35 recommendations to. Therefore, it is there responsibility  
36 and duty to hear your recommendations and to so act within  
37 their individual agencies.

38  
39 It is also the duty of this Council to make  
40 recommendations to the Federal Board and, thereby, to make  
41 recommendations to those agencies who manage lands within  
42 your respective areas. And I take that responsibility very  
43 seriously and I challenge the Federal Board on those topics.

44  
45 In addition, there have been many Councils that are  
46 concerned about predators and habitat. There are Councils  
47 who argue that under Section 805 there is responsibility to  
48 be concerned about those.

49  
50 Thank you.

00225

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

2

3 MR. DAVEY JAMES: May I as a question?

4

5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. DAVEY JAMES: My question, I guess, is  
8 directed to you, Sue. Just a comment that I'd like to make.  
9 You said the Federal fisheries management set the allocations  
10 for fisheries for subsistence on the rivers. And just --  
11 it's just a comment I want to make to you. That's -- for our  
12 subsistence purpose along the river, that's was our main  
13 concern. And a representative that can comment on that,  
14 Steven Ginnes (ph), that was his main concern on that -- on  
15 this other organization that he'd been sitting on is that the  
16 people were given fair allocations and the system is not set  
17 up to treat other people along the river, that's a long 2,000  
18 mile river, fairly and that's one of our main concerns of the  
19 Upper Yukon anyway.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Vince.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, then I would take  
26 that the Council is in agreement to add this intensive  
27 management option and the suggestion to have some kind of  
28 resource commission established for other conservation units  
29 is in the Annual Report?

30

31 (No audible responses)

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Let the record reflect  
34 that that's the direction that we're going forward with the  
35 Annual Report.

36

37 The other one we were going to -- well, we need to go  
38 into the next one, I'm sorry. The next topic there is  
39 Regional Council compensation. You can look that over, if it  
40 captures you feelings on that.

41

42 You also received a letter, if you do need to see  
43 that, also from Western Interior that requested Secretary  
44 Babbitt revisit the decision not to grant any compensation  
45 for Regional Council members, you have a copy in your book.  
46 These mirror that, so please look that over and if the wishes  
47 are that that's correct, whoever is the representative to the  
48 joint Chairs meeting before the Federal Subsistence Board in  
49 May is going to have to champion this and work -- I would  
50 suggest work with Western Interior on this, to get support

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1 from the other Councils.

2

3           Since I'm the coordinator for Western Interior, I can  
4 inform you that Northwest and North Slope Regional Councils  
5 supported Western Interior's letter that Secretary Babbitt  
6 revisit the whole issue of compensation. But, again, the  
7 chairs are going to have to, when they meet in May, stand  
8 together on this, or however they want to stand, but if they  
9 want it to pass they'll have to stand together and discuss  
10 with the Board when they meet in executive session with the  
11 Board.

12

13           And I also need to refer -- make it clear to you that  
14 the answer from the Secretary has been no. There is no  
15 indication from Washington that that decision will change, so  
16 I don't want to mislead you. I have a dual role here of  
17 covering the agency and then covering your interests.  
18 There's no indication from Washington that that decision will  
19 change or any latitude in that decision, but I know it's a  
20 concern to you and to Western Interior, the compensation, so  
21 here's wording that I've come up with, see if that meets your  
22 needs.

23

24           CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead, Lincoln.

25

26           MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, I'm looking -- I see  
27 this word "volunteer citizens" on there. I remember when I  
28 worked with BIA in the '70s, when we get a grant from D.C. or  
29 money from there, they get their cuts in Washington -- in  
30 their office down there and then they sent it to their  
31 subregion in Seattle and they take their cuts and then  
32 Fairbanks and Anchorage takes their cuts and by the time they  
33 get down to the village they're asking for volunteers, you  
34 know. It just seems like this is the same process they're  
35 going through.

36

37           CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there any other  
38 comments?

39

40           MR. FLEENER: Is this going to be as it  
41 stands if it's accepted, going to be sent?

42

43           MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

44

45           MR. FLEENER: There's a misspelled word,  
46 I.....

47

48           MR. MATHEWS: Oh, no. Where is that word?

49

50           MR. FLEENER: Fifth line down "Regional

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1 Council workload has not lessened."

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: And it's not lessened. Where  
4 is it misspelled?

5

6 MR. FLEENER: Well, it's either has not  
7 lessened or.....

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we can work on that, if  
10 you can.....

11

12 MR. FLEENER: Anyways.....

13

14 (Pause)

15

16 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, in the absence of  
17 further discussion, I move that our Chairman, yourself, work  
18 with Vince Mathews to complete the Annual Report and have it  
19 submitted at a proper time.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then we still  
22 (indiscernible - away from microphone) co-management concept  
23 that was just passed out to you, so I think (indiscernible -  
24 away from microphone) within regional compensation section  
25 captures your intent.

26

27 Okay, because the remaining one is the co-management  
28 concept and that's the yellow sheet that was just passed out  
29 to you. I can't come up with the exact wording, but  
30 basically the Federal Subsistence Board applauded your  
31 concept and wanted to keep informed as to how it progressed  
32 or how it was going to be utilized. That they support the  
33 co-management concept that you drafted and approved on  
34 February 19th, 1998. One of your subcommittees suggested  
35 that that may or should be a statewide co-management concept  
36 and I don't know if you want to push for statewide. Right  
37 now the Board approved it for Eastern Interior. So I just  
38 had it noted down here that that was a topic.

39

40 And for the new members, this was extensive work on  
41 your part, there was a co-management group that formed, we  
42 had several drafts of this, it gives a frame work that if we  
43 get into a co-management situation that this starts the, what  
44 I consider, a catalyst process to start the co-management  
45 going together. It doesn't mean that the Regional Council  
46 would be the co-management group. It would start a process  
47 to get it going.

48

49 In a nutshell, that's what that yellow handout is  
50 saying. And the Board was receptive to it. And if you need

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1 to, I can get the exact language, it's in my -- it's one of  
2 the boxes I have that has the letter from the Federal  
3 Subsistence Board.

4  
5 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I don't know if we  
6 would need to suggest to the other Councils that they need to  
7 adopt this, but maybe we could, at least, put it out there  
8 for the other Councils to review and if they still wish to  
9 adopt it, then it wouldn't hurt our feelings.

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

12  
13 MR. FLEENER: And we wouldn't want to impose  
14 something on someone, but I think this is a good idea and  
15 it's worth looking at.

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then if I understand it,  
18 a letter should go out with this attached to the Chairs of  
19 the remaining nine Councils for their acceptance and  
20 petitioning the Board. Okay.

21  
22 MR. FLEENER: And we'd also like -- if they  
23 are going to look at it, there probably would be some  
24 amendments we would -- I'd like to for this Council to take a  
25 look at those amendments and see if there's ways to improve  
26 this. I'm sure it's not going to be etched in stone that  
27 it's going to be a living document.

28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. There's only one other  
30 topic and I don't know if it wants to go in here or not, but  
31 I think we're running out of time. It's been discussed, the  
32 regulations book, which I don't have in front of me, the  
33 yellow that you've been looking at, has art work on it and  
34 the art work has not changed over the years and so there's  
35 been a suggestion by one of your Council members to maybe  
36 develop -- it's the reg book, not the book that you have  
37 there, it's the actual regulation book, to have somewhat of  
38 an art contest to solicit other art work.

39  
40 So maybe the person who suggested this idea may want  
41 to bring it up to you to have some way of changing the cover  
42 of the book and having it more reflective of all the  
43 different cultures that are in Alaska.

44  
45 MR. FLEENER: Yes, Mr. Chair, I talked to  
46 Vince about this a while ago, I thought it would be a nice  
47 idea if we had some change to our book and I suggested a  
48 contest and I'm not exactly sure how we would work this  
49 contest out, but I thought that something new to recognize  
50 the other Native cultures and other cultures in Alaska would

00229

1 be timely, since this has been on the cover for, I don't  
2 know, how many years, eight or so?

3  
4 MR. MATHEWS: No, it's been three or four  
5 when I looked into it.

6  
7 MR. FLEENER: It's been on there quite a few  
8 years and I just thought it's time for a change. There was a  
9 letter somewhere, I don't know, did the letter ever get.....

10  
11 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we worked out a letter  
12 and there was -- it's just a draft form of a suggestion that  
13 this contest would happen and then when the joint Chairs meet  
14 then they would select the art work for the next year. And  
15 there would have to be some guidelines, all that kind of  
16 stuff would have to be worked out, but basically it would  
17 be.....

18  
19 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, we discussed that  
20 possibly the winner of the -- whoever drew it, drew the one  
21 that was elected could win some sort of something. That was  
22 also a discussion topic and we don't know.....

23  
24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Give them a free moose,  
25 huh?

26  
27 MR. FLEENER: Free moose. A free bison  
28 permit. No, we discussed some alternatives but we don't know  
29 if there would be money available or not, but those are  
30 alternatives that we discussed.

31  
32 MR. P. TITUS: (Indiscernible - away from  
33 microphone)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: So this is going to go into  
36 the Annual Report?

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it could or it could go  
39 in a separate letter, that's why I was hesitant to bring it  
40 up now. It similar to the.....

41  
42 MR. FLEENER: I don't think it needs to go  
43 into the Annual Report, because that goes to the Secretary of  
44 the Interior and Agriculture, right?

45  
46 MR. MATHEWS: Right. They -- he signs all  
47 the checks for the whole program, so I don't know. I mean,  
48 you know, it's -- the Annual Report picks up on topics that  
49 fall outside your normal process, this kind of -- it doesn't  
50 have to be in there, no. I just know that once we get this

00230

1 done the momentum to adjourn is going to be quite strong  
2 here.

3

4 MR. FLEENER: Let's stick it in there, then,  
5 since he's the purse bearer.

6

7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

8

9 MR. L. TRITT: I mean, I just want to ask if  
10 it's all right to see if Fish and Wildlife can take the  
11 initiative, since this would probably benefit them, you know.  
12 Because it would be like an offer at least. And if we  
13 insisted it like we're demanding something, you know. It's  
14 like a good gesture or something.

15

16 MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Nat.

19

20 MR. GOOD: I'd like to suggest that a letter  
21 would be very good as well, so it doesn't get buried in our  
22 report. I think sometimes things can get overlooked, I like  
23 the idea of the letter, too.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: So the letter from the Chair  
26 would go to the program, not to the Board, to see if this  
27 could be allowed, correct? To Tom Boyd who was here on  
28 Saturday, and not to the Board, correct?

29

30 CHAIRMAN MILLER: That's fine.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, everyone's head is  
33 nodding on that, so the -- that will go forward.

34

35 That's all the topics that I knew of for the Annual  
36 Report, so.....

37

38 MR. DAVEY JAMES: Can I go back to this co-  
39 management concept proposals because, you know, I'm new on  
40 this Council here, Craig, and I don't see nothing wrong with  
41 this co-management concept proposals and what I want to know  
42 is where are we going in here with it? I mean, what's the  
43 schedule for the next year, what are we looking at? I mean,  
44 how can I -- you know, because I'm going to -- I have a  
45 series of about three workshops with my resources and the  
46 tribal people in 10 villages a year and I got to present this  
47 to them, but I kind of need a little -- you know, somebody's  
48 support -- how I'm going to present this to the resources of  
49 the villages.

50

00231

1 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman, maybe I could  
2 address that a little bit. This basically is a concept that  
3 we worked on, basically telling the Fish and Wildlife Service  
4 and other agencies that we support co-management. It's  
5 basically an idea that brings out some of the major issues of  
6 co-management that -- written in a way that we see as  
7 important. There are various concepts in here that didn't  
8 come from other people, and that's been a problem in the  
9 past, that other people have been telling us what co-  
10 management is and with this, we sat down and said these are  
11 some things that we think belong in a co-management agreement  
12 or a way that we formulate co-management.

13  
14 And so this is basically a concept, maybe a frame  
15 work for possible future co-management agreements. And  
16 that's really all it is and we can use it, if we need to. If  
17 somebody says, hey, let's do a co-management agreement, we  
18 can look at this and say -- or somebody else can look at this  
19 and say, okay, this is what they mean when they say co-  
20 management, you know. Because when we go to meetings  
21 nowadays everybody smiles real hard and says, let's co-  
22 manage, but everybody means something different. And now  
23 when Eastern Interior says, let's co-manage, you know, this  
24 is a frame work by what we mean by co-manage.

25  
26 MR. DAVEY JAMES: Yeah. My other issue is I  
27 really like this process that's going through, you know,  
28 setting up a co-management, setting a management forum. If  
29 we another couple of entities that came, too, that saying  
30 that they would agree to recognize body for the management of  
31 certain of the river, like the whole Yukon River, and they  
32 just present a resolution and a representative signs on to it  
33 there and now, we're giving our authority to management to a  
34 body without that information going back to the village and  
35 having a process of getting the community aware of what's  
36 going on. And here one person that represents a whole region  
37 can sign on to a resolution given the authority of management  
38 to an organization. And this is the process that you guys  
39 are going through, you know, I like it, you know. I mean,  
40 you guys are not rushing things through, you guys are  
41 explaining things good and kind of open the door of  
42 opportunity for other, whether it's tribal people or  
43 community, to address the issue later.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 MR. FLEENER: That's pretty much it, I  
48 mean.....

49  
50 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You guys want to take a

00232

1 break?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: No, we need some kind of  
4 agreement here that the Annual Report is accepted as this  
5 with edits. What Nat said earlier where I cut him off. It  
6 would make record cleaner that it's clear on the record that  
7 you support the draft that in here and.....

8

9 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion  
10 to adopt the draft that's in here with the suggested  
11 additions.

12

13 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Is there a second?

14

15 MR. GOOD: I'll second.

16

17 MR. FLEENER: Question.

18

19 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question had been called.  
20 All in favor signify by saying aye.

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Opposed same sign.

25

26 (No opposing responses)

27

28 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Now, do you want to take a  
29 break?

30

31 (Off record - 2:33 p.m.)

32

33 (On record - 2:49 p.m.)

34

35 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Call the meeting back to  
36 order.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, what we have left  
39 on the agenda are correspondence sent and received and I was  
40 incorrect when I talked to you in private, there are brief  
41 agency reports and then future meeting plans are the only  
42 items that I see left on the agenda.

43

44 So correspondence sent and received is very short  
45 because your direction to me was that any time correspondence  
46 comes it is to sent copies out immediately.

47

48 Under Tab V, as in Venetie, is a summary of all the  
49 correspondence sent and received. If Council members or  
50 public or staff would like to see copies of that

00233

1 correspondence sent and received there's a book up here with  
2 all of it in it, so I would like the record to reflect that  
3 they have a listing of all the correspondence received and  
4 sent. So you may want to look at Tab V and if you have any  
5 questions specifically about that correspondence, but you did  
6 receive them in the mail.

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then I think if  
11 there is questions you can talk to us private and we'll move  
12 on to agency reports.

13

14 MR. DAVEY JAMES: I have a question.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Sure.

17

18 MR. DAVEY JAMES: Yeah, my question is on  
19 these proposals with Stevens Village side, I don't know if I  
20 heard it right yesterday that there was two different kind of  
21 proposals and their proposals weren't the right one given  
22 and, you know, I'm concerned that the letter that I received  
23 back home (indiscernible - away from microphone) concern that  
24 that original proposal that they submitted was a different  
25 one than the one that one that was in the regulations book  
26 there.

27

28 If a proposal is submitted, it's given to you, huh?  
29 It goes through your office and it goes down -- but how does  
30 the process work kind of though?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The process is basically  
33 there's an open proposal period and people submit proposals  
34 during that time. They can submit them to our office, where  
35 George and I are at, or they can be submitted to Anchorage.

36

37 The proposal in question was submitted to the  
38 Anchorage office. Once they're received they're logged in  
39 with a document number for tracking purposes and then from  
40 there the proposal is, I'm looking for the right term,  
41 translated into a regulatory proposal. In that translation  
42 language was left out. The language that was left out in the  
43 Stevens Village proposal was dealing with cultural events.

44

45 There was other proposals submitted by one of your  
46 Council members, also, that was translated with materials  
47 left out, but we were able to catch that before we went to  
48 publication of the book. That's the process that is used, so  
49 it is a little bit different since I used to work with the  
50 State system, Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, so it is

00234

1 different than their process.

2

3 MR. DAVEY JAMES: Maybe for future you call  
4 the original people that presented the proposal and be a  
5 courtesy that you call them that you're changing their words  
6 or if you happen to lose something you can contact them, so  
7 they be informed of it.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Davey, that.....

10

11 MR. DAVEY JAMES: Kind of do that in style, I  
12 mean, to have a courtesy call and call them up or see if you  
13 can't work with them, you know, on changing wordings, you  
14 know, letting them know so these kind of issues -- you know,  
15 more like this one here kind of got out of hand, you know, I  
16 receive a letter saying that's not proposal that they  
17 presented, you know, so it's kind tough, you know, what  
18 proposal are we really looking at. So I think that's  
19 something that you need to.....

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman. That's an  
22 excellent suggestion, Davey. I would also think that the  
23 best avenue to get that information to the process -- through  
24 the process would be either the Annual Report or in a  
25 separate letter. I'd also request, as your coordinator, that  
26 your team be given copies of the original proposals when they  
27 come in. That's the only way I caught a couple of them, I  
28 happened -- the proposals happened to come through my fax  
29 machine and then when I reviewed the book before published  
30 [sic], they didn't match. It hobbles the team to find out as  
31 we analyze proposals that there was different topics in  
32 there, different -- so I would suggest either a separate  
33 letter or part of the Annual Report, but Davey said that any  
34 changes in the proposal that's being submitted, any word  
35 changes, that a courtesy call be given to the author of the  
36 proposal. But I'd also add that original copies of the  
37 proposal, as submitted, be provided to the team.

38

39 MR. FLEENER: I think that's a good idea, Mr.  
40 Chair and I'd also like to convey my concerns that when you  
41 make so many changes that the author doesn't even recognize  
42 the proposal, I think that's carrying it a little too far. A  
43 few word changes that may help the sound better is okay, but  
44 when you go about changing the substance and leaving words  
45 out that may make it easier to pass, that don't incorporate  
46 the true meaning of what the author had in mind is -- that's  
47 really pretty distasteful I would say here.

48

49 I think it would be worth putting it in the Annual  
50 Report to let people higher up know that we don't like the

00235

1 idea of proposal being put in the proposal book that weren't  
2 written by the author. The proposal comes to the Fish and  
3 Wildlife Service it should be what the person wanted changed.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Lincoln.

6  
7 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, I'm a writer, I do a lot  
8 of writing and a lot of people tell me I have my own language  
9 because I had an experience early in my -- when I first  
10 started writing I had somebody edit my story and they got at  
11 it with the proper grammar stuff and they changed the whole  
12 meaning around. And so when somebody edits my work I limit  
13 them to the commas and capitals, that's about it, I keep them  
14 away from the words because we speak differently than what  
15 you read in the books and stuff. I think that's a good idea.

16  
17 MR. MATHEWS: So is that the wishes of the  
18 Council, then, to have that part of the Annual Report?

19  
20 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I think you can add that,  
21 yeah.

22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So that'll go within the  
24 motion that was earlier, to add on this, okay.

25  
26 Anything else under correspondence sent and received?

27  
28 MR. FLEENER: Can I ask another question, Mr.  
29 Chair?

30  
31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Go ahead.

32  
33 MR. FLEENER: When the proposal come through,  
34 they're not routed through your office; is that correct?

35  
36 MR. MATHEWS: Correct.

37  
38 MR. FLEENER: You don't see them until staff  
39 analysis is done?

40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: No, that's not correct.

42  
43 MR. SHERROD: Procedure in the book  
44 (indiscernible - away from microphone)

45  
46 MR. FLEENER: So you don't see it for quite a  
47 while then?

48  
49 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I personally work real  
50 hard to get them, original copies, but it's difficult from

00236

1 Fairbanks to pull that off.

2

3 MR. FLEENER: Well, I would suggest then  
4 another letter because you're our main conduit to these  
5 proposals that are coming in and I would suggest that we send  
6 a letter saying a copy should go to your group there, so that  
7 we can be made aware of proposals that are important, which  
8 all proposals are important, before a changed version of it  
9 comes down. I would suggest that as a letter, not in the  
10 Annual Report, but a letter from us to the Fish and Wildlife  
11 Service, to the Subsistence.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I understand that the  
14 Annual Report will be the courtesy language, integrity and  
15 the second one would be a letter that a copy of the original  
16 be provided to the team.

17

18 MR. FLEENER: That's correct.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: All right.

21

22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any more questions?

23

24 (No audible responses)

25

26 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay. Agency reports.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: All right. The agency reports  
29 are listed there, the first would be if there's any Native  
30 corporation, Tribal Council, et cetera, that would like to  
31 speak. I don't see anyone here for that.

32

33 The next would be the National Park Service, and I'm  
34 not going to go into each unit. If there is a park that  
35 would like to speak they should come up, otherwise I'll  
36 forget somebody. I believe Wrangell did have something to  
37 present, I don't know if the others do. And that's Wrangell-  
38 St. Elias. I know it's getting late, but that's not fair to  
39 truncate the name.

40

41 MS. SHARP: My name is Devi Sharp, I'm from  
42 Wrangell-St. Elias. Thank you, Chair and Council members to  
43 make time. I want to invite you all to the SRC meeting April  
44 20th and 21 at Dot Lake, you're welcome to join us.

45

46 We have recently included Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tetlin  
47 and Northway to our resident zoned communities, the final  
48 regulations have not been finalized, but the environmental  
49 compliance work had been done, approved, signed, sealed and  
50 delivered, no problems with that.

00237

1 Healy Lake has also requested that same status,  
2 resident zone status. Don Callaway and Janice are working on  
3 that and thank you for your help on that this past week.

4  
5 Cordova has also requested resident zoned status and  
6 Janice and some other staff from Wrangell and myself will be  
7 going to Cordova to listen to their testimony in a few weeks.

8  
9 And that's all I have. Any questions about going ons  
10 in the park?

11  
12 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: I think Denali National Park  
15 may have something to share.

16  
17 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell, Denali.  
18 I'll be brief. The main thing we're doing at Denali with our  
19 Commission is work on our Subsistence Management Plan. Our  
20 next meeting is August 6th, it'll be held in McKinley Village  
21 and that meeting will be totally devoted to going through  
22 that plan with the Commission and developing it.

23  
24 The only thing that I brought with me today is a copy  
25 of the Subsistence User Guide. The Commission asks that we  
26 develop and work with them in a guide that would be more user  
27 friendly in terms of giving out to our subsistence users to  
28 help them understand the Federal programs and what they can  
29 and can't do on park lands. It's still coming towards its  
30 final draft stage. If you're interested in receiving a copy  
31 of this, at this point, I'll go ahead and leave them over  
32 here by the door and you can pick them up on your way out.  
33 Again, this is directed for us to develop this by the  
34 Commission for use by subsistence users, is our target group.

35  
36 Beyond that, unless you have a particular issue with  
37 Denali you want to discuss, I'll say thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: I don't think there's any other  
42 Park Service that would like to speak, so that would bring us  
43 up to Bureau of Land Management, if they wanted to speak, I  
44 don't know.

45  
46 MS. GRONQUIST: Ruth Gronquist with the  
47 Bureau of Land Management and I promised Philip I wouldn't  
48 say anything, but I'm going to offer you the opportunity to  
49 ask questions, if you have them.

50

00238

1           The only thing I can think of that we really haven't  
2 addressed through the rest of the meeting, the concerns that  
3 we might have brought to you is with fisheries we are, at  
4 BLM, looking developing -- or looking at the fisheries  
5 program and looking at what we might need to do to implement  
6 it as an agency. So if you have any questions.

7  
8           MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman.

9  
10          CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah.

11  
12          MR. FLEENER: So BLM is not much interested  
13 in wildlife management, but very interested in fisheries  
14 management?

15  
16          MS. GRONQUIST: I didn't say that. I just --  
17 I was just giving you a heads up that with the potential for  
18 having some fisheries responsibility we are starting to look  
19 at what that would -- what would be required of us as an  
20 agency. But, no, everything that I would have said to you  
21 from a wildlife perspective has already been said, either  
22 Craig Gardner has covered it or we covered it through the  
23 proposals.

24  
25          So any other questions?

26  
27          MR. DAVEY JAMES: Ruth, I got a question  
28 here. Is the pipeline corridor, is that a BLM oversight by  
29 your department?

30  
31          MS. GRONQUIST: By our agency, yes.

32  
33          MR. DAVEY JAMES: By your agency. There's a  
34 little strip that goes over toward Venetie and also there's  
35 White Mountain -- or Steese National Conservation Area, how --  
36 what is kind of the process -- I mean, is that going into, I  
37 guess, a recreational development there or economic  
38 development, how do you guys coordinate with the nearest  
39 communities that work with you, the input. Do you guys send  
40 them the input -- like if the DOT wanted to build a road from  
41 the pipeline down into (indiscernible - away from microphone)  
42 area on BLM land there, what's the process do they go  
43 through, I mean, how do (indiscernible - away from  
44 microphone) do you guys send out notices to these villages  
45 or.....

46  
47          MS. GRONQUIST: Well, using your example,  
48 what we would have to do on something like that is go through  
49 a NEPA process and that would open it up to the public, that  
50 would require public meetings in every area that would be

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1 affected by a project like that, just to use your example.

2

3 MR. DAVEY JAMES: Is that the same thing with  
4 this White Mountain National Recreational Area?

5

6 MS. GRONQUIST: Yes.

7

8 MR. DAVEY JAMES: I mean there's a proposed  
9 trail, a road and, you know, I don't know, I personally never  
10 seen no information (indiscernible - away from microphone) or  
11 the beaver, you know, because they're the people that, you  
12 know (indiscernible - away from microphone)

13

14 MS. GRONQUIST: Yeah. If there's any land  
15 use proposal, an application or a request for any sort of  
16 land use in the Steese or the White Mountains, for example,  
17 it depends on what level of an action we have to take. If it  
18 triggers an environmental assessment we have a different --  
19 we have fewer requirements through the Environmental Policy  
20 Act to involve the public. So if a miner comes to use and  
21 wants to have a mine that's over five acres or develop a mine  
22 over five acres, there's a notice that goes out, but there  
23 aren't public meetings held. Something as big as a road or  
24 possibly a trail, depending on whether or not it was already  
25 covered in another EIS, for example, would -- something of  
26 that magnitude would probably go to an EIS and then there's  
27 requirement for public input, for meetings in the areas  
28 affected, and opportunities for comment. There still are  
29 opportunities for comment within an Environmental Assessment.

30

31 MR. DAVEY JAMES: Maybe -- you know,  
32 something that you might want to consider or look at is that,  
33 you know, when you guys take comments that come from a  
34 recognized body or a tribal or the village, I think you  
35 really should -- that that comment is going to be on behalf  
36 of the community or the tribe or the corporation. That letter  
37 should be signed by all Council members (indiscernible - away  
38 from microphone) because I think there's a few -- not in your  
39 area, but there has been in the past agencies, different  
40 agencies, recognizing the letter sent by the individual as  
41 the president of the corporation as speaking on behalf of the  
42 people, but that letter has been sent by that individual on  
43 his behalf and never really came to the community or came  
44 through the Council. And that's just like another process  
45 that you need to go through. Just a process.

46

47 MS. GRONQUIST: So more responsibility on the  
48 agency to make sure that they gotten thorough input?

49

50 MR. DAVEY JAMES: Yeah.

00240

1 MS. GRONQUIST: Okay.

2

3 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I think one area  
4 that has been a big concern in Yukon Flats is the Nome Creek  
5 Road and the -- I don't know if it's a picnic area or what,  
6 but I know that there was a lot of people that were not  
7 satisfied with the amount of involvement by people in Yukon  
8 Flats. And I know that's quite a ways from Fort Yukon, for  
9 example, but a lot of people saw that as building an entryway  
10 to get into Yukon Flats and, thereby, being able to impact  
11 the subsistence resource, for example, and other things.  
12 And, in that case, I know for -- that I heard an awful lot of  
13 people dissatisfied about the amount of involvement from the  
14 people in Yukon Flats.

15

16 MS. GRONQUIST: Yeah, and we've certainly  
17 taken notice of -- we've gotten that loud and clear.

18

19 Anything else?

20

21 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

22

23 MR. FLEENER: Thank you.

24

25 MS. GRONQUIST: Thank you. Sorry, Philip.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the next agency report  
28 would be Fish and Wildlife Service. And I'll just quickly  
29 grab the one topic that's there and then if the refuges have  
30 anything to speak on.

31

32 You have under Tab W for Wrangell an update on the  
33 Migratory Bird Treaty, and I'm not going to belabor that,  
34 that's there before you and we'll keep you informed.  
35 Probably at your next meeting you'll have a report on where  
36 they're at in establishing their management bodies. So I'd  
37 encourage you to look over that document and become familiar  
38 with it on the status of the Migratory Bird Treaty, which has  
39 been amended to allow spring waterfowl hunting. And I won't  
40 go into more detail because you have it there and we'll be  
41 keeping you updated on that.

42

43 So there may be a Yukon -- I don't know which on Greg  
44 is going to speak for but.....

45

46 MR. McCLELLAN: Just to be real brief. My  
47 name is Greg McClellan, Subsistence Coordinator for Yukon  
48 Flats and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And also with the  
49 Yukon Flats, we also have Refuge Manager, Ted Hugher (ph) and  
50 Refuge Information Technician, Paul Williams able to answer

00241

1 any questions you might have. But the things that I handed  
2 our are primarily follow-ups to some of the things we talked  
3 about at the Minto meeting.

4  
5 We had quite a discussion on moose at the Minto  
6 meeting on the Flats and just have an update. The first item  
7 is an update on the moose calf mortality study that currently  
8 we have 18 percent survival rate on the calves through  
9 November. The second item is with the 30 Federal subsistence  
10 moose permits the reported harvest to date. And the third  
11 thing is that this spring we're going to be doing a moose  
12 winter survey in conjunction with ADF&G to look at -- I guess  
13 actually that's number 4. Cooperation with ADF&G and with  
14 help from people in Stevens Village and look at where the  
15 moose range, habitat in the Western Yukon Flats.

16  
17 And then due to snow conditions we were not able to  
18 do a moose population survey, we try to alternate that  
19 between 24(D) West and 25(D) East every year and with the  
20 snow conditions this last fall we weren't able to do it. We  
21 were planning on doing 25(D) West, so that's just been  
22 delayed another year and we'll do that this coming fall.

23  
24 And that's it for the Flats report unless there's any  
25 questions.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Yeah, go ahead.

28  
29 MR. L. TRITT: Do you have any plans in the  
30 future about cutting down on these collaring activities?

31  
32 MR. McCLELLAN: Well, we felt that it was  
33 very important to get information on the mortality of moose  
34 calves due to the low moose population and so we felt that it  
35 was important to do this project. We know there are concerns  
36 with the local residents within the Flats as far as handling  
37 and marking animals and we are aware of that. We talk with  
38 the communities before doing these studies, but if there is  
39 an important study that does entail handling or collaring of  
40 animals -- you know, if there's a need to do it, then we do  
41 want to look at being able to do it. But currently we don't  
42 have -- on the Flats we don't have another immediate study  
43 proposal that would entail collaring animals.

44  
45 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair. You don't have  
46 anything here on your black bear project, how is that going?

47  
48 MR. McCLELLAN: Well, since the Minto meeting  
49 there hasn't been any really follow-up on that study.  
50 Currently we have five females that still have radio collars

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1 and the past three winters we -- with the collared females we  
2 checked the den sites and checked if they had cubs or not and  
3 the biologist and the pilot are hoping to start doing that  
4 this coming week to go out and check the dens, but we don't  
5 have any more follow-up information since the Minto meeting.

6  
7 MR. FLEENER: And as far as the moose calf  
8 mortality study, what -- we got some pretty strong  
9 preliminary results here of moose calf mortality.

10  
11 MR. McCLELLAN: Uh-huh.

12  
13 MR. FLEENER: I was wondering what does the  
14 refuge plan to do with this information as management.

15  
16 MR. McCLELLAN: Well, we still want to do one  
17 more year of collaring the calves and get one more year of  
18 data and see what it says and go from there. We've talked in  
19 the past that we're interested in working with local  
20 communities, especially in 25(D) West as far as trying to  
21 develop a moose management plan. And then with -- as far as  
22 black bears and grizzlies, I guess, you know, our first  
23 option we'd like to do what we can through the regulatory  
24 process and make the availability for local residents and  
25 other subsistence users and hunters to harvest and utilize  
26 them.

27  
28 MR. FLEENER: And if you have 27 cows that  
29 are still collared, do you plan on collaring additional ones  
30 or just monitoring the same 27?

31  
32 MR. McCLELLAN: At this time we don't have  
33 any additional plans to collar any additional calves.

34  
35 MR. FLEENER: So you'll monitor the calves  
36 from these 27 cows?

37  
38 MR. McCLELLAN: Right. And like last year  
39 when we were out doing the collaring of the calves, we were  
40 able to capture some of the -- some calves from uncollared  
41 females and we still tried to do the same thing. The main  
42 reason for collaring the cows initially is we felt it would  
43 be easier to find the cow and then to find the calf, so.....

44  
45 MR. FLEENER: And are the signals still going  
46 to be strong enough after a year with the radio?

47  
48 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, the collars on the cows  
49 should last anywhere from three to five years.

50

00243

1 MR. FLEENER: That's all, thanks.

2

3 MR. DAVID JAMES: What happens to the collar  
4 after the battery runs out? It says on them or.....

5

6 MR. McCLELLAN: The -- on the calves they were  
7 -- the life span of the calves they were made with an Ace  
8 Bandage material and that would normally start to  
9 disintegrate and just fall off after six months to a year's  
10 time. Now, collars on the cows are made with the more  
11 extensive leather material that over a long time period,  
12 five, six, seven years it could break down and fall off, but  
13 it's -- there's also a strong possibility that the collars on  
14 the cows are going to last a long time and they may die of  
15 natural causes with collar still on it or -- but the -- I  
16 guess the collars for the calves are designed to, you know,  
17 to fall off real soon. Collars on the cows, like I said, the  
18 batteries can last three to five years, so they're designed  
19 to at least last that five years.

20

21 Any other questions for the Flats?

22

23 MR. DAVEY JAMES: The International Caribou  
24 Board, when they came across the census on the mortality of  
25 the caribou herd there, they never really -- did the  
26 discussion ever come out where the caribou dropped  
27 tremendously the last four years and I was reading that, you  
28 know, they didn't really have no answer for that. And there  
29 was concern about the people as the Western and the Central  
30 Herd being increased -- what it did, the Porcupine Caribou  
31 Herd increased [sic] and the Slave Lake Caribou Herd over  
32 there in Cantwell side increased. All the other herds  
33 increased except the Porcupine Caribou Herd [sic] there, do  
34 you know any reason why this the only herd in North America  
35 and Canada that went down for the last four years?

36

37 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, at the meeting at the  
38 International Porcupine Caribou Board meeting there was a  
39 discussion on the reason for the decline and they don't have  
40 any definite evidence, but the strong feeling was that there  
41 was -- during the winters of, I believe, '92, '93, '94 were  
42 pretty severe and there was poor calf production during those  
43 years. And the last couple of years, last summer and '96 the  
44 calf production have been built back up again and so they  
45 felt that the decline was due to the poor years in, like I  
46 said, '92, '93, '94 and the thought is that the herd numbers  
47 should start increasing. They also -- the Board, since the  
48 decline, there was also talk of trying to do another census  
49 this coming summer to again see where the numbers are, see if  
50 they're still down of if they did start to go up.

00244

1 MR. DAVEY JAMES: What do you mean four poor  
2 year? You mean weather?

3  
4 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, severe winters.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Lincoln.

7  
8 MR. L. TRITT: You guys go up to the coast a  
9 lot up there in the calving ground area?

10  
11 MR. McCLELLAN: The refuge doesn't do as much  
12 work up there as in the past, but they do do work up there  
13 every year.

14  
15 MR. L. TRITT: Yeah, because I afraid of any  
16 activities out there just, you know, too much activities up  
17 there just have a drastic effect on the caribou, less  
18 caribou.

19  
20 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, I mean during in the  
21 actual calving time period the -- any work up there is very,  
22 very limited during that time period when they're calving.

23  
24 MR. L. TRITT: And there's also a lot of  
25 tourism and, I mean, you know -- yeah, what do you call it,  
26 eco-tourism and all that good stuff.

27  
28 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, you know, though not in  
29 the -- within the calving period at that time.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Anything else? Any other  
32 questions?

33  
34 (No audible responses)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

37  
38 MR. McCLELLAN: Thank you.

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that leaves  
41 us with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I don't  
42 think Tetlin had a report. And so Alaska Department of Fish  
43 and Game did want to -- they had a brief report.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay.

46  
47 MS. T. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, this  
48 will be very brief. First of all, we appreciate the  
49 opportunity to participate in your Council meetings, it's a  
50 learning experience for us each time we're here. We know

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1 that we sometimes disagree on views and positions, but it's a  
2 healthy debate and we learn from it, we hope that we can  
3 contribute to your understanding of some of our concerns  
4 along the way. So thank you for the opportunity to take part  
5 in these meetings.

6  
7 I just wanted to introduce other Department staff who  
8 attended this meeting in case you may have some questions  
9 that we can direct to those staff. Polly Wheeler is the new  
10 Regional Program Manager for the Subsistence Division. She's  
11 responsible for the Arctic Interior and Western regions so  
12 she has a big chunk of the state that she oversees our  
13 research program. Many of you know Polly from her work with  
14 Tanana Chiefs Conference and other arenas, so we're glad to  
15 have her on board and help fill out our very small  
16 Subsistence Division staff.

17  
18 Mike Doxey is with Sportfish Division in Fairbanks.  
19 Fronty Parker is with Sportfish Division in Delta Junction.  
20 Bill Busher is with Commercial Fisheries Division in  
21 Fairbanks and David James is with Wildlife Conservation  
22 Division in Fairbanks. Steve DuBois, who is the area  
23 biologist for Wildlife Conservation Division in Delta  
24 Junction was here earlier and, of course, Craig Gardener the  
25 area biologist from Tok was here yesterday. We try to make  
26 sure we have as many staff here at these meetings as  
27 possible, but we're having some budgetary issues that affect  
28 some of our travel these days, so -- but nevertheless, we  
29 think these meetings are important. The Commissioner thinks  
30 they're important and we're doing the best we can to make  
31 sure we have coverage here.

32  
33 So unless you have any questions, that's all we have  
34 to say.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Any questions?

37  
38 MS. T. HAYNES: Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

41  
42 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, unless there's some other  
43 agency that has a report, we're on to looking at the next  
44 meeting.

45  
46 MR. DAVEY JAMES: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I'd like  
47 to give a little report on CATG (indiscernible - away from  
48 microphone) the Natural Resource Department and I can do it  
49 from here, huh?

50

00246

1 MR. MATHEWS: You can do it from there, it's  
2 not.....

3  
4 MR. DAVEY JAMES: You know I work as the  
5 Director for the 10 tribal villages within the Yukon Flats,  
6 the Gwit'chin and Koyukon (ph) area within the Yukon Flats.  
7 And there's two Koyukon Villages, Stevens Village and  
8 Rampart, the rest is the Gwit'chins. We have resource  
9 departments, our natural resource staff in each village and  
10 each of these villages have an environmental program through  
11 EPA, through GAP Program and they also have a part-time  
12 natural resource staff on board there. We are -- we have two  
13 to three meetings a year that goes on within this area.

14  
15 We're looking at all the resources that's out there,  
16 what's the numbers out there and what's Fish and Game is  
17 doing and Fish and Wildlife and, you know -- two or three of  
18 the main top priorities we have identified, the ecosystems,  
19 the muskrats is disappearing and the low population of the  
20 moose. And we're working on maybe on having cooperative  
21 agreements or working groups with the Fish and Wildlife and  
22 the Feds there on trying to get our population from 2,300 up  
23 to 5,000, a reasonable number.

24  
25 We're also working on the fishery issues. People --  
26 subsistence people along the -- within the Yukon Flats has  
27 really been affected this fall there, because we only catch --  
28 just to give you a quick outline. People, you know, in the  
29 Yukon Flats don't get that much fish and there's no  
30 commercial people in the Yukon there and we really have a big  
31 concern with the negotiation that's going on with the Yukon  
32 Panel and the Canadians. The majority of our fish there are  
33 Canadian stocks, so we really have to be in on the decision  
34 there.

35  
36 And so that's another issue that we're going to be  
37 taking up this coming Tuesday during our teleconference. We  
38 have a monthly teleconference with all our resources here and  
39 we have -- we're just in the beginning stage of our GIS  
40 program there, we have a person who's full time working on  
41 this and our people -- we're really -- we're working on an  
42 environmental and natural resources code and ordinance. It  
43 going through -- right now we got three villages that's going  
44 to present a couple of code and ordinance that they're going  
45 to present to the community and then they're going through  
46 and give it to the -- to the annual meeting whenever and the  
47 different times of the year.

48  
49 And we're really concerned about the conservation  
50 enforcement that happened up there this fall where one of our

00247

1 local person barely have to be -- he left his home place,  
2 four miles from Fort Yukon, because he was constantly being  
3 harassed by the State Fish and Game Enforcement Division and  
4 they were sad to see that, he had to leave his home spot to  
5 move back to Fort Yukon until they leave. Poor guy could  
6 barely even live off the land. And that's a big problem  
7 within that issue right there that we would like to address  
8 more in the future.

9  
10 We're in the beginning stage of working on our water  
11 program. We have a large air quality program, indoor and  
12 outdoor quality air program, in place there. We have a full  
13 time biologist that's working with us. Her name is Trisha,  
14 she's the one that was (indiscernible) I don't know where  
15 she's at. But we're really interested inviting anybody  
16 that's out there -- we're going to have this summer, we're  
17 working on having a two-day workshop in one of these fish  
18 camps and a lot of our youth and elders will be there. It  
19 would be a good time for any of you staff or managers or any  
20 interested people that want to come -- it's going to be this  
21 summer sometime during the fishing season. And decided at  
22 the beaver meeting we decided to have it along -- in one of  
23 these fish camps there.

24  
25 We're going to -- for one day we're going to go up to  
26 the Village of Circle, 17 miles up river, there's one of our  
27 last great chiefs, his name is Chin'atchee (ph), he had 16  
28 wives and this was just the beginning of 1800s where he  
29 brought our people together and pay our respects to him there  
30 and work on keeping that graveyard and that designated site  
31 as sacred site.

32  
33 And then my uncle, David Sams, has written [sic] a  
34 book about our people, where we came from back to 16-1500s  
35 and that will really -- that would be a book that I recommend  
36 for all you managers to look at of where we came from and how  
37 we still live in our area, so you guys would really have an  
38 idea of where we -- how we came about here.

39  
40 And if any of you guys want any information, contact  
41 me there, we have our main office -- we have our own building  
42 in Fort Yukon, so when you guys come to Fort Yukon, come by  
43 and visit any time. Thank you.

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Are there any other  
46 agency reports?

47  
48 (No audible responses)

49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. If not, then we move on

00248

1 to selecting time, date and location for the next meeting,  
2 and I'll turn on the overhead on that.

3

4 MR. NICHOLIA: I suggest we do the 14th  
5 and.....

6

7 MR. FLEENER: Weekend.

8

9 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, right.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you usually have  
12 a calendar in your book, but recently the meeting window,  
13 which this time starts September 27th runs to October 29th  
14 recently shifted. It used to be September 15th, 17th to  
15 another date beyond that. We shifted it more into fall. So  
16 now it is September 27th through October 29th. Michelle put  
17 this together pretty quick, you know, we don't have copies  
18 for each of you individually.

19

20 The North Slope Regional Council is going to meet in  
21 Anchorage on the 19th and 20th. The AFN Convention is here.  
22 I believe the Elder's Conference is the 18th through the  
23 20th. March -- or whatever it is, October 11th is a holiday,  
24 but in the past that didn't factor, so that's the window, so  
25 we need to select dates.

26

27 I've talked to many of you individually, we've talked  
28 about maybe a joint meeting, we talked about various things.  
29 I think in your thinking of a date of when to meet with  
30 fisheries, and if it's a joint meeting, that you need to look  
31 at a three day meeting. If it's a regular meeting on your  
32 own, I would look at another two full days to meet. The  
33 joint meeting would be with Western Interior because of the  
34 fisheries.

35

36 So that's it, so what suggestions you have for dates  
37 and then we need to look at topics.

38

39 MR. NICHOLIA: 6th and 7th of October.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: And you'll kind of have to  
42 speak up, I'm right next to the fan.

43

44 MR. NICHOLIA: 6th and 7th of October,  
45 Wednesday/Thursday.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

48

49 MR. P. TITUS: Is that with new Board  
50 members?

00249

1 MR. MATHEWS: What?

2

3 MR. P. TITUS: We'll have new Board members,  
4 right, at this meeting?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we don't know how the  
7 selection process will go through.....

8

9 MR. P. TITUS: (Indiscernible - simultaneous  
10 speech) putting our name or not.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it doesn't mean  
13 automatically you're going to get reappointed, but.....

14

15 MR. P. TITUS: Well, I'm not going to put in  
16 my name, okay, so you're going to have a new Board member.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: You're not putting in you name?

19

20 MR. P. TITUS: I said.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then we will have a new  
23 Board members. So the 6th and 7th. Okay. What locations?

24

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Fort Yukon.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I heard Fort Yukon as an  
28 option. We did have lodging problems there before, so Fort  
29 Yukon the 6th and 7th. We need an alternate location.

30

31 CHAIRMAN MILLER: How about Eagle, we ain't  
32 met in Eagle.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: We can go to Eagle, I mean  
35 there's no problem going to Eagle. There's the Yukon Charley  
36 National Rivers Preserve, whatever that is there, so we're  
37 right on top of, you know, Federal lands there.

38

39 So if I understand correctly then, 6th and 7th, first  
40 choice is Fort Yukon, second choice is Eagle.

41

42 Any thoughts about a joint meeting with Western  
43 Interior? It may not be needed at this time, but you're  
44 going to need it at some point with fisheries, possibly with  
45 Western and Yukon-Kuskokwim.

46

47 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And Southcentral.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: And Southcentral? Holy smokes.  
50 Okay, it doesn't seem like you want to do it at this time.

00250

1 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Well, something like that  
2 you should have in Fairbanks or someplace to accommodate  
3 everybody.

4  
5 MR. MATHEWS: But we're not looking at it  
6 this fall is what you're saying. Okay. The topics I heard  
7 so far, and I know it's late in the meeting, but I assume  
8 that the topics would be, correct me if I'm wrong, discussion  
9 of caribou up in 25(A) would be a topic. Any other topics in  
10 particular? There was quite a bits of discussion on muskrat,  
11 I don't know if there would be any to present, but.....

12  
13 MR. C. TRITT: Fisheries.

14  
15 MR. MATHEWS: Well, fisheries automatically  
16 will be. If the Legislature does not action or takes action  
17 that's not in compliance with ANILCA, we're swimming next  
18 fall, there's no doubt about it, we're going to be fishing.

19  
20 MR. FLEENER: So we should have a joint  
21 meeting then.

22  
23 MR. MATHEWS: That's what I'm saying.

24  
25 MR. FLEENER: Then we should have a joint  
26 meeting.

27  
28 MR. P. TITUS: Two different meetings?

29  
30 MR. MATHEWS: No. No.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Have you talked to Eastern  
33 Interior on the.....

34  
35 MR. MATHEWS: No. Well, I'm talking to  
36 Eastern now.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN MILLER: I mean Western.

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: You're starting to talk like  
41 George. No, but you could start the ball rolling and say  
42 that you would like to explore the idea of having a joint  
43 meeting with Western Interior.

44  
45 MR. P. TITUS: October 1st is the day they  
46 take over?

47  
48 MR. FLEENER: That's why it would be good to  
49 have a joint meeting because if they take over October 1st,  
50 is that when the.....

00251

1 MR. MATHEWS: October 1st is when the  
2 regulations go into effect.

3  
4 MR. FLEENER: October 6th would be the  
5 perfect time to discuss it.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN MILLER: How about the 6th, 7th, and  
8 8th in Fairbanks?

9  
10 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. That is an option, you  
11 know, I mean if -- okay, if I can capsulate it, your first  
12 option is Fort Yukon, second is Eagle. If Western Interior  
13 is sympathetic to a joint meeting it would be 6th, 7th and  
14 8th in Fairbanks.

15  
16 MR. GOOD: At the hotel on the Chena River.

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: No, I checked into that  
19 (indiscernible - laughter)

20  
21 MR. FLEENER: Well, we want to meet at  
22 Sophie's.

23  
24 MR. P. TITUS: Peter John Tribal Hall is  
25 opening pretty soon.

26  
27 MR. MATHEWS: I can't hear you, what?

28  
29 MR. DAVEY JAMES: Tanana Chiefs got new hall.

30  
31 MR. P. TITUS: Tanana Chiefs got new  
32 convention center.

33  
34 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, they do have a new  
35 convention -- Peter John Convention Hall or Conference Hall,  
36 whatever. Okay. Is that the wishes of the Council then,  
37 those three options?

38  
39 (No audible responses)

40  
41 MR. MATHEWS: And so we will bring it up to  
42 Western Interior on that next week. There's something we're  
43 forgetting.

44  
45 MR. P. TITUS: Forgetting to adjourn.

46  
47 MR. FLEENER: We need topics for a joint  
48 session?

49  
50 MR. MATHEWS: No, topics for a joint session

00252

1 are a given, it's going to be fisheries.

2

3 MR. FLEENER: Topics for the agenda?

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, and I think we already  
6 covered that, caribou was one for 25(A) and.....

7

8 MR. DAVEY JAMES: Or the harvest quota.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: What?

11

12 MR. FLEENER: The harvest quota.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: That's out of our realm right  
15 now, but the State could be encouraged or invited to speak on  
16 the community harvest.....

17

18 MR. FLEENER: Terry's nodding yes.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Terry's nodding yes, okay.

21

22 CHAIRMAN MILLER: You know, something else  
23 that we should keep going is this co-management that we're  
24 working on. That could be an agenda item for next meeting.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it would be. Ida would be  
27 able to assist if she's going to come to that meeting because  
28 the Staff Committee is, in their development of a plan for  
29 fisheries, is looking at cooperative management or something  
30 similar to that, so the timing would be really good for that.

31

32 MR. FLEENER: I think the, you know, the  
33 intensive management discussion also. I know that you  
34 pointed out that it's not right within our realm, but  
35 intensive management is important, especially in the Yukon  
36 Flats where there's not very many moose, it's an item of  
37 importance.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: True. We'll bring a solicitor  
40 along.

41

42 MR. FLEENER: Get Keith out of his office.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Because seriously the topics  
45 you're touching upon have different ramification, but sure  
46 that -- if we're going to be launching into implementation  
47 that needs to be discussed in fisheries as well as wildlife  
48 or terrestrial or whatever.

49

50 Okay, we don't need any more topics. I'm just trying

00253

1 to get an idea because when I put the agenda together then  
2 generally get agency comments, since you guys are busy with  
3 other things and I'm trying to capture it all now.

4  
5 MR. DAVEY JAMES: Somewhere on the agenda  
6 would be a good one too, the muskrats, you know, you touched  
7 on the muskrats, but that's.....

8  
9 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm just going by level  
10 of discussion, I'm not making it a topic, but.....

11  
12 MR. DAVEY JAMES: Yeah.

13  
14 MR. MATHEWS: And I don't know if there would  
15 be any reports available.

16  
17 MR. FLEENER: I think the muskrat issue is an  
18 important issue, but as it's been pointed out, I don't think  
19 there's been any studies on the muskrat, no one has paid any  
20 attention and maybe what we can request is that someone in  
21 the staff look to see if there is historical data on muskrat  
22 numbers and a place to look might be in harvest records and  
23 look at fluctuations in harvest records. The price has  
24 always been fairly low on rats so it's not like there's a big  
25 difference in price, so that would affect hunting or not. So  
26 that might be a good place to look to see if there's  
27 fluctuations in populations.

28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: I think what you're indicating  
30 there is that -- possibly what we did the meeting before last  
31 is sent an invitation letter to different agencies touching  
32 about the topics, because many of them have left because of a  
33 scheduling conflict. I know they all read the minute  
34 religiously, but it might be good to have a letter sent out.

35  
36 MR. FLEENER: Terry reads them religiously.

37  
38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: I don't want to run the  
41 meeting, but Connie has her hand up.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Connie.

44  
45 MS. FRIEND: Mr. Chairman, as the person who  
46 runs this business by the seat of my pants and experience  
47 from learning only, I'd like to take a minute to thank Craig  
48 Fleener for all the teaching and all of his great  
49 contribution to this process and wish him well in his studies  
50 and to -- for him to hurry back.

00254

1 Thank you.

2  
3 (Applause)

4  
5 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We agree on that.

6  
7 MR. FLEENER: Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN MILLER: We're done, huh.

10  
11 MR. P. TITUS: Move to adjourn.

12  
13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Second.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Okay, it's been moved and  
16 seconded to adjourn.

17  
18 MR. GOOD: Question.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN MILLER: Question has been called  
21 for, all in favor.

22  
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN MILLER: All opposed?

26  
27 (No opposing responses)

28  
29 (Off record - 3:47 p.m.)

30  
31 (MEETING ADJOURNED)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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6

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

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the  
8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby  
9 certify:

10  
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 150 through 254  
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of VOLUME II,  
13 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL PUBLIC  
14 MEETING, taken electronically by David Haynes on the 28th day  
15 of February, 1999, beginning at the hour of 8:44 o'clock a.m.  
16 at the Delta Community Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska;

17  
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript  
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by  
20 under my direction to the best of my knowledge and ability;

21  
22 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party  
23 interested in any way in this action.

24  
25 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 8th day of March,  
26 1999.

27  
28  
29  
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31  
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33

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00