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SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building  
Juneau, Alaska  
March 1, 2023  
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Donald Hernandez, Chairman  
Calvin Casipit  
Michael Douville  
Harvey Kitka  
Cathy Needham  
Patricia Phillips  
Robert Schroeder  
John Smith  
Louie Wagner  
Frank Wright

Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

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

2

3 (Juneau, Alaska - 3/1/2023)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good morning  
8 everybody. It looks like we got just about all the  
9 Council members here, one left out in the hall I think  
10 so we can get underway.

11

12 Tina, maybe I'll check with you, do we  
13 know if we have anybody on the telephone this morning  
14 calling in.

15

16 REPORTER: Is there anybody online this  
17 morning, if you could identify yourself, please. There  
18 was one I know.

19

20 MR. JOHNSON: Ian Johnson.

21

22 REPORTER: Oh, Ian Johnson. Ian, is  
23 that you?

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

26

27 REPORTER: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.  
30 I was just checking to see if any of our absent Council  
31 members tried to call in this morning but apparently  
32 not, maybe they will.

33

34 REPORTER: Are there any Council  
35 members online by any chance.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 REPORTER: I'm not hearing any.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
42 Tina.

43

44 So.....

45

46 MS. PATTON: Hi, Tina, this is Eva  
47 calling in. Not a Council member but the other of two  
48 people that were on, I think, when I called in.

49

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1                   REPORTER: Okay, thanks, Eva. So  
2 that's Eva Patton, and she's with the National Park  
3 Service and she's an ISC member as well.

4  
5                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

6  
7                   REPORTER: Okay.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So it doesn't  
10 sound like there's anybody on the phone that.....

11  
12                  MS. OEHLERS: Yes, good morning. This  
13 is also Susan Oehlers with the Forest Service in  
14 Yakutat on the line.

15  
16                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

17  
18                  REPORTER: Thanks, Susan.

19  
20                  Anybody else.

21  
22                  UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, this  
23 (indiscernible) with the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, good  
24 morning.

25  
26                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So if the people  
27 on the phones line can hear me, I don't know if there's  
28 anybody on there that would like to do a public comment  
29 or a testimony this morning, that's how we start our  
30 meetings. Is there anybody on the phone who would like  
31 to do that.

32  
33                  (No comments)

34  
35                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, apparently  
36 not. Is there anybody in the room who would like to  
37 give any public comments or testimony on any issue  
38 regarding subsistence that's not necessarily on our  
39 agenda but we might want to hear about.

40  
41                  (No comments)

42  
43                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Nope. Okay. So I  
44 guess we can get started with the business of the day.  
45 So we have a couple of time certain here for this  
46 morning, one of which is the wolf update and we'll be  
47 looking for Sara Markegard from Fish and Wildlife  
48 Service, I don't know if we have her available yet. We  
49 also were hoping that maybe Tom Schumacher from Fish  
50

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1 and Game might be here for that. I see Tom is here, I  
2 don't know if Sara is available yet but if not we can  
3 move on.

4

5 REPORTER: Sara, are you online?

6

7 MS. MARKEGARD: Hi, this is Sara  
8 Markegard.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, okay, good  
11 morning Sara. We can lead off with you this morning if  
12 you're ready to give us an update.

13

14 MS. MARKEGARD: Sure, yeah, thank you,  
15 Mr. Chair. And good morning everyone. My name is Sara  
16 Markegard, I'm a Biologist with the U.S. Fish and  
17 Wildlife Service based out of Anchorage on the  
18 traditional lands of the Denin'a, and, yeah, I'm going  
19 to provide an update on the status of the petition to  
20 list the Alexander Archipelago wolf under the  
21 Endangered Species Act.

22

23 So hopefully you're able to view the  
24 visual aid I provided. I don't know, DeAnna, if you're  
25 able to pull that up, but that visual aid shows the  
26 basic timeline of the petition process and I'm just  
27 going to summarize the steps that we've already taken,  
28 where we are now and then what comes next for the  
29 petition.

30

31 So we received the petition to list the  
32 AA Wolf as a threatened or.....

33

34 REPORTER: Do you want me to have her  
35 wait.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: (Nods  
38 affirmatively)

39

40 MS. MARKEGARD: .....endangered  
41 species.....

42

43 REPORTER: Sara. Sara.

44

45 MS. MARKEGARD: .....from the.....

46

47 REPORTER: Sara.

48

49 MS. MARKEGARD: Oops, sorry.

50

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1                   REPORTER: Yeah, could you hold up just  
2 one minute while DeAnna gets that up.

3  
4                   MS. MARKEGARD: Oh, yeah, sure.

5  
6                   REPORTER: Okay, thank you.

7  
8                   (Pause)

9  
10                  REPORTER: Okay, go ahead, Sara.

11  
12                  MS. MARKEGARD: Okay, great, thanks.  
13 Yeah, so I'm just going to start from the top of t hat  
14 graphic and kind of work my way down.

15  
16                  So like I said we received the petition  
17 to list the wolf on July 15th of 2020 and at that point  
18 we began what we call our 90 day review to determine  
19 whether the petitioners provided substantial  
20 information that that listing may be warranted and we  
21 issued our 90 day finding a year later on July 6th of  
22 2021 in which we stated that they did provide  
23 substantial information suggesting that listing may be  
24 warranted. So then at that point we also announced  
25 that we would conduct a 12 month status review, or what  
26 we call a CC (ph) status assessment for the wolf. And  
27 so that kind of brings us to where we are now and  
28 that's indicated by that top red arrow that says we are  
29 here.

30  
31                  So our Anchorage field office has  
32 completed the CC status assessment which includes kind  
33 of the best available information from the literature  
34 from scientific experts and from interviews that we  
35 conducted with indigenous knowledge bearers in  
36 Southeast Alaska and the assessment has been reviewed  
37 by our Alaska Regional Office then they drafted their  
38 recommended findings based on information that we  
39 presented in the assessment.

40  
41                  So the assessment and the draft finding  
42 are to be transmitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
43 Headquarters by the end of this week, so March 3rd, and  
44 then Headquarters will review those documents and  
45 they'll make one of the three listing determinations  
46 that I have shown in the red box on the graphic.

47  
48                  So that is either a not warranted  
49 finding.

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1 Warranted for listing.

2

3 Or warranted for listing but precluded  
4 by other higher priority species.

5

6 And that would mean that we would  
7 basically reevaluate the status of the wolf annually.

8

9 So whatever the determination may be,  
10 Headquarters will publish their findings in the Federal  
11 Register along with the species status assessment in  
12 either June or September of this year, but it would be  
13 no later than September. And they publish their  
14 findings in quarterly batches, which is why it would be  
15 either in June or September but not in between.

16

17 So if Headquarters makes a not  
18 warranted finding that marks the end of the process.  
19 There's no public comment period on not warranted  
20 finding. So this would mean that the wolf would not be  
21 listed under the Endangered Species Act.

22

23 If, however, Headquarters makes a  
24 warranted finding they would proceed to publish a  
25 proposed listing rule in the Federal Register and then  
26 once the proposed rule is published the Fish and  
27 Wildlife Service would initiate a peer review and 60  
28 day comment period. At the end of the peer review and  
29 public comment period Headquarters would make their  
30 final listing determination. And if it changes course  
31 and decide that the wolf is not warranted for listing  
32 and then publish that finding in the Federal Register  
33 or they could confirm their original warranted finding  
34 and then publish the final listing rule in the Federal  
35 Register. And if that were the case the wolf would be  
36 added to the threatened and endangered species list and  
37 that would be effective 30 days after the Federal  
38 Register (indiscernible - cuts out).

39

40 So that is a lot of information to go  
41 over in that little graphic and I'm happy to take any  
42 questions if there are any.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, okay, thank  
45 you, Sara. I see one question, Cathy Needham, go  
46 ahead.

47

48 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 Sara, on the -- there's three potential determinations  
50

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1 that you guys are going to make and the one that is  
2 where the data supports to list but other species are  
3 of higher priority, if that is what the Service  
4 determines, does anything change in terms of the  
5 current management of wolves? As you know our Regional  
6 Advisory Council has worked steadily with the State of  
7 Alaska over time and are currently working under like  
8 the harvest of wolves under a current management plan,  
9 and so if that is the decision of the Service at that  
10 time, does that management plan still -- is that still  
11 a valid management plan or does the taking of wolves  
12 change?

13  
14 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you,  
15 Council Member Needham, that's a really good question.  
16 If it were determined that the wolf were warranted but  
17 precluded from listing, nothing would change with  
18 management. So nothing changes until the wolf is  
19 officially proposed for listing and a final rule has  
20 been published. So we would be working under the kind  
21 of business as usual model for the wolf and nothing  
22 would change in that scenario.

23  
24 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other Council  
27 members with a question.

28  
29 Patty Phillips.

30  
31 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
32 Hernandez. Your presentation shows three peer reviews  
33 of the findings, where are they going to be from? Are  
34 they from Alaska, are they familiar with Prince of  
35 Wales Island, are any of them indigenous or have  
36 indigenous connections?

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you for  
41 that question. I can't say right now who that would  
42 be, we would make that decision if we were to make that  
43 determination. I will say that it would be open to  
44 experts outside of Alaska potentially, it would just  
45 depend on who we decide is most appropriate. It could  
46 include indigenous knowledge holders, it could include  
47 scientific experts and I will also note that we would  
48 have that peer review but we would also seek input from  
49 other partners and members of the public, anyone who is  
50

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1 interested and would like to provide comment.

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, anybody else  
6 on the Council with a question.

7

8 Mike Douville, go ahead.

9

10 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay, you said that  
11 there may be other species that supersede the wolf, and  
12 what we're seeing is -- I'm wondering if deer was one  
13 of those considerations because our ability to harvest  
14 deer for several years now has plummeted because of a  
15 high wolf population. So I'm of the opinion that the  
16 deer are more endangered than the wolf right now. I'm  
17 curious of that. And the true scale of the harvest I  
18 do not believe is indicated by the hunter reports  
19 because we have quite a faction that does not report  
20 their success of efforts.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you,  
25 Council Member Douville. So currently we are not  
26 considering the Sitka black-tailed deer as a potential  
27 candidate for listing. We haven't received a petition  
28 to list that species, and the Fish and Wildlife Service  
29 hasn't initiated our own assessment for that species,  
30 so, no, we aren't considering that to be a potential  
31 higher priority. If that were something of interest  
32 that would require a petition, a formal petition to  
33 list that species. That information -- any information  
34 related to deer, or the wolf or any other species that  
35 interact with the wolf is important information that we  
36 are considering to determine -- help us determine  
37 whether or not the wolf should be listed. So that's  
38 all information that we are considering.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Two more  
41 questions, from Frank Wright first.

42

43 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 Pleasant Island near Hoonah has been hit pretty hard by  
45 the wolves and the deer that used to be there are  
46 disappearing, we haven't seen any deer there in quite  
47 some time so has -- is there any plans with anything of  
48 Pleasant Island, you know, because the wolves just swim  
49 across that little channel there to the island?

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3

4 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you for  
5 that question. And we've been hearing a lot about the  
6 Pleasant Island wolves recently. The paper that was  
7 published by ADF&G recently wasn't included in our  
8 status assessment, it came out too late for that but we  
9 did receive information during interviews with  
10 indigenous knowledge holders about that population that  
11 supported a lot of what was included in that ADF&G  
12 publication as well. So we do have information in our  
13 status assessment related to the Pleasant Island wolves  
14 based on interviews with indigenous knowledge holders.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We also had a  
17 question from John Smith, go ahead, John.

18

19 MR. SMITH: Yeah, can you -- thank you,  
20 Chairman. Thank you. Can you clarify that your  
21 population count, the area spanned that you're counting  
22 these wolves, is that just in the Southeast area,  
23 what's the range there?

24

25 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you that's  
26 a good question. So we cover what we currently  
27 recognize as the range of the wolf, which is basically  
28 from Yakutat in the north all the way down to Vancouver  
29 Island and basically the border of Washington State and  
30 Canada. So along the coast of British Columbia and the  
31 coast of -- and all of Southeast Alaska except for a  
32 few of the islands, so Admiralty, Baranof, and  
33 Chichagof, we didn't include in the range because we  
34 don't have any reported populations of wolves on those  
35 islands and then also Haida Gwaii was excluded because  
36 we don't have any records of wolves on that island  
37 currently, either. So that is the range in which we  
38 were gathering population information.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, John.

41

42 MR. SMITH: Can you give us an idea of  
43 your style of testing you're using, I've heard a lot of  
44 the different GPS, they're doing some rubs and laying  
45 out these boards and getting some of the specimen furs,  
46 can you share how you're doing that and also sharing if  
47 we're actually sending teams out to actually monitor  
48 them visually, or videotape them or that type of  
49 monitoring. Just curious on that process that you  
50 collect your data. And the range, see, I'm hearing

50

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1     that the data that we're doing is from a while back ago  
2     but we're talking about right now so just kind of  
3     clarifying some of that information.

4

5                     Thank you.

6

7                     MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you. So  
8     Fish and Wildlife Service does not actually collect any  
9     of that information, we're not doing our own studies,  
10    we're basically the entity that is gathering all of the  
11    available information, historical and current. And  
12    you're right that is one of the limitations for our  
13    assessment is that for a lot of locations we don't have  
14    recent data and there aren't studies occurring  
15    uniformly across the range of the species and so that's  
16    something that we have to take into account, take into  
17    account and document all of our uncertainty about that  
18    throughout the species data assessment. So really  
19    we're gathering data primarily from the Alaska  
20    Department of Fish and Game research that's going on  
21    across Southeast Alaska and that includes camera traps,  
22    it includes GPS collars, visual surveys and then we  
23    also, like I mentioned, we conducted interviews with  
24    indigenous knowledge holders about their observations  
25    and experiences with wolves and their cultural history  
26    with wolves. In British Columbia we have even less  
27    data but we use harvest reports as we do in Southeast  
28    Alaska as well and then any hare snare data that they  
29    have there as well. And it encompasses a lot of the  
30    same type of surveys that are done in Southeast Alaska  
31    but I would say there's less of an effort being  
32    conducted in British Columbia so we are lacking more  
33    data from that area. We have a lot more data from  
34    Prince of Wales Island than we do anywhere else in  
35    Southeast Alaska as well, and so it is difficult to get  
36    consistent data across the range of the species but our  
37    role is really just to collect that information but  
38    like I said we aren't out conducting surveys ourself.

39

40                    MR. SMITH: Thank you for that  
41    information. So just, you know, we represent the  
42    community, and, you know, I was in Ketchikan and during  
43    that time I heard a lot of testimony and a lot of folks  
44    were at the table so I'm just going to share this and  
45    we could actually look it up on our records of their  
46    testimony, sharing the data -- the data that's been put  
47    up on the table doesn't match with what our community  
48    is saying and visually seeing and just want to echo  
49    that out so everybody hears that.

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 Thank you for all you do.

4

5 Gunalcheesh. Uh.

6

7 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you. Any  
8 other questions. Patty Phillips, go ahead.

9

10 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
11 Hernandez. So our fall meeting is the week of October  
12 24th and if it -- if the report comes out or gets  
13 posted on the Federal Register in September then it  
14 would be within our meeting window, as John Smith  
15 indicated and we all know we hear a lot from the local  
16 knowledge from Prince of Wales Island, traditional  
17 ecological knowledge at our meetings and I would  
18 recommend that there be a hearing held on Prince of  
19 Wales Island during that public comment period. Fish  
20 and Game -- Alaska Department of Fish and Game has  
21 taken the brunt of the heat on this but they've done  
22 the outreach to the communities so I would encourage,  
23 you know, direct connection with the people on the  
24 island to hear their input.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you for  
29 that comment, and I agree, I think I agree we should  
30 definitely make that effort to provide the open and  
31 transparent with the local communities about whatever  
32 decision is made. Like I said, if we decide that the  
33 wolf is not warranted for listing there won't be a  
34 public comment period but that doesn't mean that we  
35 still shouldn't reach out and outreach with the local  
36 communities.

37

38 I will also say that we are always open  
39 to government to government consultation with tribal  
40 members and members of corporations and so that is also  
41 an opportunity. Tribal members can call those meetings  
42 at any time and we would love to interact with them so  
43 that's another opportunity. Any time between now and  
44 September when a decision is made we can host those  
45 tribal consultation meetings.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Harvey Kitka, you  
48 have a question.

49

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1 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
2 probably want to go back to kind of what Mike Douville  
3 asked about the deer. If they put the deer on the list  
4 as part of an endangered species, would that cause any  
5 change to our actual ways of hunting deer, would there  
6 be more regulations on it? I fear that this topic is  
7 going -- is going to come back and bite us real bad  
8 because I think that what we're seeing is the  
9 competition of wolves and people over the food of what  
10 we get. It's not a proper way to do this and I think  
11 that we need to look at this real hard.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you. That  
16 is a really important question and definitely a  
17 consideration. If someone were to request or petition  
18 that the deer be listed under the Endangered Species  
19 Act that's something that we would definitely need to  
20 keep in mind and we're thinking about that for this  
21 wolf listing as well. If either the wolf or deer were  
22 proposed for listing there would be the potential that  
23 harvest activities would be regulated. We do have --  
24 there's a section of the Endangered Species Act that  
25 protects subsistence harvest so if either the wolf or  
26 the deer were to be listed, we would propose a special  
27 rule which would describe if and/or how those species  
28 could be taken, you know, could be harvested under  
29 Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act. So it is  
30 possible that if those deer were listed there could be  
31 regulations on harvest imposed by the Fish and Wildlife  
32 Service. So that's definitely something that we would  
33 need to think about if there was a petition, yes. But  
34 like I said, there is no petition to list the deer  
35 right now but that is something that we would have to  
36 think about if that were the case.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Another question  
39 from Mike Douville.

40

41 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
42 I guess I was confused when you said wolf -- there may  
43 be other species that had a higher priority and my  
44 thought was the only one would be deer. But I was  
45 confused and didn't clearly understand what and how you  
46 were referring to as to other species so that's why  
47 I asked the question about deer.

48

49 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, sorry. And

50

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1 thanks for asking me to clarify that. So the other  
2 priority species would be other species across the  
3 nation that have been petitioned for listing, so that  
4 could include any candidate species that have been  
5 petitioned for listing. That doesn't mean priority  
6 species in Alaska.

7

8 Does that help?

9

10 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes, thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, very  
13 helpful, thank you. Cal Casipit has a question.

14

15 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
16 We're dancing around a question here that -- let me try  
17 to frame it a little bit better. If there is a listing  
18 of the wolf, let's say it goes to that proposed rule in  
19 the Federal Register and you have that, you know the  
20 listing is warranted, at some point you're going to  
21 have some recovery plan for the wolf I would imagine if  
22 this all goes through, could changes -- or could  
23 changes to the hunting strategy, you know, the hunting  
24 regulations, could changes to those regulations be  
25 prescribed by Fish and Wildlife Service in that  
26 recovery plan?

27

28 MS. MARKEGARD: Yes, that's a great  
29 question. And if a -- yeah, if the wolf were to be  
30 listed we would initiate a recovery plan. The recovery  
31 plan itself is not a regulatory document so in that  
32 plan there wouldn't be any prescriptions or regulations  
33 on harvest, however, we would -- the actual listing and  
34 the final listing rule would -- does include  
35 prohibitions of take so there would be regulations on  
36 take through that final rule. That's -- if we decide  
37 to list the wolf, we would also initiate conversations  
38 with tribes, with the State, with the Federal  
39 Subsistence Board, with the Forest Service, any  
40 stakeholders involved to determine how to appropriately  
41 apply this Section 10, which describes any protections  
42 for subsistence harvest. So along with that final rule  
43 we would issue what's called a special rule and that is  
44 what would describe if and how the wolf could be  
45 harvested under the Endangered Species Act. And I  
46 can't elaborate on how we would decide to implement  
47 that at this point. There's numerous ways in which we  
48 could apply it depending on how those conversations  
49 with the agencies and with tribes and hunters and

50

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1 trappers go, there's a fair amount of discretion that's  
2 built into that Section 10 to allow for flexibility.  
3 And so I can't say how harvest would continue but there  
4 is a potential and a likelihood that there would be  
5 additional regulations, yeah, if the wolf were listed,  
6 additional regulations on harvest. Subsistence harvest  
7 would likely be less regulated but if we weren't -- if  
8 it wasn't designated as subsistence there would be  
9 regulations on that, yes.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Cal has a  
12 followup, go ahead, Cal.

13

14 MR. CASIPIT: Thanks. I understand the  
15 issue, I understand that there may be some changes to  
16 the regulations on the taking of wolves, my specific  
17 question is would there be any changes to the taking of  
18 deer since deer is the primary.....

19

20 MS. MARKEGARD: Oh, okay, no, there  
21 would be no changes to -- like we would have no  
22 authority to implement regulations for deer harvest.

23

24 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cal.  
27 Any other questions from Council members. Another one  
28 from Mike Douville, go ahead, Mike.

29

30 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
31 So the regulation on wolf would be focused on wolf  
32 itself and not include timber harvest, things like  
33 that, that would be, I guess timber harvest would be  
34 the focus of my question.

35

36 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, that's a great  
37 question. And that would depend on -- so in addition  
38 to writing up this final rule for the wolf listing we  
39 would include a critical habitat designation which  
40 describes any areas that are critical for wolf  
41 viability and so any of those areas there would likely  
42 be restrictions on any potential destructive or  
43 negative impacts to their habitat which would include  
44 old growth Forest and potentially other areas as well.  
45 So I can't say exactly what those regulations would  
46 look like but it is likely that timber harvest would be  
47 regulated in some fashion in some areas that are really  
48 critical for wolf survival and reproduction. Yes.

49

50

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1 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Cathy  
4 Needham has a question.

5

6 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
7 kind of want to follow up on Cal's question. So along  
8 those lines, like when you do designate critical  
9 habitat, let's just throw the scenario out there that  
10 on Prince of Wales Island becomes critical habitat for  
11 wolves if they're listed, as part of the recovery plan,  
12 with deer being their primary prey species, wouldn't  
13 assuring that wolves have, you know, access of  
14 abundance to their primary food source be part of the  
15 recovery plan and then, thus, potentially have the need  
16 for restrictions on deer harvest?

17

18 MS. MARKEGARD: Yes, that's a great  
19 question. As I mentioned earlier, the recovery plan  
20 itself doesn't have any teeth. It's kind of like --  
21 it's a guidance document, it helps partners come up  
22 with a plan for recovering the wolves. And so there  
23 wouldn't be any regulations included in the recovery  
24 plan and there would be no regulations on deer harvest.  
25 That wouldn't be included in critical habitat. I think  
26 what we're really focused on is the, you know, the  
27 actual habitat and not necessarily like the -- you  
28 know, like the prey of the species, so we'd be focused  
29 on Forest and any other environmental qualities that we  
30 want to uphold for the wolves. So, no, there wouldn't  
31 be regulations on deer harvest in the recovery plan.

32

33 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair, one more.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, one more  
36 from Mike Douville, go ahead.

37

38 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
39 believe that the critical habitat, from what you're  
40 saying, would come at a later date if there was a  
41 listing. On a personal level I don't believe there's  
42 any rationale for listing them but critical habitat is  
43 important to residents of Prince of Wales specifically.  
44 I guess it's a two part question, who would determine  
45 what is the critical habitat and would local knowledge  
46 be included in that. Hopefully we would never have to  
47 go there but even without any listing we still believe  
48 there is critical habitat that needs to be determined.

49

50

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1 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you. So  
2 you're right the critical habitat designation wouldn't  
3 come -- it would basically be issued concurrently or  
4 shortly after the final rule, listing rule was issued.  
5 So that wouldn't be until later until we knew that the  
6 wolf were going to be listed. And, yes, we would work  
7 with any experts, including indigenous knowledge  
8 holders, including scientific experts that has  
9 information that might be pertinent for that critical  
10 habitat designation process. So we would -- yes, we  
11 would be working closely with anyone with information  
12 to help us designate that. And I think what you  
13 mentioned about, you know, proactively designating  
14 these types of critical habitat are really important  
15 and I think that's something that, you know, we -- we  
16 talked about that a bit, I think, at the deer summit  
17 and trying to pinpoint these areas that are really  
18 important and that we need to continue to protect or  
19 restore. And so, yeah, those conversations are ongoing  
20 and I -- I hope that they continue because that's  
21 really what we're -- what we really want to do is  
22 proactively conserve those areas so that listing is not  
23 necessary, so we don't receive petitions to list these  
24 species, that's really what we're hoping for.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody  
27 else with a question.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We've covered a  
32 lot of ground here this morning. I had one other thing  
33 on my mind that we haven't talked about. Here, our  
34 Council has been pretty focused on Southeast Alaska and  
35 a lot of that focus seems to center on Prince of Wales  
36 Island but as you indicated it's a very broad range  
37 that is under consideration, all the way down through  
38 British Columbia. I was just wondering, are there any  
39 other what you might call hot spots of concern in that  
40 broad range that we are not even thinking about on our  
41 radar that could be a factor in this listing?

42  
43 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, that's a really  
44 good question. And there are other areas that we are  
45 thinking about. I think especially areas where there's  
46 potential for higher timber harvest so there's a lot of  
47 locations in Southeast Alaska where timber harvest has  
48 occurred at an even greater rate than Prince of Wales  
49 Island and so those are the types of areas that we're  
50

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1 looking at. There's also areas where wolf harv -- I'm  
2 sorry -- wolf and deer harvest occur at greater rates  
3 and those are areas that we're looking at more closely.  
4 I can't really say exactly where those are at this  
5 point but, yes, we're aware of other locations where  
6 wolves may be at greater risk than other areas. Yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I think  
9 we've got to keep that in mind as well, so, thank you.  
10 There is definitely some uncertainties.....

11

12 MS. MARKEGARD: Yes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....in -- around  
15 this room. So we will wait and see, I guess, what  
16 happens. Any final questions from the Council.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I guess not. So,  
21 Sara, thank you for answering our questions, it's been  
22 very helpful and informative.

23

24 MS. MARKEGARD: Yeah, thank you for  
25 having me. Some really, really good questions.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
28 once again. And on this wolf topic we also have Tom  
29 Schumacher from the Department of Fish and Game. Tom,  
30 I don't know if you are here to maybe give us a little  
31 update on what's been happening with the recent wolf  
32 harvest or maybe any other information you might have  
33 and also I might ask that while you're here, I don't  
34 know, if the Council might have some other general  
35 questions on, you know, harvests this past season or  
36 other issues, maybe things that happened with the Board  
37 of Game perhaps. Things like that. So are you  
38 prepared to maybe answer some other questions other  
39 than on wolf this morning?

40

41 MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
42 And thank you Council members for having me here today.  
43 It's a good thing you started the meeting yesterday it  
44 might not have started today.

45

46 I didn't come with my notes from the  
47 Board of Game meeting, I can tell you what I remember  
48 but I may not have a comprehensive memory of all the  
49 decision that were made there but I did come primarily  
50

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1 to talk about wolves, that was the request I got but  
2 I'll answer any other questions you have. I'm at your  
3 disposal this morning.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure. We might  
6 only be focused on the wolf but I just thought I'd ask  
7 if you were prepared but, yeah, let's talk about the  
8 wolf harvest if that's what you're here for, so, go  
9 ahead.

10  
11 MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, harvest this  
12 past year, I think most of you probably know, at this  
13 point I only know the harvest on Prince of Wales  
14 Island, I think we have it somewhere -- well, actually  
15 the season is still open in most areas, so Prince of  
16 Wales, I believe it was 64 wolves sealed this year so  
17 about the same as the last three years. And that's  
18 pretty much what I know about wolf harvest on Prince of  
19 Wales.

20  
21 Our crew went out and did their work  
22 for the population estimate last fall and we'll  
23 hopefully have that sooner than we have in the past,  
24 Covid, and delays with the lab have held things up in  
25 the last few years.

26  
27 To follow up on a couple of things, it  
28 sounds like there's some new members here who don't  
29 have the background in Unit 2 and the ESA process, so  
30 I'll follow up on a few things that Sara said.

31  
32 The petition was filed for, you know,  
33 it affects all wolves, the petition asks that the  
34 Alaska population be separated from the Canadian  
35 population for the analysis. Canada, it's thought,  
36 supports about two-thirds of the wolves classified as  
37 Alexander Archipelago wolves and Alaska roughly a  
38 third. In writing the species status assessment, which  
39 is the document the Fish and Wildlife Service uses to  
40 make their decision, they convened an expert team. I  
41 was a member of that team as was Gretchen Roffler who's  
42 our wolf researcher. There were a few other people on  
43 the team, Bonnie Bennetson from the Forest Service,  
44 Sara was the leader of the team, there were a couple of  
45 other Fish and Wildlife Service people and a wolf  
46 researcher from Canada. Under their new rules, only  
47 people who are on the wolf expert team were allowed to  
48 review the draft species status assessment and comment  
49 on it so only Gretchen Roffler and I were allowed to  
50

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1 review it, it was done through a portal where you could  
2 access the draft through a portal if you -- you had to  
3 have a password to get in there, and then you submitted  
4 comments through another port -- a very restricted  
5 process. And so we were unable to bring the  
6 Department's full expertise on wolves, it was just  
7 myself and Gretchen Roffler. The review period happened  
8 to coincide with the period of field work for Gretchen  
9 so she was actually in Gustavus using her cell phone as  
10 a hot spot to try to do this. But we got our comments  
11 submitted.

12  
13 I don't know what the final species  
14 status assessment looks like. We had a lot of  
15 comments. I don't know to what degree they were  
16 incorporated or not. So like I say we'll find out at  
17 some point here.

18  
19 There were some other questions that  
20 came for Sara relative to that, or that their analysis  
21 broke the Alaska portion of the popul -- or the  
22 Alexander Archipelago wolf population into three  
23 segments for analysis. One segment -- and these are  
24 based on genetic information of the Department is  
25 gathered, it's really like what -- what form of sub-  
26 populations of the entire Alaska population.

27  
28 So Game Management Unit 1A, Ketchikan,  
29 mainland area there, and Unit 3, so the islands of  
30 Central Southeast were deemed -- were one unit. We  
31 don't have much data from Unit 1B, there's very little  
32 wolf harvest there, that mainland east of Petersburg  
33 and Wrangell but in all likelihood wolves from there,  
34 Unit 1A, Unit 1B, and Unit 3 appeared to mix and form a  
35 unit. Game Management Unit 2, Prince of Wales and  
36 associated islands was another separate unit because  
37 genetics indicate there's very little interchange  
38 between other areas and Unit 2. And then there was a  
39 northern unit that was Game Management Units 1C, 1D and  
40 5A, so all the way from Cape Fanshaw north to Yakutat.  
41 That portion of the population appears to have a lot  
42 more mixing, it's a lot greater genetic diversity  
43 there, you know, there's more contact through main  
44 river routes with inland wolves so genetically speaking  
45 that's the most diverse. Unit 1A, B and 3, that  
46 population is pretty inbred, but Unit 2 is most inbred.  
47 And the inbreeding, you know, in and of itself is not a  
48 bad thing, it's expected, particularly in island  
49 populations or in any isolated populations. The degree  
50

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1 of inbreeding that matters because if you have a high  
2 degree of inbreeding or closely related individuals are  
3 breeding with each other you have a greater chance of  
4 unfavorable genetic traits being carried by both  
5 parents and being expressed in the offsprings. If  
6 those genetic traits make the animals less fit, less  
7 able to reproduce and survive, that's inbreeding  
8 depression. That's where you have a decline in the  
9 population related to a very limited genetic component.

10  
11 So that's -- that and, you know,  
12 illegal harvest was another one that was highlighted in  
13 the BC status assessment, particularly in Unit 2. The  
14 draft assessment used what I consider to be a very high  
15 rate of unreported harvest. For Unit 2 they applied a  
16 somewhat lower rate of unreported harvest to wolves  
17 elsewhere but in my opinion both of them were high and  
18 over estimate the effect of that.

19  
20 Prey was another.....

21  
22 (Teleconference interference -  
23 participants not muted)

24  
25 REPORTER: So people online, if I could  
26 have you mute your lines, we can hear someone typing.  
27 Thank you. Go ahead Tom.

28  
29 MR. SCHUMACHER: Prey availability was  
30 another issue that was analyzed in there in terms of,  
31 you know, how much prey is available to each of those  
32 wolf populations, both in terms of species and the  
33 number of animals of each species. You know Prince of  
34 Wales has primarily deer -- this was only ungulates, so  
35 on the mainland it might be moose and goats, or just  
36 goats, or goats and deer, depending on where you are.

37  
38 So those are things that figured into  
39 their population modeling. The modeling looked at near  
40 term trajectory of populations of those three groups of  
41 wolves for six years and then longer term, 30 year  
42 trajectories for populations. And we had a lot of  
43 comments on the modeling work. So I guess we'll see if  
44 our comments were incorporated.

45  
46 I'd like to move on now and remind  
47 everybody that we also have a lawsuit going on in  
48 addition to the Endangered Species Act petition. The  
49 Alaska Wildlife Alliance sued the State of Alaska,  
50

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1 Department of Fish and Game over management of Unit 2  
2 wolves back in 2020. That lawsuit resulted in a trial  
3 eventually, that was April last year, so we had to  
4 spend a week in court. The judge eventually found in  
5 the State's favor. The State is -- this is a  
6 constitutional case, though, where the plaintiffs say  
7 that the Department is not managing the Unit 2 wolf  
8 population consistent with the sustained yield clause  
9 in the Constitution. And we prevailed in court, the  
10 plaintiff's asked for reconsideration, the judge said,  
11 no, and so the plaintiffs appealed the case to the  
12 Alaska Supreme Court, because it is a constitutional  
13 case the court apparently is obliged to hear it so we  
14 are now engaged in that process. Briefs have been  
15 filed, or at least the plaintiff's brief has been  
16 filed. I believe the State's brief has been or will be  
17 filed soon and we anticipate oral arguments will be  
18 held sometime this spring and then what I'm told, that  
19 it could be six months to two years before the court  
20 issues an opinion. So that's going to be hanging out  
21 there for awhile.

22  
23 So let's get out of that realm of  
24 things.

25  
26 And I was going to talk about -- since  
27 Sara talked about ESA stuff, I'm going to leave that  
28 alone, she covered, I think, where we are in the  
29 process so I wanted to move on to just Unit 2 wolves  
30 because that's where, I think, most of the rub is and  
31 talk about what we have going on there and how we're  
32 trying to address issues raised in the listing petition  
33 and issues that we've discovered on our own -- through  
34 our own research.

35  
36 You know we are going to be putting out  
37 a wolf newsletter to folks in Unit 2 and, you know, PO  
38 Box holders on the island, we're planning to get that  
39 out this spring, just to update people on what we're  
40 doing and a little bit on, you know, an update on the  
41 ESA and things like that so everybody's in the know.  
42 You know we're shooting for this spring for that.

43  
44 We also have a management plan, you  
45 know, it's a -- and there's a little confusion over  
46 what this is. The State developed a management plan in  
47 2019 to accompany the regulatory changes that changed  
48 the harvest management strategy from when it was based  
49 on a quota to when it was based on a population  
50

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1 objective. The management plan is not regulation. So  
2 it is outside State regulation, and that was  
3 intentional on our part because we wanted the  
4 flexibility to change it outside of Board of Game  
5 cycle. The Board of Game meets three -- every three  
6 years and that had handicapped us in management in the  
7 past. So the management plan was explicitly kept  
8 outside the Board process. However, it was intended to  
9 be a three year document and then reviewed after three  
10 years. We had Covid and delay in word process so that  
11 stretched to four but we're going to undertake an  
12 effort this year to begin updating that management  
13 plan. I don't anticipate any huge changes in it but I  
14 think we are going to incorporate some of the new  
15 things that we've learned in the last few years into --  
16 into management but I don't anticipate a lot of big  
17 changes in how things are actually done on the ground.

18  
19 So genetics are a big deal.  
20 Particularly in Unit 2. So we are looking at a number  
21 of projects right now to investigate genetics. You  
22 know, as many of you know we use DNA in our population  
23 estimates but we've also had a Master's thesis that we  
24 supported -- a Master's student from University of  
25 Montana a few years ago whose research showed that we  
26 have -- that Unit 2, in particular, is isolated from  
27 other parts of the region, that population, that means  
28 that -- it doesn't mean wolves never go back and forth,  
29 it just means that it's very rare for a wolf to go from  
30 outside Unit 2 and join the Unit 2 breeding population.  
31 From a genetics point of view, if you don't breed, you  
32 don't count, so -- and that's really what matters there  
33 in terms of genetic diversity of bringing new material  
34 in. So to follow up on that work we're hiring a post-  
35 doc position through the University of Montana to use  
36 whole genome sequencing to look at genetics throughout  
37 the region with a focus on Unit 2. We're going to do  
38 whole genome sequencing on samples from about 200  
39 wolves, those samples are in-hand now and at the  
40 University of Montana and I believe have already been  
41 analyzed, and whole genome sequencing is a big deal.  
42 It produces an enormous data set. Previous work with  
43 wolves has worked with micro-satellites which is a tiny  
44 little look at DNA, you're just looking at -- we use 15  
45 different locations on the genome to identify  
46 individual wolves, but they're tiny little pieces.  
47 There's another method called Snips, which looks at  
48 larger sections of -- of DNA to compare how related  
49 wolves are, but whole genome sequencing is, you know,  
50

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1 it's -- that's the whole thing so this is a big project  
2 that's going to be a two year product. A post-doc, if  
3 -- if you're not familiar with the term is someone who  
4 has completed a doctorate and is done with their  
5 schooling but it's an opportunity for them to continue  
6 working in fields and doing research and developing  
7 scientific publications because that's the currency  
8 that helps them get jobs, particularly jobs at  
9 universities. So this is scheduled to be a two year  
10 project and we will learn about connectivity and -- and  
11 structuring throughout the region and in particularly  
12 in Unit 2, we also hope to learn about diversity within  
13 Unit 2 and how likely we are to encounter problems with  
14 inbreeding, how often -- or how much -- or how often, I  
15 guess we get new individuals entering into that  
16 population. So we're hoping that will be informative  
17 for -- for future management.

18  
19 Another genetics effort we've got  
20 going, as I mentioned, the Endangered Species petition  
21 asked that the Alaska and Canadian populations be  
22 separated for analysis. Gretchen Roffler is working  
23 with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to  
24 provide, I think, through Sara Markegard's program, to  
25 collect genetic data on the Canadian side of the border  
26 south just -- you know, just south around Prince Rupert  
27 and that area, to look at how different are those  
28 wolves from -- or how related are they, those wolves,  
29 to wolves in adjacent Alaska. You know that's looking  
30 at gene flow across the border. If there's a good  
31 deal of gene flow across the border then, you know,  
32 maybe there's not much of a case for separating the  
33 populations. If there is little gene flow across the  
34 border then, you know, maybe there's a stronger case  
35 for doing that. That work started last summer, it'll  
36 go on this summer and we're hoping to get a third  
37 summer in because it's hard to get samples. You know,  
38 and -- and we're just doing hair board samples or, you  
39 know, trying to collect anything else we can but mostly  
40 hair boards, some scats, because you can get wolf DNA  
41 from wolf scats. So that's going on as well.

42  
43 Let's see, Pleasant Island. I heard  
44 that this morning from Mr. Wright. The work we got  
45 going on Pleasant Island and Gustavus is pretty  
46 important to the ESA question because what we're  
47 learning, you know, wolves as far as we know colonized  
48 Pleasant Island in 2013, deer, you know, were -- that  
49 was a place where people from Gustavus, in particular,  
50

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1 went deer hunting, wolves arrived there, they increased  
2 the numbers. I think we -- since -- maybe 13 was the  
3 most that was ever seen there, in 2017, since then  
4 numbers have declined, but as Member Casipit  
5 mentioned.....

6  
7 (Teleconference interference -  
8 participants not muted)

9  
10 REPORTER: Please mute your phones.  
11 Thank you. Whoever just blew their nose. Thank you.

12  
13 MR. SCHUMACHER: .....you know -- or  
14 Member Wright mentioned that wolves had quite an effect  
15 on the deer there. However, wolves persist there  
16 today. There are -- you know we -- we have looked for  
17 deer sign on the island, haven't found any, it's hard  
18 to definitely say there are no deer there but if there  
19 are there are very, very few deer there. There are  
20 occasionally moose there. And the wolves that are  
21 there do occasionally prey on moose. But it's not  
22 common. Those wolves are pretty much subsisting on sea  
23 otters. Up until last year they had been successful  
24 breeding every single year, last year they did not  
25 succeed in breeding that we know of, and so it'll be  
26 interesting to follow the trajectory of that population  
27 but it's -- that population supports the idea that  
28 wolves can live on islands without deer and wolves can  
29 live on very small islands without deer and this is  
30 something we've heard from folks in Unit 2, Member  
31 Douville, in particular, you know, that wolves can  
32 persist on these smaller islands as a whole pack, you  
33 know, for a period of time and then, you know, they may  
34 leave or die but -- you know, that -- that smaller  
35 islands can support an entire pack. So that work is  
36 kind of important for building a record of that.

37  
38 We're also looking at movement back and  
39 forth from Pleasant Island to the Gustavus mainland,  
40 and at this point we don't see any. The wolves that  
41 went to Pleasant Island stay there, you know, we have  
42 radio collars on -- or we have, I'm not sure we --  
43 yeah, we do have -- we still have one collar out there.  
44 And we also looked at scats from Pleasant Island and a  
45 whole bunch of scats from the mainland and you can ID  
46 wolves through their scat as I noted, and there is no  
47 wolf identified on Pleasant Island has ever been  
48 identified on the mainland and no wolf identified on  
49 the mainland has ever been identified on Pleasant  
50

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1 Island so they don't appear to be going back and forth,  
2 they appear to be living on Pleasant Island and  
3 primarily eating sea otters.

4  
5 So that's -- that's interesting stuff  
6 and it helps to build a case that smaller islands,  
7 particularly the outer islands, or on the west of  
8 Prince of Wales, you know, can support a fair number of  
9 wolves.

10  
11 We're still working on our predation  
12 rate and diet throughout the region. So, you know,  
13 we're collecting scats and doing what's called DNA  
14 metabar coding analysis of scats, and that's where you  
15 are able to extract DNA from the prey items that were  
16 -- that the wolf ate. And it's much -- it gives you a  
17 better -- a finer resolution look at diet than just  
18 mechanical sorting, in other words, just pulling a scat  
19 apart and going well, you know, I see some deer hair  
20 and here's a -- a bird leg or something like that,  
21 metabar coding let's you analyze all the different  
22 species that are in there.

23  
24 (Teleconference interference -  
25 participants not muted)

26  
27 REPORTER: So whoever's typing online  
28 can you please check your line and mute it. It's  
29 interrupting the presentation. We'd appreciate it.

30  
31 MR. SCHUMACHER: The predation rate  
32 work that we're doing involves GPS collars that are set  
33 for two periods of the year to collect data every, I  
34 believe, six hours. And that enables us to identify  
35 places where wolves spent a period of time and if  
36 they're spending a period of time there it's probably  
37 because they have a kill so that -- that point in the  
38 -- you know -- you know the wolves -- the collars are  
39 satellite linked so they will spit data out daily and  
40 we -- you know, clusters of points -- you know go and  
41 investigate there and see what's, you know, what's  
42 there. Sometimes it's nothing, sometimes they're just  
43 resting but other times, you know, it's -- you know  
44 they ate a mountain goat, they -- you know, you can say  
45 it was an adult female mountain goat or something --  
46 you know, depending on what you can find at the site,  
47 you can tell often packs of wolves of various sizes  
48 make kills. So that work's going on across the region  
49 now. We got Pleasant Island, Gustavus mainland, an  
50

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1 area actually just outside of Ketchikan and we collared  
2 a wolf from the Petersburg area but soon after we  
3 collared it, it took off and went south on Mitkof  
4 Island, swam over to the mainland, went across the  
5 Stikine, down the mainland, and then I think across  
6 Wrangell and then out to south Etolin and it's on south  
7 Etolin now. It's a little more -- it's not really what  
8 we -- we were hoping to get the information but, you  
9 know, if we can get some information from it, great,  
10 but, you know, south Etolin as many of you are aware is  
11 Forest Service wilderness and if -- you know so it's  
12 difficult to reach some of the sites there. We're  
13 working with the Forest Service to get a permit to land  
14 a helicopter in there so we can get up to some of the  
15 more -- more remote clusters of points if that becomes  
16 necessary but we haven't yet to secure that permit,  
17 however, we and the Forest Service are working on that.

18

19 Let's see what else are we doing.

20

21 We're supporting a PhD student through  
22 the University of Alaska Fairbanks Coop Research Unit.  
23 So that's a -- the cooperative research unit is a  
24 collaboration between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
25 Service and the University of Alaska system. We  
26 supported a PhD student beginning, I think, two years  
27 ago on Prince of Wales Island to look at camera based  
28 methods for estimating wolf abundance with the idea  
29 that camera based methods could be an alternative to  
30 the current DNA based method or the two could be used  
31 together in an integrated approach. The student began  
32 field work very late two years ago, I think it was  
33 October or November before he actually got started and  
34 everybody knows that's kind of late in the year to get  
35 out and do stuff in the field, the next year he got out  
36 in the summer, got more cameras out, the goal was 100  
37 cameras on Prince of Wales, he got about 50 out, then  
38 after last summer's effort that student decided that  
39 the project just wasn't for him and he decided to leave  
40 the program, however, we worked very hard to recruit a  
41 new PhD student to continue that program and we've got  
42 a new student on board who will get back to doing field  
43 work next summer. And that project -- because of that  
44 change in student is -- the outcome of that project is  
45 probably going to extend into 2027, I think. So it's  
46 going to be awhile before we have results from that  
47 effort. However we also got a bonus out of that  
48 because one of the technicians who will be working with  
49 the student is going to do a Master's program using the

50

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1 same cameras to try to look at monitoring deer  
2 abundance using those same cameras because, you know,  
3 the cameras take pictures of everything. So we're  
4 hopefully getting a little more bang for our buck there  
5 than we originally planned.

6  
7 And then finally, you know, we  
8 discovered that our earlier DNA based estimates were  
9 probably biased low. There were probably a number of  
10 reasons for that. We've also learned that through  
11 cameras on traps that, you know, not all wolves are  
12 equally likely to roll on hair boards and leave samples  
13 so we have cameras on quite a lot of hair boards and  
14 we're trying to look at wolf behavior around the hair  
15 boards and you see wolves that kind of pounce right on  
16 them and roll around, there are others that pussy foot  
17 around for awhile and then roll, there are others that  
18 investigate them and may pick them up and carry them  
19 around or paw at them but don't roll and there are  
20 others that just kind of walk by in the background and  
21 don't even stop. So we're looking for bias in that,  
22 you know, are there certain ages or sexes or something  
23 like that that we can tell from cameras that bias that  
24 and if we learn something about that we can incorporate  
25 that into the population estimate. We can account for  
26 it in a population estimate. And then we're looking at  
27 different ways of analyzing the DNA data. We've been  
28 using a program called Seeker, which is a canned  
29 program so there's a -- there are limited things that  
30 you can do to modify it. Our biometrician is looking  
31 at converting that to a different kind of framework,  
32 statistical framework -- that'll give us more options  
33 for investigating different ways of analyzing that data  
34 and if we can come up with a more robust way of doing  
35 it we will certainly do that.

36  
37 So that -- that's kind of my update on  
38 wolf research and how wolf -- how our wolf research is  
39 directed at the very real management questions  
40 throughout the region and with -- in particular in Unit  
41 2.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, yeah, thank  
44 you, Tom, for a pretty detailed presentation there on  
45 all the research that is going on and a lot of it  
46 pertaining to the endangered species listing so that's  
47 pretty helpful.

48  
49 Do Council members have any questions  
50

0159

1 they'd like to ask.

2

3

Cathy Needham.

4

5

MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

It's hard to believe that all of that came off of that  
7 one little piece of orange paper that you have.

8

9

(Laughter)

10

11

MR. SCHUMACHER: I write very small.

12

13

(Laughter)

14

15

MS. NEEDHAM: Right, very small, bullet  
16 points and then expanded upon.

17

18

(Laughter)

19

20

MS. NEEDHAM: But that was a lot and I  
21 appreciate the thoroughness of reporting out of what's  
22 going on with regard to like research with wolves and  
23 stuff, I think it's nice, for me, and probably other  
24 Council members to know like all the different aspects  
25 of what are going on.

26

27

You mentioned that the management plan  
28 is undergoing a review and although you don't expect  
29 significant changes there are possible some changes.  
30 In that management plan, the Department worked pretty  
31 closely with users on the Island as well as, you know,  
32 members of this Council, you had public input  
33 engagement on all of that. Through the review, will  
34 you have some level of that cooperation with, not just  
35 like the Federal management side of things, but local  
36 folks as well or is this just going to be a review that  
37 the Department undertakes and then any recommended  
38 changes will just get implemented because that's how  
39 you're improving that management plan at this point in  
40 time.

41

42

MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, through the  
43 Chair to Member Needham. Thank you for bringing that  
44 up. That was something that was not included on my  
45 little piece of paper.

46

47

(Laughter)

48

49

MR. SCHUMACHER: But, yes, the

50

0160

1 management plan review, the intent there is to have  
2 that be a very public process because we think being  
3 public and forthcoming is the best way to go about this  
4 and that will include reaching out to our detractors as  
5 well.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Patty  
8 Phillips.

9  
10 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
11 Hernandez. Thank you, Mr. Schumacher, that was really  
12 an interesting report. Building off of what Cathy  
13 asked, you said that you would be implementing minor  
14 changes in the management plan, can you give us any  
15 hints what.....

16  
17 MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, I guess what  
18 I.....

19  
20 MS. PHILLIPS: .....they might be?

21  
22 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, through the  
23 Chair to Member Phillips. You know nothing is set in  
24 stone at this point, we haven't even started the  
25 process. Well, I guess what I meant to say is I don't  
26 see tremendous liberalization or restrictions on  
27 harvest opportunity coming out of it. I think that we  
28 have enough questions about the population that we do  
29 need to be somewhat careful with it and until we know  
30 more, I think that harvest opportunity will probably  
31 remain roughly about the same but, you know, we may  
32 learn more in the next couple of years and something  
33 like that and it will change. Or the population may be  
34 listed and may be taken out of our hands.

35  
36 MS. PHILLIPS: Follow up.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Follow up, go  
39 ahead, Patty.

40  
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
42 So you said the population estimates are biased -- seem  
43 to be biased low and that sort of matches up with what  
44 we're hearing from the local hunters from POW.

45  
46 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, through the  
47 Chair to Member Phillips. Our earlier population  
48 estimates were biased low. We now have good reason to  
49 believe that's the case. Current population estimates  
50

0161

1 last -- you know, two, three, four years they're -- we  
2 don't think that they are -- that is possible but  
3 there's -- there's -- we don't have any reason to  
4 believe that the population estimates from 2019 forward  
5 were biased low. Of earlier estimates, which is what  
6 the population objective range were based on were  
7 biased low so the population objective range that is in  
8 current State regulation and that is in regulation,  
9 it's not in the management plan, it's in regulation,  
10 was based on information that was biased low. At the  
11 recent Board of Game meeting there was a proposal to  
12 raise that population objective, our analysis to the  
13 Board was that at this time we can't recog -- we don't  
14 have a quantitative way of recommending what it should  
15 be. So the -- they decided to not take action on that  
16 proposal and asked us to manage the population in a  
17 sustainable way until we had better information and  
18 could -- could recommend a population range.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Another follow up  
21 Patty, go ahead.

22

23 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 Mr. Schumacher, you talked about the radio collar on  
25 the one wolf that ended up on Etolin Island, is there  
26 radio collars on POW and what are you finding from that?

27

28 MR. SCHUMACHER: Through the Chair to  
29 Member Phillips, good question. That was something  
30 else that I meant to have on my little piece of paper  
31 but didn't, we've done this kind of predation rate work  
32 in a number of areas around the region. Prince of  
33 Wales is a place we have yet to get to but we do intend  
34 to. You know if we're there we can work with locals to  
35 get a hand on getting our hands on some wolves, all the  
36 better, or to help us with kill site investigations all  
37 the better, but Prince of Wales is on the list we're  
38 just not there yet.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. I just  
41 want to go back to the management plan for a second  
42 here before we get away from that. This year's  
43 harvest, how would you say that that fit in with your  
44 management plan, did it pretty much satisfy that plan  
45 or are you happy with it?

46

47 MR. SCHUMACHER: One of the -- well,  
48 you know, through the Chair to the Chair. The  
49 management plan, you know, was written, it was sort of

50

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1 a best guess in 2018 and, of course, it was endorsed by  
2 the Board of Game in 2019 and it's been with us ever  
3 since. That plan had four harvest management zones  
4 where season length, those were based on where the  
5 population estimates said the population was, those  
6 population ranges were referenced, population estimates  
7 that we now know were biased low so, you know, for  
8 instance, I think we have -- if the population was  
9 between 150 and 200 wolves there could be up to eight  
10 months of trapping -- or eight weeks of trapping  
11 opportunity, or two months -- yeah, eight months --  
12 eight weeks of trapping opportunity, however, we have  
13 learned that keeping trapping season open that long can  
14 result in a very high harvest, that's what we learned  
15 in 2019 where we had a two month season and had 164  
16 wolves sealed so I think, you know, one of the things  
17 we're going to look at is the value of having those  
18 zones -- or if there's a better way of -- of laying  
19 out how we -- how much harvest opportunity we decide to  
20 allow in a year -- what we decide is appropriate and  
21 sustainable.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. So the  
24 taking of 64 wolves this year, do you think that fit in  
25 pretty well with your management strategy or were you,  
26 you know, any expectations or, you know,  
27 dissatisfaction with how that take went or I was just  
28 kind of curious on that.

29

30 MR. SCHUMACHER: I think given what we  
31 have learned about the population since 2019 that, yes,  
32 that was appropriate amount of harvest this year, you  
33 know, we had a fall 2021 population estimate -- a point  
34 estimate of 268, I believe and that's an estimate and  
35 there's a range of error in there so it was perhaps  
36 268, perhaps more, perhaps fewer, but we had 60-some  
37 wolves taken out of that then that would put us, you  
38 know, potentially somewhere in the neighborhood of 200  
39 wolves on the island. Given what we've learned about  
40 the genetics of that population and the potential for  
41 problems with inbreeding depression I think that is an  
42 appropriate level of harvest for the long-term  
43 conservation of the population.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, that's kind  
46 of what I was looking for. So, yeah, thank you.

47

48 John Smith has a question.

49

50

0163

1 MR. SMITH: Yeah, thank you for all  
2 your information. I really appreciate all the hard  
3 work you're doing on collecting that data. I really  
4 like the newsletter and, of course, you mentioned that  
5 you were sending it to one unit, I surely would love to  
6 have that on the table for everybody that -- you know,  
7 if we could get that that would be awesome when you do  
8 develop that newsletter for the wolves and making sure  
9 it's available for everybody.

10

11 On the -- also listening to you, you  
12 know, you really narrowed down and talking about Unit  
13 2, but just to -- you know, to encourage that you're  
14 looking at all of them in Southeast, the very -- and  
15 giving them all the same attention and I'm sure you  
16 are, just a point from listening. And really  
17 appreciate the video cameras being out there and like  
18 you were talking about that maybe you saw a deer, maybe  
19 there's a mink or an otter or whatever that would show  
20 up, that that information gets out to the rest of the  
21 team so that that data is recorded and the same with  
22 the deer. Like the team that's out there repping the  
23 deer that they're making sure that if a wolf walks  
24 across, that they're collecting that data for you, you  
25 know, the team effort. And I'm sure that's happening,  
26 I'm just going by what I'm hearing and vice versa, the  
27 team.

28

29 You know just sharing in a culture  
30 team, the wolf and the deer, you know, they're one in  
31 the same family, two different families, you know, two  
32 different people in our culture would say (In Tlingit),  
33 the wolf people, or (In Tlingit) the deer people and  
34 they work together, you know, as a hunter. If I'm  
35 going to go out and I'm hunting a new spot and I see a  
36 wolf track, am I going to leave, no, I'm going to stay  
37 there and I'm going to go follow it because there's a  
38 reason the wolf's there, there's food there.

39

40 So just a perspective.

41

42 And also I hear -- and this is just  
43 opinion from what I'm hearing to clarify some of these  
44 things about contradicting, and I don't hear very well  
45 so I'm doing my best so I hear about Gustavus and the  
46 wolves going across or not or they're here, you know,  
47 from my testimony of being out in the field I see them  
48 moving quite often even to where I see a bear, just to  
49 share, Port Frederick, only took him 20 minutes to get  
50

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1 from one point all the way to the other side and that's  
2 a couple miles, he was going about 35 horse, this bear,  
3 and even when he hit the beach he was still running.  
4 So I've seen this so even to where we're getting moose  
5 on Chichagof Island. So just -- your opinion, straight  
6 up, yes, they do travel across the water because I've  
7 been in Swanson Harbor and I spend a lot of time there  
8 and they travel across the -- when the tide goes out,  
9 they go out to the island and you can hear them,  
10 they're loving it and they don't go by themselves, the  
11 wolf -- you can hear them the whole time, the six hours  
12 the tide's out, when the tide starts coming you can sit  
13 there and watch them from across, so they go across  
14 that way and also swim. Just to share a point of view.  
15

16 And your opinion, from the community,  
17 you know, and we're hearing in testimony of them saying  
18 that, no, the data isn't matching with your data, can  
19 you just give me your opinion from what you see in your  
20 data, you know, is that number matching from what the  
21 community says and what the data says on the paper?  
22

23 Thank you.  
24

25 MR. SCHUMACHER: Through the Chair to  
26 Member Smith. Are you asking about a particular area?  
27

28 MR. SMITH: No, I'm just -- you know,  
29 in your studies, all in general of this area, yes.  
30

31 MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, we certainly  
32 have local knowledge from the Gustavus area that wolves  
33 move out on to Pleasant Island and Hoonah. Like you,  
34 I've spent a lot of time in Hoonah and I've seen bears  
35 swimming across Port Frederick.  
36

37 MR. SMITH: Uh-huh.  
38

39 MR. SCHUMACHER: And wolves can  
40 obviously swim across from Gustavus to Pleasant Island,  
41 it's only about a half mile.  
42

43 And the reason we've done the work  
44 there that we have, particularly of collecting scats,  
45 both on the island and on the adjacent mainland is to  
46 look for to see whether those lives that live on the  
47 island go to the mainland. You know we have some of  
48 those wolves collared, none of the collared wolves have  
49 gone to the mainland. And we have not found scats of  
50

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1 wolves from the island on the mainland, you know, we  
2 have not found their DNA. So there are two lines of  
3 evidence there that are pretty strong to say that the  
4 wolves on Pleasant Island stay on Pleasant Island. You  
5 know they are a pack animal, they're a social animal  
6 and they're a territorial animal. There's a wolf pack  
7 on the Gustavus mainland too and those wolves are  
8 probably a lot bigger and stronger because they get a  
9 lot more to eat than the ones that are living on  
10 Pleasant Island, they're kind of small and skinny so  
11 there may be good incentive to stay on that island.

12

13 MR. SMITH: So your opinion on the  
14 data?

15

16 REPORTER: John, your microphone.

17

18 MR. SMITH: Sorry. I just wanted to  
19 get your personal opinion of the data and what the  
20 community's saying. The community is saying there's a  
21 lot of wolves out there and too many but then on the  
22 other hand they're saying they're not so what's your  
23 opinion?

24

25 MR. SCHUMACHER: If it -- it feel -- it  
26 sounds like maybe you're talking about Prince of Wales  
27 Island, is that where you're.....

28

29 MR. SMITH: Sure.

30

31 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. So Prince of  
32 Wales Island is a place where we've made a real effort  
33 to do population estimates. We have not done that  
34 anywhere else except on Pleasant Island because it's  
35 very easy because we have -- it's a small island with  
36 just a few wolves on it. But Prince of Wales Island,  
37 because we have a long history of management issues  
38 there, you know, this -- we're on our third Endangered  
39 Species Petition, a lot of research and a lot of  
40 management work has been focused on Prince of Wales  
41 Island and Game Management Unit 2. I think that local  
42 observation and our population estimates there have  
43 converged in recent years. You know earlier on when we  
44 started doing this, our population estimate work,  
45 2014/2015, folks from Prince of Wales, including Member  
46 Douville, said, you know, no there's more wolves there  
47 than that so that left us scratching our head a little  
48 bit like why didn't we get more wolves but since then  
49 we've made substantial changes in our methods and

50

0166

1 expanded our effort and are able to gather more data  
2 from a larger area and I think those, you know, local  
3 opinion on abundance and our estimates have converged.  
4

5 How many wolves to have there is  
6 another question.  
7

8 You know our -- the Department of Fish  
9 and Game's ultimate mandate is sustainable management  
10 of all species. So for us in Unit 2 that means  
11 sustainable management of the wolf population there in  
12 perpetuity.  
13

14 There -- from genetics research it  
15 appears that there were a couple of genetic bottlenecks  
16 in the past where genetic diversity necked, one was in  
17 the 1700s, I think and one was calculated to be in the  
18 1960s or 1970s. So periods when that population lost a  
19 lot of genetic diversity. And because of the potential  
20 problems of inbreeding, or the problems that can cause,  
21 you know, we're investigating genetics of that  
22 population very carefully and we're -- believe that  
23 caution is warranted in pop -- in how you manage that  
24 population.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
27 Cal, I think you had a question as well.  
28

29 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, I just wanted to  
30 switch over to Pleasant Island for a little bit.  
31

32 (Laughter)  
33

34 MR. CASIPIT: The observation of the  
35 wolves not going back I think is valid. Like you said  
36 the wolves on the mainland they're eating moose,  
37 they're literally the big bad wolves.  
38

39 (Laughter)  
40

41 MR. CASIPIT: I even heard a story  
42 where some guy saw one chasing a black bear -- a pack  
43 chasing black bear down to eat it. They didn't see the  
44 end but, you know, figured it probably happened.  
45

46 And then Greg Streveler over there, I  
47 think you may have known him, you may have heard of  
48 him, he -- he's concerned that -- when I was talking to  
49 him about this is that, you know, they switched over to  
50

0167

1 the sea otters but Greg believes that the sea otters  
2 are stressed too, that they're at the edge, they're not  
3 in the best of health and best of body conditions,  
4 that's why they're hauling out all the time and that's  
5 why they're available to be eaten by the wolves and so  
6 he's concerned that when the sea otters finally do eat  
7 themselves out of house and home, that that food source  
8 for those wolves is going to go away and maybe they  
9 will die off the island. And I agree, there's hardly  
10 any deer on Pleasant Island. I saw one laying on the  
11 beach this summer and that's the first one I've seen  
12 since 2015.

13

14 So, anyway, I was just wondering, how  
15 long are you planning to continue monitoring that  
16 population on Pleasant Island, is it going to be for  
17 the next five, 10 years maybe we can see that point  
18 where the sea otter population starts dropping and see  
19 the response in the wolf population to that or how long  
20 are you planning to continue that research or are you  
21 pretty much winding up on that?

22

23 MR. SCHUMACHER: Through the Chair to  
24 Member Casipit. At this point we don't have a definite  
25 time horizon for that. You know as I mentioned we  
26 believe that pack failed to reproduce this year so we  
27 may be seeing a decline and, you know, the animals that  
28 we have caught from that pack were in poor body  
29 condition, they're skinny so, yeah, it is possible that  
30 that population will blink out here in the next few  
31 years. I think there is value in us trying to continue  
32 monitoring it with collared animals and cameras like  
33 we're doing now, just to record the trajectory of that  
34 population, you know, from doing well to then, you  
35 know, tailing off if that is indeed what happens. So  
36 we're going to probably try to keep collars out there  
37 but we have to balance that against other priorities  
38 too.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
41 Council members. Mike, you had something, you had your  
42 hand raised.

43

44 MR. DOUVILLE: Yeah, I have a question.  
45 Prior to 2015 we had a stable deer population for  
46 approximately 20 years and in the last eight, nine  
47 years we've seen that plummet under our new biologist.  
48 Pearson was the biologist prior to that, the wolf  
49 biologist. I guess I would like to hear your  
50

0168

1 observations of why our deer population has dropped  
2 down so far?

3

4 MR. SCHUMACHER: Through the Chair to  
5 Member Douville. That is something I have been  
6 thinking, and that is something -- you know, you were  
7 at that Board of Game meeting where I believe I -- I  
8 gave a presentation focused on wolf management, both  
9 throughout the region and in Unit 2, particularly with  
10 Unit 2 because of all the proposals we had for that  
11 area and, you know, we -- , you know, deer  
12 population, we don't have good -- good -- real good  
13 methods of monitoring deer abundance. Deer are -- deer  
14 are hard to monitor. We had used pellet group  
15 transects in the past, those are not real sensitive to  
16 changes, you know, there's a lot of variation year to  
17 year based on winter weather and where deer concentrate  
18 due to heavy snow or not so, you know, hunting  
19 statistics are another method of monitoring abundance.

20

21 (Fire Drill)

22

23 MR. SCHUMACHER: Hunting has varied  
24 over time however there was a period, oh, I think in  
25 2006 or '97 where deer harvest began climbing and then  
26 we had a decade, roughly, of -- of very high harvest in  
27 Game Management Unit 2 and it's been mentioned at this  
28 meeting, you know, our estimates of harvest are  
29 probably minimums, there's good evidence for that.  
30 It's likely that true harvest is -- is higher and  
31 possibly quite a lot higher so we had three years with  
32 record harvest between probably 2010 and 2015 when it  
33 peaked and then harvest fell off. I think many people  
34 have ascribed that decline in harvest to a change in  
35 wolf management but wolf management didn't really  
36 change that much. Harvest from 200 -- wolf harvest I'm  
37 talking about was very high in the 1990s and early  
38 2000s, it averaged over 90 a year, so, you know, in the  
39 1990s nearly a thousand wolves were harvested off Unit  
40 2 and that extended into, you know, 2001 or  
41 thereabouts, and 2002 and then it declined and then for  
42 I think for six years wolf harvest in Unit 2 never  
43 exceeded 40 animals. So there was a period there where  
44 either people weren't trapping or wolves were not  
45 abundant or both. Harvest came up to about 60 animals,  
46 I think, again, oh, in 2015 or '16 -- no, it was before  
47 that because we had a low population estimate in 2014  
48 and '15 so harvest was restricted then but it was  
49 really only two years of restricted harvest where it

50

0169

1 differed from the previous five years. The year 2015  
2 we had set a harvest limit of nine wolves, seven were  
3 taken, prior to that -- the five years prior to that  
4 had been between 20 and 40 wolves per year, after, from  
5 2016 onward it's been in the 40s and then of course  
6 quite a lot higher in recent years. So I'm not sure  
7 that changes in deer abundance are entirely linked to  
8 changes in wolf abundance. Now, I think we need to  
9 look at the hunter component as well. Our hunter  
10 estimates had over 4,000 deer coming off of Prince of  
11 Wales for -- and Unit 2 as a whole in 2015 and if that  
12 estimate's low, you know, we're looking at as many deer  
13 coming off of Prince of Wales as of all of Unit 4, you  
14 know, that's a lot.

15

16 And then, you know, we realize that,  
17 you know, there's a desire for more deer, higher deer  
18 numbers, more deer hunting opportunity on Prince of  
19 Wales but we also have to have a certain number of  
20 wolves there otherwise we get in trouble, you know, for  
21 other reasons and then, you know, deer hunting  
22 opportunity will decline again.

23

24 So I think that, you know, if you want  
25 to build resilience into that deer population, probably  
26 the one thing you could do that would really help it is  
27 to eliminate doe harvest. You know our estimates of  
28 doe harvest that people report to us are  
29 extraordinarily low. You know, last year based on our  
30 estimates 38 does were harvested in Game Management  
31 Unit 2. We heard at the deer summit in Unit 2 that  
32 people there estimated there were quite a lot more than  
33 that. You know if you repro -- if you harvest the  
34 reproductive part of the population you reduce  
35 resilience so I think that, you know, to help out  
36 hunters while we're also, you know, dealing with wolf  
37 issues that probably the best thing to do would be to  
38 eliminate doe harvest there.

39

40 That's just my recommendation as a  
41 wildlife biologist, not as a State biologist or a  
42 Federal biologist, just if you're managing a population  
43 you want to -- and you want resilience and reproduction  
44 you want to maintain the reproductive part of the  
45 population.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Follow up, Mike,  
48 go ahead.

49

50

0170

1 MR. DOUVILLE: From the '60s to the  
2 '90s it took that many years to build up a really high  
3 deer -- excuse me, wolf population. In the '90s guys  
4 started seriously trapping, you didn't -- you didn't --  
5 there wasn't a problem for many, many years after the  
6 Federal fish and game did their wolf control thing in  
7 the '50s which ended with statehood. What I clearly  
8 remember in the '90s there was so much wolf that we  
9 were having a difficult time getting deer. But I guess  
10 what I'm getting at is your wolf population, your  
11 estimated 200 -- your target population of 200 is  
12 either too high or you're still estimating too high --  
13 200 wolves is still too high to maintain a wolf  
14 population or your estimate is still low so we're  
15 losing deer like crazy, I mean it's going down hill  
16 again and it's not because of people shooting does.  
17 That harvest has been stable for quite awhile, even if  
18 it was double what was reported it's still not  
19 significant to the amount of bucks that are being  
20 taken. So I wouldn't point my finger there. I think  
21 there is still an issue with the wolf population being  
22 higher than what the State is estimating or if you are  
23 correct then that is too many wolf to maintain a stable  
24 deer population so you're raising one and sacrificing  
25 the other. And being a subsistence user like many  
26 other people on the island it's becoming very difficult  
27 to get deer.

28  
29 My personal experience is I've never  
30 hunted so much for so little last year and it's been  
31 that way for awhile now and it's getting more  
32 difficult.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
35 Mike. A second opinion. Frank, do you have a  
36 question.

37  
38 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
39 Chair. A lot of the management plan for the wolves are  
40 on Unit 2 and we have -- all of a sudden have a wolf  
41 problem on Pleasant Island so your management plan is  
42 pretty much Unit 2 and not any other area, is that what  
43 it is?

44  
45 MR. SCHUMACHER: Through the Chair to  
46 Member Wright. That is correct. The only place in the  
47 state where we have a wolf management plan or a wolf  
48 population objective is Game Management Unit 2 and  
49 that's strictly because of the management issues that  
50

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1 we face there. Pleasant Island is part of Game  
2 Management Unit 1C. We manage populations at the game  
3 management unit or subunit level so, you know, people  
4 can trap on Pleasant Island and, you know, if trappers  
5 took all of the wolves off of Pleasant Island that  
6 would not endanger the population of wolves in Game  
7 Management Unit 1C, however, monitoring that population  
8 has some value for management issues in Game Management  
9 Unit 2 because it demonstrates that wolves can persist  
10 on small islands on alternate prey.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Follow up, Frank.

13

14 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
15 Chair. Yeah, it just scares the bejesus out of me  
16 about wolves being able to swim because I know my dog,  
17 whenever she sees a fish jump she runs out and tries to  
18 get that jump, you know, and that's about a half a mile  
19 in one direction and half a mile back.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. WRIGHT: You know, so I know my dog  
24 isn't in as good a shape as a wolf but if a wolf -- a  
25 couple of, male and female, got on Chichagof Island  
26 that would be disastrous so if there's a management  
27 plan, you would think that we would need to figure out  
28 something for this area.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. I  
33 don't know if have any comments on that but Louie, did  
34 you have your hand up.

35

36 MR. WAGNER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 I was just wondering, the IAF ferry has been running  
38 for what, 18 years, 16 years, and they've been bringing  
39 a lot of hunters over to the island and there's been  
40 quite a bit of night hunting previously over on Prince  
41 of Wales that were caught from different communities  
42 because I know there was one off of our island and one  
43 in Ketchikan. I knew the people and they were -- they  
44 were caught night hunting and arrested. But I was  
45 wondering if that could in any way started the effect  
46 of the shortage of deer because the deer coming off the  
47 ferry was a lot. It was really convenient for a lot of  
48 hunters and if all the reporting was done correctly, I  
49 was just curious if you guys looked at that part on the  
50

0172

1 deer disappearing off of Prince of Wales, as quickly as  
2 it did -- it seems like it was right in that timeframe.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 MR. SCHUMACHER: Through the Chair to  
7 Member Wagner. I don't have the numbers in my head at  
8 this point. This Council had a proposal, I think it  
9 was in 2018 to restrict non-Federally-qualified user  
10 deer harvest in Unit 2 so the bag limit for non-  
11 Federally-qualified users, so residents of Ketchikan,  
12 went from four bucks to two bucks on Federal lands.  
13 State lands, private lands it remained, under the State  
14 limit, which was 4 bucks but the vast majority of the  
15 land in Unit 2 is Federal so Ketchikan hunters were  
16 limited to two bucks from, I think 2018 to present. So  
17 that's how the Federal Subsistence Program addressed  
18 that concern. I think deer hunting has been pretty  
19 good in the Ketchikan area in the last few years and so  
20 a lot of people have probably opted to stay there and  
21 hunt rather than come over to Prince of Wales but I  
22 don't have the numbers in my head on how that's changed  
23 over the years.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

26

27 Bob Schroeder, another question.

28

29 MR. SCHROEDER: Yeah, Tom, thanks much  
30 for the detail on things on Prince of Wales and it must  
31 be surprising to all of us because we really thought  
32 that the plan in 2018, boy, we really have a handle on  
33 how we're going to go forward with wolves. But my  
34 question isn't about that. We received an overview  
35 from the Federal biologist of -- broadly on a wildlife  
36 update for 2023 and then we had a lot of questions  
37 about -- basically the questions were, hey, where's the  
38 detail because part of our meeting responsibility this  
39 time is to do wildlife proposals.

40

41 MR. SCHUMACHER: Uh-huh.

42

43 MR. SCHROEDER: And for some reason  
44 we've been unable to have community level data for  
45 really the fine grain data particularly for deer  
46 harvest because that's what we'll probably have  
47 proposals connected to, but also for other species.  
48 Can you let us know is the Department data readily  
49 available to the Council and to Federal biologists who  
50

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1 present things to us or has that become a little  
2 complicated over the last years?

3

4 MR. SCHUMACHER: Through the Chair to  
5 Member Schroeder. First, deer harvest data by  
6 community is easily produced. It's a push of a button.  
7 So that is available. As far as I know every request  
8 made by Federal biologists has been fulfilled in a very  
9 reasonable timeframe, often the same day so I think as  
10 long as you're, you know, asking what -- for what you  
11 want you'll get it pretty quickly and I'm not aware of  
12 any -- any difficulties with acquiring data.

13

14 MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
17 Any other questions.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Before you leave,  
22 Tom, I just want to throw kind of a wild card out  
23 there, I always like to do that, you know, just keep  
24 people on their toes. Going back to the Board of Game  
25 meeting, were you surprised -- as surprised as the rest  
26 of us when the Board of Game implemented a two buck  
27 restriction on non-resident hunters in Unit 4, did that  
28 come from any kind of a recommendation from the  
29 Department or was that just -- like I say, were you as  
30 surprised about that as we were?

31

32 MR. SCHUMACHER: That was a -- as far  
33 as I can recall that just came through discussion among  
34 the Board members. That was not a proposal from the  
35 Department.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. And the  
38 Department didn't have any input into that decision  
39 apparently?

40

41 MR. SCHUMACHER: Not that I'm aware of.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, okay, I was  
44 just kind of curious about how that all came about. It  
45 was kind of a surprise that nobody saw it coming really  
46 so strictly a Board discretionary decision, right?

47

48 MR. SCHUMACHER: I think if you review  
49 the transcripts my recollection is that the Board  
50

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1 members discussed proposals and just -- just had to do  
2 with proposals to restrict State bag limit in Unit 4  
3 and I think the discussion amongst the Board members  
4 revealed it derived from the idea -- the idea derived  
5 from them.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, and their  
8 rationale was, do you recall?

9

10 MR. SCHUMACHER: I don't recall off the  
11 top of my head.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Okay, I  
14 know you didn't have notes prepared on that. But,  
15 yeah, it sounded -- our recollection was that they  
16 cited trying to alleviate user conflicts in Unit 4 and  
17 decided to lower the bag limit for -- for non-resident  
18 hunters and, I don't know, kind of user conflict is  
19 something that we've been focused on here in our  
20 proposals so it just kind of caught my attention so I  
21 don't know if it caught yours as well.

22

23 MR. SCHUMACHER: I was sitting there so  
24 I heard them talk about it and thought, you know, well,  
25 if they want to do that that's their prerogative.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, okay, well,  
28 that's fine, we'll leave it at that. So maybe we're  
29 done here, there was a lot of information passed around  
30 this morning so I think we're all pretty well informed  
31 and thank you for all the detail that you were able to  
32 provide so thank you very much for that.

33

34 MR. SCHUMACHER: All right, you're very  
35 welcome. Any time.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, very good.  
38 I think we should take a say a 10 minute break here and  
39 when we come back we also had scheduled for this  
40 morning a presentation on some deer research involving  
41 some new techniques, LiDAR from Bonnie Bennetson from  
42 the Forest Service. So Bonnie, I see you're here so  
43 we'll call you up after a 10 minute break if that's  
44 fine.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (On record)

49

50

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1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, if the  
2 Council members could come back to their seats we'll  
3 reconvene here.

4  
5                   (Pause)

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. If we can  
8 get started again here. First up is a presentation  
9 from Bonnie Bennetson from the Forest Service to talk  
10 about some new research techniques, I think, and  
11 dealing with habitat primarily, which, you know, we  
12 just kind of touched on that subject a little earlier  
13 this morning. Habitat. So it's a good opportunity --  
14 good timing to move forward with this presentation, so,  
15 Bonnie, go ahead, whenever you're ready.

16  
17                  MS. BENNETSON: All right, thank you,  
18 Chairman Hernandez. I am Bonnie Bennetson. I am the  
19 Wildlife Program Manager for the Tongass National  
20 Forest and I have the pleasure this morning to talk  
21 about deer habitat restoration opportunities on the  
22 Tongass and to share a bit on the LiDAR winter habitat  
23 model that was recently developed on Prince of Wales  
24 Island. An overview of my talk today I'll touch on how  
25 -- why deer are a critical resource for us on the  
26 Tongass; I'll touch on some habitat needs and concerns;  
27 I'll go into some objectives, treatments and priorities  
28 and Forest restoration and deer habitat restoration  
29 work. I'll then go into how we use the LiDAR winter  
30 habitat model to help -- envision helping prioritize  
31 some of our restoration work. I'll go into science and  
32 benefits of our restoration work. And then touch on  
33 some accomplishments and opportunities from here.

34  
35                  So deer are a critical resource for us  
36 here on the Tongass. As all of us know they have high  
37 subsistence and cultural values. There's been  
38 estimates that 79 percent of rural households in  
39 Southeast Alaska depend on deer and other game species  
40 to put food on their tables. I anticipate those  
41 metrics are even higher in more of our remote  
42 communities. There's also economic value. There's  
43 been estimates done by EcoNorthwest in 2015 that showed  
44 wildlife viewing and hunting brought in several million  
45 -- hundreds of millions of dollars in spending economic  
46 activity, government revenue, labor income and then  
47 jobs annually into the Southeast region. And then we  
48 also know we have high ecological value from deer.  
49 They're an endemic sub-species in this area within  
50

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1 Alaska the sitka black-tail deer range, the native  
2 range is just specific to Southeast Alaska and there  
3 are a couple other populations that have been  
4 introduced up in Central -- in Central Alaska and  
5 Kodiak Island. We also have some population concerns  
6 that have been mentioned here this morning, in Unit 2,  
7 specifically, Gilbert and others in 2016 predicted  
8 population declines of deer ranging around 10 to 37  
9 percent in the next 30 years and those were largely  
10 driven by factors associated with habitat concerns as  
11 well as wolf populations. And then they're also  
12 important to our predator/prey relationships and we  
13 manage those species as well. And then the other real  
14 critical value for us is that deer habitat needs tend  
15 to tie directly to our Forest management.

16  
17 So what are those habitat needs, deer,  
18 at these latitudes depend -- especially related to  
19 snow, heavy snow at these latitudes depend on old  
20 growth Forest for their winter habitat. This Forest  
21 provides a structural mosaic that allows for both light  
22 penetration so that gets to the Forest flooring,  
23 creates underscore and forage for them as well as snow  
24 interception that, you know, from the large branches  
25 and trees that allow for deer movement and access to  
26 that increased forage from the light penetration. So  
27 they're -- old growth Forests are prone to high species  
28 and structural diversity and for deer they particularly  
29 provide good winter forage, movement and cover.

30  
31 We have some habitat concerns.

32  
33 Many of you know our past timber  
34 harvest regime resulted in over 435,000 acres of young  
35 growth created on the Forest, many of you may not know  
36 that over 162,000 of these acres are in conservation  
37 areas so areas identified in our conservation strategy  
38 as managed towards old growth objectives so the -- and  
39 in particular these are the old growth habitat land use  
40 designations, the beach fringe, riparian management  
41 areas.

42  
43 These young clear-cuts, as you can see  
44 in the middle left photo, they provide abundance,  
45 summer forbs and shrubs, however, they don't offer any  
46 snow interception and so they can act as barriers  
47 during heavy snows and heavy snows have been shown to  
48 be a major driver of deer population declines in  
49 Southeast Alaska in past history. As these young  
50

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1 clear-cuts grow they enter a stage that's called stem  
2 exclusion. The stage is characterized by very little  
3 forage, very little species diversity and, you know,  
4 offers little for deer and other wildlife species in  
5 terms of forage and shelter and needs. There's also a  
6 -- you know, when we go in and treat these stem  
7 exclusion stands with thinning we also have the  
8 potential to incur high levels of slash and the slash  
9 can impact connectivity in forage accessibility so we  
10 have a lot of concerns related to habitat and how  
11 address our young growth management.

12  
13 But we have a lot, though, we can do.  
14 And this is the positive side of this, there's -- some  
15 of our objectives include accelerating and promoting  
16 development of old growth characteristics in our stands  
17 so looking towards the long-term benefits of our work  
18 towards creating, you know, functional deer habitat. A  
19 second objective includes promoting accessible winter  
20 forage for deer in the shorter term, so like with the  
21 stand and then brought our landscape scales, especially  
22 in more heavily dominated young growth landscapes. We  
23 also have the objective of retain and promote landscape  
24 connectivity for deer and there's a lot of techniques  
25 we can use to do that and then the fourth objective is  
26 to retain and protect residual trees and patches.

27  
28 So there's a lot we can do. The  
29 treatments include a full gamut. The variable density  
30 thinning that we currently are implementing in most  
31 places includes like a 14 by 14 foot spacing with 50  
32 percent variance so it ends up being a spacing of about  
33 seven to 21 feet and that's in the pre-commercial  
34 thinning stage. We also have -- when we get into older  
35 stands to minimize slash we have opportunities to do  
36 small gap creation and then tree release where we have  
37 a gap with a tree -- with a kind of broader canopy tree  
38 left in the gap to promote the growth of those trees  
39 and accelerate old growth conditions that way. We also  
40 have some other techniques including pruning which, you  
41 know, takes out branches, doesn't create a lot of slash  
42 that, you know, deteriorates really quickly because the  
43 branches are smaller and then allows more light to the  
44 floor that way. Girdling is a good technique for older  
45 stands. We can minimize the amount of slash and allow  
46 that slash to join the Forest floor through time, so  
47 girdling kills the trees, allows the light to the  
48 Forest floor but spreads that slash impact out through  
49 time and has proven a really successful technique  
50

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1 especially in older stands. And then we also have  
2 localized slash mitigation opportunities. These  
3 treatments tend to be expensive so we focus them along  
4 with like our gap creation and some of our other  
5 treatments in areas but one thing that is free is  
6 leaving unthinned corridors and patches and so this is  
7 a really good way to leave unthinned areas, you know,  
8 especially elevational corridors for deer that  
9 minimizes slash impacts allow for movement and then  
10 still allow access to increase forage within the  
11 thinned stands.

12  
13 Some of the priorities that I've  
14 identified in the Tongass Wildlife Young Growth  
15 Strategy that was developed in 2020, there's a link  
16 here at the bottom that's a fairly complex set of  
17 letters and numbers but I'd be happy to provide that to  
18 anybody who wants it separately. We often prioritize  
19 -- so there's a number of criteria on Page 46 of that  
20 document that are identified and the long and short, we  
21 tend to focus our efforts in the most impacted and  
22 untreated landscapes. We also look towards areas that  
23 offer both short and long-term goals for deer so for me  
24 that typically means conservation areas that are  
25 managed for old growth objectives but there's some  
26 opportunities in other areas too. At the stand level  
27 we look for stand readiness is a really important fact  
28 for slash minimization to get in there when the trees  
29 are small and also when the understory can still  
30 respond beneficially from the treatment. And then we  
31 also very thoroughly integrate with other resources and  
32 partners and community interests. And then for deer,  
33 in particular, we try to focus in deer winter range and  
34 especially landscapes that have been heavily impacted  
35 in the past with deer winter range.

36  
37 And a new tool we can use to identify  
38 deer winter range is this LiDAR winter habitat model  
39 that's come out recently. This model was developed by  
40 Colin Shanley at the Nature Conservancy along with  
41 collaboration from several folks at ADF&G, also Nature  
42 Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service and University of  
43 Idaho. And briefly, the -- LiDAR stands for Light  
44 Detection and Ranging. It's very similar to like the  
45 sound based detections where you send out a ping of  
46 sound and it bounces back and you can map from that so  
47 like -- but with LiDAR it's actually using light  
48 through a laser, it pulses a light to the surface of  
49 the ground and it can measure that refraction back from  
50

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1 the light that it pulses and can develop very accurate  
2 three dimensional and two dimensional maps as shown  
3 here.

4

5 So for the LiDAR model for winter  
6 habitat use we use the LiDAR data that came out on a  
7 number of fac -- variables that we know are critical  
8 for deer so we used elevation, we used south facing  
9 slopes, we used tree height, we used percent overstory  
10 cover, we distance to openings, we used percent  
11 overstory cover and we used slope and all of these kind  
12 of have some basis in literature as important for deer.  
13 We took these and we modeled them with a data set from  
14 Sophie Gilbert from University of Idaho for over three  
15 years, she tracked deer use and developed a final model  
16 of probability of use in winter using these variables  
17 and we ended up with a very highly accurate model and  
18 so based on those 40 dbs collared deer over three years  
19 you can see in the blue polygons over here, those  
20 tracked 94 percent accurately with the green which is  
21 the high predicted probability of use from the LiDAR  
22 model. So from here we hope and plan to use this  
23 winter LiDAR winter habitat model to help prioritize  
24 our Forest restoration and our deer habitat restoration  
25 work but it's interesting because it shows where the  
26 deer use now, right, and so, you know, in the past  
27 we've used our InterAgency deer winter model that kind  
28 of shows where deer habitat occurred in 1954 so  
29 historically and so that still has some value but this,  
30 we know will have some value to inform where deer are  
31 now and where the corridors are and things like that  
32 but we don't have -- we're still figuring out the  
33 details of how to apply this.

34

35 Our current next step is Colin  
36 Shanley's going to be working with some slash load  
37 predictors that were developed recently by Bob  
38 Christianson and the (In Tlingit) crew out at Kake to  
39 using LiDAR based metrics to predict slash load and so  
40 trying to incorporate that piece into the probability  
41 of use and seeing if that kind of helps us prioritize  
42 areas of treatment based on that -- those additional  
43 data. So some work in progress and some stuff still to  
44 be determined but it's a great tool for us and we're  
45 excited we have it.

46

47 Now, I'd like to move into the  
48 restoration benefits and science behind the Forest  
49 restoration work. So, again, in my young growth  
50

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1 strategy in 2020 I did a comprehensive review of  
2 literature from Tongass and Coastal British Columbia  
3 Wet Forest and some of the Pacific Northwest,  
4 Washington, Oregon, Coastal Wet Forest found 29 studies  
5 that show benefits to understory vegetation, 15 studies  
6 that show benefits to vertical and horizontal  
7 structural diversity, 11 studies that show benefits to  
8 tree species diversity and composition, 16 for large  
9 trees, 8 for large branches, two got at natural  
10 historic growth rates. And then there was a couple --  
11 and I want to touch on this a little bit, the large  
12 tree potential. They were done down south so we're not  
13 totally sure how they apply to the Tongass but they  
14 showed that growth rate and size at age 50 is strongly  
15 related to the ultimate size of old growth trees and  
16 that 70 percent of the high growth in crowned  
17 development occurs by age 60 of -- age 60 in most  
18 conifers and so this suggests that trees growing in  
19 heavy stem exclusion are not as likely to reach large  
20 size potential without restorative treatments. So  
21 there may be some obligation to try to treat -- you  
22 know, if we want to get into the same large tree  
23 conditions that occurred in some of these areas  
24 previously. And then there were a few studies showing  
25 increased stand stability from restoration. And,  
26 again, all these kind of Forest restoration young  
27 growth techniques that we're talking about and then a  
28 couple studies that brought this further into adaptive  
29 capacity and ecosystem resilience to things like  
30 climate change and, you know, insect infestation and  
31 things like that.

32  
33 And then I wanted to show these set of  
34 pictures because really two pictures are worth a  
35 thousand words in this kind of situation. Both of  
36 these stands are the same age, 54, both are the same  
37 productivity medium, productivity on the left is an  
38 unthinned stand and on the right is a stand that was  
39 thinned at age 20 and it's not quite there for deer but  
40 it is -- you can see that that stand on the right is  
41 moving into a trajectory that is going to be much more  
42 useful for deer, currently and in the near term. And I  
43 think a lot of us, like hike around the woods in stands  
44 like the left and don't really realize how old those  
45 stands really are, those skinny pole stands.

46  
47 And here's some other data for benefits  
48 to deer specifically. Hanley and others, in 2013 --  
49 and this is just one sample, there's lots of studies  
50

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1 that have shown the same types of results, but  
2 increased understory vegetation in thinned versus  
3 unthinned stands, increased key deer forage species in  
4 thinned versus unthinned stands. And then there was a  
5 study by Doransandburg\* in 1986 on the Tongass that  
6 showed deer pellet densities and browse, twigs were  
7 significantly higher in thinned than unthinned stands.

8  
9           There's also been a lot of other  
10 additional science related to influences on deer on the  
11 Tongass so there's been some studies looking at small  
12 gaps and the gaps being successful in increasing browse  
13 for deer, increasing winter deer carrying capacity and  
14 increasing winter deer forage and then some more  
15 concrete commercial thinning shows increase in summer  
16 forage, less so with deep snow and then increased deer  
17 -- deer foraged species like I mentioned with the  
18 Hanley work too. Then commercial thinning, when we get  
19 into commercial opportunities, there's increased deer  
20 forage as well and then there's been some good studies  
21 on slash biomass and slash biomass decreasing deer  
22 abundance and then one critical piece to this is that  
23 slash dbh, so when we cut the diameter at breast  
24 height, when we cut the slash is really critical in  
25 determining how much slash biomass there is as well as  
26 the amount of time for that slash to decompose and the  
27 amount of time for deer to use the habitat. So  
28 they're finding that an average slash dbh of less than  
29 five inches is ideal for promoting deer use fairly  
30 rapidly in the stand.

31  
32           Highlighting some accomplishments.  
33 Partners are key in most of this work. We implemented  
34 some habitat improvement in Forest restoration for deer  
35 covering 4,350 acres in 2022. We are also aiming to  
36 increase knowledge so, you know, some of that work  
37 includes the LiDAR based winter habitat model as well  
38 as the fresh deer, which is a forage based model for  
39 winter and summer deer use. We've also put in some  
40 work with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and our  
41 research lab to look at snow and slash effects on  
42 forage accessibility and then the Tongass-wide young  
43 growth surveys are in their 20th year of implementation  
44 of monitoring and we -- and that was an experimental  
45 approach to look at various effects of different types  
46 of young growth treatment on a variety of factors  
47 including understory forage.

48  
49           And then the other part to our  
50

0182

1 accomplishments and objectives and broader scope is  
2 outreach and workshops and trying to share this message  
3 and garner public support, we attended and participated  
4 in the POW deer summit, next week I'll present a  
5 similar type of presentation at the Southeast Alaska  
6 Watershed Workshop and then this opportunity was a good  
7 one too.

8  
9 So we've identified need for this work.  
10 We've identified treatments that are successful and  
11 meeting objectives for this work. We've identified  
12 benefits and especially to deer, most of this work is  
13 NEPA cleared, it's fairly easy to NEPA clear with  
14 categorical exclusions. And then unprecedented in  
15 Forest, we've actually gotten some funding and quite a  
16 bit of funding and then last year we got a good hunk of  
17 funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and  
18 specifically for thinning that benefits subsistence  
19 resources. So we've been very excited about that. And  
20 we also are anticipating that funding to come in very  
21 soon for us for this year so some really great  
22 opportunity. And then from here in terms of, you know,  
23 additional opportunity need we're always looking for  
24 partnerships and additional mechanism through  
25 agreements and contracts and other folks who can help  
26 implement this great Forest restoration work and deer  
27 habitat restoration work and then the other piece, the  
28 outreach and support is always critical.

29  
30 And with that I want to thank you and  
31 take any questions.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you.  
34 Good presentation. Questions for Bonnie from Council  
35 members. A lot to digest there, we might have to think  
36 about it for awhile.

37  
38 Harvey has a question.

39  
40 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
41 was just wondering if there was ever a mechanism for  
42 taking part of the money that is made from the sale of  
43 these trees to taking part of that -- having a  
44 contractor come in with the ability to chop up the  
45 limbs, at least 50 feet from each side of the road, it  
46 would help increase the growth within that area but it  
47 would also leave a path for the deer to come through. I  
48 was just wondering, it just was curiosity. I know it  
49 would help the growth problem.

50

0183

1 MS. BENNETSON: Yes, thank you. I'm  
2 afraid I don't know the formalities on responses so  
3 hopefully you'll bear with me. But through the Chair  
4 to Harvey Kirka [sic], thank you for your question.

5  
6 Yes, we are currently looking at an  
7 additional set of funds that are specifically related  
8 to slash and slash mitigation and there may be some  
9 opportunities just like you described to kind of put  
10 those funds back into slash -- you know, some bucking  
11 -- you know, actually focused slash mitigation. One  
12 problem is it is expensive work so we have to balance  
13 that with -- just what I was talking about, are special  
14 funds specifically for slash potentially. But some of  
15 this other restoration funding, we have to balance like  
16 whether the value of going back in and doing more slash  
17 mitigation versus getting more priority acres treated  
18 on the ground makes sense. And there's other opportuni  
19 -- there's other techniques that we can use to minimize  
20 slash that aren't expensive, like I mentioned the lead  
21 corridors are really great opportunity because they're  
22 free and then they provide some more hydrogen A on the  
23 landscape and they allow for that movement without --  
24 with slash free, you know, so thank you for that  
25 question.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else.  
28 Cathy Needham, go ahead.

29  
30 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
31 you mentioned you have money from that Bipartisan  
32 Infrastructure Bill for doing thinning work that  
33 benefits subsistence, how will you guys go about  
34 choosing where to apply those prescriptions, those  
35 thinning prescriptions?

36  
37 MS. BENNETSON: From the Chair, thank  
38 you Co-Chair Needham. So we -- typically it's done at  
39 the district levels and the criteria that we use to  
40 prioritize where we treat I kind of laid out a lot of  
41 those, for deer, deer winter range and then unthinned  
42 and like the more impacted landscapes are the areas  
43 we're typically looking towards.

44  
45 MS. NEEDHAM: So kind of in followup, I  
46 guess I was wondering if there were any -- like I get  
47 that, through the Ranger District, but if there are  
48 areas identified by subsistence users that are  
49 problematic for where deer, you know, are, does that  
50

0184

1 get accounted for in any way, like do subsistence users  
2 or areas of higher potential subsistence use get  
3 considered?

4  
5 MS. BENNETSON: So yes. Some good --  
6 the long and short of that, we work with partners who  
7 like Hoonah Indian Association, we implemented a  
8 substantial agreement last year with Budget in --  
9 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, so working with  
10 them, working with Nature Conservancy who definitely  
11 factors in the subsistence maps and past, you know,  
12 subsistence harvest priority areas into their planning  
13 and so a lot of most recent work we've been working  
14 with them is on POW has been Shakeen and Staney so  
15 implementing some very -- some high priority areas for  
16 subsistence needs that way, yep. Yes.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Patty Phillips, go  
19 ahead.

20  
21 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. And thank  
22 you for adding this to the agenda, it's really  
23 interesting information.

24  
25 So I might have missed this part but  
26 you said a signal goes down to the land and then  
27 bounces back, is that from a drone or is that from a  
28 plane, and then I have a followup, Mr. Chair.

29  
30 MS. BENNETSON: Okay. From the Chair  
31 to Member Phillips. There are opportunities to use  
32 drones to get LiDAR data but they typically -- that's  
33 typically applied at smaller coverages for big island  
34 coverages like we have on POW, you could use a fancy  
35 plane, airplane, and that's what we use for these data.

36  
37 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
38 So how much of the Tongass has been LiDAR'd?

39  
40 MS. BENNETSON: Yeah, good question.  
41 Oh, from the Chair to Member Phillips. We have a good  
42 portion of Prince of Wales Island, we have, I believe  
43 the Ketchikan -- some of the Ketchikan area, so  
44 Revillagigedo Island and maybe a couple other -- a  
45 little bit on the mainland. We have current plans to  
46 get out Mitkof and I think maybe Etolin, Zarembo,  
47 somewhere in there and then Yakutat area and then the  
48 Hoonah Native Forest Partnership has an area that's  
49 been LiDAR'd and the Keex'Kwaan Partnership area has  
50

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1 been LiDAR'd. So they're kind of patchy right now but  
2 we have plans in the near future to try to tackle more  
3 of the Tongass because we see the value of this, not  
4 only for deer but lots of other values too. So for our  
5 timber management as well as for our other species,  
6 like we have a LiDAR based gossock nest habitat model  
7 and some other things that we can apply this good data  
8 to. And unfortunately it's really expensive, like  
9 multiple of millions of dollars to gather this type of  
10 data so that's kind of our holdout but, yeah, we're  
11 working with partners like NOAA and USGS to try to get  
12 more of that coverage across the Tongass.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Louie  
15 Wagner, go ahead.

16

17 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 When you're clear -- when you're tree thinning and the  
19 slash, are the deer trails kept clear of that so if the  
20 wolves are chasing them they can do their thing and run  
21 the trail?

22

23 MS. BENNETSON: Thank you. From the  
24 Chair to Mr. Wagner -- Member Wagner. One of the main  
25 criteria we try to use in terms of placing those  
26 movement corridors is to place them where current deer  
27 trails exist so to base those where we leave and not  
28 incur slash in the current corridors. So that, yeah, I  
29 think that answers your question. Let me know if any  
30 followups, yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: John Smith, go  
33 ahead.

34

35 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I just want to echo  
36 out appreciation of you guys taking care of the tree  
37 people, you know, I worked for Whitestone for 28 years  
38 and through the years of working in the field of  
39 seeing, you know, Chris (Indiscernible) from -- from  
40 Hoonah there, how through the years you guys developed  
41 this system where after a couple of years you come in  
42 and you thin and you tree plant and that, I really  
43 appreciate that, that effort, you know, can you share a  
44 little bit of that process, like once you harvest this  
45 unit and all the trees of when do you come back next in  
46 this and you guys pretty much -- and I really  
47 appreciate, very stimulated from all the information  
48 here about the -- managing the garden. Of course, you  
49 know, looking at all the animals that use that. And I  
50

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1 like where he was going too about the trail, maybe he  
2 was going there, but earlier, yesterday, I was talking  
3 about how we leave all the limbs and the branches and  
4 the brush and how it carbon -- it puts a lot of carbon  
5 into the area so then it takes a lot longer for it to  
6 break it down and that, but see that, you know, a  
7 different process and even encouraging the Forest  
8 Service, if they do log anymore, to actually taking the  
9 whole tree out of the unit, would open the floor, like  
10 he's saying. You would have all these really beautiful  
11 trails that if even if I was the hook tender there I  
12 would make sure that my yarder engineer drug the butt,  
13 you know, and do things like that to manage your garden  
14 so that even later on you can come back and harvest  
15 blueberries, huckleberries, salmonberries and deer  
16 because they really love those areas. And all the  
17 years I -- I grew up in Hoonah when they started  
18 logging up the site and when they started -- I'd never  
19 seen an owl, never seen a hawk, always heard stories,  
20 always heard -- but when they clear-cutted and it  
21 really opened up a lot of those animals that I've never  
22 seen before and they were very beautiful to see and  
23 that they had these hunting grounds that were available  
24 to them.

25

26 Just more of sharing a little bit of  
27 information but really echoing the leads that you're  
28 taking and hope that our corporations and our tribes  
29 and others are following that lead and that you're  
30 making this rubric or process that other people can  
31 follow.

32

33 And I mentioned earlier, too, I was  
34 down in Portland and I just was amazed at how they took  
35 care of their gardens out there. I mean each tree was  
36 symetr -- you can just see it just looking out in the  
37 field but you can also look out in other units and see  
38 that they didn't take care of that but you look at  
39 these other ones -- I've even -- Cottage Grove, I was  
40 just going for a walk and I had to stop and I was like,  
41 wait a minute, I can look straight down just like in my  
42 garden how each plant was symmetrical, or the same  
43 distance from the other. These trees that were 36, 40  
44 inches on the butt were like that, and they were 100-  
45 and something feet tall, it was amazing seeing that.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MS. BENNETSON: Thank you. From the

50

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1 Chair to Member Smith. You had asked about the timing  
2 of our focus work and it depends on the productivity of  
3 the stand but typically, you know, more productive  
4 stands can go into the stem exclusion stage fairly  
5 early so like 15, 20, 25 years after clear-cutting and  
6 so to minimize slash we often try to hit them young to  
7 get small diameter slash cut to benefit deer,  
8 especially -- so even 15, 20 years, 25 years it kind of  
9 what we typically look at. Some of our less productive  
10 stands that might go a little bit later like 30 and 35,  
11 40 years for the pre-commercial work and then the  
12 commercial work, you know, you kind of have to wait  
13 until there's commercial viability so it's usually a  
14 little bit later, so it's usually a little bit later  
15 like 60, 70, 80 years in there. And, again, depending  
16 on the productivity of the stand.

17  
18 You had asked about taking out the  
19 small trees and we are looking into opportunities to  
20 kind of remove it even at the pre-commercial stage for  
21 biomass and, you know, some other things like that.  
22 It's a great thought and it would definitely solve our  
23 slash problem, the other problem, though, is that it's  
24 really expensive and so we'd be looking at -- like the  
25 last estimate I got for commercial thinning was like in  
26 the order of a 7,000 an acre versus, you know, down  
27 near a thousand an acre just for the thinning and  
28 because we can implement the lead corridors and other  
29 things we, at this point in stage, especially with the  
30 current market, prioritizing more acres on the ground  
31 and implementing slash minimization measures that I  
32 mentioned seems like the better approach to get more  
33 acres on the ground but we're exploring those avenues.

34  
35 And then you also mentioned like all  
36 the species that benefit from this work and I just  
37 wanted to appreciate that as well because we -- yeah,  
38 especially the PCT work that's -- even -- there's that  
39 like, you know, clear benefits from deer that I  
40 mentioned but there's also benefits to other species.  
41 Like Haida Gwaii they did a study on gossock nesting  
42 and, you know, normally gossock nests can -- we start  
43 to see a couple -- I mean a couple out of hundreds on  
44 the Tongass that can come into a stand that's not been  
45 thinned, it may be 90, 100, 110 years at the earliest,  
46 with PCT, we're seeing age 50 as a viable structure  
47 that can support gossock nests structures. So it's  
48 exciting for a lot of species, yep.

49  
50

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1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead  
2 with a followup, John.

3  
4                   MR. SMITH: Just to confirm, I might be  
5 confusing, now -- now not taking the smaller trees or  
6 I'm just confirming that when we go out as a logger we  
7 go in and we drop the tree, right, we go and we take  
8 the specific cuts, we leave the top, we leave some of  
9 the limbs, we leave all that stuff, that's -- because  
10 we're doing that and just taking the prime, we're  
11 leaving all this carbon out there but we're also  
12 leaving this stuff that doesn't leave trails. It -- I  
13 noticed in these units that the deer don't even walk  
14 down through there really -- they -- what they really  
15 -- or they do kind of roam around in there if there's  
16 trails through there but they love -- I mean I started  
17 hunting those units, I like to cover the -- you know,  
18 depending the wind, the outside perimeter of them, they  
19 love that, they hang out there, but just the idea of  
20 also -- also the -- when they're tree planting and you  
21 come in after a couple years to check it out, you don't  
22 really have to go in and pack your bag with 150, 200  
23 new free trees -- or not free -- but that you're going  
24 to put out there, when you start walking you're going  
25 to realize that there's already trees growing there  
26 already and you go and take one step, there's four  
27 trees right there, spruce, hemlock, it don't matter,  
28 you know, eliminated, take the tallest one, the  
29 healthiest one, rip all the other ones out and take  
30 another step, you know, and what I saw in this is a lot  
31 of companies -- and I'm just sharing a perspective-- is  
32 what I saw was they're just -- companies, they're just  
33 there to make money and sometimes they don't look at  
34 their process is going to maybe important to how they  
35 do it, so I'm just saying I'm going to take two steps  
36 and plant one, every six people that are there walking  
37 are going to do that no matter what and then you're  
38 going to come back and spend all your money, all your  
39 time on trying to slash all the other trees that are  
40 around it, right, so I -- I encourage that there is a  
41 rubric that you develop to, okay -- and I don't -- if I  
42 cut a unit, I'm going to come back the next year, I  
43 want to see how it's doing, I'm going to come in and  
44 probably start working on it and maybe even the next  
45 year, I'm not going to wait 15, 20 years to come in and  
46 work on my garden, I'm going to come in and keep  
47 working on it every few years.

48  
49                   But just -- just thinking of -- just  
50

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1 sharing a perspective, thank you.

2

3

4 MS. BENNETSON: Yeah, thank you. And  
5 from the Chair to Member Smith. You talked about the  
6 original clear-cut logging slash and I'm not as  
7 familiar and intimate with that side of things because  
8 I typically focus on the, you know, restoration  
9 opportunities for wildlife, but I do recognize that as  
10 a piece of it and I understand, you know, we're  
11 supposed to have companies go in and help deal with  
12 that and so there's -- you know, if we continue logging  
13 and how it goes, we have some opportunities, you know,  
14 legally to be able to kind of get that into contracts.

15

16 And then you also mentioned tree  
17 planting a couple times. While there are -- there's a  
18 heavy tree plantation program down in Pacific Northwest  
19 we don't typically see the need for that on the Tongass  
20 because as you mentioned there's tons of trees  
21 naturally so we have natural -- for the most part  
22 natural regeneration in our growth although we call it  
23 natural regeneration and from my perspective clear-cuts  
24 aren't a natural disturbance. "Like even with wind  
25 disturbance you have multi-various structures through  
26 that so there's that other side to it.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Question from  
31 Frank, you had your hand up Frank, go ahead.

32

33 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On  
34 the -- when you guys are using a drone to check out the  
35 Forest and stuff, do you also kind of like do a timber  
36 cruise kind of thing?

37

38 MS. BENNETSON: So from the Chair to  
39 Member Wright -- Secretary Wright, excuse me. So this  
40 LiDAR work that I mentioned for POW was done on a plane  
41 but we have looked into drone usage for a variety of  
42 other needs. I'm not sure on timber cruise side but  
43 from wildlife perspective there's some good  
44 opportunity, you know, for getting in there and  
45 monitoring gossock nests or we've used some drone  
46 technology to monitor populations of Aleutian terns up  
47 in the Yakutat area so there's -- we're looking at a  
48 lot of other applications for drone usage but I'm not  
49 specific -- I'm not clear on the specifics and how it  
50 might be applied -- or how it is being applied for

50

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1 timber cruising but it's a good question and, yeah, I  
2 think there's a lot of good new technology that has  
3 good application for us in our management.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead  
6 with a followup, Frank.

7

8 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You  
9 know you were saying that it was a natural growth, that  
10 you didn't transplant, you know, but I've seen  
11 corporate land where they didn't do the tree thinning  
12 and a squirrel wouldn't even live in it. You know so I  
13 was just wondering about if there's cuts on -- on  
14 Forest Service land that -- is there tree thinning when  
15 the growth starts again?

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 MS. BENNETSON: Yeah, from the Chair to  
20 Member Wright. Yes, so the crux of my presentation and  
21 the techniques that we use are looking at trying to get  
22 back in and thin and the importance of that work  
23 especially in some of these more heavily stem-excluded  
24 stands, you know, not -- you know, facilitating the,  
25 you know, species and promoting the accelerated  
26 development of -- towards old growth conditions or, you  
27 know, structures that can be used by species but then  
28 also potentially long-term in the ultimate size, you  
29 know, of those trees that occurred there previously.

30

31 So thanks for that question, yeah.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Patty Phillips, go  
34 ahead.

35

36 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
37 Hernandez. Maybe you could explain to like after you  
38 do the LiDAR, you know, projection, from there to where  
39 you got a crew going in and doing the, you know, slash  
40 clearing, what happens in between there, you mentioned  
41 something about working with Nature Conservancy, are  
42 they sitting down with the District Office and you guys  
43 develop a plan and then you put it out to contract, how  
44 does that work?

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 MS. BENNETSON: Yeah, from the Chair to  
49 Member Phillips. So we have the LiDAR model that can

50

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1 help us inform where deer -- where critical deer winter  
2 range is. We use that to help prioritize where some of  
3 our -- you know where we can do our Forest restoration  
4 work as long as -- along with other factors. We work  
5 with partners like the Nature Conservancy and Hoonah  
6 Indian Association and (Indiscernible) we just  
7 developed a recent agreement with, others, to then work  
8 with them to prioritize stands to work in and  
9 treatments and -- and -- appropriate to those stand  
10 ages and get that implemented on the ground. And so we  
11 develop agreements with those entities and use some of  
12 these Infrastructure Law funding as well as some other  
13 funding sources to get that good work done on the  
14 ground, yeah.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any other  
17 questions.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not seeing any.  
22 You have a pretty thorough understanding here of what  
23 you're doing and thank you for your presentation.

24  
25 MS. BENNETSON: Well, thank you for the  
26 opportunity to be here, appreciate it.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you for  
29 answering our questions.

30  
31 Okay, we can maybe take up another item  
32 or two of new business here before we break for lunch.  
33 Next on the list we have an update on the nonrural  
34 determination.....

35  
36 MS. PERRY: We did that yesterday.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We did that, I'm  
39 sorry, I didn't check that off, right, we had that.  
40 How about we might have time to review and approve the  
41 annual report or at least get started on that topic.

42  
43 DeAnna that's an item for you to bring  
44 to the Council.

45  
46 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
47 is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator. And for folks  
48 who have a meeting book you'll see an explanation of  
49 what our annual reports are all about on Page 21. It's  
50

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1 a way for our Regional Advisory Councils to bring those  
2 regional subsistence uses and needs to the Secretaries  
3 attention by communicating them in a letter form for  
4 the Federal Subsistence Board.

5  
6 At the last meeting this Council  
7 discussed various issues they would like to see  
8 included in the annual report and you'll also see the  
9 drafted annual report from that discussion on Page 23  
10 of your meeting book. It covers several topics that  
11 were raised at the last meeting, including concerns  
12 about TransBoundary River mining and the impacts to  
13 subsistence resources; supporting awareness for bycatch  
14 issues; continued concern regarding unguided  
15 sportfishermen and the need to gather data and to  
16 determine what kind of impact they are having on  
17 subsistence resources; concerns for commercial  
18 fisheries impacts to subsistence fisheries; and the  
19 support for youth input and representation on the  
20 Council. In addition the Council brought up a few  
21 issues to the Board's attention as information sharing  
22 and those included supporting indigenous co-management  
23 of subsistence resources; encouraging the Forest  
24 Service to think strategically about young growth  
25 harvest; the need for increased law enforcement of  
26 closures when they occur for subsistence fisheries;  
27 some suggestions for improving analysis content; and  
28 the Council's continued concerns about climate change  
29 and the effects of global warming on subsistence  
30 resources.

31  
32 These books have been out for awhile so  
33 I trust that all the Council members have had a chance  
34 to review it. This is an action item and the Council  
35 should finalize this report by either adding,  
36 subtracting or otherwise editing the topics during this  
37 meeting and then we will need a vote to submit the  
38 annual report with any of those suggested edits.

39  
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, DeAnna.  
43 So, yes, this is an opportunity to go over that annual  
44 report. So I'll open it up for any comments from  
45 Council members and then we do need to take action on  
46 it so we can start a discussion now.

47  
48 I'll give everybody a chance to maybe  
49 look it over a little longer and make comments so go  
50

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1 ahead.

2

3

(Pause)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Question from  
Harvey Kitka. Go ahead, Harvey.

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MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do  
we have any documentation on the percentage of unguided  
sportfishermen and charter boat fishing and how much --  
what percentage they take from our waters?

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That would  
probably be a question for somebody on the Staff, I  
think. I don't know if anybody has any answers to  
that.

MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, through the  
Chair, Member Kitka. For the record this is Jake  
Musslewhite, Forest Service. Yeah, that is, of course,  
this Council has talked about quite a bit. So I mean I  
could give you a super quick overview of what's  
collected for any -- I guess you were asking  
specifically about unguided folks so that would be  
operations where the charter operation like provides a  
boat, maybe a sandwich to go with it but not a skipper  
to actually, you know, guide them. Those folks are not  
required to have a log book like a guided charter  
operation would. The log book data is great, they're  
required to, you know, record just about everything,  
not so with the unguided stuff. So those folks would  
be captured by the sportfish harvest survey which is  
mailed out to a subset of everyone who gets a fishing  
license, resident or non-resident. They fill out, you  
know, fill in the bubbles, you know, estimate how much  
time they spent fishing, what they caught and then may  
or may not do that and send it back and then those are  
extrapolated. It's not very -- it's good at catching  
region-wide or large scale sort of trends in sportfish  
harvest but not very good if you're trying to answer a  
question like how many fish are being caught in a  
particular location or anything like that; if that  
makes sense.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,  
Jake. Any followup there, Harvey, or does that answer  
your question.

MR. KITKA: The reason -- the question

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1 was, in talking to one of the commercial fisherman and  
2 in their analysis they had about an 88 percent that  
3 were caught by charter fishermen, basically.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
6 Harvey. Somebody else have a question, I see another  
7 hand, John Smith, go ahead.

8

9 MR. SMITH: Yeah, sorry, just point of  
10 order. I'm just trying to check in and I know there's  
11 like 11 of these that you read off and I was just  
12 curious if -- or just an idea of maybe we just go  
13 through each one of them. I think each one of them  
14 are, you know, very important but then, you know, we're  
15 kind of jumping, just -- just a thought. I'm not sure,  
16 I'm just checking in. Sorry.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, you're kind  
19 of suggesting maybe a little more of a review of each  
20 of the individual items, which is kind of what you're  
21 asking for John, is kind of what you're asking for  
22 John?

23

24 MR. SMITH: Yeah, instead of -- of  
25 course you -- you asked -- you know, just so we're not  
26 jumping around but each one of them need to be  
27 addressed, right, so I'm just checking in, I'm not sure  
28 of the process. So I'm -- yeah, see that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I  
31 understand, so that's a question -- Cathy do you  
32 have.....

33

34 MR. SMITH: Yeah, maybe she has some  
35 better ideas.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....something to  
38 add.

39

40 MS. NEEDHAM: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
41 Chair. I don't know that I would support going through  
42 every single one. We formulated this letter over the  
43 course of last year for the business that we conducted  
44 at the table and last fall we did -- like in October,  
45 we give a list of topics and have a discussion around  
46 these things and then our Council Coordinator actually,  
47 you know, looks through our transcripts to get  
48 additional information to put in other topics and then  
49 we get this book ahead of time and, you know, I've read  
50

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1 through the letter and hopefully other Council members  
2 have done their homework with having the book in front  
3 of them and the letter before us and so I think now is  
4 the time if there's anything that we missed. Like did  
5 we -- are there any additional topics that we need to  
6 identify to include in it and then is there anything  
7 that is in this draft that we noticed when we read it  
8 that might need to be corrected or improved.

9  
10 I think we're getting close to  
11 finalizing this is my understanding of the process and  
12 I don't think we need to go through every single topic  
13 since we've spent a lot of time on all of them  
14 throughout the year.

15  
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, okay, thank  
19 you, Cathy. I think I agree with that. So do we have  
20 an opportunity to add something at this point, DeAnna,  
21 and I think there were maybe a few things discussed  
22 yesterday that might possibly fit into this annual  
23 report and maybe, Cal, you might have something along  
24 those lines. I see you have your hand up so go ahead.

25  
26 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
27 Chair. I read through this letter too when I got my  
28 book and I have no problems with it, I think it's a  
29 good letter. But I would like to add something.

30  
31 And the thing I want to add is what I  
32 talked about yesterday where we seem to be, I don't  
33 know, just -- we try to make a change in our  
34 regulations to provide a meaningful priority. For inst  
35 -- you know, we could use some specific examples like  
36 Unit 1C goat that we were talking about yesterday or,  
37 you know, Unit 4 deer, what have you, we make a change  
38 to our regulations that allow a little more harvest for  
39 Federally-qualified users and then, you know, a group  
40 out there comes in and asks for a change to State regs  
41 that mirror our Federal reg that was supposed to  
42 provide a meaningful priority. Well, now that's  
43 changed, there's no meaningful priority anymore. If we  
44 try to restrict we can't restrict because of the policy  
45 on closures that we can't restrict unless it's needed  
46 for conservation, even though there's that or  
47 continuation of subsistence uses after that in .815.  
48 You know we're being hamstrung by, I don't know, just  
49 this one group, maybe, basically changes everything --  
50

0196

1 you know makes this proposal to change before the State  
2 as soon as we do our thing and so I don't know how to  
3 capture that in a -- you know, in an item here but I  
4 think we should and somehow get the Board to notice  
5 that, hey, we notice this and this is not right because  
6 both the Board's responsibility and our responsibility  
7 is to provide for that meaningful priority and  
8 meaningful preference. And when we do it and we get --  
9 I think sabotaged by these other interests, it makes  
10 our job that much harder and when we try to correct it  
11 we get hammered because we're not -- you know, we're  
12 not following this .815 stuff that the Board put  
13 together.

14  
15 So I don't know, we need to bring that  
16 to the Board.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
19 Cal. Procedurally, you know, I just want to kind of  
20 remind the Council that we are going to have to have a  
21 motion, you know, to approve the annual report here,  
22 you know, to make it official.

23  
24 MR. CASIPIT: Right. Right.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: If we're not ready  
27 to do that yet, if we want to add language I would say  
28 we probably need some individual motions to add  
29 language, you know, before we approve the whole thing.  
30 I assume that that would be procedurally correct.

31  
32 So I guess, you know, my statement  
33 right now is, you know, if you want to add something  
34 and make a motion to do that I don't know if you're  
35 prepared to do that now or you need more time to think  
36 about it or -- are you prepared to make a motion.

37  
38 MR. CASIPIT: Yes, Mr. Chair. I move  
39 that we add a section on Section .804 and .815 and how  
40 our responsibility to provide a meaningful priority is  
41 being compromised by a misinterpretation of both of  
42 those sections, .804 and .815. That for some reason  
43 continuation of subsistence uses in .815 isn't given  
44 the same level of consideration as closures for  
45 conservation.

46  
47 MR. KITKA: I'll second that.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. So we  
50

0197

1 have a motion and we have a second by Harvey. It  
2 sounds like it was pretty well stated so we can discuss  
3 that now. Go ahead, Cathy.

4

5 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
6 would say in that discussion that we could add in how  
7 we've tried to address this a couple of times,  
8 especially with Unit 4 deer and not being able to talk  
9 -- like not being able to necessarily address this  
10 continuation of subsistence uses. So this is our  
11 annual report for last year and we spent a lot of time  
12 on Unit 4 deer for last year and so I think it could be  
13 used as an example in the language under that bullet  
14 item as where we've tried to actually have proposals  
15 that address the continuation of subsistence uses when  
16 there's not necessarily a conservation concern. We had  
17 a lot of talk about that at this meeting, earlier, and  
18 stuff, but I think that we can kind of wrap that up and  
19 summarize it in this bullet item that he's talking  
20 about as an example of how it's not being interpreted  
21 under.....

22

23 MR. CASIPIT: We could use Unit 4 deer  
24 and this 1A goat thing.

25

26 MS. NEEDHAM: Right.

27

28 MR. CASIPIT: They're both really good  
29 examples.

30

31 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes. Yes, so I'm just  
32 suggesting that that could be -- because I know we have  
33 to have -- we have to give DeAnna something to go on so  
34 that she can wrap this up, you know, and get this out,  
35 so like the language that goes in under that bullet  
36 point that we're adding to the annual report could talk  
37 about our concern with the interpretation of Section  
38 .804 and .815 and then use the examples of both Unit 4  
39 deer and 1C goat or whatever it was for how we've been  
40 trying to address this and it's just not moving  
41 forward, or going forward.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
46 Cathy. So would you say that Cal's motion that was  
47 seconded pretty well addresses that and we just want to  
48 -- you're just trying to flesh it out a little bit for  
49 what -- yeah, how it's written up in the annual report?  
50

0198

1 MS. NEEDHAM: Uh-huh.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I just  
4 wanted to clarify that, okay. Thank you. DeAnna, do  
5 you have a question.

6

7 MS. PERRY: Just a clarification. Are  
8 we asking the Board a specific ask or is this more of  
9 an information share because I want to be clear if  
10 there's a specific ask?

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cal.

13

14 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, DeAnna. The  
15 Board may have an action to take after that but I think  
16 we just need to display to them our concern with not  
17 being able to do our -- to carry out our  
18 responsibilities because of the way these things have  
19 been interpreted and the way they're being implemented.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
22 Cal. So it sounded to me like we're not really asking  
23 for a specific ask, we're just expressing a concern,  
24 correct.

25

26 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Patty  
29 Phillips, go ahead.

30

31 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
32 Hernandez. Our discussion talked about a policy needs  
33 to be put in place and we kind of wanted to give the  
34 Secretary a head's up on that. And under .805 one of  
35 our -- we have the following authority; to review and  
36 evaluate proposals for regulation policies and so in  
37 trying to deal with some of these proposals that, you  
38 know, we're running into this kind of, sort of a  
39 roadblock. So, yeah, I think it's a long-term thing  
40 that we're looking at, we're just giving them a head's  
41 up, we're going to address this.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.  
46 Response, Cal.

47

48 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, I agree with Patty.  
49 This probably is going to be a long-term thing. I

50

0199

1 think this kind of gets it on the table and gets the  
2 Board noticing this and hopefully understand where  
3 we're coming from and maybe they'll work with us to  
4 resolve that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
7 So all of that kind of speaks to the motion. Any other  
8 comments related to the motion that we have on the  
9 table here, to add this item to the annual report.

10

11 Mike Douville.

12

13 MR. DOUVILLE: So it seems that we're  
14 being roadblocked by the abundance of -- or the  
15 abundance of game and the real problem is the avenue to  
16 that game is coming -- being hampered by user conflict.  
17 So we still have an obligation to provide for the  
18 continuation of subsistence opportunity that's being  
19 hampered by user conflict but the focus is on the  
20 resource abundance. So there is an abundance of  
21 resource but you have user conflict which is hampering  
22 the subsistence opportunity and that's not being  
23 addressed.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
26 Mike. Any other comments on this motion. Mr.  
27 Schroeder, Bob, go ahead.

28

29 MR. SCHROEDER: Well, when we -- I  
30 think this is an appropriate annual report item,  
31 however, kind of the argument is that I've heard from  
32 other people around the table, is a fairly involved  
33 one, and I don't think that we really want to ask --  
34 we're not really asking a question here of the Federal  
35 Subsistence Board. I think somehow or another we need  
36 to really develop our position really clearly, which is  
37 based on ANILCA and, you know, a clear reading of  
38 ANILCA concerning uses and then to highlight these  
39 other things in there as well.

40

41 So what I think I'm hearing is that we  
42 would like to be able to provide a subsistence priority  
43 basically across the board. That it isn't that ANILCA  
44 says there should be a priority only in a couple of  
45 cases but you can forget about the other cases, they  
46 don't matter, and ANILCA basically doesn't talk about  
47 -- specifically it really doesn't focus on conservation  
48 concerns, and this is -- as we've discussed at breaks,  
49 there's sort of a short-term and a long-term on the

50

0200

1 idea of restricting other users and so, you know, I  
2 read through ANILCA, the section one more time, and  
3 it's almost like they're kind of addressing a short-  
4 term, oh, my God situation that all of a sudden  
5 something happens and there's just a real plummet in  
6 species availability and so then you've got to divvy up  
7 what's left and that's kind of a way that's -- that's  
8 the conservation concern. However, we're really  
9 talking about some really long-term things here. In  
10 that virtually every meeting we'll talk about  
11 subsistence users being out competed by perhaps sport  
12 users because they've got bigger motors and they pay a  
13 whole bunch more money and so they get there faster.

14  
15 So I kind of suggest that if there's  
16 interest in working up a position paper on this, a  
17 policy statement, then that might be a way that we kind  
18 of move things along.

19  
20 I'm a little concerned about simply  
21 having a small -- see this would be like a huge change  
22 for the overall Subsistence Program, not just for our  
23 region, but this is like a really big deal. This is  
24 like a bigger deal than our customary and traditional  
25 use changes that took years to put into effect so I  
26 think we can do a good job on writing up what we -- the  
27 way that we would see the world.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
30 Bob. So a position paper coming from the Council, that  
31 would be a work in progress. Are you commenting on  
32 adding this item to the annual report, just to kind of  
33 put it on the radar or what's your feelings on that?

34  
35 MR. SCHROEDER: I'm fine with that. It  
36 appears that the Council is inclined in that direction  
37 so that seems to be okay.

38  
39 I'd just be concerned about having  
40 something that wasn't really very well developed and  
41 then we get a response back that says, well, actually  
42 you have to just be concerned about conservation  
43 concerns because then we wouldn't be advancing what we  
44 want to see happen. We'd sort of have, well, now  
45 they're not going to do it.

46  
47 So -- and I'd like, through the Chair,  
48 a question for DeAnna, many years ago the Council  
49 Coordinator basically was the person who wrote up the  
50

0201

1 responses to the annual report, is that still the  
2 process?

3

4 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair. Member  
5 Schroeder. It is not. Staff work on that, that's been  
6 the routine for the last couple of years. But, yes,  
7 you are right, the Coordinators did have a significant  
8 input to previous annual report replies.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
13 DeAnna. So I know we can add this item to the annual  
14 report at this meeting, that's easy to do. Bob, do you  
15 foresee being able to come out with a position paper on  
16 this subject before the end of this meeting or is that  
17 more of a long-term.....

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....goal?

22

23 MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chair, I think I'm  
24 slowed down a little bit by age and energy.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. SCHROEDER: I'd really like to work  
29 with -- I'd love to work with people on this issue and  
30 coordinate with someone else what we want to say but I  
31 think we need real Council buy-in on whatever we say  
32 because everyone who's been speaking to this has like a  
33 particular piece of it that's in their mind and, you  
34 know, just a -- I think all of the perspectives seem  
35 like they go together well but I may not be seeing  
36 things the same way Cal does and Patty may have a  
37 slightly different take than Harvey and so I think we  
38 need a little bit of a working group that might be  
39 entertaining on this.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, no, and I  
42 wasn't suggesting that you write the position paper,  
43 no.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No, I realize,  
48 yeah, we have to have some kind of a Council discussion  
49 on this and I don't know how extensive that could be

50

0202

1 and, you know the timeframe we have here but we can  
2 certainly try and get started on it, you know, a work  
3 group, possibly in the next day and a half or any other  
4 suggestions I'm open to. But maybe we can get  
5 something started here during the course of this  
6 meeting.

7

8 MS. NEEDHAM: We have amotion on the  
9 table.

10

11 MR. SCHROEDER: I don't know, do we  
12 have a motion?

13

14 REPORTER: Yes, you do.

15

16 MR. SCHROEDER: Oh, well, I think we  
17 could just procedurally, you know, one thing that we do  
18 get that's really special about Regional Advisory  
19 Council meetings is that we get a verbatim  
20 transcript.....

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. SCHROEDER: .....and I think that  
25 we have a lot of stuff in our record already on this  
26 topic. I don't know that we have to do a whole bunch  
27 more work to -- in the meeting format to get there. I  
28 think we have enough to go on so that we can draft  
29 something up recognizing that it wouldn't necessarily  
30 be -- it could be sent in if we got it done before the  
31 next meeting or it could be held for the next meeting.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
34 I know we're getting away from our original motion here  
35 with this discussion. We will take up that motion as a  
36 separate, you know, separate issue, this is just going  
37 beyond that, I guess. So maybe we'll take a little bit  
38 more discussion here but we will have to vote on the  
39 motion here shortly. So John, you had something to  
40 add.

41

42 MR. SMITH: Yeah, just to -- a  
43 suggestion, we did this before in Ketchikan, I thought,  
44 where we met in the morning and worked something out  
45 and then have it on the table and so I'm all in on the  
46 lunch, you know, we got an hour and a half lunch and we  
47 all sit together and ask.....

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: Point of Order, Mr. Chair.

50

0203

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, Frank, go  
2 ahead.

3  
4                   MR. WRIGHT: We're talking about the  
5 annual report and right now we're talking about a  
6 different issue. Mr. Chair.

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,  
9 Frank. Like I say, we are going to have to deal with  
10 this motion on the annual report, I mean we can go  
11 beyond that at some point and it's raising a different  
12 topic, I realize that, but Frank's right, we do have  
13 to, you know, deal with the motion that's on the table.

14  
15                   Patty, did you have some more on the  
16 motion.

17  
18                   MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
19 Hernandez. So I wish to correct my earlier ANILCA  
20 quote. So it's .804(d)(4) recommendations concerning  
21 policies, standards and guidelines and regulations. So  
22 what we've identified is a problem and we want to help  
23 come up with a recommendation for policy with this  
24 motion.

25  
26                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
29 for that Patty. Any other discussions on the motion to  
30 add an item to the annual report dealing.....

31  
32                   MS. NEEDHAM: Question.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, question's  
35 been called for. So all in favor of adding this motion  
36 to add to the annual report, DeAnna, could you just  
37 briefly summarize what the main motion was.

38  
39                   MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. Cal moved  
40 that we add section -- a paragraph on Section .804 and  
41 .815 of ANILCA and how our responsibility for a  
42 meaningful priority is being compromised by the  
43 misinterpretation of both those sections regarding the  
44 continuation of subsistence uses. They aren't given  
45 the weight as is closures for conservation so this is  
46 difficult to address. That, in a nutshell, I think was  
47 the premise of the motion.

48  
49                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0204

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,  
2 DeAnna and then like I say there's a lot of background  
3 discussion about that we can add. So if we're ready  
4 for the question, all in favor of the motion to add  
5 that item to the annual report say aye.

6  
7 IN UNISON: AYE.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody  
10 opposed say nay.

11  
12 (No opposing votes)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, motion  
15 passes. So we have one addition to the annual report.  
16 Does anybody else have any other additions that they  
17 would like to add.

18  
19 Patty Phillips, go ahead.

20  
21 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I don't want  
22 to add any other points, I just want to add some notes  
23 and they don't even -- I mean it's a very well written  
24 annual report but I took some notes while I was reading  
25 it and on No. 1. TransBoundary River boundary, I think  
26 -- do we want to identify the Taku, Stikine and Unuk  
27 Rivers as being transboundary watersheds that we're  
28 most concerned about. I mean we don't identify that in  
29 the number 1 bullet point.

30  
31 That would be a simple add.

32  
33 No. 2 is the support awareness for  
34 bycatch issues. There's just a little typo here -- or  
35 not a little -- a little edit, it's in the first  
36 paragraph right there in the middle, it says;  
37 ultimately -- so it starts out: The Council was  
38 informed that after days of public testimony at the  
39 NPFMC meeting ultimately there was no reduction, and it  
40 should state: to bycatch limits to the trawl fleet.  
41 So it just says there was no reduction to the trawl  
42 fleet. Well, we didn't ask for a reduction to the  
43 trawl fleet, we asked for a reduction in the bycatch  
44 limit.

45  
46 And then on No. 3 unguided  
47 sportfishermen issues. You go all the way to the  
48 bottom, the Council has participated numerous times in  
49 public processes to effect change, however, the actions  
50

0205

1 of the Alaska Board of Fish have not addressed these  
2 concerns and so I would say that: The concerns of, 1,  
3 establish limits; and, 2, reporting of harvest. The  
4 conservation from established limits and the improved  
5 recordkeeping is sound Fish and Game management  
6 practice which is consistent with ANILCA, Title VIII.  
7 Then we ask the Federal Subsistence Board what  
8 procedures can the SERAC recommend to address  
9 sportfishing bag limits and possession limits and to  
10 implement harvest data log books. I'm just saying add  
11 that -- we've been trying to do this so let's be  
12 specific about what we're trying to do.

13

14 So those were my notes, take them or  
15 leave them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, thank  
18 you, Patty. I don't think just adding clarifications or  
19 minor corrections requires, you know, a separate vote,  
20 I would just ask by unanimous consent, is there anybody  
21 opposed to Patty Phillips' suggested edits to the  
22 annual report, anybody opposed say nay.

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I think we  
27 can just add those corrections and clarifications.  
28 Very good, thank you, Patty.

29

30 John Smith, go ahead.

31

32 MR. SMITH: Yeah, maybe I don't see it  
33 in the document as supporting where for the bycatch  
34 issue but I remember in the meeting that I thought that  
35 that was a great idea where some of that bycatch that  
36 the trawlers were getting -- were to give back a  
37 certain percent of it to.....

38

39 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair, point of order.

40

41 MR. SMITH: .....the community.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Frank.

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair. We've already  
46 discussed the annual report and we voted on it so.....

47

48 MS. NEEDHAM: We voted on the  
49 amendment.

50

0206

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Did we, no.....

2

3 MS. NEEDHAM: We voted on the addition.

4

5 MR. WRIGHT: Addition, oh, sorry, Mr.

6 Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We haven't voted  
9 on finalizing the annual report yet, we're still  
10 dealing with any, yeah, minor additions or corrections  
11 and we don't have a motion as of yet to finalize it  
12 either, so, John, go ahead.

13

14 MR. SMITH: So in the -- so there was  
15 a request or an information about giving some of that  
16 bycatch back to the community, you know. So I don't  
17 know -- I don't see that there, but, you know, that was  
18 brought up on the table.

19

20 MS. PERRY: I don't remember that, I'll  
21 go back through the record.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Let's see, we can  
24 take that as a minor addition or correction. And  
25 DeAnna said that she can look back through our records  
26 there and see if she sees that and make that change if  
27 she finds it. Okay.

28

29 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, I remember that  
30 discussion, too.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cal.

33

34 MR. CASIPIT: And I think somebody in  
35 the audience said something about since it's a  
36 prohibitive species the trollers can't bring those to  
37 -- they're required to dump them overboard since it's a  
38 prohibitive species.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That kind of goes  
41 beyond my recollection. DeAnna.

42

43 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,  
44 there was a representative from the Alaska Trollers  
45 Association and I remember that was part of the  
46 conversation. I was not under the impression that we  
47 were adding that component to this annual report but if  
48 I am mistaken I will be happy to put that bycatch issue  
49 that Mr. Smith brought up in here. I do remember it

50

0207

1 being talked about during her testimony but I was not  
2 under the impression that we were including that as a  
3 suggestion for our annual report, but if I am mistaken  
4 I'll be happy to change that. I just need  
5 clarification.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
10 DeAnna. Like I say I think that's going to require a  
11 little bit more research by DeAnna. Does that require  
12 us holding off on a vote do you think or is that  
13 something that can be done after a vote?

14

15 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, I believe in the  
16 past we have taken a vote to approve the annual report  
17 with suggested edits and then I make those after the  
18 meeting but we are able to dispose of the annual report  
19 during this meeting.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
22 that sounds clear. So are we ready to have a motion to  
23 finalize approval of the annual report.

24

25 Bob.

26

27 MR. SCHROEDER: I just have one thing.  
28 I really liked 6; Indigenous co-management of  
29 resources. And that we strongly support this. I think  
30 we're going to get a presentation on the Sustainability  
31 Strategy and perhaps we'll find out -- I'd like to  
32 really be able to support Forest Service's efforts and  
33 we may get some more specifics in that Sustainability  
34 Strategy presentation that could be added in here. I  
35 don't think we have to come back and rework it, the  
36 intention would be to beef up our support for Forest  
37 Service efforts in this area and possib -- I think  
38 we're stating it pretty well as is but we could just  
39 add some details in on that.

40

41 And then I have one other item.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

44

45 MR. SCHROEDER: The other item, I'm not  
46 making a suggestion but I'd just like to see if -- we  
47 haven't talked about extra-territorial jurisdiction for  
48 quite awhile in this Council and this could be an area  
49 that we want to work on if other people are interested.

50

0208

1                   The basic idea is that things that  
2 happen outside of Federal jurisdiction can really  
3 affect the availability of species in Federal  
4 jurisdiction. So, you know, this has come up in the  
5 past with Angoon fisheries, inside, other sockeye  
6 fisheries, it's come up in Sitka where there's very  
7 small areas of Federal submerged land, where herring  
8 eggs have been harvested in the past.

9  
10                   I'm not sure if there's any interest in  
11 pursuing that at this time. So I'm just putting that  
12 out to the Council to see if we want to work on that.

13  
14                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you suggesting  
15 that we might want to add that item to the annual  
16 report. We've had extra-territorial jurisdiction in  
17 the annual reports in the past, I believe. Do you want  
18 to do something in this annual report, or, I don't  
19 understand?

20  
21                   MR. SCHROEDER: Well, we could put in  
22 as something of a placeholder that the Council is  
23 reviewing its position on extra-territorial  
24 jurisdiction. That would be real simple and we  
25 wouldn't have to work out exactly what we have to say  
26 on that topic. So we could hold the details for later.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Because we  
29 did add a topic, I think, into the new business here to  
30 discuss extra-territorial jurisdiction but -- so I see  
31 what you're saying. Are you making a motion to add  
32 that topic with some simple language?

33  
34                   MR. SCHROEDER: No, I'm seeing if -- if  
35 no one else makes a motion we'll just let this slide.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We'll see  
38 if anybody else wants to add that. But I know -- as I  
39 said it is on the agenda for discussion later and we  
40 may come up with another letter or something, it's hard  
41 to say where that might go. So maybe at this time,  
42 nobody's really prepared to add that item it kind of  
43 looks like.

44  
45                   (Pause)

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So back to the  
48 main order of business. Are we ready for a motion to  
49 approve and finalize the annual report.

50

0209

1 MR. SCHROEDER: Yeah, I'd move to adopt  
2 the annual report as amended.

3  
4 MR. CASIPIT: I'll second.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
7 We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion  
8 on approval of the annual report. Bob, go ahead.

9  
10 MR. SCHROEDER: Well, just so we have a  
11 nice record. I think that the annual report as  
12 presented in our booklet with the editorial corrections  
13 by Ms. Phillips and the additional item provided --  
14 suggested by Cal is a really strong document and I  
15 missed the last meeting but obviously you guys worked  
16 on it real well so I think we have a strong document  
17 and it's pretty focused and so for that reason I'd  
18 support it.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
21 Bob. any other comments from the Council.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Are we  
26 ready for the question.

27  
28 MR. KITKA: Question.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, question's  
31 been called for. All in favor of approval of the final  
32 draft -- or finalization of the annual report with  
33 edits can be added say aye.

34  
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
38 say nay.

39  
40 (No opposing votes)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We'll take  
43 a break for lunch, we've gone a little past noon. It  
44 seems to take a little while to get everybody to lunch  
45 and back here so let's go until 1:30 again. We'll  
46 reconvene at 1:30 and at that time I will offer up any  
47 other public comments or testimony anybody might have  
48 at 1:30 when we reconvene.

49  
50

0210

1 So we'll recess until 1:30.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thanks

8 Council members for taking your seats. We will

9 reconvene here shortly but we have an announcement to

10 make. We've been informed that right now this

11 building's supposed to be closed. They want to shut

12 down all the State buildings, they consider it to be a

13 liability to have people coming and going, you know, in

14 these slippery conditions and they don't want anybody

15 to get hurt. Chances are that the building will not be

16 open tomorrow so we're looking at options for

17 continuing the meeting, which we should probably make

18 the call now that we'll finish out the rest of the

19 meeting tomorrow on a teleconference but we're also

20 hoping that we can have a space for all the Council

21 members who want to venture out tomorrow to be able to

22 gather at least in one spot so we can all be together

23 and, you know, conduct the business with everybody else

24 over the phone. You know if anybody wants to stay in

25 the hotel and be on the phone that's perfectly fine as

26 well, but I think it would help if as many of us as

27 possible could at least be in one room. So we're

28 working on possibilities for that. It sounds like the

29 Federal building may still be open so that's a

30 possibility and DeAnna's also seeing if we can get

31 space at the hotel where we can gather and work on

32 that.

33

34 So in the meantime they would like us

35 out of here, and that means packed up and everything

36 gone by 4:00 o'clock, so we can do a little more

37 business.

38

39 So what we're going to try and do here

40 for the remainder of the afternoon is get all of our

41 action items completed for sure and then we can get

42 accomplished what we can tomorrow, I guess.

43

44 So any questions or thoughts on that.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So we only

49 have three more -- oh, maybe there's something from

50

0211

1 Greg. Go ahead, Greg.

2

3 MR. RISDAHL: Yeah, pardon me, Mr.

4 Chair, for interrupting. But we did just get a couple  
5 of emails from Dave Schmid, that he's dismissed all  
6 Federal Staff, Forest Service Staff so I'm not sure  
7 that the Federal building will be available either.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
12 for that. That's news. So I guess we're also kind of  
13 waiting to hear from OSM if we have any problems with  
14 public notice or anything in order to continue the  
15 meeting so maybe we're going to hear about that as  
16 well.

17

18 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, yeah, Lisa  
19 Grediagin for the record. And I just got confirmation  
20 from others in OSM that as long as we notify the public  
21 during this meeting, like this afternoon, about the  
22 changes and then we'll post it on our website and  
23 FaceBook, that that's fine. So we'll just have to  
24 decide where we're going or what we're doing before we  
25 break today and then we'll get that out on our FaceBook  
26 and website. And, of course, the call in number won't  
27 change so people can still call in and get updates that  
28 way as well.

29

30 Thanks.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure. Yeah. Part  
33 of the meeting is conducted over the phone lines  
34 already so, you know, it'll just be a little switch for  
35 the Council to have to be on the phones as well. So I  
36 guess maybe we'll wait to hear some word from the  
37 Baranof but it sounds like all the public buildings are  
38 going to be closed tomorrow.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So, okay, like I  
43 say, Cathy and I kind of reviewed the agenda and we  
44 only came up with three action items left to deal with.  
45 We have a Council charter review and an update on the  
46 correspondence policy and then we have our meeting  
47 dates to determine. So let's prioritize those and  
48 hopefully we'll have a little more time here this  
49 afternoon before we got to pack up to, you know, maybe

50

0212

1 decide on a few other items.

2

3 MS. NEEDHAM: Did you.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, excuse me,  
6 yeah, the call for wildlife proposals. We did  
7 introduce that yesterday but we still have to finalize  
8 that with wildlife proposals so I would say that's  
9 probably an item that we're going to end up doing over  
10 the phone. I don't think we're going to get through  
11 that this afternoon. So for this afternoon we'll work  
12 on the other ones and then -- yeah, and then see what  
13 else we can get accomplished.

14

15 So our Council Coordinator, DeAnna,  
16 you're going to lead us through the Council charter  
17 review.

18

19 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
20 the record my name is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator  
21 for the Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory  
22 Council. On Page 66 of the meeting book you'll find  
23 the Council's charter. The Council's charter is up for  
24 regular review. This charter is essentially the  
25 Council's bylaws and it notes the authorities under  
26 which this Council operates, such as ANILCA, and FACA,  
27 the Federal Advisory Committee Act. It provides the  
28 context for the Council operates and under the Federal  
29 Advisory Committee Act your Council charter is renewed  
30 every two years. Before the charter is renewed the  
31 Council has a right to review it and discuss any  
32 changes they would like to propose to the Federal  
33 Subsistence Board. The Board then reviews proposed  
34 changes and if the Board agrees a request for proposed  
35 changes is forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior.

36

37 A lot of language in your charter is  
38 actually required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act  
39 and its implementing policy so you can't change that  
40 language.

41

42 Some changes that you can request are  
43 changing the name of the Council, changing the number  
44 of members of your Council, and, again, that would  
45 require a reasonable justification. You can also  
46 request an addition of language that specifies a  
47 desired membership balance that, if achieved, would  
48 allow the members of the Council to represent the  
49 entire region. So for example, a few years ago, the

50

0213

1 Kodiak/Aleutians Council requested and was granted  
2 approval to geographically rebalance the membership to  
3 have four members from the Kodiak Archipelago, three  
4 from the Alaska Peninsula and three from the  
5 Aleutian/Pribilof Islands because that region is so  
6 spread out the Council wanted to state that having  
7 broader geographic representation is of value for them.  
8 During the last charter review, the Western Interior  
9 Alaska Council also added similar language to their  
10 charter. And recently some of you will remember that  
11 with the delays to Council appointments experienced  
12 over the last couple of years the Council requested  
13 that a provision be added to its charter to allow a  
14 member to serve after the expiration of his or her term  
15 until a successor is appointed. That carryover  
16 language was approved and is in your current charter.

17  
18 If the Council is satisfied with all  
19 the charter provisions as is and requests no changes  
20 then the Council can simply vote to forward the charter  
21 to the Board, the charter is carried over and is  
22 formally approved every other year. And, again, you  
23 can review, edit, you can make recommendations, if you  
24 desire, but if not, if you choose to take no action  
25 then the charter just gets renewed and continues.

26  
27 So, Mr. Chair, does this Council wish  
28 to make any recommended changes to the charter?

29  
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, DeAnna.  
31 Do we have some suggested changes or questions. Cathy,  
32 go ahead.

33  
34 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
35 It's a question. So in terms of stating -- changing  
36 the representation and the Councils that changed it  
37 geographically, or added language in there to make sure  
38 that they had broader geographic language, would we be  
39 able to add something similar about age range as a  
40 potential way to say when we have young applicants to  
41 this Council that we have representation of that? I  
42 mean obviously it's dependent upon who applies but  
43 being able to add a clause in there saying that, rather  
44 than geographic areas, we have whatever, the age  
45 demographic is, can we do something like that?

46  
47 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair. Member  
48 Needham. I would probably have to throw out a life  
49 line, if you're basing something on age, that would  
50

0214

1 make me a little nervous. I know that we're trying to  
2 pursue some youth representation either by a  
3 representative seat or a non-voting seat but the Board  
4 has not taken any action on that. I would have to get  
5 back with you on the age, geographic, I don't think  
6 there was a problem with that, but if we're going to  
7 try to base something on age we might be getting into  
8 territory that would get us in trouble.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,  
11 Cathy, with a follow up.

12

13 MS. NEEDHAM: Yeah, no, I appreciate  
14 that. I understand why that would be. But then could  
15 we -- instead of saying the age, like representation  
16 across age groups, could we actually put that in our  
17 charter that we want a youth representative on the  
18 Council -- representation on the Council?

19

20 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair. Member  
21 Needham. We can pose that to the Board. It would need  
22 the Board's approval before we can actually insert into  
23 our charter but we can make that request.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
26 Cathy. John, something to add.

27

28 MR. SMITH: Yeah, just a comment. I  
29 just remember briefly that that came up on the table  
30 when we were in Ketchikan, and -- because of Heather's  
31 group that was there. And there was, I believe, talk  
32 about having a rep on the -- on the Board -- or  
33 committee. I don't know if DeAnne [sic], or anybody  
34 else remembers any of that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: yeah, it was  
37 discussed, I remember that. I think the discussion now  
38 is maybe centering around could we have a non-voting  
39 seat, I believe, that would go to a -- I don't know how  
40 you would define a youth representative, would be a  
41 student or if there's some other way to designate that,  
42 but I think a non-voting seat is an interesting idea.

43

44 Cathy.

45

46 MS. NEEDHAM: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
47 Chair. Like so we're talking about changing the  
48 charter. So we could just have in Section 12, where it  
49 talks about 13 members, we could just say 14 members,

50

0215

1 with one non- -- where the 14th seat is non-voting and  
2 that can be taken out of the applicant pool, like there  
3 are criteria already in place for selecting the 13  
4 Council members, it could be the same criteria, but  
5 it's just giving like if youth apply we can continue  
6 that process or take it from that process. It's just  
7 allowing an additional seat to be a non-voting youth  
8 representative seat.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I guess how  
11 you define a youth would be the question. But, Patty,  
12 go ahead.

13  
14 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
15 Hernandez. I think we should, under our correspondence  
16 policy, submit a letter to the Board asking what are  
17 our alternatives for having a youth seat on our RAC  
18 then we can go from there.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: DeAnna, do you  
21 have a response.

22  
23 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair. We  
24 could add something -- we already have a good paragraph  
25 in our annual report regarding youth representation, so  
26 do we want to pursue it through the annual report or do  
27 we also want to submit it as a formal charter change?

28  
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I'd have to  
30 look again at the annual report and see how specific it  
31 is. Go ahead, Cathy.

32  
33 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It  
34 is a request in our annual report to explore the  
35 options of having youth -- younger folks on the Council  
36 but -- and now we're talking about changing the charter  
37 and I mean if we make this request to change the  
38 charter to have a youth representation on the Board --  
39 or, sorry, on the Council, a seat dedicated to that, I  
40 think it's just added -- it's like an added request,  
41 that's one option of being able to do that and the  
42 Board can consider them simultaneously, both from our  
43 annual report and from our recommendations of changing  
44 the charter to include that.

45  
46 And I guess my questioning today is  
47 just is that possible, is that the type of request we  
48 could make for a change in our charter? It's something  
49 that we've talked about even outside of the Ketchikan  
50

0216

1 meeting that Member Smith talked about, we've been  
2 talking about this for years and also at the last All  
3 Council meeting in whatever year we did the All Council  
4 meeting and all 10 of us -- all 10 Councils met in  
5 Anchorage, they defined youth as 25 and under at that  
6 point in time, they actually put a number on it and we  
7 actually talked about this at the All Council meeting.  
8 So it's not a new concept, we just have not found the  
9 right mechanisms, and my real question is, is, you  
10 know, amending the charter to have language specific to  
11 it, is that helpful, does that work, is it something we  
12 can do?

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
17 Cathy. That was good of you to point out that there is  
18 an established age bracket there for youth. Good.  
19 Yeah, John Smith, go ahead.

20

21 MR. SMITH: Just a question because I  
22 just heard about the voting. If we had somebody that  
23 was underage that was on the table and they couldn't  
24 vote, is there a rule that they can because it would be  
25 really cool to have a youth that had the ability to  
26 vote on our team, you know, but just -- just a thought,  
27 I'm just sharing a feeling, or perspective.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, I think the  
30 constraint there is that, I mean we're designated as a  
31 13 member Council so anybody added, you know, above  
32 that number obviously wouldn't be able to vote. So it  
33 doesn't preclude the chance that there may be a youth  
34 who applied out there who might get appointed, I mean  
35 we don't know that, it could happen. But I guess what  
36 we're looking for is, like I say, like an  
37 apprenticeship, you know, where somebody can  
38 participate in all the discussions and be involved but  
39 not necessarily vote. Yeah, I think that's a different  
40 issue. Yeah, good point though.

41

42 So I don't know, it sounds to me like  
43 we could make that request as a charter change and also  
44 be backed up by our annual report items as well.

45

46 Patty, something else to add.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: So our annual report  
49 says that we would like to advocate for -- we want to

50

0217

1 designate a youth representative seat on our RAC. More  
2 than -- I mean we actually want it. So maybe we should  
3 put a 3, request to the Board, please explore options  
4 and tell us how we can do this.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. At some  
7 point here we're going to have to come up with some  
8 good wording to vote on here for our request so I guess  
9 we have to start looking for that and then make a  
10 motion to change the charter. So do we have any  
11 suggestions.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: If anybody else has  
16 any ideas to throw out go right ahead.

17

18 (Pause)

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy Needham has  
21 suggested language, go ahead Cathy.

22

23 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
24 guess I'm not -- I have suggested language for making a  
25 motion but I just want to -- really my question at the  
26 very beginning was, is this possible, like is this  
27 possible? My understanding right now is we don't know  
28 if it's possible but we could make the recommendation  
29 for this charter change and then the Board will make a  
30 decision on that; is that correct?

31

32 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair. I have  
33 sent out a life line because I don't know the answer to  
34 that question but I haven't gotten a response yet.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay, great, thanks. I  
39 mean I don't want to go through the whole motion voting  
40 process and stuff if we don't know that this is --  
41 we're limited in what we can change on our charter and  
42 I just don't want to create a problem and get ourselves  
43 all worked up if the answer is this isn't even  
44 something that we could potentially change in our  
45 charter so.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We don't have a  
48 motion on the floor yet, perhaps we could put off  
49 finalizing this item and moving on to something else

50

0218

1 while we're waiting for a response. Is that suitable  
2 for the Council, I think that'll work. So how about an  
3 update on our correspondence policy. Lisa Grediagin is  
4 here to give us that, then we could go back to the  
5 charter review.

6  
7 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,  
8 Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. For the record my  
9 name is Lisa Grediagin and I'm the Wildlife Division  
10 Supervisor for OSM. The meeting materials for this  
11 agenda item can be found on Pages 31 of your meeting  
12 book as well as in your supplemental materials packet,  
13 and this is an action item.

14  
15 The Office of Subsistence Management  
16 would like your review and comments on a suggested  
17 update of the current Council correspondence policy.  
18 The update is meant to streamline and clarify the  
19 policy. Hopefully the suggested edits eliminate any  
20 unnecessary language or information, clarifies the  
21 guidance on the official scope of Council  
22 correspondence, to whom Councils may or may not  
23 correspond directly and the process for correspondence.  
24 The draft updated version of the policy can be found in  
25 your supplemental materials packet. Any new language  
26 is presented in bold, although proposed removed  
27 language is not represented. For comparison, the  
28 existing policy can be found on Page 31 of your meeting  
29 books.

30  
31 Primary changes in the draft policy  
32 include a shortened preamble, the introductory  
33 paragraphs of the policy summarizing the intent of the  
34 policy and the authorities foundational to the  
35 Councils. Element 1 uses clear language to define the  
36 content and focus of Council correspondence. Element 5  
37 combines elements that define the correspondence  
38 process. Element 7 confirms that Councils can submit  
39 comments on State regulatory proposals directly to the  
40 Board of Fish and Board of Game without review by the  
41 OSM Assistant Regional Director. And Element 9  
42 clarifies that Councils may not write directly to  
43 Federally-elected or appointed officials due to Hatch  
44 Act restrictions.

45  
46 Please take a moment to review the  
47 suggested changes or, if you prefer, I can read the  
48 policy into the record.

49  
50

0219

1                   Once, again, this is an action item but  
2 a motion is not required, instead please share your  
3 comments and questions, if you have any, which will be  
4 noted. The Board will take action on this draft policy  
5 during the summer work session and you will be updated  
6 on the new policy at your fall meeting.

7

8                   Thank you, Mr. Chair. And also Robbin  
9 LaVine, the Subsistence Policy Coordinator is also on  
10 the phone to answer questions.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
13 Lisa. So as she said we don't have to -- it's not up  
14 to us to approve this correspondence policy just make  
15 comments and suggestions, I guess, is what I  
16 understand. So I would leave it open for the Council  
17 to look this over and make any recommendations they  
18 might have or if there's questions.

19

20                   (Pause)

21

22                   (No comments)

23

24                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not seeing any  
25 questions or comments.

26

27                   (Pause)

28

29                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think I have a  
30 question, Lisa, on the policy on submitting letters to  
31 the Alaska Board of Fish and Board of Game. It seems  
32 like during this past cycle the letter that we sent to  
33 the Board of Game went through a fair amount of review  
34 up at OSM, this says Councils may submit regulatory  
35 changes and written comments regarding proposed  
36 regulatory changes to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and  
37 Board of Game directly. Is that new or did that not  
38 happen this last cycle, or am I mistaken, there seems  
39 like there was a fair amount of review up at OSM before  
40 that letter went directly.....

41

42                   MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....to the Board  
45 of Game. Go ahead.

46

47                   REPORTER: Okay, Robbin, go ahead.

48

49                   MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

50

0220

1 Members of the Council. This is Robbin LaVine,  
2 Subsistence Policy Coordinator with OSM. And I am  
3 happy to respond to any questions regarding the policy.  
4

5 To answer your question about the  
6 review process within OSM, prior to these changes any  
7 letters developed by the Council went through a pretty  
8 comprehensive review, which included final review by  
9 the Office of Subsistence -- the Regional Director.  
10 What we're proposing for these direct communications is  
11 a limited review, primarily just to ensure that, you  
12 know, formatting and completeness and documentation for  
13 our office is addressed but it's a leaner process and  
14 it's allows -- it's hopefully allowing you all to have  
15 a tool that is more responsive and immediate.  
16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
20 Robbin.  
21

22 (Pause)  
23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else on  
25 the Council have any questions or comments.  
26

27 (No comments)  
28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, oh, there we  
30 go, Bob Schroeder.  
31

32 MR. SCHROEDER: Well, just a quick  
33 comment. And, you know, we are going through this is  
34 adding, or continuing a level of review which may not  
35 be really as necessary as it's purported to be mainly  
36 because pretty much everything goes through our  
37 Designated Federal Official who is responsible and  
38 looks after the proper functioning of the Council. I'd  
39 be way more comfortable if we limited the further  
40 review for rather normal things that the Council will  
41 be commenting on for Forest Service management plans on  
42 fish and game regulatory changes and other things. So  
43 I put a great deal of confidence in our DFO to provide  
44 support in that and also to help the Council avoid  
45 possible misstatements. This seems like a little bit  
46 of overreach but to me.  
47

48 I will point out that early in the  
49 Program that there was a correspondence policy when the  
50

0221

1 Program was initiated, was that Councils could  
2 communicate with whomever they wished to communicate on  
3 whatever matters concerned subsistence. I realize that  
4 that's been changed.

5

6 That's just a comment. Since we're not  
7 acting on this that comment can be in the record.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
10 Bob. Anybody else, questions or comments.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, maybe we're  
17 done with that item so thank you Lisa.

18

19 Patty, go ahead.

20

21 MS. PHILLIPS: Is this an action item?

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We didn't have to  
24 vote on anything, it was just questions or make  
25 comments is what I understood. That was the action,  
26 not a vote necessarily.

27

28 Any response back.

29

30 MS. PERRY: I'm still waiting for an  
31 answer.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Next action  
34 item would be our future meeting dates.

35

36 MS. NEEDHAM: This could take all day.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is that an item  
43 for you DeAnna.

44

45 MS. PERRY: Yes.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I was going to  
48 say, you're busy doing stuff so -- yeah, we're kind of  
49 jumping out of order here so go ahead and take a few

50

0222

1 minutes if you need to.

2

3

(Pause)

4

5

6 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
7 is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator for the Southeast  
8 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. And for Council  
9 members if you could take a peak at Page 41 of your  
10 meeting book we had previously selected our meeting  
11 dates and location. We had selected October 24th  
12 through 26th for a meeting in Sitka and so for the  
13 first meeting date, I guess, that we need to take care  
14 of would be the fall 2023 RAC meeting. So, Mr. Chair,  
15 if you could ask the Council if they would like to  
16 stick with those dates and also that location or if  
17 they would like to change those.

17

18

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20

21

22

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
DeAnna. Any Council members feelings changed about our  
fall meeting October 24th to the 26th in Sitka.

23

24

Harvey Kitka.

25

26

27

MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
Normally I would object to Sitka.

28

29

(Laughter)

30

31

32

MR. KITKA: But if I were to go back to  
our charter, Section 12, the last paragraph.

33

34

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

MR. KITKA: Back when I objected I  
still had a job. I had to give up my leave and my pay  
to attend the meetings but I never got paid for  
compensation for that. The last paragraph specifies  
travel for regular business and it seemed like anybody  
that has meetings in their town, if they have a job  
they should get paid at least to come to thee meetings.

43

44

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

45

46

47

48

MR. KITKA: Because they're giving up  
their pay day for this. But I don't work anymore so I  
have no objections to that.

49

50

0223

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you  
2 for pointing that out Harvey. That might be a  
3 suggested change for the charter review when we go back  
4 to that item, when we go back to charter review. Okay,  
5 I'll take note of that. So you're fine with meeting in  
6 Sitka next fall it sounds like.

7  
8 (Laughter)

9  
10 MR. KITKA: If that's where you guys  
11 want it.

12  
13 (Laughter)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So we're  
16 all fine with Sitka it sounds like in October.

17  
18 MS. NEEDHAM: Do we need to vote?

19  
20 MS. PERRY: Yes.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, we do need a  
23 vote, okay. So we have to call for the question on it.

24  
25 REPORTER: First, you have to have a  
26 motion.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, we have to  
29 have amotion, sorry.

30  
31 REPORTER: Yep.

32  
33 (Laughter)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sorry, we'll start  
36 with a motion.

37  
38 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 Even though you didn't say Ms. Needham.

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 MS. NEEDHAM: I move to have the  
44 Southeast Regional Advisory Council meeting October  
45 24th through the 26th 2023 in Sitka, Alaska.

46  
47 MR. CASIPIT: Second.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. All in  
50

0224

1 favor of the motion say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
6 say nay.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, it's set for  
11 Sitka. Now, we got to decide on next winter's meeting.

12

13 MS. NEEDHAM: It seems like a short  
14 window.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: DeAnna, go ahead.

17

18 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
19 Office of Subsistence Management is trying to organize  
20 another All Council meeting for next spring that's why  
21 the window there looks so small, it's just for March so  
22 that would, in effect, take the place of our normal  
23 winter meeting. Right now we're trying to pinpoint  
24 when in March would be the best week to have it because  
25 we would be looking at people probably traveling on  
26 Sunday or Monday and then traveling back on Friday and  
27 Saturday. Since it is an All Council meeting we know  
28 that some folks who live more remotely it takes them  
29 more one day to get to Anchorage. So with that --  
30 considering that and trying to consider spring breaks  
31 as well, we just need to know from this Council what  
32 would be the best week to fit in these Council member's  
33 schedules. The only other Council that has met before  
34 us has been North Slope and they recommended the week  
35 of March 4th.

36

37 So, Mr. Chair, if you would like to  
38 poll the Council's wishes on that, what would be the  
39 best week in March that would be great.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
42 DeAnna. So we need a little discussion here for that  
43 All Council's meeting.

44

45 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mike  
48 Douville.

49

50

0225

1 MR. DOUVILLE: I would agree with March  
2 4th through March 10th. When you get towards the end  
3 of the month we're conflicting with fish eggs, which is  
4 a very important resource and we wouldn't want to  
5 conflict with that or you might have Council members  
6 missing.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, good point,  
9 Mike, thank you.

10  
11 Louie, comment or suggestion.

12  
13 MR. WAGNER: March 4th sounds good to  
14 me. Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.  
17 Anybody else.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Maybe we're  
22 ready for a motion on that.

23  
24 Cathy, are you ready for a motion.

25  
26 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
27 move to recommend the week of March 4th for the All  
28 Council meeting in 2024.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.  
31 Second.

32  
33 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any further  
36 discussion.

37  
38 (No comments)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. All in  
41 favor of March 4th for All Council meeting say aye.

42  
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
46 say nay.

47  
48 (No opposing votes)

49  
50

0226

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.  
2 Question for DeAnna. Do we conduct our regular  
3 business during those meetings as well or is it just a  
4 special agenda?

5  
6 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I was not  
7 present in the All Council from 2016 but I have seen  
8 the agenda and I believe there were some joint sessions  
9 with all Council members and then there were like half  
10 days where the Councils broke out into their individual  
11 Councils and did Council specific items and I believe  
12 that's the plan for this next one.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I do recall  
15 that earlier meeting and, yeah, I couldn't remember how  
16 much time was devoted to each but, yes, we'll have some  
17 business to conduct. Okay, thank you.

18  
19 Okay, so are we done -- oh, yeah, we  
20 still have to do -- yeah, sorry -- next fall, okay.  
21 More discussion. We need some suggestions for next  
22 fall's meeting. Right now we have no weeks or places  
23 suggested so a little discussion is necessary here.

24  
25 Bob Schroeder.

26  
27 MR. SCHROEDER: Just my purely personal  
28 preference is either the last week or the second to  
29 last week, top preference would be October 29,  
30 secondary would be October 22 but people may have other  
31 ideas as well.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
34 Bob, that's a start. Anybody who has a suggestion  
35 throw it out there, if it's other than the 22nd or the  
36 29th, and we'll narrow it down from there.

37  
38 Louie, go ahead.

39  
40 MR. WAGNER: Mr. Chair. 29th sounds  
41 good for me.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, I  
44 guess, you know, with two dates on the table here and  
45 nobody's suggested anything else we just kind of want  
46 to hear people's opinions between the 22nd and the  
47 29th. I guess for my own self, and I don't know how  
48 this affects other people, but I would go for the 22nd,  
49 the week of October 29th gets a little more into peak  
50

0227

1 deer hunting season so I'd suggest a little earlier for  
2 my own interest, I don't know about other folks.

3

4 Any other opinions there.

5

6 Mike.

7

8 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair. I agree with  
9 your opinion.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody  
12 feel strongly about October 29th as being a better  
13 date.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Maybe we're  
18 ready for a motion.

19

20 MS. PERRY: And a location.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Can we do that at  
23 the same time, same motion.

24

25 MS. PERRY: Yes.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, now, for the  
28 place. Okay, so let's start suggesting places.

29

30 Cathy.

31

32 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
33 think we saw on the non-rural determination schedule  
34 that we're going to be like in meetings and stuff next  
35 fall with the potential for -- I mean I'm wondering if  
36 Ketchikan is appropriate again. I know we just went  
37 there, maybe Saxman is appropriate, one of those  
38 communities, in anticipation of that schedule. I know  
39 that the decision isn't being made until after that but  
40 it seemed like on that schedule it was like next fall  
41 there was the potential for more interaction in getting  
42 community input, at least, on the analysis.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.  
47 That's true, we'll be a little further into the  
48 analysis then, it might be more opportunities for  
49 public comment. But I hate to go back to the same

50

0228

1 place two times in a row for fall and it kind of goes  
2 against what we've done in the past but if people feel  
3 that's a good idea it could be considered.

4  
5 I do have a question in my mind before  
6 we came in to the meeting, I was wondering if there  
7 were any changes in some of the parameters that go  
8 along with where we meet because I was thinking it  
9 might be a really good time to start talking about.....

10  
11 MR. KITKA: No wonder I couldn't hear.

12  
13 (Laughter)

14  
15 (Pause)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. As a lot of  
18 us remember we used to be able to meet in the smaller  
19 communities and then they kind of changed that, we had  
20 to be essentially where the jets landed but I always  
21 felt we got a lot out of meeting in the smaller  
22 communities. I know we are meeting in Craig that does  
23 not have jet service. But we have pretty good air  
24 service in a lot of communities now, you know, there  
25 are airports to runways and scheduled flights in some  
26 of the smaller communities now and so I was just  
27 wondering if that's a new possibility.

28  
29 Cathy, were you going to.

30  
31 MS. NEEDHAM: No.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: DeAnna.

34  
35 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair, we are able  
36 to have our meetings in what they call non-hub  
37 communities. I just have to do cost comparison and  
38 paperwork and then we have to have approval but we can  
39 request for it to be a non-hub community.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy.

42  
43 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 Then I think I like that idea. I know that you don't  
45 want to go back to two communities kind of in the same  
46 timeframe or whatever. I think the potential for input  
47 from Prince of Wales regarding the non-rural  
48 determination is appropriate and if we chose Prince of  
49 Wales in the fall, one of the communities on Prince of  
50

0229

1 Wales, we would probably get more participation about  
2 what, you know, the potential conflicts may or may not  
3 be if non-rural status is given and so I think that  
4 would be a representative community to consider.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
7 Cathy. I could agree with that. I actually had Hoonah  
8 in mind, given that we've spent so much time just  
9 talking about Unit 4 issues. So let's just hear a few  
10 more opinions from the Council.

11

12 John, go ahead.

13

14 MR. SMITH: I really like that idea.  
15 But also just, you know, collecting ourself, being able  
16 to connect with the ferry system but also, you know,  
17 even though that we're going to -- like being here in  
18 Juneau and Ketchikan and some of the bigger places  
19 where the ferry is available, there's more population,  
20 more people there to get testimony but not to mention  
21 that we have our Zoom and the phone. But I'm all in on  
22 the traveling to the smaller villages, that'd be nice,  
23 but just thinking about how we could get more people to  
24 come visit us at the table, and if we're in the village  
25 it's hard for them to show. But still we have the, you  
26 know, the other resources.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It's kind of been  
29 my experience that we generally get better turn out in  
30 the smaller villages. They actually seem to have more  
31 of an interest in what we do.

32

33 Louie, thought.

34

35 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
36 was kind of thinking about Wrangell, when was the  
37 committee there last.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Louie.  
40 Yeah, it's worth noting that we haven't had a  
41 representative on the Council from central Southeast  
42 here in awhile, neither Petersburg, Wrangell, or Kake  
43 has been represented for awhile and it has been quite  
44 some time since we met in any of those communities. so  
45 that's a good consideration.

46

47 Cathy.

48

49 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair. So I have a

50

0230

1 question for the record. I think I know the answer.  
2 We could actually pick dates and confirm a location at  
3 our next meeting as well since we are scheduling this  
4 so far out. Like we don't normally schedule this many  
5 meetings in advance so we do have a little time to take  
6 into consideration the location that makes sense but at  
7 least secure the dates. Maybe we want to go that route  
8 since right now we're talking about almost all the  
9 communities in Southeast.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, we're  
16 talking a year and a half in advance, too.

17

18 MS. NEEDHAM: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So no telling what  
21 the issues might be then. So if that would be the wish  
22 of the Council we could -- it's kind of on the record  
23 that we've certainly made a number of suggestions, good  
24 suggestions for that fall 2024 meeting, if we want to  
25 just keep those under consideration and decide on the  
26 timeframe now that might be fine.

27

28 Patty, go ahead.

29

30 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. We don't  
31 often deal with rural determinations and the community  
32 analysis should be done at that fall meeting and there  
33 will -- you know, hearings, they will be coming to them  
34 and we should be there to listen. So it's -- I know we  
35 don't like to go to the same community so quickly but  
36 this is an extraordinary circumstance. So I don't  
37 think if we go to POW, that we're not going to be  
38 hearing from the stakeholders from Ketchikan as we  
39 should unless we do it via Zoom or whatever. So that's  
40 my opinion, thanks.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I can see  
43 that's a good point. And I guess, yeah, I was maybe a  
44 little misleading there. I mean we are over a year  
45 out, so it's not like we would have been there that  
46 recently so, yeah, it's certainly a good consideration.  
47 So, I don't know, maybe people are willing to vote on  
48 that now, I don't know, or keep it under consideration.

49

50

0231

1 I guess, Mike, go ahead.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 Just there is some concern, and I know it's always  
5 interesting to listen to Saxman, we have had many  
6 meetings there when it came to trying to reestablish  
7 their rural status. At the same time there's concern  
8 on Prince of Wales, what will happen as a result of if  
9 Ketchikan should become rural, they're very fearful of  
10 added compet -- all kind of things. I explained to them  
11 that Title VIII protects everybody but that whole  
12 process is going to take some time should the ruling  
13 become favorable for rural status or Ketchikan. There  
14 still needs to be a whole bunch of groundwork to  
15 protect those rural users that have a higher priority  
16 and none of those things are in place. So there's fear  
17 in my tribe of those things. So, you know, probably an  
18 outlying meeting at some point down the road to explain  
19 how these things may work down the road. But there is  
20 genuine concern over the aforementioned things.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep. Duly noted.  
23 Yeah, I know there are concerns out there. So I don't  
24 know, DeAnna, you had something to add.

25

26 MS. PERRY: I just wanted to kind of  
27 mention the reason that we are sort of doing another  
28 cycle in addition to the timeframe we normally do. It  
29 seems to be getting longer and longer for the Federal  
30 Register to get through its wickets and posted and so  
31 when the dates and the locations for Council meetings  
32 are publicly noticed sometimes there's a delay in  
33 getting the Federal Register through. And as we know a  
34 couple years ago we weren't actually able to have  
35 meetings timely because the Federal Register didn't  
36 public in time so I think this is Office of Subsistence  
37 Management being proactive in trying to maybe work one  
38 more meeting ahead so that we can make sure that that  
39 Federal Register has plenty of time to go through the  
40 necessary steps.

41

42 So I would encourage you to try to  
43 narrow something down but we will have, at least, you  
44 know, another meeting or so to confirm that but that's  
45 the reason we're asking so far ahead.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

50

0232

1 So it probably would be a good idea to make a decision  
2 at this meeting, one way or another. It can be  
3 changed. So what's the wish of the Council, it's kind  
4 of a tough one.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: DeAnna.

9

10 MS. PERRY: I just want to maybe  
11 address Ms. Phillips' comments regarding the Council  
12 being able to hear from the community. The process  
13 that we now go through for a non-rural determination,  
14 there is a separate public meeting just for the  
15 community and when we did this for the Southcentral  
16 Regional Advisory Council, we had that public meeting  
17 in conjunction with a RAC meeting during the same week  
18 so that that could happen. I just wanted to make sure  
19 that Member Phillips knows that we do have a dedicated  
20 public meeting just for that issue, just in case you  
21 weren't aware of the new process.

22

23 Thanks.

24

25 (Pause)

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, are we ready  
28 for -- Patty, go ahead.

29

30 MS. PHILLIPS: I know we already  
31 approved the Sitka meeting but perhaps we should meet  
32 at POW in the fall and then the following fall in  
33 Ketchikan.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So I was  
36 just kind of hearing the same thing from Cathy, that  
37 that might be an option. Cathy, do you want to add to  
38 that, go ahead.

39

40 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
41 think the reasoning behind that, which would require us  
42 to go back and change what we've already voted on, but  
43 the reasoning for that as I understand it, is the  
44 analysis is actually going on for this fall and so if  
45 we want the input from the Prince of Wales communities  
46 and to be a part of that conversation we would need to  
47 be there in 2023, not 2024 which is what we're  
48 currently talking about. So my recommendation is we  
49 finish up the 2024 piece and then decide if we want to  
50

0233

1 revisit the fall Sitka decision that we've already  
2 made.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.  
7 So I heard that both from Patty and Cathy. I don't  
8 know, if enough people agree then we could have a  
9 motion, I guess, to rescind our fall 2023 decision for  
10 Sitka.

11

12 MS. NEEDHAM: Fall.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Fall 2023 is  
15 Sitka.

16

17 MS. NEEDHAM: Do you want to go back to  
18 2024.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, sorry,  
25 everybody just conferring here. Thought it might be a  
26 better idea to move on ahead with our fall of 2024  
27 meeting place and decide on that and then go back to  
28 revisiting our decision on the fall of 2023, that's  
29 suggested that that might be a better way to go about  
30 it.

31

32 John.

33

34 MR. SMITH: Just a question to confirm.  
35 I think I understand what you're trying to do. So  
36 you're trying to -- we're trying to take care of '24  
37 and figure a date for that but trying to hook up the  
38 Prince of Wales during the time we planned for Sitka,  
39 right.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That is correct.

42

43 MR. SMITH: Yeah, okay. Okay. So  
44 right now we're just working on the year '24.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. A year and  
47 a half out, we're talking a year and a half out and the  
48 suggestion for that is still sounds like Ketchikan is  
49 the best suggestion we have thus far for 2024.

50

0234

1 Louie, you have more input here?

2

3 MR. WAGNER: Did we forget about the  
4 Wrangell suggestion, thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think  
7 we'll have to talk about Wrangell at a future time,  
8 we've kind of focused in on this rural determination as  
9 being significant. But, yeah, I agree with you, we  
10 should be looking at Wrangell or Petersburg in the near  
11 future.

12

13 So Patty are you ready for a motion.

14

15 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, Chairman  
16 Hernandez. Move to recommend the fall 2024 Regional  
17 Advisory Council meeting to be held the week of October  
18 21st on Prince of Wales Island.

19

20 Do I need to be more specific as to  
21 which community?

22

23 MR. WAGNER: The 22nd.

24

25 MR. SMITH: I thought we were going to  
26 do Ketchikan.

27

28 MS. PHILLIPS: Oh, the week of the 28th  
29 -- excuse me, I'm getting rummy.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, so we're  
32 trying to nail down the fall 2024, which we kind  
33 of.....

34

35 MS. PHILLIPS: Oh, I'm sorry, the  
36 week.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....which we  
39 think kind of already invested in Ketchikan.

40

41 MS. PHILLIPS: The motion is to hold  
42 the -- recommend the fall 2024 Regional Advisory  
43 Council meeting for Ketchikan the week of October 21st.  
44 My apologies. Thank you.

45

46 MS. NEEDHAM: Second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.  
49 Second by Cathy. Any further discussion, is everybody

50

0235

1 clear.

2

3

(Council nods affirmatively)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Are we  
ready for the question -- wait a minute -- DeAnna.

7

8

9

10

11

12

MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I just wanted  
to make sure for the record that Ms. Phillips mentioned  
October 21st week but what I will note is October 22nd,  
23rd, and 24th because we always meet Tuesday through  
Thursday, just so the record's clear.

13

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, so noted.  
Patty, just included the travel day there, so, yeah.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So any further  
discussion.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are we ready for  
the question.

MR. KITKA: Question.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Question's been  
called for. So all in favor of holding our fall 2024  
Council meeting the week of October 22nd in Ketchikan.  
All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
say nay.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
Let's go back and reconsideration might be the proper  
term, I don't know, for the fall 2023.

Cathy.

MS. NEEDHAM: Okay. Mr. Chair, I'm

0236

1 told it's easiest that with the concurrence of the  
2 second I can withdraw my motion for the meeting, the  
3 fall 2023 meeting and we can start over with a new  
4 motion, with the concurrence of the second.

5

6 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. So  
9 that motion's been withdrawn so now we're ready for a  
10 new motion whenever you're ready.

11

12 MS. NEEDHAM: Harvey approves.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We know that,  
15 yeah.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Cathy.

20

21 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair. I think as  
22 we've stated we would just reconsider, rather than go  
23 to Sitka, go to Prince of Wales, for the same dates, so  
24 that we can be present on Prince of Wales Island to  
25 have and receive testimony from residents regarding the  
26 non-rural determination process. And -- well, we  
27 wouldn't be going to Sitka and I wouldn't want to  
28 disappoint Mr. Kitka in that aspect, so I don't think  
29 we want to offend him but at the same time I think it  
30 would be prudent if we actually made that decision to  
31 change it to Prince of Wales. I see Mr. Douville  
32 giving me the stink eye though so thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MS. NEEDHAM: That was a motion.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
39 I don't think we have quite gotten to a motion yet or  
40 are you.....

41

42 MR. KITKA: That sounded like a motion  
43 to me.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It was a long  
46 motion if it was. But do you want to make that a  
47 motion, Cathy.

48

49 MR. CASIPIT: I thought it was.

50

0237

1 MS. NEEDHAM: Do we have to say Craig  
2 DeAnna, or can we just say Prince of Wales and you can  
3 do your.....

4  
5 MS. PERRY: You should for the proposed  
6 rule but I mean if you're not ready to decide, we're  
7 just being highly encouraged to.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, make it  
10 specific.

11  
12 (Pause)

13  
14 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair. I would ask  
15 Mr. Douville if he would be -- Craig or Klawock would  
16 be probably the only options on the island. Klawock  
17 could be a consideration and we didn't go there last  
18 time because they do have a meeting facility at the  
19 VoTech Center and two hotels in Klawock so food would  
20 be a little more challenging but I would like to know a  
21 local resident's thoughts on whether or not you thought  
22 Klawock would be appropriate rather than -- as a  
23 consideration for a Prince of Wales community.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,  
26 Mike, if you want to respond.

27  
28 MR. DOUVILLE: I personally don't have  
29 a preference but it may be okay in Klawock, they do  
30 have a VoTech Center there as well as, you know, the  
31 CTA has one. You may get more participation from  
32 Klawock if you had it there. I have not had  
33 communication with them on the rural status but  
34 certainly there is some concern -- there is some  
35 concern in Craig, I think it would be fine in Klawock.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.  
38 We have never met in Klawock.

39  
40 MS. PERRY: Are there hotels in Klawock  
41 or do they have to stay in Craig?

42  
43 MS. NEEDHAM: A lodge.

44  
45 MR. DOUVILLE: I think there is a  
46 limited lodge in Klawock. I believe Keenya has a little  
47 bit, maybe the Fireweed.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I could see where  
50

0238

1 there could probably have to be some logistics maybe  
2 inquired about in order to pull it off but I don't  
3 know, DeAnna, if it's possible to make the Klawock  
4 suggestion and then in your attempts to set up a  
5 meeting, if there is roadblocks, we could always accept  
6 Craig as a very close alternative if that works.

7

8 MS. PERRY: (Nods affirmatively)

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You have that  
11 flexibility I assume. Okay.

12

13 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

16

17 MS. PERRY: It sounds like there are  
18 places in Klawock to stay so I'm fine with exploring  
19 those.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure. Okay.  
22 Ready for a motion, go ahead, Cathy.

23

24 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
25 move to have the fall 2023 Regional Advisory Council  
26 meeting October 24th through the 26th in Klawock.

27

28 MR. KITKA: I'll second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we have a  
31 motion and a second. Any further discussion.

32

33 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy.

36

37 MS. NEEDHAM: I guess for the record  
38 and under the motion I'd like our intent to be that if  
39 Klawock does not work as the option, if there's too  
40 much limitation with accommodations, that Craig be the  
41 back up to that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Duly noted.  
44 I don't think that affects the motion. So ready for  
45 the question.

46

47 MS. PHILLIPS: Call for the question.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. All in

50

0239

1 favor of holding the fall 2023 Council meeting the week  
2 of October 24, 25, 26th in Klawock, all in favor say  
3 aye.

4  
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
8 say nay.

9  
10 (No opposing votes)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Got through  
13 it.

14  
15 (Laughter)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. DeAnna,  
18 just informed me that we can go back to our charter  
19 discussion, she got some responses on some questions we  
20 had. So if everybody could kind of regroup their minds  
21 back around the Council charter discussion. Page 66 in  
22 the Council book.

23  
24 Do DeAnna, do you want to inform us of  
25 the new information that you received.

26  
27 MS. PERRY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 I did reach out to the Coordination Division Supervisor  
29 and asked the question regarding whether or not we  
30 could ask specifically for a youth seat and possibly  
31 put like an age frame with that and the response was  
32 that the Council can propose to add an additional seat  
33 to the Council but it will be up to the Board decide if  
34 they support it and then forward it to the Secretaries,  
35 as we mentioned before, it would be up to the  
36 Secretaries to make a final determination. And she  
37 encouraged us to make sure we had a good solid  
38 justification to support that request.

39  
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
43 DeAnna. A little clarification, are we talking about  
44 this as a non-voting member and was that discussed in  
45 your questions or were they opening up the possibility  
46 of having a 14th voting member?

47  
48 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I did not  
49 specify whether it was a voting or non-voting seat.

50

0240

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So I guess  
2 the question is still out there if we do this, how  
3 would we want to structure, would we still want to  
4 remain a 13 member Council with a non-voting youth seat  
5 or are we talking about adding a 14th seat that would  
6 be designated for youth. So I think that's a topic of  
7 discussion.

8  
9 Any Council.

10  
11 Patty Phillips.

12  
13 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
14 Hernandez. Correct me if I'm wrong but I believe that  
15 the 13 member designation is in regulation so it would  
16 probably fit better to do a youth representation seat,  
17 non-voting.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. As you  
20 pointed out, I think that would also require a charter  
21 change because we are chartered at 13 members so unless  
22 we wanted to make that change as well we'd probably be  
23 looking at, which might be an option, but maybe not  
24 what we want to do, so a non-voting seat.

25  
26 John.

27  
28 MR. SMITH: You know just the number  
29 13, it's an odd number, so keeping that odd number for  
30 voting purposes, we might need to have two youth on  
31 there to make an odd number so I'm all in on that.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

34  
35 MS. NEEDHAM: Do you need me to make a  
36 motion.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy.

39  
40 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
41 I'd like to make a motion if that's appropriate at this  
42 time because we've talked about this and we were just  
43 getting clarification.

44  
45 So I move to add to -- an option to our  
46 charter for one additional non-voting member between  
47 the ages of 18 and 25 who are knowledgeable and  
48 experienced in matters relating to subsistence uses of  
49 fish and wildlife and who are residents of the region  
50

0241

1 represented by the Council.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.

4 Do we have a second.

5

6 MR. WAGNER: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We have a

9 motion and a second. Now we can further discuss.

10

11 Cathy.

12

13 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My

14 recommendation for that is to add it under Item No. 12

15 and there's a paragraph that says 13 members and then

16 my language that was in the motion could just be the

17 next paragraph afterwards and I have it written out for

18 Ms. Perry if she needs that for the record of what

19 stated that paragraph could say.

20

21 My motion included that this is an

22 option, it's not a requirement. And the reason why I

23 didn't make it a requirement to necessarily do it is

24 you really have to get youth to apply for it, it has to

25 go through all that process and stuff, so I want to

26 allow it to be an option for a youth seat, a non-voting

27 youth seat on the Council, but we're not considering a

28 any non -- you know, we're not in any kind of non-

29 compliance if we don't get applicants or folks or if

30 there's not a process in place for it so that's why I

31 worded it as an option and I just wanted to make sure

32 that that was clear, and I'm not sure if everybody

33 agrees with that but that was my rationale for that

34 motion and if you don't like it we can amend it. But I

35 wanted to make sure that that was clear to folks.

36

37 And in terms of having a justification

38 in place for putting a youth representation on the

39 Council, you know, we've talked about this for a really

40 long time. We have been getting a lot more engagement

41 with youth at our meetings. It's proven to be valuable

42 to us when we're getting their input -- getting the

43 input from those students that have been here in the

44 past and from younger members when they actually have

45 been on the -- it's another perspective that allows for

46 us to integrate into the decisionmaking process that we

47 have and it allows us to look towards what the next

48 generation and future generations may or may not need

49 and so I think those are good justification points for

50

0242

1 adding that representation in. We have worked with our  
2 youth in our region that have come to our meetings and  
3 included them in work group discussions in the past and  
4 it's worked really well for us and I think that it's  
5 appropriate to make sure that there is some  
6 representation on that.

7

8 Additionally, a number of organizations  
9 throughout the region are adding youth to their  
10 governing bodies for the same reasons. For getting the  
11 folks -- so that the folks around the table can really  
12 understand, you know, what the needs are and help  
13 predict what the future needs for subsistence uses are.  
14 So I'm hoping that that helps with the strong  
15 justification when this comes before the Board of why  
16 we feel like it's an important addition to our charter.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.  
21 I also think another, you know, strong justification  
22 would be that we really would like to recruit younger  
23 full-time members on to the Council and I really think  
24 this would be a great way for younger people to learn a  
25 lot about, you know, how we operate, what we do and  
26 what it's all about and would encourage them to, you  
27 know, put in applications. I think that could be a  
28 real benefit because it can be a little bit  
29 intimidating if you're not familiar with the process.

30

31 Frank, you had something as well.

32

33 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
34 agree with adding a young person to the group, you  
35 know, because most of us on this Council are not  
36 getting any younger. Another thing is right now our  
37 charter says 13 members but if we're going to add a  
38 non-voting member, does that make 14?

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,  
43 Frank. Yeah, that's a good question. I don't know  
44 that might be something that the Council Coordinator  
45 and Staff may have to hash out I guess, I don't know.

46

47 Cathy.

48

49 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I

50

0243

1 think that's a really good point and maybe it's just a  
2 semantic and we can say -- I know my motion included, I  
3 said, additional non-voting member, but I could change  
4 it to additional non-voting representative between the  
5 ages of 18 and 25 if we wanted to make it clear that  
6 it's not interrupting that 13 member, and, again, it's  
7 an option so if we have a representative it -- they're  
8 there, but if we don't then they're not.

9

10 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think, you know,  
13 semantically, that kind of makes sense, better wording.  
14 You may have to amend your motion somewhat, probably a  
15 good idea with the concurrence of the second.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, I move to  
20 amend the motion taking the word member and replacing  
21 it with the word representative.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

24

25 MR. SMITH: Second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So that's a motion  
28 to amend, we should actually have a vote on the motion  
29 to amend. Any other discussion.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

34

35 MR. CASIPIT: Question on the  
36 amendment.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: The question would  
39 be on the amendment only just changing that one word,  
40 okay, are we ready for the question.

41

42 (Council nods affirmatively)

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. All in  
45 favor of the amended motion to add the word -- or  
46 replace the word member with representative, just to be  
47 clear that we're not adding a full-time member to the  
48 Council, all in favor of that amendment say aye.

49

50

0244

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
4 say nay.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Amendment  
9 passes. So now we're back to the main motion as  
10 amended to add an additional youth representative, non-  
11 voting youth representative to the Council. Any  
12 further discussion on the main motion.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are we ready for  
17 the question.

18

19 MS. NEEDHAM: Harvey's got something.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Harvey, you have a  
22 question.

23

24 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, I don't have a  
25 question but I'd just add another reason to have  
26 basically a non-voting member/representative; if  
27 they're a youth and still in school sometimes they'll  
28 come to a meeting with ideas that are passed on by the  
29 teacher, so if they're non-voting they get a chance to  
30 sit here and listen to us and they get to form their  
31 own opinions.

32

33 This is just my opinion of what might  
34 happen so, thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harvey.  
37 And I guess, you know, what I envision is they would  
38 have the opportunity to do more than just listen. I  
39 think, you know, they would have the opportunity to ask  
40 questions as well, you know, maybe participate in  
41 working groups and things like that, they just wouldn't  
42 vote on any motions. So, yeah, thank you, Harvey.

43

44 Patty.

45

46 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
47 agree with adding one non-voting representative between  
48 ages 18 to 25. I think a youth advocate, or a youth  
49 advisory is appropriate and we would also be mentoring  
50

0245

1 that youth. It's a pretty lengthy learning process to  
2 get involved in the SERAC and it's a good way to be  
3 mentored by those of us who come from rural communities  
4 and represent subsistence use.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.  
9 Are we ready for the question.

10

11 MR. KITKA: Question.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, question's  
14 been called. All in favor of adding a non-voting youth  
15 representative to the Council say aye.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
20 say nay.

21

22 (No opposing votes)

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.  
25 So does that bring us back to approving the charter as  
26 a whole now that we've put a suggestion for the  
27 addition to the charter. DeAnna, do you want to just  
28 kind of brief us again, do we now have a vote to  
29 approve our charter with amendments, with changes,  
30 suggestions -- suggested changes?

31

32 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think to  
33 make the record very clear we should have one final to  
34 approve the charter with the amendment suggested.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Okay,  
37 everybody hear that, to kind of wrap up this action  
38 item we should have a motion to approve our recommended  
39 finalized charter with the one addition that we are  
40 recommending to be added to the charter so that would  
41 take a motion.

42

43 MR. KITKA: So moved.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy, go ahead.

46

47 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
48 move to approve the Council charter with the addition  
49 that we -- with our additional recommendation.

50

0246

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

2

3 MR. SMITH: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we have a  
6 second. So any further discussion on the charter  
7 issue.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are we ready for  
12 the question.

13

14 MR. SMITH: Question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Question's been  
17 called for. All in favor of approving the charter with  
18 the suggested addition of a youth representative say  
19 aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
24 say nay.

25

26 (No opposing votes)

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
29 very much. Good discussion. I'll check in with  
30 DeAnna, we have to be exited the building within one  
31 hour?

32

33 MS. PERRY: Uh-huh. Well, start  
34 packing up by then.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

37

38 (Pause)

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So we have time  
41 for a little more business, not an action item, we  
42 completed all our action item except for wildlife  
43 proposals which we're still going to be working on  
44 until the end of the meeting, I'm sure.

45

46 Question from Patty.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: What about new business  
49 K, isn't that an action item.

50

0247

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Just a second. I  
2 do not see it as an action item on my agenda, Item K  
3 under new business.

4  
5                   (Pause)

6  
7                   MS. PERRY: The National Park Service,  
8 she's not available until tomorrow morning. I did get  
9 an email from her, Eva.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's not an  
12 action item either, is it.

13  
14                   MS. PERRY: No, she just wanted input.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Okay. New  
17 business Item K, National Park Service seeks input on  
18 proposed changes, apparently that's not an action item.  
19 I don't know what they mean by seeks input but it's not  
20 an action item and Eva Patton who's going to present on  
21 that isn't available until tomorrow morning. So we'll  
22 hold off on that.

23  
24                   We could have our Fisheries Resource  
25 Monitoring Program update.

26  
27                   MS. PERRY: Fisheries update.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, it's not the  
30 monitoring -- excuse me.

31  
32                   MS. NEEDHAM: He's ready.

33  
34                   (Laughter)

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Who's here.

37  
38                   MS. PERRY: Jake wanted to do the  
39 fisheries update and then.....

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, that's down on  
42 agency reports, okay.

43  
44                   MS. PERRY: Yes, since it's so visual.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Sorry,  
47 we're jumping down to -- this is actually an agency  
48 report. We're going to jump down to that for -- where  
49 is it on here, it's kind of the fisheries update

50

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1 report, I guess. That requires some visual aides so  
2 we'll do that this afternoon while we've got everybody  
3 in the room and a projector. So for that we have Jake  
4 Musslewhite. So Jake whenever you're ready to do your  
5 presentation.

6  
7 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
8 Chair. I appreciate it. I kind of wanted to get this  
9 done while we still had a room and a screen to look at.  
10 So this is going to be -- this is also going to be  
11 pretty quick. If you remember I gave you a summary at  
12 our last meeting in Ketchikan, I don't have a whole lot  
13 of new information, new data to present since then, but  
14 I did want to hit on just a handful of the new  
15 developments that have happened since then.

16  
17 Here's our construction of the weir at  
18 Sitkoh Lake, incidentally, which I just now realized  
19 we're breaking like nine different Forest Service  
20 safety rules there.

21  
22 (Laughter)

23  
24 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: But, anyway, there's  
25 -- you know, obviously first thing in the season here  
26 is going to be the Unuk eulachon. Some of these are a  
27 repeat from what I showed last time but we did discuss  
28 this, I kind of anticipated talking about this.

29  
30 So just to recap the last year's  
31 monitoring. Again, this is like a qualitative survey  
32 so rather than counting some number of fish or  
33 something like that, it's just being able to get boots  
34 on the ground, eyes seeing on -- getting a feel for,  
35 you know, just what the abundance level is in a  
36 relatively qualitative way. So lots of folks taking  
37 place in this, not only Forest Service, but all the  
38 locals around there and KIC and Ocean Earth  
39 Environmental Services, so this past year in '22 they  
40 were there March 17th through 26th. We did have, you  
41 know, some harvest opportunity there with four permits  
42 with a five gallon bucket and we did get like one  
43 permit did report harvest under that Federal permit.

44  
45 And, again, this is from '22, so it's  
46 hard to see small print here but the top graph is the  
47 observed, you know, return, just under those kind of  
48 step-wise, so it was considered weak last year. And  
49 then the bottom one is kind of a good way of showing  
50

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1 you what the past was like and what the present is so  
2 those are back to the '50s and such with some  
3 considerable harvest of eulachon and then I needed to  
4 make a little tiny magnifying glass to see what we have  
5 just since we've opened here in the past couple of  
6 years, just to put that all into perspective. And this  
7 is all leading into the fact that we're, you know,  
8 should be in just a short while having another fishery.  
9 So it's open to only Federally-qualified users, all  
10 District 1 is closed except for the Unuk, Fish and Game  
11 followed suit and as before it's a limit of one five  
12 gallon bucket to net or cast only just to provide some  
13 opportunity for folks.

14  
15 Just an update on Neva Lake sockeye.  
16 As you probably know the Federal Subsistence Board  
17 continued the closure during our last meeting there in  
18 January and I've also been working with.....

19  
20 (Teleconference interference -  
21 participants not muted)

22  
23 REPORTER: Folks on the line, please  
24 check and make sure you're muted please.

25  
26 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: .....Fish and Game to  
27 adjust the harvest limit there to 20 and it sounds like  
28 that is a done deal. I haven't seen any official  
29 announcement or published regs or anything like that  
30 but I am told that's, you know, well through the  
31 process so we'll see what happens. I don't know how  
32 long it will take for the word to get out there, but  
33 I'm hoping that gets a few more fish in folks' freezer.

34  
35 Another one I'm keeping my eye on is  
36 Klag Bay sockeye. If you, you know, you see there the  
37 escapements have been declining for quite awhile and,  
38 you know, this last year we had the lowest escapement  
39 seen in quite a few years, you know, 20 plus years of  
40 monitoring.

41  
42 (Teleconference interference -  
43 participants not muted)

44  
45 REPORTER: Whoever's maybe working in  
46 their kitchen or garage, could you please check your  
47 phone and mute so we can hear the presentation.

48  
49 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: And they're still  
50

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1 getting harvested so, you know, 2,300 fish up the creek  
2 and 1,600 harvested does not feel to me like we're on a  
3 sustainable path there. So that is, I think, a system  
4 where we should look at adjusting the harvest limits.  
5 Right now they're kind of at that max of 50/50 and it  
6 doesn't feel to me that that's going to last much  
7 longer at that rate so I would welcome any thoughts you  
8 might have in terms of adjusting that. And I could try  
9 to go through that same process with Fish and Game,  
10 it's awfully streamlined, I just ask if they present  
11 information -- and, again, just like Neva, this is a  
12 system where we have more information than we could  
13 hope for, we have a long history of escapement  
14 monitoring, a long history of on site harvest  
15 monitoring, it's actually one of the few places we  
16 could generate a meaningful escapement goal and so I  
17 think I'm going to go through that academic  
18 exercise.....

19  
20 (Teleconference interference -  
21 participants not muted)

22  
23 REPORTER: So folks online, I need  
24 somebody -- I need everybody to please check your  
25 phone, to mute your phone because it's disrupting the  
26 meeting right now and we're trying to have a  
27 presentation. So there's only a few of us online if  
28 everybody could check. Thank you.

29  
30 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: .....try to figure  
31 out a like biological escapement goal and work  
32 backwards from there to try to figure out an  
33 appropriate harvest level that's more likely to achieve  
34 that escapement goal. I don't know what that is but  
35 it's definitely going to be a lot less than 50. So if  
36 anyone has any thoughts or experience with that, you  
37 know, system or anything, I'd love to hear it.

38  
39 Yes, okay, thank you.

40  
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. So have you  
42 considered this -- Mr. Chair -- have you considered in-  
43 season management because that's pretty -- that's like  
44 dangerous low.

45  
46 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, through the  
47 Chair. Ms. Phillips. I have considered that. And  
48 we're -- it would be actually kind of set up for that  
49 because we do have on-site harvest monitoring, we have  
50

0251

1 eyes on the water there. Things get -- that would have  
2 to be done by the State so we would have to -- there  
3 would be a lot of players there, so it's Sitka Tribe  
4 doing the monitoring and then they would have to work  
5 with the State and such and I don't know the  
6 particulars of, you know, whether they can -- what it  
7 takes for them to close it down by EO and that sort of  
8 thing. It feels to me like a good first step would be  
9 to establish a more conservative harvest limit because  
10 not only does that reduce the number, there's a less  
11 attrac -- people see 50 in the book and they go there,  
12 you know, and also if they can take less while they're  
13 there so it kind of has a double-whammy to lower that  
14 limit but I definitely agree with you that in-season  
15 management, this may be a good place, because it's  
16 driven a lot by water level conditions. They kind of  
17 stack up there, you know, waiting for rain to get up  
18 into the creek so if we see that sort of situation  
19 developing it may be a place where it could be closed,  
20 you know, to allow escapement. So there's definitely  
21 some possibility there.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Jake, we have.....

24  
25 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yes.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....a couple  
28 other questions there.

29  
30 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yes, absolutely.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy Needham, go  
33 ahead.

34  
35 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Jake, when I think like about in-season management I'm  
37 wondering also if there have been any actions taken  
38 regarding limiting commercial fisheries in and around  
39 the area. I know like for Hetta Lake we considered  
40 that partly in-season management and we always asked  
41 the area management biologist to potentially not open  
42 up for commercial fisheries where sockeye might be  
43 considered bycatch during weeks -- so limit that before  
44 we limit harvest and I'm wondering if there's any  
45 communications between the Program and the State  
46 commercial side of things about that aspect as well.

47  
48 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, through the  
49 Chair. Member Needham. Yeah, I appreciate that  
50

0252

1 question. I actually was kind of looking at that  
2 earlier today and trying to figure out the -- the main  
3 commercial fishery that would be in that area at that  
4 time would be the purse seine fisheries targeting pink  
5 salmon there in District 13. I think that those would  
6 tend to be timed later than, you know, would be really  
7 hitting the Klag Bay sockeye hard but I don't know for  
8 sure. I was kind of going through old seine  
9 announcements trying to figure out exactly when they  
10 were figure out exactly when they were holding those  
11 openings and looking at the number of sockeye. It  
12 doesn't feel to me like it's a huge factor. I know Ms.  
13 Phillips mentioned seeing, was it seine boats stacked  
14 up right out Klag Bay. There is a closure line across  
15 Klag Bay like Anna Sister's Lake, that sort of big bay  
16 system, right, I don't know that area real well, but --  
17 so they can't go way in there but they could be on the  
18 outside so I think there probably is some catch, I  
19 don't think it's a huge factor though, would be my  
20 first guess and the timing is offset somewhat, so  
21 they're not -- they're in there in probably late August  
22 I imagine after most of the sockeye are probably either  
23 in the system or right in the mouth kind of inside that  
24 closed line.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cal, did you also  
27 have a question.

28

29 MR. CASIPIT: Question and observation.  
30 I've been to Klag many years and I noticed the same  
31 thing, that when that water level in the creek was low  
32 they all piled up in the mouth and they were pretty  
33 vulnerable down there. So I think if you could maybe  
34 concentrate your in-season actions on that, I think  
35 you're probably ahead on that. Just an observation.

36

37 And then the other -- the question I  
38 had was what's -- have you analyzed the harvest  
39 reporting versus the on-site harvest survey to see how  
40 well they track over the years?

41

42 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, through the  
43 Chair. Member Casipit. I know we have both sets of  
44 data available to us, I can't tell you right off hand  
45 how well they line up but that's definitely something  
46 to look at. Yeah, this is really nice that we do have  
47 the on-site harvest survey that I believe more than the  
48 permit -- yeah, for sure.

49

50

0253

1 MR. CASIPIT: That's the point I was  
2 trying to get at.

3  
4 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, right, thanks.  
5 Yes. So anyway moving on, I guess one of the other  
6 recent developments, of course, is the closure on the  
7 Taku River which has been there since the dawn of time,  
8 kind of inherited from the stuff in the attic of the  
9 State back at the beginning of the Program is now  
10 rescinded. So I don't know exactly when that's  
11 actually going to get published in the Federal Register  
12 and take effect, if it's going to be in time for this  
13 coming fishing season or not but -- so this is a new  
14 item on our plate. We can manage it with in-season reg  
15 -- you know, in-season management until this Council  
16 comes up with an appropriate regulation for it. There  
17 is a current personal use sockeye fishery and I expect  
18 that we will probably run in-season management similar  
19 to that sockeye fishery but, again, if the Council has  
20 any thoughts on that. And so, you know, I've kind of  
21 listed the guidelines that the State has that personal  
22 use fishery on. Looking at chinook forecasts for this  
23 coming year I was startled and pleased to see that the  
24 forecast for the Taku is actually within the escapement  
25 goal, has not been obtaining escapement goals for quite  
26 a while, the forecast is a lot different than fish in  
27 the river, but I hope that is maybe a hopeful sign.  
28 But this is one place where there could be possibly  
29 subsistence harvest of chinook in-river, just saying,  
30 were that run to get a little bit healthier. It has  
31 been depressed like many other runs -- chinook runs  
32 throughout Southeast. So this is just something to --  
33 for the Council to have on their radar in terms of  
34 setting the regulation for this river here, this  
35 fishery.

36  
37 I'm going to get out my crystal ball  
38 here real quick and there's good news/bad news. The  
39 bad news is that this coming year's pink salmon  
40 forecast which I do believe they have been really good  
41 at it, is not so good. Harvest of 19 million fish --  
42 not return, but a harvest, that's the only way to  
43 really count it is by, you know, in a hold -- so not so  
44 great if you're a seiner but I would -- during years of  
45 lower seine effort that we do see especially in the  
46 Chatham Corridor, better sockeye escapements, better  
47 sockeye returns to terminal areas. So it might be a  
48 better year to be a sockeye in the Chatham Corridor  
49 this year. And this is kind of a busy graph here but I  
50

0254

1 just want to -- if you can look at that like 2011 to  
2 2015-ish, time series there with the blue and the black  
3 lines, we had several years of wildly varying of pink  
4 salmon abundance, really boomer year, really weak even  
5 year and so it was like flipping a light switch on and  
6 off in terms of the seine effort from year to year and  
7 then we had the exact inverse effect on returns to, in  
8 this case, it would be Kook Lake, Basket Bay so it was  
9 kind of a nice natural experiment in terms of changing  
10 the seine effort from high to low, high to low and  
11 watching what happens with our escapement -- sockeye  
12 escapements, so this should be a low seine effort year  
13 and I would expect some -- hope for, I guess, some  
14 decent sockeye returns.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Say, Jake.

17

18 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You know that's  
21 always been pretty glaring to me, that situation. And  
22 then, you know, earlier in a discussion on Klag Bay  
23 when you talk about, well, we've heard this over and  
24 over, that, oh the seine fishery doesn't interfere with  
25 the sockeye, you know, escapements, the seine fishery's  
26 time to be later than what the sockeye runs are  
27 happening and yet when there is no seining you get much  
28 better sockeye escapements. So it just kind of blows  
29 that out of the water, that whole timing argument. I  
30 mean there's a lot of variation in run timing and I  
31 just think there's a lot of assumptions out there that  
32 they're just wrong and, you know, we continue to  
33 operate under those assumptions and at some point they  
34 have to be carefully looked at, let's just put it that  
35 way.

36

37 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I just wanted to  
40 make that point.

41

42 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, no, you've.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: This just -- this  
45 just, you know, is contrary to what your response was  
46 to the questions on Klag Bay, it's obvious to me, so I  
47 just wanted to point that out.

48

49 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Sure, thank you.

50

0255

1 MR. CASIPIT: Well, this is exactly  
2 what Angoon was talking about.....

3  
4 REPORTER: Cal.

5  
6 MR. CASIPIT: This is exactly what  
7 Angoon was talking about in their ETJ petition from a  
8 few years ago.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. And we had  
11 a lengthy discussion on that and, yeah, with the  
12 Kanalku runs and, right, Fish and Game never wanted to  
13 admit that they were impacting that run but like I say,  
14 sometimes it appears pretty obvious. So I just wanted  
15 to make that point, thank you.

16  
17 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 As far as my next predictions, just looking at chinook  
19 forecasts here, again, kind of a little bit of gloom  
20 and doom. Stikine chinook, the forecast is low, the  
21 escapement goal, so I would expect that we will have  
22 the same kind of early season conservation measures  
23 taking place, closing that Stikine subsistence fishery.  
24 Then in the Situk the, you know, the forecast is for  
25 basically like the lower end of the escapement goal so  
26 I would also expect conservative management of that  
27 fishery. The nice thing is we do have a weir there so  
28 if that shows up bigger than expected then we can  
29 adjust in-season as necessary so -- and I think that's  
30 it.

31  
32 Yeah, so if anyone else has any  
33 questions or comments I'd be happy to take them.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
36 Jake. I know we were making comments during the course  
37 of your presentation.....

38  
39 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....but any  
42 overall comments from the Council members.

43  
44 Harvey.

45  
46 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One  
47 of the things on the Klag Bay, being as the way they  
48 close off the bay to seining, it doesn't affect Klag  
49 Bay, our biggest concern with Klag Bay now is the  
50

0256

1 weather patterns. Being as it hits so dry within the  
2 months that it used to have rain, we used to have more  
3 sockeyes there than you guys have recorded at this  
4 point, it used to have over in excess of 20,000  
5 sockeyes that went up there almost year after year.  
6 Since the weather patterns have changed it has declined  
7 considerably. Most of the sockeyes go into Klag Bay  
8 before the seining season starts. The biggest problem  
9 is the weather problem and I just was wondering why  
10 they even have a fishery there at this point in time?

11

12 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, through the  
13 Chair. Member Kitka. Yeah, I agree, I -- that's why  
14 I'm suggesting that this is a place for us to take an  
15 active role in trying to manage that and adjust the way  
16 things are done. Because it seems to me -- feels to me  
17 like it's a little bit on auto pilot, it doesn't seem  
18 like it's -- I'm not aware of a lot of attention that's  
19 being paid by Fish and Game to this particular stock  
20 here right now so I'm hoping to remedy that.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Harvey.

25

26 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
27 is not really a question but I don't know if Fish and  
28 Game has been up there and looked at that river because  
29 they don't really spawn in the lake, they spawn on the  
30 rocks and things. Within the stream it's kind of a  
31 different type of sockeye, it's amazing they don't have  
32 gravel to spawn in, they spawn on the rocks as it comes  
33 down. Just a -- so.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
36 Harvey. Any other questions, comments. Patty, go  
37 ahead.

38

39 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 And just to build on what Harvey is saying is that, I  
41 mean, if the torrential rains are scouring the surface  
42 of where they spawn then there's nothing for those eggs  
43 to hold on to so you do have these climate effects  
44 impacting the habitat where salmon spawn, and so that  
45 could be another reason why we're seeing reduced  
46 numbers.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0257

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.  
2   Anybody else with comments or questions for Jake.  
3   John, go ahead.  
4

5                   MR. SMITH: This might be way off the  
6   subject but I heard the talk about this is like robbing  
7   the creek like commercial fishermen coming into the  
8   mouth of the river like when the water is low and the  
9   fish can't make it up so you know there's fish there so  
10   you know they're going to proc -- is there a buffer  
11   that we have and restriction of commercial fishermen  
12   coming close to the mouth, like 1,200 feet, 1,000 feet,  
13   you know, is there rules or laws or markers that stop  
14   commercial fishermen from actually -- or seiners coming  
15   close to -- you know, just a thought.  
16

17                  MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, through the  
18   Chair. Member Smith. Yes, there's not only like a  
19   pretty blanket prohibition against going closer than X,  
20   a thousand feet or something like that, I think, but  
21   also that particular spot, Klag, they typically close  
22   off, there's a line, there's kind of like three bay --  
23   I don't know it that well, but I think it's like Klag  
24   Bay and like Anna, they call it and whatever and there  
25   is always a line there that is closed when that is open  
26   to commercial seining so they don't go in there.  
27   However, I think what happens is it's actually folks  
28   doing the subsistence fishing do almost, kind of like  
29   you described, is when the fish are stacked up out  
30   there, go in and catch them right off the mouth when  
31   they can't -- there is something similar done at Falls  
32   Lake, I believe, where there's a reg that keeps fishing  
33   out of like right by the stream, but I don't think  
34   there's anything in place there at Klag in terms of  
35   subsistence regs.  
36

37                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
38   Frank.  
39

40                  MR. WRIGHT: Just for your information,  
41   all the seiners have markers on the beach of 200 yards  
42   before a mouth of a river and then you have to stay a  
43   certain amount off -- off in front of the river and,  
44   yeah, there's markers and it's quite a distance.  
45

46                  Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
47

48                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.  
49   Anybody else with questions or comments on the  
50

0258

1 fisheries report.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

6

7 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: I do have one more  
8 comment and that is that I looked up and I confirmed  
9 your memory that the male eulachon come up the river  
10 first. I did some research on that after you said that  
11 so you were right.

12

13 MR. SMITH: Yea.

14

15 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: All right.

16

17 MR. SMITH: That comes from observing  
18 but it also comes from our stories, we have stories  
19 that talk about that so thank you for bringing that up.

20

21 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah.

22

23 MR. SMITH: I just wanted to -- it's  
24 really interesting how our culture really connects to  
25 what we're doing right here today.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: I mean I got it out  
30 of a technical paper but whatever, you know.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. SMITH: I got it from grandpa.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Jake.  
39 We need to take a break here and see where we are on  
40 this meeting venue so, yeah, let's take a break and I  
41 don't know if we're going to be able to come back or  
42 not so let's see what's happening.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I think a  
49 decision has been made. Whether or not this building

50

0259

1 is going to be open tomorrow is very much in question.  
2 We really don't know. It sounds like the Federal  
3 building is not available. However, there is a space  
4 available in the Ramada, the old Prospector, right next  
5 door so it sounds like we can line that up to finish  
6 out our meeting. It's not a big room. There'll be  
7 room for probably Staff and the Council to all gather  
8 there and the court reporter. Not a lot of space for  
9 the public but I don't think we're going to get a lot  
10 of public given the conditions so, you know, there's  
11 limited space for the public to also join us and so I  
12 think that will work out fine.

13

14 So we're just going to go ahead when we  
15 recess here this afternoon, we'll have to, you know,  
16 get all of our stuff gathered up and be prepared to  
17 bring it next door tomorrow. You know, other than the  
18 Council members and a few people that can be in the  
19 room everybody else will be on the telephones but I  
20 don't think that will be a problem. We've had all of  
21 our presentations that require visual aides so, yeah, I  
22 think we can conduct business just fine over there  
23 tomorrow.

24

25 But before we leave this evening and  
26 they do want us out of here fairly quickly, is I would  
27 like to set up a couple of working groups, or at least  
28 one working group, possibly two, to work on some of  
29 these issues that we want to bring up tomorrow and we  
30 can spend some time quitting here early, we should be  
31 able to spend some good quality time this evening,  
32 hopefully we can find a spot, you know, in our own  
33 hotel there where we can sit around a table with a  
34 working group or two and maybe in conjunction with  
35 dinner.

36

37 So I know we want to set up a working  
38 group to work on language for essentially a policy  
39 statement on certain articles in ANILCA, Section .804,  
40 Section .815 dealing with priority and the other one  
41 was dealing with what constitutes a -- how do we assess  
42 subsistence uses and how they -- what it means to  
43 continuation of subsistence uses when we're talking  
44 about a closure; I guess that's the best way to put it.

45

46 And the other possibility for a working  
47 group is if a group wants to gather and talk about  
48 potential proposals. We still have that open as an  
49 action item to put forward any proposals.

50

0260

1                   So maybe let's start with a working  
2 group on the ANILCA questions, priority and  
3 continuation of subsistence uses, what that means. Who  
4 would like to be on that one.

5  
6                   Cal. Bob. Patty. Harvey. John.

7  
8                   Okay.

9  
10                  MS. PERRY: I'm sorry, could you  
11 identify those again.

12  
13                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So we got Patty,  
14 Bob, Cal, John, Harvey. I think I'd like to be on that  
15 one myself. That's a big working group, I don't know,  
16 do we get into a problem if we get into too large of a  
17 working group, on quorum.

18  
19                  MS. PERRY: You can't have quorum  
20 so.....

21  
22                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So how many do we  
23 got?

24  
25                  MS. PERRY: So, three, four, six.

26  
27                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Quorum is the  
28 members present, too, right.

29  
30                  MS. NEEDHAM: So five.

31  
32                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So four, five, six  
33 -- so we can't have six, we can only have five, right.

34  
35                  MS. PERRY: It's of the seated members,  
36 it's not supposed to be.....

37  
38                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It's not members  
39 present?

40  
41                  MS. PERRY: It's my understanding it's  
42 seated members, not what you have present.

43  
44                  MS. NEEDHAM: It's not present members?

45  
46                  MS. PERRY: That's not my  
47 understanding.

48  
49                  MS. NEEDHAM: So seven.

50

0261

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So six is okay.

2

3 MS. PERRY: Uh-huh.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So we can  
6 have six members on a working group, that's not a  
7 quorum.

8

9 MR. DOUVILLE: I have a question.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Mike, go ahead.

12

13 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
14 What group are you -- or how many groups are you  
15 looking for and which one did we start with.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Looking to form  
18 two groups. The first one deals with the ANILCA  
19 questions and potential policy statement on rural  
20 priority issues and continuation of subsistence use  
21 questions; what that means. That's the other one.

22

23 And the second working group is --  
24 might want to work on proposals. Putting forward  
25 proposals and there was some discussion of maybe  
26 drafting proposals for Unit 4 deer but it hasn't been  
27 hammered out yet, there might still be a lot of  
28 discussion there.

29

30 So are we ready to form that working  
31 group for the ANILCA questions.

32

33 Mike, another question.

34

35 Do we want to talk about a working  
36 group for proposals at the same time and then just.....

37

38 MS. PERRY: Okay, now I'm confused.  
39 Mr. Chair, you identified six people for the working  
40 group.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Uh-huh.

43

44 MS. PERRY: I think that was the policy  
45 statement on ANILCA, .804, .815, a meaningful priority;  
46 is that correct?

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's correct.

49

50

0262

1 MS. PERRY: So now you're wanting a  
2 working group on the continuation of subsistence?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No. No, the next  
5 one.....

6  
7 MS. PERRY: Is the proposals?

8  
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....is for  
10 proposals, yeah.

11  
12 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody want to  
15 work on proposals as a working group.

16  
17 Mike.

18  
19 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair. I don't mind  
20 sitting in on a proposal group but I would think that  
21 we would have a resident -- it would be beneficial to  
22 have Unit 4 representation.....

23  
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Uh-huh.

25  
26 MR. DOUVILLE: .....there also.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I would agree.  
29 Patty.

30  
31 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. I mean if  
32 the committee is okay with it, I could just review your  
33 drafts from the first group and I could serve as the  
34 Unit 4 rep on the wildlife proposals.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
37 Patty.

38  
39 Frank. Proposal group.

40  
41 MR. WRIGHT: (Nods affirmatively)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We have  
44 three people who would want to work on proposals.  
45 Anybody else.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Are we  
50

0263

1 ready to have a motion -- I think -- do we need to have  
2 a motion right to do this, working groups.

3

4 MS. PERRY: (Nods affirmatively)

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, we do need a  
7 motion to form working groups, it could be one motion  
8 to establish, I think, both groups with the names  
9 mentioned if we want, or you can do it separately.

10

11 Cathy.

12

13 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
14 move to establish two working groups. One, to address  
15 the ANILCA priority issue, and the second to address  
16 wildlife proposals and that those working groups be  
17 comprised of the volunteers that have already named  
18 themselves.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

21

22 Second.

23

24 MR. CASIPIT: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
27 Cal. All in favor of forming two working groups say  
28 aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
33 say nay.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.  
38 Just got to make sure we can find a place to get  
39 together this evening where it's warm and dry and  
40 hopefully some food would be great.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, we'll  
45 kind of all discuss that once we leave here and get it  
46 figured out. And I think we can recess for the  
47 evening. Okay.

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49 (Off record)

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(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

4 ) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA )

6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the  
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court  
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered \_\_\_\_ through  
12 \_\_\_\_ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the  
13 SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
14 MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 1st day  
15 of March;

16

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

22

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

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 22nd  
27 day of March 2023.

28

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31 \_\_\_\_\_  
32 Salena A. Hile  
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska  
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/26

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