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SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME III

Ramada Inn Conference Room  
Juneau, Alaska  
March 2, 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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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Juneau, Alaska - 3/2/2023)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I'll call the meeting to order and I'll remind folks if there's anybody on the phone listening in who wants to do some public testimony this morning we give this first time slot available for any item related to subsistence uses not necessarily on our agenda. So if you are on the phone I'll call for people in a little while, not right away, and just speak up and tell us if you want to talk to us over the phone lines. But we do have somebody here in person this morning, Fran Houston from the local tribe who would like to have a few words. So, Fran, come forward to the microphone.

MS. HOUSTON: Good morning.

IN UNISON: Good morning.

MS. HOUSTON: I think some of you need some more coffee.

(Laughter)

MS. HOUSTON: Thank you, DeAnna, for contacting me to be here. And I see some family around and friends. And the rest of you I would like to find out first, raise your hand if this is your first time in Juneau. Okay, I see two. I would like to welcome you two to Aak'w Territory, Aak'w Kwaan Territory. My English name is Fran Houston. I was born and raised here in Juneau. My Tlingit name that was given to me shortly after my birth is Se.Koonie. I would like to just welcome everyone for this wonderful meeting that you're having, this gathering, and wish you the best for the rest of the day and for the rest of your stay.

I am of the Raven Moiety. I am (In Tlingit) from the (In Tlingit), and most people know as Aak'w Kwaan. And I just wanted to give just a little bit of information of Aak'w Kwaan Territory. North from where we're at right now at Berners Bay, it's from there the northern part of Admiralty Island, all of Juneau and all of Douglas and down the channel, Seymour Canal, and the land that this building's sitting on I

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1 would also like to mention too that it was known as  
2 Willoughby District but that got changed in the last  
3 three years, I believe, three or four years, so the  
4 city decided and discussed with us that they wanted to  
5 rename the district so now it is referred to as Aak'w  
6 Village District. So I just wanted to -- well, it's an  
7 honor to be here, for one, and it's an honor to see new  
8 faces and when I say new faces, it's without masks and  
9 to see the smiles. I know people know how to smile with  
10 their eyes but, you know, with the pandemic that we've  
11 been going through for the last three years has been  
12 pretty tough but it is good to see faces and coming  
13 back to normal. We're not quite there yet but I just  
14 wanted to -- Frank Wright, my cousin, and I know Harvey  
15 from Sitka and John.....

16  
17 MR. SMITH: (In Tlingit)

18  
19 MS. HOUSTON: .....he calls me from  
20 time to time to be at the schools and talk with the  
21 students, so it is an honor to be here.

22  
23 I'll have to rush off because I have  
24 another Zoom meeting and I got about an hour, hour and  
25 a half to get back home, but with all of you that's out  
26 there in the -- on your phones or by Zoom or however  
27 it's conducted, good morning to each and every one of  
28 you, God Bless all of you and have a wonderful,  
29 wonderful and beautiful day. At least it's not a  
30 blizzard.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 MS. HOUSTON: So Gunalcheesh for  
35 allowing me to speak.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you very  
38 much Fran for welcoming us to your home territory and  
39 giving us that perspective on exactly where we are so  
40 thank you.

41  
42 MS. HOUSTON: Gunalcheesh.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. And I  
45 don't know if there's anybody else on the phone line  
46 who would like to give any public comments this  
47 morning.

48  
49 (No comments)

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1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody in the  
2 room who would like to come -- yeah, come forward, so  
3 come to the microphone and introduce yourselves.  
4

5                   MS. LEASK-GUTHRIE: Good morning,  
6 Council. Mr. Chair. My name is Judy Leask-Guthrie. I  
7 am on the tribal Council for the Ketchikan Indian  
8 Community. And I just want to thank the Council for  
9 everything that they have done so far regarding our  
10 application for rural status. It means a lot to us.  
11 And we now begin the hard work of collecting data and  
12 other information from our community.  
13

14                   I also just wanted to say that I'm  
15 really -- well, it's kind of hard to sit for three days  
16 but I do have to say that I learned a lot while I was  
17 here. I attended the meeting in Ketchikan, I believe  
18 it was in October, and it was packed with people, I  
19 mean compared to this meeting here today, and we hope  
20 to do that -- we will do that in the future when it  
21 comes to public comments regarding our application. So  
22 I just wanted to say thank you for all of the work that  
23 you do and I look forward to attending future meetings.  
24

25                   Thank you.  
26

27                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. And,  
28 yeah, thank you for attending this meeting.  
29

30                   I think there was another gentleman  
31 that might have wanted to say something that was here a  
32 second ago.  
33

34                   (Pause)  
35

36                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Were you here to  
37 give us some public comments this morning, gentleman,  
38 that just came in the room, you're welcome to come  
39 forward.  
40

41                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I can't hear you.  
42

43                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I said are you  
44 here to give us some public comments this morning, if  
45 you are you're welcome to come forward.  
46

47                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Well, I feel like  
48 I'm kind of out of sorts because I missed so much  
49 already.  
50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, we just got  
2 started this morning.

3  
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'm really at a  
5 kind of listening kind of stage right now.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, that's fine.  
8  
9 John.

10  
11 MR. SMITH: (In Tlingit) Just to  
12 introduce to you this gentleman right here, this  
13 gentleman is Kaagwaantaan from the Eagle Nest House and  
14 has a lot of history and information and, of course,  
15 he's welcome to step up to the table and speak but he's  
16 just here to observe and listen and support us in any  
17 way. Just so you know who he is, he's brothers to our  
18 family here. It's good to see you.

19  
20 (In Tlingit)

21  
22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Tlingit)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

25  
26 MR. SMITH: (In Tlingit)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, well, thank  
29 you, John. Well, thank you for joining us, glad you're  
30 here. So I think we can get started on the business  
31 where we left off yesterday. We're still in new  
32 business and we still have one action item to get to  
33 today and that would be the wildlife -- call for  
34 wildlife proposals and I think we'll hold off on that  
35 for just a little while. We need to get some stuff  
36 printed up perhaps and distributed.

37  
38 But we can have a report on the  
39 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, and that's  
40 coming from Rob Cross. If you're ready Rob, if you're  
41 not we'll go down the list here.

42  
43 (Laughter)

44  
45 (Pause)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you ready? I  
48 see you're also doing a report on the Partners for  
49 Fisheries Monitoring Program update, I don't know are  
50

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1 you going to do both of those at the same time or?

2

3 MR. CROSS: Yes, Mr. Chair. There's  
4 three items that can all be kind of lumped together if  
5 that's okay with you?

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure, that'd be  
8 great. Okay.

9

10 MR. CROSS: Okay, good morning, Mr.  
11 Chair and Members of the Council. For the record my  
12 name is Robert Cross and I'm the Tongass Subsistence  
13 Program Manager. So I'll be providing an update on  
14 three fisheries program topics including the Fisheries  
15 Resource Monitoring Program, the Partners for Fisheries  
16 Monitoring and the Fisheries Regulatory Cycle as well.  
17 So these will be brief updates and none of them are  
18 action items.

19

20 So first up is an update on the  
21 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and the funding  
22 opportunity that closed February 24th. So the mission  
23 of the Monitoring Program is to identify and provide  
24 information needs to sustain subsistence fisheries on  
25 the Federal public lands. The Monitoring Program also  
26 supports meaningful involvement in fisheries management  
27 by Alaska Native and rural organizations and promotes  
28 collaboration among Federal, State and Alaska Native  
29 and local organizations. So these funding  
30 opportunities seek applications for projects that  
31 address the priority information needs that you all  
32 developed in the last meeting. Let's see -- and  
33 applications will be reviewed by the Technical Review  
34 Committee for the Office of Subsistence Management and  
35 summaries of project proposals submitted for your  
36 region will be presented to you at your next meeting  
37 for your input.

38

39 And then just for some background  
40 information, we currently have seven fisheries resource  
41 monitoring program project that were funded for -- they  
42 were funded in 2022 and they will be funded through  
43 2025. And they are the Sitkoh Lake, Hetta Lake, Klag  
44 Bay and Neva Lake sockeye monitoring projects. The  
45 Northern Southeast eulachon monitoring project, the  
46 Northern Icy Straits community subsistence harvest  
47 survey and the Klawock River subsistence sockeye  
48 harvest survey.

49

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1                   So if there's any questions on this  
2 particular topic I'd be happy to address them now or I  
3 can just move on to the next one.

4  
5                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any questions from  
6 the Council. John, go ahead.

7  
8                   MR. SMITH: Just your opinion on -- on  
9 the eulachon, you were talking about the eulachon but  
10 the count compared to quite a few years ago and the  
11 numbers and what you're seeing with the population  
12 right now, even to the idea of them, you know, being on  
13 the extinct type level.

14  
15                   MR. CROSS: Yes, through the Chair.  
16 Member Smith. So the Northern Southeast eulachon  
17 monitoring project is a collaborative effort through  
18 the Chilkat Indian Community and several other partners  
19 including Universities and then obviously the Forest  
20 Service as well and so they are collecting -- a lot of  
21 it is just base information, base population levels  
22 around several systems. I don't have the exact number  
23 in front of me right now, but I think it's something  
24 like 20 different systems that they're looking at and  
25 so I think the population levels on the systems that  
26 they have long-term data for are slightly down. A lot  
27 of the other systems, again, we're just starting to  
28 collect data on them. The system that I have the most  
29 amount of information on is not included in this  
30 project and that is the Unuk River and that's something  
31 that we're funding, just internally in the Forest  
32 Service, so it's not actually part of the Fisheries  
33 Resource Monitoring Program project. And the Unuk  
34 River specifically, the population went through a  
35 collapse, there was about five years where there was no  
36 harvest, so it was prior to that there was about 12,000  
37 pounds per year that were harvested out of that system  
38 and then I believe it was 2005 there was one eulachon  
39 that was seen in that system and so it went through  
40 quite a -- quite a collapse and is a pretty severe  
41 conservation concern, but we are starting to see  
42 eulachon come back into that system. And now  
43 fortunately to a level where we're allowed to -- or  
44 we're able to offer what is admittedly a very limited  
45 fishery, but we are -- we have folks on the ground that  
46 are trying to collect as much information as they can  
47 from that system. It's pretty complicated because it's  
48 a very braided system. They don't have a whole lot of  
49 site fidelity so they can return en mass to one river  
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1 one year and then the next year they'll return to a  
2 totally different river so it involves a lot of flying  
3 over in float planes and trying to figure out exactly  
4 what system they're going to that year. And then  
5 through that limited opening we're collecting  
6 information from harvesters that are up there that have  
7 the local knowledge to be able to find those fish and  
8 what systems they're in.

9  
10 So I know that was very long-winded and  
11 not maybe not a substantive answer to that but, yeah, I  
12 think it's too early to tell for the Northern Southeast  
13 eulachon monitoring project whether -- or what the  
14 trends are for eulachon but as far as in the south and  
15 District 1 the population did go through quite a  
16 collapse and we're just now starting to see them come  
17 back.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, John.

20  
21 MR. SMITH: You know my understand --  
22 like you're -- you're sharing the data information so  
23 could can you share a little bit of your partnerships  
24 that are bringing to the table this data? My  
25 understanding that the tribe there, like Deishu,  
26 Haines, and Klukwan area have been supporting that  
27 effort, but I'm not sure, that's just from hearsay but  
28 if there's -- what's your support team, you know, your  
29 partners?

30  
31 Thank you, for all your information.

32  
33 MR. CROSS: Yes, through the Chair.  
34 Member Smith. I'm trying to pull that up right now. I  
35 apologize, there's seven different agreements so it's  
36 hard to remember who all the partners are. But for  
37 that particular project we have the Chilkoot Indian  
38 Association, the Takshanuk Watershed Council, Skagway  
39 Traditional Council and the Oregon State University and  
40 then the Forest Service are all partners on that.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Louie, did you  
43 have a question.

44  
45 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 It's not so much a question, probably a statement.  
47 2005 the eulachons ran up on the Carol Inlet River  
48 there and it was loaded in there, they didn't go up to  
49 the Unuk that year. I made one set up there and I  
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1 didn't even scratch the surface, we had two totes, and  
2 I went home and we made eulachon grease out of it.  
3 There were so many eulachons in there. And those -- I  
4 brought samples back for the Forest Service and they  
5 did the DNA because I brought them in from the Unuk  
6 prior to that and they said they were the exact same  
7 fish, they were the Unuk fish so they're not  
8 disappearing, they move around quite a lot. And we  
9 didn't get to go back again because then the State  
10 closed all the areas after that and that was quite  
11 unfair because the fish are out there and the people  
12 should be able to get their fish. So we pretty much  
13 know where they're at every year, you know, and it's a  
14 very important fish to all the people down in the -- I  
15 call it Greater Ketchikan Area, it takes care of a lot  
16 of people. So it's really important to have all the  
17 facts correct, you know.

18  
19 Scott Walker and them, they flew over  
20 us and flew around the whole bay there, they seen  
21 everything that was there, the seals, the birds and all  
22 the fish. Forest Service boat come up and talked to us  
23 and the State Troopers came up and they talked to us  
24 and then they left. We put the eulachons aboard and  
25 went home and gave some away and made our grease.

26  
27 So just so the Council knows, you know,  
28 what I know. I try to share my knowledge with the  
29 Council here so they're aware of what's happening in  
30 our river.

31  
32 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Louie.

35  
36 Patty, question.

37  
38 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
39 Hernandez. Rob Cross, can you tell me like you said  
40 the funding opportunity closed February 24th, how many  
41 applicants did you get?

42  
43 MR. CROSS: So through the Chair.  
44 Member Phillips. I was personally involved in  
45 submitting one proposal so generally this is an every  
46 two year cycle and for whatever reason the Forest  
47 Service has usually been putting in every other cycle  
48 for projects. A lot of it is the Staffing requirement  
49 that it takes and the funding, so -- so this is what we  
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1 -- this is the cycle we generally don't put in a lot of  
2 proposals for the Forest Service itself and usually  
3 we'll try to work with partners and address any  
4 interest that people have in submitting projects. So  
5 all that's to say that we did put in one proposal, it  
6 was for the Unuk River eulachon project that we've put  
7 in a couple times before that's ranked very high but,  
8 you know, a lot of times with funding you can get a 10-  
9 way tie for third place, right, so -- and we can only  
10 fund two or three projects. So, yeah, we're pretty  
11 hopeful that this project will be funded because we're  
12 being very targeted now with the limited amount of  
13 funds that we have.

14  
15 So in the past we've put in all the  
16 projects that we thought would be good, and we've tried  
17 to address all the priority information needs that we  
18 can. At this point, again, it being what we consider  
19 an off cycle we're trying to be very targeted and look  
20 at the projects that would be the most meaningful and  
21 as Member Wagner stated, the eulachon is a really  
22 important resource for people in Southeast Alaska and  
23 with the difficulty in collecting that information and  
24 the various accounts that we have of the population  
25 there, we thought that that would be the best one. So  
26 yeah, just the one as far as I know.

27  
28 People are able to submit projects  
29 outside of the Forest Service directly through  
30 grants.gov so I can't say exactly how many projects  
31 were submitted for Southeast, but as far as the ones  
32 that we were directly involved in it was just the one  
33 for the Unuk River.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. John.

36  
37 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I know I'm talking  
38 quite a bit and don't mean to, but I want to add to  
39 what Louie was sharing. You know my brother's here,  
40 Tommy, and we traveled to harvest the eulachon and  
41 every year it's a little -- every year it's different  
42 just like you're saying. And like Louie was saying  
43 they move here, and move here, and, you know, just  
44 recently the other years when we -- recent years going  
45 there realizing because of the temperature change and,  
46 you know, the world heating up and the receding we're  
47 having more water, there's more sand and stuff moving  
48 in our rivers. My brothers and our grandmothers and  
49 grandpas hot spots, you know, our family traditional  
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1 spots were changed where they were dry, they just had  
2 sand.

3  
4 So understanding that they do happen  
5 and they are there. A lot of our culture stories share  
6 where are our (In Tlingit), our (In Tlingit), the coho  
7 people's spirit man that went looking for them, of  
8 course, that was one of the things was to find them so  
9 they sent them out to -- you know, that was exploring  
10 to find where they were and hope to bring back their  
11 light, their happiness that they bring to us in the  
12 spring, which is really soon now so, of course, that's  
13 on our agenda, and sharing the -- the sensitivity to it  
14 but just understanding even one year we came in again  
15 where they were piledriving and there was none in the  
16 Chilkoot River, they all went up into Skagway so, of  
17 course, just connecting to our history and what we've  
18 been talking about earlier, was our people traded our  
19 foods and, you know, and because a lot of times the  
20 world was always changing and sometimes they wouldn't  
21 come here, they would come there so we would have to ca  
22 -- get a hold of our relatives there, back in the day  
23 would send the canoes up to trade with them to receive  
24 some of the medicine they had. So understanding the  
25 process and even how we managed, you know, to  
26 understand the -- but the reason I asked you about  
27 numbers was because of those things we know those  
28 things happen but what's the actual count, are we --  
29 you know, and I really believe like what he's saying,  
30 they are out there and they do go to other places so  
31 thank you. Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

34  
35 Mike.

36  
37 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
38 I got a couple questions about DNA, do you do DNA  
39 profiles on -- you said you were looking at like 20  
40 different systems and, if you do, can you tell if  
41 they're distinct fish in each of those systems or if  
42 they're a mix? And something that he said, is like the  
43 piledriving, we seen that in Craig on herring and they  
44 were piledriving there and it made the herring spawn  
45 clear across on San Fernando, it's just -- they  
46 wouldn't come near there.

47  
48 And the other thing, I don't know if  
49 it's okay or not, but we have a kelp farm there like  
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1 everybody's go green kelp farm but there's some  
2 problems with that because they want to put them in  
3 established subsistence areas and there's conflict, you  
4 know, I disagree with that. But this last year -- this  
5 -- the year prior the herring went and spawned on the  
6 kelp farm.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. DOUVILLE: And they wanted to  
11 harvest it but the Department wouldn't let them so I  
12 guess it regrew enough for -- I don't know, they did  
13 harvest some. But last year they hired a boat to sit  
14 there all day and pound on the boat to keep the herring  
15 away so.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. DOUVILLE: So some of this is not  
20 okay, but in any case noise does disrupt spawning fish  
21 like eulachon and herring.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.  
24 You got an answer to the DNA question there, Rob?

25

26 MR. CROSS: Yes, Mr. Chair. Through  
27 the Chair. Member Douville. So the DNA work that's  
28 being done, to the best of my knowledge, for the  
29 Northern Southeast eulachon project is what they call  
30 quantitative eDNA so they're not necessarily getting a  
31 DNA profile for the population and whether the  
32 populations are distinct or not and, again, I could be  
33 misspeaking there but the bulk of their effort is to --  
34 they use a process of taking water samples to see what  
35 the concentration of eulachon DNA is in the water and  
36 particularly for that project they've been getting  
37 population estimates through a weir, through  
38 mark/recapture trapping on that system and so what they  
39 can do is they can take -- they use flow and discharge  
40 and then the concentration of eulachon DNA in the  
41 system and then they compare that to the estimates that  
42 they were getting before and use that as an index of  
43 how many fish are in that system. So basically the  
44 concentration of fish that are in that system and get a  
45 best estimate of populations there. And so the -- sort  
46 of the intent of that one is that they can then go  
47 around to a bunch of systems and I'll say, fairly and  
48 cheaply or economically take water samples and get an  
49 idea of how many eulachons are returning to each one of  
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1 these streams.

2

3

4 So I have written that down, that is a  
5 really interesting objective for these projects would  
6 be to see whether they are one distinct population or  
7 several populations that are coming back to all these  
8 different systems. And, you know, I think that would  
9 be really interesting for the Unuk River as well. We  
10 are starting water sampling there through a partnership  
11 with the Ketchikan Indian Community and also doing the  
12 eDNA, or the quantitative eDNA sampling there.

12

13

14 And as was mentioned by Member Wagner,  
15 it is a -- trying to track down these fish is very  
16 difficult, you know, especially -- even with local  
17 traditional knowledge it's very difficult to figure out  
18 where these fish are going to be from year to year and,  
19 you know, on the Unuk River we went from -- there's  
20 several factors that influence, we went from a harvest  
21 of roughly 35,000 pounds of fish to most recently about  
22 four harvesters of five gallons apiece, and a lot of  
23 that is driven by regulation and whether it's  
24 economical to make that long distance travel out there,  
25 traverse out there for five gallons of fish. And so  
26 there has been a general shift to manage this as a  
27 subsistence resource versus a commercial resource and I  
28 think that that is helping quite a bit. So, again, our  
29 overall intent is to provide the maximum amount of  
30 subsistence opportunity for these fish and -- and,  
31 yeah, figuring out whether these are distinct  
32 populations based on DNA will help that then that's  
33 something that we'll definitely look in to and try to  
34 fund as part of these projects.

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
Rob. Frank, do you have a question.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
don't know anything about eulachon and I was just  
wondering, are they -- do they find their streams the  
same as salmon do because, you know, if we're going to  
be dealing with this and the mining that's going to be  
going on in Canada and all that, it would disrupt the  
migration of this eulachon, so are they -- do they  
find their stream the same as salmon do?

MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
Wright. You know I'm not an expert on eulachon, I  
think I will be by the end of this -- if we get funded

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1 for this Fisheries Resource Monitoring project.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5

6 MR. CROSS: I think one distinct thing  
7 about their biology is that they don't have what they  
8 call site fidelity, like salmon, you know, the salmon  
9 going back to Falls Lake is more likely than not going  
10 back to Falls Lake if it was born there. With  
11 eulachon, it seems like if there is a disturbance then  
12 they can shift over to a different system and so I'm  
13 sure Member Wright [sic] will have the correct number  
14 here, but there's a lot of different rivers associated  
15 with what we consider the Unuk River, or the Unuk River  
16 area and so it being so braided and having so many  
17 different places for them to spawn and then also having  
18 a multitude of rivers in District 1 that they can go  
19 and spawn in, that's kind of the difficulty that we're  
20 running into and that's where we're using crew transfer  
21 flights to fly over the area in general and try to spot  
22 the fish from planes, which has its own inherent  
23 difficulty as well and then using on the ground  
24 information from the local folks, the people that we  
25 rent cabins from and the harvesters and things like  
26 that.

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So I think that that is -- and I'll get  
back to your original question, but I think that that's  
where this limited fishery is really helpful because we  
might not be able to find the fish but if we have a  
limited opener and we're providing, again, limited  
harvest opportunity to folks then if they're able to go  
out and find the fish then when they report back to us  
on where they harvested, that's pretty useful  
information.

And back to your original question. I  
mean the TransBoundary mining is a very important issue  
and I think can have pretty monumentous affects on all  
of the fisheries, but I -- again, not being an expert  
on eulachon, I do think that the lack of their site  
fidelity might be a saving grace for them. If there is  
a disturbance in a system it seems like they are able  
to go utilize other systems to spawn so.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Rob.

Louie, you have a question.

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1 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Just for your information, back in 2000 and 2001, for  
3 awhile there the flying was really limited by the  
4 Forest Service because it disturbs everything up on the  
5 river from the fish to the seals, the sea lions, birds,  
6 so it was really limited.....

7  
8 (Teleconference interference -  
9 participants not muted)

10  
11 MR. WAGNER: .....but they did not land  
12 in the river, they'd land down at the mouth so if you  
13 look back at 2001 that's when that started. It's  
14 amazing just the sound overhead, everything just dives,  
15 it dives deep immediately. So there should be  
16 something in your office or maybe someone remembers  
17 this because your whole Staff has changed since then.

18  
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Rob, go ahead.

22  
23 MR. CROSS: Yeah, through the Chair.  
24 Member Wagner. Yeah, that's really, really important  
25 information and as you mentioned, you know, the faces  
26 of the Forest Service tend to change but you guys stay  
27 here, you know, you're embedded and have that  
28 information, and as Member Smith said, you know, pass  
29 it down in oral tradition and stories and, yeah, I  
30 think all of that we try to target that with partnering  
31 with anybody who is able or willing to partner with us  
32 and collect that information from folks and I know that  
33 they, in the past, have done flights kind of doing  
34 predator surveys and looking at the number of, you  
35 know, eagles and sea lions on the river and trying to  
36 estimate the strength of the run from that. I mean  
37 that has its own inherent difficulties as well. And we  
38 have purchased some inflatable jet boats that have kind  
39 of changed things a little bit so we're able to fly in  
40 with those and unpack them and then drive those up from  
41 the mouth of the river and I'm sure that they're also  
42 disturbing the wildlife quite a bit as well.

43  
44 So, yeah, it's kind of that balance  
45 between trying to observe what's going on naturally and  
46 also not disturb what's going on naturally as well.

47  
48 We are also looking into use of small  
49 drones through our partners. It's a wilderness so  
50

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1 there are some regulatory obstacles there but trying to  
2 figure out the best and least disturbing way to  
3 monitor. And I think that the eDNA is -- we're pretty  
4 hopeful about that because it's a matter of taking  
5 water samples and there are actually -- if you develop  
6 it enough to have confidence in it as an index, you  
7 know, it'll never be able to say there were this exact  
8 amount of eulachon but we can say there's more eulachon  
9 now than there were last year, or the year before. I  
10 think we're hopeful with that and there's actually  
11 systems out there that are autonomous so we would go  
12 out after ice break up, put something in the river and  
13 then it would take water samples on a given time line  
14 and then we can go in after the run is over and pull  
15 that out. So we're pretty hopeful about the  
16 development of that technology. I think we're sort of  
17 seeing it develop as we're working on these projects to  
18 a point where it's something that could feasibly be  
19 used. In years past when we started looking at this, I  
20 think I looked at it about four years ago and you had  
21 to -- when you purchased one of these systems you had  
22 to basically purchase an engineer with it and that can  
23 be expensive as I'm sure you can understand.....

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. CROSS: .....and now I think we're  
28 getting to the point where, you know, we can hire  
29 somebody to go put it in and sort of set it and forget  
30 it.

31

32 So, yeah, I think technology is  
33 catching up with the issues that you're mentioning  
34 which is, you know, flying a Beaver over a river full  
35 of predator and prey is probably not the best way to  
36 approach that. And then also the harvester information  
37 is -- you know, those folks are already out there on  
38 the ground and you guys have way more information and  
39 knowledge than we have and so trying to utilize those  
40 folks and their depth of knowledge to be able to look  
41 at the trends in those populations is really the way  
42 that we're trying to go from here on.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
45 Rob. You also have more information on this Partnering  
46 aspect of it in your report. Maybe we could move on to  
47 that.

48

49 MR. CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,

50



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1    yeah, the next portion is on Partners in Fisheries  
2    Resource Monitoring Program.

3

4                   So this winter the Office of  
5    Subsistence Management sought proposals for the  
6    partners of Fisheries Monitoring Program to strengthen  
7    Alaska Native and rural involvement in Federal  
8    Subsistence Management. The Partners Program funds  
9    salaries for biologists, social scientists and educator  
10   positions and Alaska Native and rural non-profit  
11   organizations and this is with the intent to increase  
12   the organization's ability to participate in Federal  
13   Subsistence Management. So the Program also supports a  
14   variety of opportunities for local rural residents to  
15   connect with subsistence resource monitoring and  
16   management through science camps and paid internships.

17

18                   For this funding cycle it anticipated  
19   that approximately 1million dollars would be available  
20   yearly. There were 15 proposals received for this  
21   cycle. The review panel met in mid-February to  
22   determine which applicants would be funded and more  
23   information about that will be provided in the near  
24   future through a news release from the Office of  
25   Subsistence Management. And Karen Hyer is the point of  
26   contact for OSM for this Program.

27

28                   And, again, that's just an update on  
29   where we are with that.

30

31                   And there were several -- so there were  
32   seven of these funded in the past through the end of  
33   2023, so that funding is expiring. And the one for  
34   Southeast was the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe that received  
35   funding for Partners and Fisheries Monitoring.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
38   Rob. Any questions about the partnering projects --  
39   John go ahead.

40

41                   MR. SMITH: Yeah, sorry, I thought Mike  
42   might have had something to respond to and then I had  
43   something after but, you know, if my words don't carry  
44   any weight, you know, if I'm talking too much you're  
45   welcome to let me know.

46

47                   I want to thank the team that's out  
48   there in the community for all your efforts and, you  
49   know, you guys are putting a lot of data on the table,

50

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1 I want to apologize and take the lead on -- to you for  
2 not bringing data to the table. You hear Louie sharing  
3 some of that information and I have information and so  
4 I want to, you know, reach out to the communities and  
5 let them know how important it is for all of us right  
6 now to, you know, call in when you see them caught, and  
7 you see the seagulls, and you know not just for  
8 ourselves but, you know, it's important to think about  
9 all the other animals that rely on that species and  
10 that good medicine.

11  
12 So just sharing you and I appreciate  
13 you sharing about the stories. The stories that we  
14 have in our culture are thousands of years old, they  
15 have messages in there for you and me and everybody in  
16 the room and even if there were a time to take 10, 15  
17 minutes to share one you'll be shocked on what you're  
18 going to hear in the story, so if there's a time we can  
19 do that, even after this is all over and -- and sharing  
20 -- breaking some bread together would be really cool.

21  
22 But I'd like to step back and the  
23 community to hear what really -- what happened just a  
24 few minutes ago about what Michael was sharing about  
25 the set that they had with these seaweed growing and  
26 then I got excited when he heard the herring laid their  
27 eggs on there and all that and how you heard the room  
28 get kind of (makes noises) yeah, yeah, and then how sad  
29 it became when he started talking about that  
30 relationship where they stopped them from doing  
31 something with it, that hurt my heart. It's like that  
32 is such a good medicine right there and it's healthy  
33 for us and to bring the dark to it just, you know,  
34 upsets me and just kind of showcases in a lot of ways  
35 how we need to build better relationships with each  
36 other, you know, not just for the humans but for all.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
41 John. Any other -- Patty, a question or comment.

42  
43 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
44 Hernandez. Thank you, Rob Cross. So you mentioned  
45 that Yakutat had a Fisheries Monitoring Program, will  
46 there be like a summary of like the outcomes of that  
47 when it's concluded?

48  
49 Thank you.  
50

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1 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
2 Phillips. So I just took that as a note. I can get a  
3 hold of Jennifer Hanlon, she's our tribal -- now I'm  
4 going to mess up her title, she's our tribal liaison or  
5 our tribal outreach coordinator, I forget exactly what  
6 her title is and I apologize. But she was involved in  
7 that one when she was working up in Yakutat. I'm sure  
8 that they have summarized the efforts that were made  
9 there and I can provide that to you through the Council  
10 Coordinator.

11

12 (Teleconference interference -  
13 participants not muted - on hold)

14

15 MR. CROSS: And I think these are all  
16 really good points and they're all sort of along the  
17 same line, which is a lot of times we collect this  
18 information and then we share it amongst ourselves,  
19 within Federal agencies and we report up as far as what  
20 work was done and we met our deliverables and things  
21 like that but hearing from Member Smith, you know, it  
22 shouldn't be incumbent upon community members to be  
23 sharing that information with us, you know, we should  
24 be soliciting that information in a very targeted way.  
25 And also, you know, to Member Phillips' point, we  
26 should be making sure that if there is a summary of  
27 this information, at the very least, it's given to you  
28 folks at this Council to share with the community.

29

30 You know in the past we have made  
31 efforts on a local level like, for instance, when I was  
32 managing the Stikine River subsistence fishery, at the  
33 end of the year I would put together a summary of what  
34 happened that year, and what we expect to happen the  
35 next year and trends and things like that and  
36 distribute that to the community but, that, again, is  
37 very targeted and not necessarily the best way to share  
38 that information since there's more than just folks  
39 from Petersburg and Wrangell using that system or  
40 interested in that system.

41

42 So I've taken some notes on that and we  
43 will definitely work a lot better to both solicit  
44 information from the community and provide information  
45 to the community.

46

47 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,

50

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1 Rob, glad to hear that. Any other questions or  
2 comments from Council.

3

4 MR. CASIPIT: Not so much a question  
5 but just a comment and a compliment. I want to thank  
6 you.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cal.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Identify yourself.

13

14 MR. CASIPIT: Oh, I'm sorry, Cal  
15 Casipit, I'm from Gustavus. I want to thank you guys,  
16 the Staff, for your weekly fishery reports during the  
17 summer time. I pay a lot of attention to those when  
18 those come in and it's -- to me it's really interesting  
19 to be able to get that week -- granted it's kind of a  
20 week lag time to get it, but I pay attention to those  
21 and I share them with people in our community and stuff  
22 so that they know what's going on and so I appreciate  
23 having that out even if you might not see a response,  
24 thanks for sending it or something like that.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. CASIPIT: I do pay attention to  
29 those and I read them every time I see them. So, yeah,  
30 thank you for sending those out.

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: How did you get on the  
33 list?

34

35 MR. CASIPIT: I don't know, I thought  
36 we were all getting it -- don't we all get the.....

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MR. SMITH: You better put us on the  
41 list man, I'm excited.

42

43 MR. CASIPIT: Don't we all get the  
44 fisheries weekly reports -- we don't, that's weird.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
49 Casipit. I appreciate you highlighting that you read

50

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1 those because often times we do send that information  
2 out and, you know, it's crickets on the other end. Not  
3 that we're expecting a response but we really never  
4 know if people are reading those reports and also  
5 bringing it to my attention that maybe not everyone are  
6 getting those reports. So I really appreciate that.

7

8 (Cell phone ringing)

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, just a  
11 question, is that something that you requested Cal, I  
12 mean maybe we needed to request that?

13

14 MR. CASIPIT: I'm not sure how I get  
15 it.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
18 for that. So other questions or comments for Rob.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Rob, I think  
23 you have one more item that you were going to report  
24 on, it says you're doing regulatory cycle update.

25

26 MR. CROSS: Yes, Mr. Chair. So this is  
27 an update on the recently concluded Fisheries Resource  
28 -- or sorry, Fisheries -- I have too many Fisheries  
29 Resources in here -- Fisheries Regulatory Cycle.

30

31 The Federal Subsistence Board took  
32 action on all the fisheries proposals and closure  
33 reviews at the January Fisheries Regulatory meeting.  
34 And we expect that new regulations should be published  
35 in the Federal Register in late spring to early summer  
36 so we'll see those changes take effect.

37

38 The Board took the following four  
39 actions on fisheries proposals and closures that this  
40 Council provided input on.

41

42 So the Board rescinded the closure to  
43 salmon fishing in the Taku River.

44

45 The Board retained the closure of Neva  
46 Lake, Neva Creek and South Creek to sockeye salmon  
47 harvest by non-Federally-qualified users.

48

49 The Board closed Kah-Sheets Creek to

50

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1 fishing by non-Federally-qualified users from July 1 to  
2 July 31.

3  
4 And the Board adopted a proposal to  
5 recognize the customary and traditional use of  
6 shellfish by all rural residents of Southeast Alaska  
7 and Yakutat areas.

8  
9 So we will begin our next fisheries  
10 cycle during your winter 2024 meeting and at that  
11 meeting we will provide the Council with draft closure  
12 reviews if there's any of those for this region and  
13 we'll also solicit proposals to change the Federal fish  
14 and shellfish regulations.

15  
16 So that concludes my update on the  
17 regulatory cycle.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any  
20 questions on that.

21  
22 Cathy.

23  
24 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 Will we be doing closure reviews every year now,  
26 because we hadn't done any for a really long time and  
27 then the last fisheries cycle we did them, and then we  
28 maintained status quo on one of the ones we did and I'm  
29 just wondering if they're going to come before us every  
30 fisheries cycle now?

31  
32 MR. CROSS: Yes, through the Chair.  
33 Member Needham. So it is my understanding that it was  
34 something we were doing for wildlife closures ever  
35 since the Federal government adopted the management of  
36 wildlife on Federal public lands and I think it just  
37 kind of came to the attention of some folks that we  
38 weren't doing that for the fisheries closures and so  
39 that's something that we just started doing this year  
40 and so I believe that we're required to review 50  
41 percent of our closures every cycle and so we just had  
42 the two this year and I'm not sure what the closure  
43 reviews will be for next year but, yeah, so any time  
44 that we have closures we're required to do a full  
45 analysis and review of those closures during ever  
46 fisheries cycle.

47  
48 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you.

49  
50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other  
2 questions on the regulatory cycle.

3  
4 Frank.

5  
6 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 You said something about making a change in the  
8 regulatory on shellfish, I was just wondering what that  
9 was?

10  
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12  
13 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
14 Wright. So, yes, the Board adopted a proposal to  
15 recognize the customary and traditional use of  
16 shellfish by all rural residents of Southeast Alaska  
17 and Yakutat areas and so during the next fisheries  
18 cycle we'll be soliciting proposals to adopt and to  
19 change shellfish regulations that now apply to  
20 residents of Southeast Alaska.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, followup,  
23 Frank.

24  
25 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
26 what kind of changes are there, you know, I'm just  
27 curious because I don't want to get in trouble?

28  
29 (Laughter)

30  
31 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
32 Wright. You know honestly Greg Risdahl might be able  
33 to answer that better than me. So this is new to me  
34 but, yeah, just having shellfish recognized as a  
35 Federal resource is -- oh, sorry, I'm just going to  
36 trail off and let him answer.

37  
38 (Laughter)

39  
40 MR. RISDAHL: Yeah, so I think we're  
41 talking about two things here. One is the normal fish  
42 and shellfish regulatory cycle, which is the other side  
43 of the wildlife regulatory cycle. So every two years  
44 everybody has a chance to submit new proposals to  
45 adjust regulations or create new regulations or close  
46 areas or whatever, the other thing is, yeah, this  
47 Council actually did submit a proposal to make all of  
48 Southeast Alaska Units 1 through 5, give C&T to  
49 everybody for shellfish so that's one of the things,  
50

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1 and that passed unanimously by the Board.

2

3 So does that answer your question,

4 Frank?

5

6 MR. WRIGHT: (Nods affirmatively)

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

9

10 Cathy, you have a question or comment.

11

12 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
13 just because there's C&T for shellfish doesn't  
14 necessarily mean we have to create regulations, it's  
15 just an opportunity to do it?

16

17 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, Ms. Needham, through  
18 the Chair. You don't need to create regulations, it's  
19 just that -- and the opportunities may be limited from  
20 the standpoint that there's not a lot of Federal marine  
21 waters open for fish and shellfish gathering, however,  
22 as you -- this is sort of a tangent, but as you now  
23 know that the Federal Subsistence Board recommended to  
24 the Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture  
25 to add that 157 -- we thought it was 162 submerged  
26 parcels, but it's actually 157, because our  
27 cartographer found that there were five duplications in  
28 that list -- but, anyway, more than likely, knock on  
29 wood, all of those parcels will be added to the list of  
30 submerged lands in marine waters that would be  
31 available for harvesting.

32

33 And that information should end up in  
34 the Federal regulation book somewhere.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Harvey, you have a  
39 question.

40

41 MR. KITKA: Yes, I didn't hear a  
42 closure on the Makhnati Island area, I was just  
43 wondering if the Forest Service was going to continue  
44 the closure?

45

46 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Kitka. Through the  
47 Chair. Let me ask somebody from the region there,  
48 could you answer that question?

49

50



0290

1 MR. CROSS: It'd be part of the  
2 regulatory review, the closure review that happens the  
3 next cycle.

4  
5 MR. RISDAHL: Did you hear that?  
6

7 MR. KITKA: (Shakes head negatively)  
8

9 MR. RISDAHL: Okay. So what Rob said  
10 is that it may be part of the fishery closure review  
11 process next fisheries cycle. I'm not that familiar  
12 with Makhnati Island, so I'm sorry I don't know that  
13 personally.

14  
15 Thank you.  
16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody  
18 else with a question on what's coming up in this next  
19 regulatory cycle.

20  
21 (No comments)  
22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Mike, are  
24 you formulating a question there, just a second  
25 everybody -- go ahead, Mike.  
26

27 MR. DOUVILLE: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
28 Chairman. I was -- just to further -- we do have  
29 Federal marine waters being published in the Federal  
30 Register, I don't know when that is final. So then we  
31 -- but we do not have regulation governing those  
32 shellfish in those waters, so what does that mean  
33 exactly as far as going to harvest shellfish by a rural  
34 user? I mean it kind of opens the door in a different,  
35 you know, I know where there's Federal marine water now  
36 that has abalone, so, you know, it's something to think  
37 about, I don't know. Is that the next process, we  
38 can't utilize it until we have regulation or could we  
39 just go help ourselves?  
40

41 (Laughter)  
42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: In the absence of  
44 regulation does that mean that the fishery is open if  
45 there's nothing to close it, I think that's kind of the  
46 gist of the question?  
47

48 MR. RISDAHL: That is a good question,  
49 Mr. Douville. So we've discussed this a lot,  
50

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1 especially this past cycle because we looked at a lot  
2 of fishery closure reviews, a lot of them came from the  
3 Kodiak/Aleutians Island region and they actually had --  
4 they were supposed to look at like a dozen of them the  
5 last regulatory cycle but it kind of caught them off  
6 guard and they said, hey, we don't know, we need to get  
7 more information from our people, the people that we  
8 represent. So they went back and they did a really  
9 excellent job of going around the communities and  
10 asking, hey, should we close this or not and they came  
11 up with several different answers, which I found quite  
12 interesting.

13  
14 So some of them, of course, they wanted  
15 to rescind the closures, that was what most of us  
16 thought would happen, the Council would say, yep, let's  
17 rescind the closure, it should be opened to Federally-  
18 qualified subsistence users, especially because in most  
19 instances there was some sort of sportfish opening, so  
20 it was like why would the sportfisheries be able to  
21 fish and yet not the Federal Subsistence Program. so  
22 most of those were rescinded across the state, but  
23 there were a few that -- The Kodiak/Aleutians looked at  
24 them a little bit differently and in some instances  
25 they actually said, you know what the fishery here is  
26 so small we're just going to leave it the way it is  
27 because the subsistence users are making use of that  
28 fishery the way it is without having -- creating  
29 additional opportunity so it didn't provide that  
30 priority opportunity that this Council has been talking  
31 about so much but they knew that it wasn't going to  
32 really provide much more opportunity and they were  
33 actually concerned for conservation reasons they said,  
34 you know if we do open this up more we're not sure that  
35 this fishery can withstand additional harvest, so let's  
36 leave it as it is. So there were several different  
37 things going on there.

38  
39 And then there were some other  
40 situations where there were errors actually discovered  
41 in the regulation book about boundaries and what was  
42 really Federal waters versus State waters and things  
43 like that. So a lot of good information came out of  
44 that.

45  
46 But specifically to your question, it  
47 depends. So it depends on what general regulations are  
48 in the regulation books, right. There may be something  
49 on the books already. It sounds like right now it's  
50

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1 just C&T for all regions -- for Units 1 through 5 have  
2 C&T for fish and shellfish in Federal marine waters,  
3 however, I'm guessing -- well, just like you mentioned,  
4 Harvey, that Makhnati Island is closed, will it be  
5 opened, there are a few other places where I know that  
6 shellfish collection does take place. So in those  
7 cases the Council could make proposals to recommend  
8 something different and the Board would take action on  
9 that.

10

11 And basically it's open unless it's  
12 been closed, that's the bottom line.

13

14 But right now it's open -- these areas  
15 are open only under State regulations. They will now  
16 be open under Federal regulations but there are -- you  
17 have no specific season dates or harvest limits or  
18 anything like that, so that would be up to the Council  
19 to -- well, not just the Council, anybody could submit  
20 a proposal to try to create additional opportunity  
21 other than what currently already exists.

22

23 So you don't have to do anything but  
24 you can, that's the simple -- simple response.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Did you understand  
29 that, Mike, any follow up? I think I got it.  
30 Basically when it comes to shellfish in marine waters,  
31 you can harvest basically anywhere you want what you  
32 want unless it's stated otherwise, I think is -- and  
33 that's -- presently it's all under State management  
34 because this Federal waters is a new thing. So that  
35 will continue under Federal jurisdiction. Unless  
36 there's some regulation that says otherwise you can  
37 harvest, you know, clams, cockles, you know, whatever  
38 is in the intertidal -- it would all be intertidal  
39 waters dealing with -- I guess that was a basic  
40 question I thought of after yesterday with the marine  
41 waters. When you say marine waters, that has a low  
42 water limit; is that correct? I know you mentioned  
43 about, you know, marine waters end at the high tide  
44 line, but is there also a low water limit? I mean  
45 those waters don't extend out obviously into what might  
46 be described as navigable waters, I don't know the  
47 technical terms there, but, yeah, do you?

48

49 MR. RISDAHL: Well, Mr. Chair, you ask

50

0293

1 a really good question. And that is something -- that  
2 is one of the reasons why when I first started working  
3 with the Forest Service on this and I heard about this  
4 and I said, we need to make maps, that's why I said can  
5 we make maps Dave and he said, yeah, it sounds like a  
6 good idea, the Council's been asking for maps for  
7 years. The problem with the maps, and there's this  
8 statement at the bottom that says, you know, this is  
9 not a legal document. So you're going to see those  
10 maps and you have access to them now, sometimes they're  
11 not a whole lot more than a dot on a map but they also  
12 show an area that's surveyed and, of course, we all  
13 know that the land forms change constantly with tidal  
14 influences and stream erosions, there's all kinds of  
15 things so those areas move around. So it's going to be  
16 kind of tricky and I don't know -- you know I don't  
17 think law enforcement is going to be too -- it's just  
18 hard to say how this is going to turn out.

19  
20 But if you know of a place, for  
21 instance, where there is good clamming and you go, oh,  
22 that's one of the new submerged parcel areas, I should  
23 go there, and how do you find that, nothing is going to  
24 be marked. I mean in most instances it's going to be  
25 very difficult to be very specific about where you are.

26  
27 So the utility of it I'm not rally  
28 entirely sure how that's going to turn out. A lot of  
29 these places may be of no use and then yet you might  
30 find several that are like, wow, these are hot spots  
31 and we should have -- we should regulate the harvest of  
32 this spot.

33  
34 I hope that helps.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No, yeah, it does  
37 help. And I think I'm understanding that these are  
38 geographically designated areas, it's not like a tidal  
39 zone or anything like that. If the map shows that  
40 those marine waters extend out to, you know, something  
41 that may be 50 fathoms and there's good crab available  
42 down there then that's available for harvest under  
43 Federal regs. You know a lot of these places they're  
44 going to be essentially rocks, intertidal rocks it  
45 appears to me but, you know, those could be -- there  
46 could be abalone, there could be, you know, other  
47 things available in those regions as well so I think  
48 I'm getting a sense for what it all means.

49  
50

0294

1 MR. RISDAHL: Yeah, that's a pretty  
2 good description of what I -- the way I view it too. I  
3 think there's a lot of uncertainty about how these  
4 submerged lands could be used. As Rob has just pointed  
5 out to me, he said there will be some kind of  
6 geographical description of where they're located as  
7 well, but, again, there's not going to be any markers  
8 and there's probably not going to be anybody out there  
9 unless it happens to be kind of close to a community,  
10 people are -- you're going to have to hunt for these  
11 places and they are scattered and they are -- and  
12 sometimes you'll be able to see remnants of what maybe  
13 took place there, like if it was an old log landing  
14 site or something, or probably the lighthouse sites  
15 will be easier, like, oh, gee, that's an obvious place  
16 for a lighthouse, that's where it would be, but how  
17 valuable those will be to Federal subsistence is kind  
18 of -- I mean I certainly don't know because I'm not  
19 from the area and I don't, you know, have any boating  
20 experience around out there, but for those that do get  
21 out in the woods and are familiar with those area you  
22 may find some real value there.

23  
24 The bottom line it is now making them  
25 officially Federal lands available for subsistence once  
26 the Secretaries approve them, which I'm assuming they  
27 will.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
30 Any other questions. Harvey, go ahead.

31  
32 MR. KITKA: Real interesting question,  
33 Mike. I had one that had to do basically with law  
34 enforcement, I guess. I know there's places like  
35 streams that are Federal waters and they go into State  
36 waters, and we had a lot of trouble with the State  
37 interpreting that if we got stuff in Federal waters and  
38 transported it across into State waters then they could  
39 -- they can get after us and get us in trouble, would  
40 we have the same trouble going from Federal waters into  
41 State waters, would we be subject to what the State  
42 says?

43  
44 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Kitka, through the  
45 Chair. Well, that's a loaded question.

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 MR. RISDAHL: Well, bottom line is, law  
50

0295

1 enforcement do have discretion. And everybody's  
2 different. And I have worked with law enforcement  
3 considerably over the years as a Refuge Manager at  
4 three Refuges because I supervised law enforcement, and  
5 I made sure that my law enforcement officers understood  
6 subsistence and what subsistence was all about and I  
7 can give you many examples, but in most instances the  
8 Fish and Wildlife and I believe the Forest Service,  
9 honestly I'm not as familiar with the Forest Service  
10 but I've talked to enough of their law enforcement now,  
11 that they are very sensitive towards subsistence users  
12 and they are not going to, so called, throw the book at  
13 you, if you're -- you know if you're on the line or if  
14 it's a question of high water versus low water, snow is  
15 covering the intertidal zone and you can't tell where  
16 it starts and where it ends, they have the discretion  
17 to say -- you know what they're not intentionally  
18 trying to break the law if they catch you with  
19 something on the wrong side of the line. Now that is  
20 -- but that's entirely up to the law enforcement  
21 officer and what their leadership is driving for. And  
22 every agency is a little different as well as the State  
23 Troopers.

24  
25 So I hope that most people in Alaska,  
26 once they've been here for a little while, they  
27 understand the importance and value of subsistence and  
28 subsistence users, that they are not going to throw the  
29 book at people for something that they might consider,  
30 like, ah, this is technically a violation when really  
31 there's no intention of wrongdoing.

32  
33 I don't know if that helps but it's --  
34 that's what law enforcement is all about, there's  
35 discretion and a lot of it has to do with intent.

36  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any  
40 other questions.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, thank you  
45 both. I think we see that our next fisheries cycle  
46 might have some considerations that we haven't had in  
47 the past so we'll see how that all works out. So thank  
48 you very much.

49  
50

0296

1 Are the folks that were working on  
2 potential proposals, do you have some proposals ready  
3 to present to the Council for approval? Are we there?

4  
5 MS. GREDIAGIN: I have some printed  
6 out.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You have some  
9 printed out -- okay, we're getting close to a break  
10 time, but if we could maybe get these introduced and  
11 have some discussion we might take a break but breaks  
12 always give people a time to kind of think about things  
13 too so if that's okay with everybody we'll get these  
14 introduced.

15  
16 (Council nods affirmatively)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: John, do you have  
19 a question.

20  
21 MR. SMITH: Yeah. When we were in  
22 Ketchikan talking about the rural and nonrural I  
23 started looking up and there were so many demographics  
24 of trying to relate to what was rural and nonrural,  
25 everything was different. And just now I started  
26 looking up boundaries and the same thing, there was so  
27 many different demographics of what was State, what was  
28 Federal, what waters were this, what waters was that,  
29 and even to talk like what Patty was sharing -- or we  
30 were talking earlier about, you know, the tide was  
31 going out and the water, where it recedes and sets, you  
32 know, at the lowest tide, you know, at the -- you know  
33 in summertime. Usually about May, April you get the  
34 lowest tides, are five, you know, so understanding that  
35 that's where the tide stops, that there's a boundary  
36 set for commercial and subsistence use, you know, and  
37 I'm talking -- I'm not talking just a few feet, I'm  
38 talking making sure they're not robbing the creek or,  
39 you know, that kind of thing, the commercial fishermen  
40 of putting like a four, five, 600, 1,300 feet boundary  
41 from where the tide stops but just like -- like, you  
42 know, I think they're in the right direction is  
43 actually getting -- you know, setting the mapping and  
44 the diagrams to where is Federal, what's State, what's  
45 subsistence and, you know, those boundary wetland --  
46 boundaries for subsistence and commercial, I think  
47 that's a -- that's a good thing to encourage, so thank  
48 you for thinking of that.

49  
50

0297

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, John.  
2    Okay, it looks like we have four potential wildlife  
3    proposals here for the Council to consider. These  
4    would be proposals put forward by this Advisory Council  
5    to the Board for the next wildlife regulatory cycle.

6  
7                   MS. GREDIAGIN: Is it helpful to  
8    project them or do you guys just want to look at this.

9  
10                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: What do you think,  
11   paper?

12  
13                  MS. NEEDHAM: We're good with this.  
14   Paper.

15  
16                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, paper works  
17   work fine, yeah, we got.....

18  
19                  MS. NEEDHAM: We can see it better.

20  
21                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, good to have  
22   it printed out, that's helpful to have them here before  
23   us in proverbial black and white.

24  
25                  So we have four potential proposals.  
26   These proposals were discussed by a work group last  
27   evening after our meeting of several Council members  
28   from the affected regions where these proposals are  
29   affecting it looks like. So now it's up to the full  
30   Council to consider these and either accept them as  
31   proposals from the Council or not or reject them. So  
32   these are up for the Council's -- the whole Council's  
33   review. And I don't know if somebody -- well, I guess  
34   the procedure would be that we'll probably make motions  
35   to accept these proposals and they'll have to be  
36   deliberated on and discussed and we'll have a vote on  
37   each individual proposal, I think will be appropriate.

38  
39                  So if somebody from the work group  
40   wants to sort of introduce these, if you want to kind  
41   of give an overview of what all four of them are, or if  
42   you're ready to make a motion, either way. I'll leave  
43   it up to you.

44  
45                  Patty.

46  
47                  MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
48   Hernandez.

49  
50



0298

1 MS. PHILLIPS: I'm ready to provide  
2 that if you're ready.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I think  
5 we're ready, thank you, Patty. Go ahead.

6  
7 MS. PHILLIPS: I'll provide a summary.  
8 So the working group met, it was myself, Harvey --  
9 Harvey Kitka, Frank Wright and Mike Douville and, you  
10 know, thank you Chairman Hernandez, you stopped by, and  
11 Cal Casipit stopped by on their way to their committee  
12 working group meeting.

13  
14 So what you have is three similar  
15 proposals for Admiralty Island, Northeast Chichagof  
16 Controlled Use Area and Lisianski Inlet/Lisianski  
17 Strait, Stag Bay areas. We used the same geographic  
18 areas as the wildlife proposals that were last  
19 discussed with the Federal Subsistence Board. What  
20 these proposals do -- these three proposals do is  
21 create a meaningful preference for subsistence -- for  
22 Federally-qualified users for two weeks during  
23 November, so from November 1st to November 15th the  
24 Federal public lands would be closed to non-Federally-  
25 qualified users and only Federally-qualified users  
26 could hunt during those February 1st -- or not February  
27 -- November 1st to November 15th.

28  
29 And then the fourth proposal is a Unit  
30 1C goat and that would say from October 1 to -- August  
31 1 to August 31st would be closed to non-Federally-  
32 qualified users on Federal public lands and only open  
33 to Federally-qualified subsistence users for hunting  
34 goat.

35  
36 So I will say that when we were trying  
37 to establish how long should the restricted --  
38 restriction -- or how long should it be only Federally-  
39 qualified users during the, you know, during where they  
40 have the priority, how long should that period of time  
41 be and I called Albert Howard in Angoon and asked, you  
42 know, what would work for him and he said November 1 to  
43 November 15th -- and by the way he has a new job and he  
44 couldn't get away for this meeting -- and so -- but  
45 that he would be on board with that sort of proposal so  
46 we started with Angoon -- Admiralty Island first.

47  
48 And so that's the summary of the  
49 working group, Mr. Chair.

50

0299

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you very  
2 much Patty.

3  
4                   Any questions from the rest of the  
5 Council, like I say we're not getting into  
6 deliberations yet I just want to know if there's any  
7 questions the Council has about the concept of these  
8 proposals and how they were -- went about discussing  
9 them.

10

11                   (No comments)

12

13                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We'll get into the  
14 meat of the discussion once they're put on the table as  
15 a motion and up for discussion.

16

17                   So, okay, very good, I think we all  
18 understand what we need to do. Let's take a 15 minute  
19 break and give everybody a chance to look these over a  
20 little more carefully and then we'll come back at say  
21 five after 10 and we'll start deliberations.

22

23                   (Off record)

24

25                   (On record)

26

27                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We'll resume  
28 business. I was kind of looking for Patty, I thought  
29 she might be the one to make the first.....

30

31                   MR. WAGNER: She went out the door, I  
32 don't know where she went with her backpacks.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, we'll  
35 get started, I was just looking for somebody who might  
36 want to make motions introducing these proposals, but  
37 that's where we are now. We will get into approving  
38 proposals and we'll go through one at a time and we'll  
39 need a motion to get started, a motion and a second.

40

41                   So, Cathy Needham, go ahead.

42

43                   MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
44 move to submit a Federal wildlife proposal for Hoonah  
45 regarding NECCU deer hunting by non-Federally-qualified  
46 users from November 1st through 15th.

47

48                   MR. CASIPIT: Second.

49

50

0300

1 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we have a  
4 motion and a second. Discussion.

5

6 Cathy.

7

8 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
9 just wanted to let everybody know I started with Hoonah  
10 because we have the representative in the room and  
11 appreciate that Patty gave us a briefing on what the  
12 work group did. And, personally, I find this a great  
13 start to get at some of the issues we've been talking  
14 about for the last couple of years and documenting  
15 after submitting proposals during the regulatory cycle  
16 the last time, and I think we're making great strides  
17 in assuring that we provide for subsistence users in  
18 these areas that have expressed that they're having a  
19 harder time meeting their needs.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.  
24 Other Council member comments on this.

25

26 Frank, go ahead.

27

28 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29 Some of the hardships that we have in Hoonah is that we  
30 have the ferry system that comes in and a lot of the  
31 people from this area ends up coming here and coming in  
32 with a vehicle that can -- that they can park out at  
33 Whitestone or park on the road system and be there for  
34 as long as they feel like it. And, you know, so we  
35 have people that are camped out and that's not the only  
36 place, in Whitestone, but you can go down to Freshwater  
37 Bay drive all the way down as long as the snow doesn't  
38 stop them. So we are ending up having to deal with  
39 people that don't understand the area, or the people  
40 within the area. And I think for us to put a limit on  
41 it for the community, that it makes it a lot more  
42 successful for people who hunt deer.

43

44 You know I live on Front Street in  
45 Hoonah and I see people going out in Lunds, I mean  
46 little Lunds, and if you think of Icy Straits, Icy  
47 Straits is a miserable place when it gets bad. I know  
48 this was out of the season but I just went crabbing  
49 over at Pleasant Island and I have a 58 foot boat and I  
50

0301

1 couldn't even fish. And, you know, last year when I  
2 went crabbing it was worse than fishing out in the  
3 ocean and that's just part of it so, you know, having a  
4 ferry system and coming into Hoonah with people that  
5 don't live there is kind of discouraging. Because, you  
6 know, especially when we, as a small community, have  
7 hardships of even having to go to the grocery store,  
8 like I mentioned the other day, it's outrageous, you  
9 know, so being successful to even go get a deer and  
10 paying for the gas, you know, subsistence is supposed  
11 to be for, you know, getting -- using as little as  
12 possible energy to deal with what you're going after  
13 and hopefully be successful.

14  
15 So we put this proposal together so  
16 that, you know, we can deal with the hardships of our  
17 community.

18  
19 Gunalcheesh.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.

22  
23 Mike Douville, go ahead.

24  
25 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
26 I will support the motion. I believe that the  
27 continuation of subsistence uses would benefit from it.  
28 It doesn't change bag limits, it's actually not  
29 requesting that much. But I don't think we have to  
30 debate the proposal at this point. We have put in our  
31 justification and that should be adequate in my mind so  
32 I guess what I'm thinking is if somebody sees something  
33 in the justification that they might want to add to, or  
34 want to take away from that would be appropriate.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.  
37 Good comment. I think that's why we're discussing  
38 this, just get the merits of it out there in that  
39 justification that we're sending off with the proposal.  
40 Anybody else have anything to add to what Frank has  
41 already said.

42  
43 Bob Schroeder.

44  
45 MR. SCHROEDER: Well, I'd really like  
46 to commend the group that put these together because I  
47 think they're pretty close to being ready to go as is.  
48 So that's really good work.

49  
50

0302

1                   Just one observation, you know, the  
2 length of time for the closure to non-Federally-  
3 qualified subsistence users and if you think of it,  
4 particularly in the Southeast context is really pretty  
5 modest. In Hoonah, if you have a two week closure,  
6 there's going to be one week where it's blowing so hard  
7 you can't do anything anyways.

8  
9                   (Teleconference interference -  
10 participants not muted)

11  
12                  MR. SCHROEDER: So it isn't like  
13 overreaching. So I think it's a fairly modest request,  
14 or demand, or recommendation, whichever way we care to  
15 put it.

16  
17                  Just to clarify for me, we're  
18 submitting proposals now, when will we be getting Staff  
19 analysis and at what meeting would we be making our  
20 recommendations on these proposals, if you could fill  
21 me in on that, Don?

22  
23                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We'll be  
24 deliberating on these this fall and hopefully we'll  
25 have Staff analysis at a time prior to that and we'll  
26 have a chance to look it over carefully.

27  
28                  Bob.

29  
30                  MR. SCHROEDER: So perhaps we could  
31 just emphasize to Staff that time will really be of  
32 essence on this because these will be controversial  
33 proposals because the Council is likely to come up with  
34 a strong justification based on meaningful priority and  
35 protecting subsistence uses, and this is a little bit  
36 of new territory for both this Council and for the  
37 Federal Program. So if we could have analysis in  
38 advance that would be really great and we'd definitely  
39 work with you on analytic points.

40  
41                  Thank you.

42  
43                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you for that  
44 Bob. And I guess I should note, you know, at this  
45 time, that in conjunction with these new proposals, you  
46 know, the Council is also working on a policy statement  
47 that we hope to come up with that will be going to the  
48 Board prior to when these proposals are considered and  
49 that policy statement will be specifying what the  
50

0303

1 Council's views are concerning these topics of what  
2 does it mean to have a restriction that in order to  
3 continue subsistence uses and how do we interpret that  
4 term of meaningful preference. So by the time these  
5 proposals get to the Board hopefully they will also see  
6 what our interpretation of those clauses in ANILCA mean  
7 to us and people in Southeast Alaska. So -- and that's  
8 -- you know, that's just a statement coming from the  
9 Council. The public has a chance to weigh in on these  
10 proposals but we want to get our opinion out there on  
11 how we feel people in our area, you know, view those  
12 topics that are important to these proposals.

13

14 So hopefully, you know, it'll all  
15 happen in a timely manner.

16

17 John.

18

19 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
20 just want to echo that I agree with this and really  
21 like the layout and, you know, like the -- you know, I  
22 have 11 kids, two of them are girls and I got 15  
23 children and I got family and I grew up in Hoonah even  
24 though I'm representing Juneau, I understand the  
25 situation that that does bring and, you know, thinking  
26 about my grandchildren, my granddaughter is out  
27 learning how to hunt, my son is taking her. So I  
28 really feel the safety and that of protection. But I'm  
29 truly in agreement with this.

30

31 But just to share some geographical  
32 location because I grew up there, and I need to check  
33 with Frank, that, you know, I grew up growing knowing  
34 that Whitestone Bay was called Whitestone Harbor but I  
35 might be thinking of a different place, so just  
36 confirming that that's the same location I'm thinking  
37 of because that is a great place, my kids still go  
38 there today.

39

40 Thank you very much.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, John.  
43 Frank -- I don't know if that was a question for Frank.

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, John, that is the  
46 same place.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
49 Frank. Any further discussion on this proposal,

50

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1 anybody want to add anything to our rationale for  
2 putting this proposal forward.

3

4 Patty.

5

6 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
7 Is there a motion on the floor?

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, we have one.

10

11 MS. PHILLIPS: Then could I have  
12 clarification what it is.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure. Patty --  
15 or, excuse me, Cathy made the motion so Cathy.

16

17 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 The motion was to submit a wildlife proposal for Hoonah  
19 to close the NECCU to deer hunting for non-Federally-  
20 qualified users November 1st through the 15th.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
23 Anything else from the Council.

24

25 Bob.

26

27 MR. SCHROEDER: Just for the purpose of  
28 our record, on Page 64 in our book we have a really  
29 nice map that delineates the NECCU Controlled Use Area  
30 and it also shows the land which is not under Federal  
31 jurisdiction and potentially since that land is at  
32 least particularly owned by Huna Totem and Sealaska  
33 they could, of course, do their own management actions  
34 under closing private land to outside hunting if they  
35 so wished.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, that's  
38 correct. Yes, there are fairly sizeable private land  
39 holdings within that Controlled Use Area and those  
40 lands would remain under State management for fish and  
41 wildlife -- or hunting regulations. But as you pointed  
42 out the owners do have the option of closing their  
43 lands to people from outside the community if they so  
44 wish. So, yeah, but it is -- there is a sizeable  
45 pieces of private land managed by State regulation  
46 within that area.

47

48 Thank you, Bob.

49

50

0305

1 But, you know, the proposal is specific  
2 to that NECCU area and there are some very defined  
3 boundaries for that so just by designating that in the  
4 proposal I think it does a really good job of  
5 specifying where this restriction would take place.

6  
7 So thanks for that Bob.

8  
9 Anybody else.

10  
11 Bob.

12  
13 MR. SCHROEDER: Just to put one other  
14 thing in there since we weren't able to see detailed  
15 harvest data in our review of wildlife this year we  
16 should note that we absolutely definitely need to know  
17 what the harvest statistics are for that area broken  
18 out for NECCU and we do way better with longitudinal  
19 data as well since the harvest data is probably  
20 available for 30 years for that area. So if we can have  
21 that included in the analysis and provide it to the  
22 Board -- to the Council when we deliberate that would  
23 really help us out a lot.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Bob.

26  
27 John.

28  
29 MR. SMITH: Just for the record, out  
30 loud, it would be really encouraging to see the tribal  
31 members at the seats up here and sharing what their  
32 vision, their statement and their future dreams are  
33 for, you know, what's happening. I know I see many  
34 others from other communities but -- the tribal family  
35 from here in Juneau but it's always good to see them  
36 and understand like what Bob -- Robert was saying,  
37 about their property, their land and what are they  
38 doing there to manage and protect and make it available  
39 for, you know, our subsistence families, traditional  
40 families.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 Don't need an answer just sharing a  
45 perspective. Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,  
48 John. Anybody else.

49  
50



0306

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Patty.

4

5 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. The working  
6 group considered a possible Unit 4 proposal, rather  
7 than Angoon, Hoonah and Pelican but we decided to go  
8 with the three communities that had expressed, you  
9 know, that their subsistence needs weren't being met  
10 and that they wanted a Federally-qualified user time  
11 period for their areas.

12

13 Also we modeled the -- like the two  
14 week, the 1st through the 15th for the continuation of  
15 subsistence uses for Federally-qualified hunters on the  
16 Unit 2 where they have the early July 24 opening that's  
17 only for Federally-qualified users, and the Federal  
18 Board had expanded that. And so when -- when it was  
19 originally implemented. So this is mimicking or  
20 copying or, you know, same as the Unit 2 deer qualified  
21 users continuation of subsistence uses within a certain  
22 specific time period and we reduced that down from the  
23 original proposals.

24

25 So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.  
28 Yes, there is precedent for the Board approving  
29 proposals similar to this one so good to point out.

30

31 Anybody else.

32

33 Lisa Grediagin, you have a question or  
34 comment for the Council.

35

36 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Lisa Grediagin  
37 for the record. I just wanted to clarify procedurally  
38 whether the justification that was presented to you  
39 all, in written form, if there are specific tweaks you  
40 wanted to make to that and if that needs to be kind of  
41 clarified on the record or we can kind of do that a  
42 little more unofficially off the record on the exact  
43 wording of that justification, if there's anything you  
44 guys want to add, just how official we need to do that  
45 to be read into the record versus just kind of figure  
46 it out afterwards.

47

48 Thanks.

49

50

0307

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Call, do you want  
2 to comment on that.

3

4 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, if we're going to  
5 talk about wording I just have one -- actually it would  
6 be for all three of them. But where it says, why  
7 should this regulation be changed and it says this  
8 restriction on non-subsistence uses is necessary, I  
9 think we should just say, this proposal is necessary  
10 for the continuation of subsistence uses.

11

12 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

13

14 MR. CASIPIT: Because I don't  
15 necessarily think that -- it's not as a bad of a  
16 restriction as we asked for before, and I just want to  
17 get away from that and just say, this proposal, let's  
18 not call it a restriction yet.

19

20 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you for that  
23 Lisa and Cal. Yes, we could probably read the written  
24 justification for the record but I think all of this  
25 discussion, I think the intention is just to get on the  
26 record, you know, on the public record what other  
27 Council members views about what this proposal is but  
28 aside from that, you know, there is a written  
29 justification so maybe that should be read into the  
30 record and, Cathy, would you like to do that.

31

32 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes, I can do that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Bob has a question  
35 first, though.

36

37 MR. SCHROEDER: Well, we never get, you  
38 know -- editing by committee is never a very good idea  
39 but we may want to put somewhere in here meaningful  
40 preference but I don't know where that would fit,  
41 Patty, in the draft here, and then I don't believe we  
42 need to read these into the record but perhaps I'll be  
43 overruled on that.

44

45 Our usual procedure is that if we're  
46 pretty close on exact wording we leave that up to our  
47 esteemed Designated Federal Official working with a  
48 Council member and Staff to spiff things up a little  
49 bit. But meaningful preference might be useful to put  
50

0308

1 in someplace.

2

3

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Bob.

4

5

Cathy.

6

7

MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't -- yeah, I think if we start getting into reading the justification into the record then we'll start wordsmithing and we could be here all day on the wordsmith aspect of it and maybe when we bring the next proposals up we can just say we -- you know, or in our justification, including this one, that we're accepting the work that the work group put together and the justification as the starting point, but if any of the discussion that we've had while we're deliberating the proposal, if there's points in it that need to be added that those could be added.

19

20

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: DeAnna.

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MR. SMITH: Yeah, just clarify, maybe Cathy, of there's some wording that's crossed off, whether that's not being used or if that's in consideration or can you just share a little bit of

0309

1 that because I do like some of the wording.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't know who  
4 can speak to that best. Cathy, can you?

5

6 MS. NEEDHAM: Yeah, I don't know if I  
7 can speak to it best but my intention was to read the  
8 justification and not include those strikeouts because  
9 I believe that that's language that's in others and  
10 could have been considered for this but not necessarily  
11 the justification for this proposal, and it looks like  
12 Lisa might have more clarification.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Lisa.

15

16 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks, Lisa  
17 Grediagin for the record. And I mean that's -- you  
18 know the working group provided a lot of input for all  
19 three of these proposals and there is a lot of overlap  
20 across all three areas but then there's also distinct  
21 differences between them so that crossed out language  
22 was included in other proposals but it was uncertainty  
23 on my part on how much it applied specifically to  
24 Hoonah versus Angoon and Pelican and so that was kind  
25 of what I was hoping to get feedback from the Council  
26 on clarification on whether that language should be  
27 retained in Hoonah versus it only applies to Angoon and  
28 Pelican and not Hoonah because there are some  
29 differences specifically with the ferry system and the  
30 road system in Hoonah that's not in Angoon or Pelican.

31

32 So that was kind of a placeholder of  
33 this language is there in the other ones but I'm not  
34 sure whether or not the Council wanted it include it  
35 for Hoonah.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
38 for that. Mike, do you have a clarification or  
39 question.

40

41 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
42 I do. We have a motion on the floor and these changes,  
43 do they have to be made as amendments or is our  
44 discussion going to fulfill that need for information  
45 to get these clarified; I'm not sure where we're going  
46 here.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think I'll speak  
49 to that. There's no amendments necessary. The

50

0310

1 regulation is as it's proposed and nobody's talking  
2 about making any changes there so we're not talking  
3 about amendments. We just want to, you know, build a  
4 good record by the time this gets published for the  
5 public, everything that we've, you know, discussed here  
6 as far as justifications and that can all be worked out  
7 and people who worked on the proposal can get together  
8 with DeAnna, you know, review what was discussed here  
9 around the table, can make additions or whatever but,  
10 you know, these were kind of notes from the work  
11 session last night for the benefit of the Council to  
12 look at and consider but this is not the final product  
13 yet. By the time the public sees it and gets  
14 published, you know, it'll be fine-tuned and any  
15 comments that come out in this discussion can be added  
16 to what's here.

17  
18 But, I think, you know, DeAnna was just  
19 making the point we're looking at a document that was  
20 printed out for the benefit of the Council and it might  
21 be just a good idea to read that into the record so the  
22 public has a better idea, you know, what we're  
23 discussing here and I think that's reasonable.

24  
25 Mike, go ahead.

26  
27 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
28 for that explanation.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anything further.  
31 These are the kind of discussions we'll probably have  
32 for all four proposals so it's kind of good to have it  
33 now on the first one.

34  
35 Patty.

36  
37 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I would just  
38 like to clearly state for the record that this proposal  
39 is to establish a meaningful preference for the  
40 continuation of subsistence uses of deer.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good, thank  
45 you, Patty.

46  
47 So before we get to calling for the  
48 question, I don't know if we're there yet, but, Cathy,  
49 maybe you should just, you know, read what we have  
50

0311

1 before us into the record.

2

3 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
4 think to be thorough we should mention that the  
5 proposed Federal regulation would now read:

6

7 Unit 4 deer.

8

9 Unit 4, six deer, however female deer  
10 may be taken only September 15th through January 31st  
11 and the Unit 4 deer period is August 1st through  
12 January 31st.

13

14 That's existing regulation, and then we  
15 would add to it:

16

17 Federal public lands of the Northeast  
18 Chichagof Controlled Use Area are closed to deer  
19 hunting November 1st through 15th except by Federally-  
20 qualified subsistence users hunting under these  
21 regulations.

22

23 Why should the proposal be changed?  
24 Our justification is:

25

26 This proposal is necessary for public  
27 safety and the continuation of subsistence uses of  
28 deer. Hoonah residents depend on deer and are  
29 experiencing difficulty meeting their subsistence needs  
30 for several reasons, including competition and user  
31 conflicts from non-Federally-qualified users. Non-  
32 Federally-qualified users flock to Hoonah on the ferry  
33 and clog the roads with larger campers, trailers, tents  
34 and sheer number of hunters. This creates overcrowding  
35 and hunting safety concerns as well as inhibits access  
36 to hunting areas by subsistence users who cannot find a  
37 place to park and substantially increases competition  
38 for deer. Whitestone Bay is an example of an area  
39 where these issues occur. Non-Federally-qualified  
40 users may also decrease the success of subsistence  
41 users if they shoot deer and miss causing the deer to  
42 be more skittish and wary. Both subsistence and non-  
43 subsistence users prefer hunting the road system around  
44 Hoonah because it is safer than hunting by boat.  
45 Subsistence hunting focuses on efficiency.

46

47 The proposed closure window in early  
48 November is the most efficient time for subsistence  
49 users hunting in Unit 4 for several reasons.

50

0312

1 First. The deer are still fat  
2 providing the highest quality and amount of meat.

3  
4 Second. The deer are in the rut making  
5 them more susceptible to harvest.

6  
7 Third. Weather conditions are  
8 favorable for proper meat care and processing.

9  
10 This two week closure would allow for  
11 continuation of subsistence uses enhancing opportunity  
12 for subsistence users in helping them meet their  
13 subsistence needs by eliminating competition and  
14 improving access to hunting areas during the most  
15 efficient hunting period. Additionally, the proposed  
16 closure area is limited in scope but represents the  
17 area most hunted by Hoonah residents.

18  
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
22 I think that's pretty well stated and like I say that  
23 came from a working group so, you know, giving the rest  
24 of the Council opportunity to see that as some of their  
25 own thoughts around the table that might possibly be  
26 added to that when it gets published, you know, that's  
27 the concept here. Is like we had that statement coming  
28 from a working group but obviously we want the entire  
29 Council to add to it -- have an opportunity to add to  
30 it. So that's the process.

31  
32 Any other questions or comments.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are we ready for  
37 the question.

38  
39 MR. SMITH: Question.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
42 Frank, do you have a roll call there, maybe we would  
43 want to do roll call votes on proposals.

44  
45 MR. WRIGHT: So I'll just call the  
46 people that are here.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah.

49  
50

0313

1 REPORTER: Frank.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Sorry. Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, just a  
6 second, so the motion is to approve a proposal from the  
7 Council that would be for the people in Hoonah dealing  
8 with the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area that  
9 would institute a two week closure to non-subsistence  
10 uses from November 1st to November 15th. So all in  
11 favor of that -- moving that proposal forward -- or,  
12 excuse me, Frank, run through the roll call.

13

14 MR. WRIGHT: So should I call people  
15 that aren't here or may be on the phone?

16

17 MS. NEEDHAM: They might be.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah.

20

21 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Larry Bemis.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: Frank Wright. Yes.

30

31 MR. WRIGHT: Cal Casipit.

32

33 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

34

35 MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

36

37 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.

38

39 MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MR. WRIGHT: Robert Loescher -- I mean  
48 Robert Schroeder.

49

50



0314

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. SCHROEDER: I got to think about

4 that one. Yes.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. SCHROEDER: He was a friend of

9 mine.

10

11 MR. SMITH: Haven't heard his name for

12 awhile.

13

14 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

15

16 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes.

17

18 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MR. WRIGHT: Donald Hernandez.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

29

30 MR. WRIGHT: Patricia Phillips.

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

33

34 MR. WRIGHT: Louie Wagner.

35

36 MR. WAGNER: Here.

37

38 MR. WRIGHT: Is that a yes?

39

40 REPORTER: Is that a yes, Louie?

41

42 MR. WAGNER: Yes.

43

44 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you.

45

46 Harvey Kitka.

47

48 MR. KITKA: Yes.

49

50

0315

1 MR. WRIGHT: John Smith.

2

3 MR. SMITH: Yes.

4

5 MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

6

7 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes.

8

9 MR. WRIGHT: Motion passes, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
12 Frank. So we'll move on to another proposal.

13

14 Does somebody from the working group  
15 want to -- I think it's appropriate to go ahead and  
16 make a motion at this point on whatever proposal you  
17 feel is appropriate to discuss next.

18

19 Patty, go ahead.

20

21 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
22 Hernandez. Move to approve a proposal for a portion of  
23 Chichagof Island around Pelican to establish a  
24 meaningful preference for the continuation of  
25 subsistence uses of deer for the dates November 1  
26 through the 15th. It would close a portion of  
27 Chichagof Island around Pelican to deer hunting by non-  
28 Federally-qualified users from November 1 to 15.

29

30 MS. NEEDHAM: Second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. And  
33 maybe, Patty, do you want to read the designated  
34 boundaries for that?

35

36 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, sir. Thank  
37 you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 The specific closure area includes  
40 Federal public lands within drainages flowing into  
41 Lisianski Inlet/Lisianski Strait and Stag Bay south of  
42 a line connecting Soapstone and Collum Points and north  
43 of a line connecting Point Theodore and Port Uray.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
46 Okay, now, do we have a second.

47

48 MR. SMITH: Second.

49

50

0316

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
2 John. This proposal's open to discussion. Would it  
3 help to maybe read into the record the proposed wording  
4 on rationale for this proposal before we get started on  
5 discussion, would you like to do that Patty.

6  
7 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
8 The proposed Federal regulation Unit 4 deer. It  
9 existing reads:

10  
11 Unit 4, six deer, however female deer  
12 may be taken only from September 15th to January 31st,  
13 season August 1 through January 31.

14  
15 The proposed -- or the Federal public  
16 lands within drainages flowing into Lisianski  
17 Inlet/Lisianski Strait and Stag Bay south of a line  
18 connecting Soapstone and Collum Points and north of a  
19 line connecting Point Theodore and Port Uray are closed  
20 to deer hunting November 1 to November 15 except by  
21 Federally-qualified subsistence users hunting under  
22 these regulations.

23  
24 Why should this regulation be changed?

25  
26 This proposal is to establish a  
27 meaningful preference for the continuation of  
28 subsistence uses of deer. Pelican residents depend on  
29 deer and are experiencing difficulty meeting their  
30 subsistence needs for several reasons, including  
31 competition and user conflict with non-Federally-  
32 qualified users. Non-Federally-qualified anchor boats  
33 in small bays which inhibits access to traditional  
34 hunting areas by subsistence users. Non-Federally-  
35 qualified users may also decrease the success of  
36 subsistence users if they shoot deer and miss causing  
37 the deer to be more skittish and wary. High fuel  
38 costs, depressed economy, small boats and inclement  
39 weather also affect the ability of Pelican residents to  
40 meet their subsistence needs. They cannot afford to  
41 have many unsuccessful hunts or to travel far from  
42 their community to hunt deer because of these safety  
43 and economic concerns.

44  
45 Non-Federally-qualified users  
46 exacerbate these concerns by obstructing access,  
47 competing for deer, and potentially altering deer  
48 behavior all of which decreases chances of successful  
49 subsistence hunts and hinder the continuation of  
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0317

1 subsistence uses.

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Subsistence hunting focuses on efficiency. The proposed two week closure window in early November is the most efficient time for subsistence deer hunting in Unit 4 for several reasons.

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted - on hold)

MS. PHILLIPS: First. The deer are still fat providing the highest quality and amount of meat.

Second. The deer are in the rut making them more vulnerable to harvest.

Third. Weather conditions are favorable for proper meat care and processing.

This two week closure would allow for the continuation of subsistence uses enhancing opportunity for subsistence users in helping them meet their subsistence needs by eliminating competition and improving access to hunting areas during the most efficient hunting period. Additionally, the proposed closure area is limited in scope but represents the area most hunted by Pelican residents.

The Council also acknowledges that while tidelands are State managed lands unaffected by any Federal closures that should not decrease the effectiveness or necessity of this proposed closure. Deer are primarily pushed to beaches by heavy snowfalls which usually occur after the requested closure period in early November. Additionally, much of the proposed closure area is extremely steep and does not contain many beaches. Lastly, when deer are on the beaches they are usually feeding above the mean high tide line, which is under Federal jurisdiction.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

And thank you Lisa Grediagin, and Jake Musslewhite for your help last night with the working group.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, Patty. So if any Council members want to comment on

0318

1 that or add to it, Harvey, go ahead.

2

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

4 Harvey Kitka. I just was wondering basically the deer  
5 don't come down to below the high tide line until the  
6 tide is going out then it falls under State  
7 jurisdiction and these are kind of the questions I  
8 asked earlier whether -- how do you find that tide line  
9 because we're not regulating State?

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think you  
12 kind of heard part of the explanation for that, it's a  
13 difficult question to answer. So it's an enforcement  
14 question. I guess, you know, you just have to leave  
15 that up to enforcement, I don't know. I know that Greg  
16 tried to answer that question earlier. As far as  
17 fisheries boundaries are concerned, it's the same  
18 situation with hunting boundaries, it's sometimes a  
19 hard line to delineate, I know.

20

21 I don't know if anybody needs to  
22 anything to that as far as land designations as opposed  
23 to tidal designations.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Maybe not, just  
28 acknowledge that it's a difficult distinction to make  
29 sometimes.

30

31 Anybody else.

32

33 John.

34

35 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I think Greg and them  
36 are on the right track of developing that. I really  
37 think that needs to be addressed, you know, so I echo  
38 that, that we need to determine that and get that on  
39 the table and I think their mapping and more  
40 conversation on that would get that figured out for  
41 sure.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. You know  
44 it may not have been that much of an issue in the past  
45 because a lot of our regulations did align but it has  
46 always been an issue and there are places where the  
47 regulations do not align so it's been an issue for some  
48 time in a lot of places and it's been dealt with, I  
49 guess. Maybe just has to be considered more often now.

50

0319

1 As you say it might need some further discussion.

2

3

Mike.

4

5

MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.

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Anybody else.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I would agree with that. I think this is has an overall, very small, effect, on the non-subsistence hunters. They have a lot of opportunity out there still to take a deer but I think it could be a significant help to the local communities with a minor restriction to non-subsistence users. So I think that's the kind of solutions we're looking for.

Anybody else.

(No comments)

MS. NEEDHAM: Question.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Question's been called for. Frank, you want to do a roll call vote on this.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Excuse me, I should repeat it. So the motion is for the Council to accept and put forward a proposal that would institute a closure from November 1st to November 15th in the Lisianski drainage area with clearly defined boundaries. The closure is for non-subsistence users.

Okay, thank you, Frank, you want to go through the roll call vote.

0320

1 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 Larry Bemis.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: Frank Wright. Yes.

12

13 Cal Casipit.

14

15 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

16

17 MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

18

19 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.

20

21 MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: Robert Schroeder.

30

31 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes.

32

33 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MR. WRIGHT: Donald Hernandez.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: Patricia Phillips.

46

47 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: Louie Wagner.

50

0321

1 MR. WAGNER: Yes.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

4

5 MR. KITKA: Yes.

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: John Smith.

8

9 MR. SMITH: Yes.

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

12

13 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair, the motion  
16 passes.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.  
19 Does somebody want to introduce or make a motion for  
20 the next proposal.

21

22 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Patty.

25

26 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
27 Hernandez.

28

29 This proposal is to establish a  
30 meaningful preference for the continuation of  
31 subsistence uses of deer on Admiralty Island. The  
32 proposal would close a portion of Admiralty Island to  
33 deer hunting by non-Federally-qualified users from  
34 November 1st to November 15th. The specific closure  
35 area includes Wildlife Analysis Areas WAA4042, 4045 --  
36 4055 and 4041.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
39 Patty.

40

41 MR. CASIPIT: Second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

44

45 (Pause)

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I kind of  
48 missed that, did you say you were making a motion or  
49 reading this?

50



0322

1 MS. PHILLIPS: That was a motion, Mr.  
2 Chair, my apologies.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I thought it  
5 sounded like a motion even if she didn't say so and,  
6 Cal, you seconded it.

7  
8 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
11 for that. Discussion from the -- oh, let's read the  
12 rationale that your working group came up with that's  
13 before the rest of the Council here, if we could.

14  
15 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
16 The proposed regulation. The existing regulation is  
17 Unit 4 deer, Unit 4, six deer, however, female deer may  
18 be taken only from September 15th to January 31st and  
19 the season is August 1 through January 31.

20  
21 The proposed regulation is Federal  
22 public lands of Admiralty Island draining into Chatham  
23 Strait south of the Thayer Creek drainage, but  
24 excluding the Hasselborg Lake and Hasselborg Creek  
25 drainages are closed to deer hunting November 1 to  
26 November 15th except by Federally-qualified subsistence  
27 users hunting under these regulations.

28  
29 This proposal is to establish a  
30 meaningful preference for the continuation of  
31 subsistence uses of deer. Angoon residents depend on  
32 deer are experiencing difficulty meeting their  
33 subsistence needs for several reasons including  
34 competition and user conflicts with non-Federally-  
35 qualified users. Non-Federally-qualified users anchor  
36 boats in small bays which inhibits access to  
37 traditional hunting areas by subsistence users. Non-  
38 Federally-qualified users may also decrease the success  
39 of subsistence users if they shoot deer and miss  
40 causing the deer to be more skittish and wary. High  
41 fuel costs, depressed economy, small boats and  
42 incimate weather also affect the ability of Angoon  
43 residents to meet their subsistence needs. They cannot  
44 afford to have many unsuccessful hunts or to travel far  
45 from their community to hunt deer because of these  
46 safety and economic concerns.

47  
48 Non-Federally-qualified users  
49 exacerbate these concerns by obstructing access,  
50

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1 competing for deer, and potentially altering deer  
2 behavior all of which decreases chances of successful  
3 subsistence hunts and hinder the continuation of  
4 subsistence uses.

5  
6 Subsistence hunting focuses on  
7 efficiency. The proposed two week closure window in  
8 early November is the most efficient time for  
9 subsistence deer hunting in Unit 4 for several reasons.

10  
11 First. The deer are still fat  
12 providing the highest quality and amount of meat.

13  
14 Second. The deer are in the rut making  
15 them more susceptible to harvest.

16  
17 Third. Weather conditions are  
18 favorable for proper meat care and processing.

19  
20 This two week closure would allow for  
21 the continuation of subsistence uses enhancing  
22 opportunity for subsistence users in helping them meet  
23 their subsistence needs by eliminating competition and  
24 improving access to hunting areas during the most  
25 efficient hunting period. Additionally, the proposed  
26 closure area is limited in scope but represents the  
27 area most hunted by Angoon residents.

28  
29 The Council also acknowledges that  
30 while tidelands are State managed lands unaffected by  
31 any Federal closures that should not decrease the  
32 effectiveness or necessity of this proposed closure.  
33 Deer are primarily pushed to beaches by heavy snowfalls  
34 which usually occur after the requested closure period  
35 in early November. Additionally, much of the proposed  
36 closure area is extremely steep and does not contain  
37 many beaches. Lastly, when deer are on the beaches  
38 they are usually feeding above the mean high tide line,  
39 which is under Federal jurisdiction.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.  
42 Anybody on the Council want to add to that or make any  
43 comments about that rationale.

44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other  
48 discussion needed on this proposal.

49  
50

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1 MR. KITKA: Call for the question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Question  
4 has been called for. So we'll have another roll call  
5 vote.....

6

7 MS. PERRY: I'm sorry.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Was there a  
10 question, or did I miss something?

11

12 MR. DOUVILLE: No, but are we okay at  
13 this point to call for the question or do we need  
14 further discussion?

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, I think what  
17 Patty read is adequate justification unless you want to  
18 add to it. You're welcome to add to it, Mike, go  
19 ahead.

20

21 MR. DOUVILLE: No.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. The  
24 question has been called for. The motion was for the  
25 Council to put forward a proposal dealing with the  
26 Angoon area of Admiralty Island and some clearly  
27 defined areas that incorporate Wildlife Analysis Areas  
28 4042, 4055, 4044, which are generally described as the  
29 watersheds south of Thayer Creek that drain into  
30 Chatham Strait excluding Hasselborg Lake and  
31 Hasselborg Creek drainage and those areas will be  
32 closed to non-subsistence hunters from November 1st  
33 through the 15th except by Federally-qualified  
34 subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

35

36 So, Frank, do you want to run through  
37 the roll call on this.

38

39 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 Larry Bemis.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: Frank Wright. Yes.

50

0325

1

Cal Casipit.

2

3

MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

4

5

MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

6

7

MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.

8

9

MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.

10

11

(No comments)

12

13

MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.

14

15

(No comments)

16

17

MR. WRIGHT: Robert Schroeder.

18

19

MR. SCHROEDER: Yes.

20

21

MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

22

23

(No comments)

24

25

MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

26

27

(No comments)

28

29

MR. WRIGHT: Donald Hernandez.

30

31

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

32

33

MR. WRIGHT: Patricia Phillips.

34

35

MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

36

37

MR. WRIGHT: Louie Wagner.

38

39

MR. WAGNER: Yes.

40

41

MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

42

43

MR. KITKA: Yes.

44

45

MR. WRIGHT: John Smith.

46

47

MR. SMITH: Yes.

48

49

MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

50

0326

1 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: The motion passes, Mr.

4 Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
7 Frank. One more proposal, are we ready for a motion  
8 for that one.

9

10 Patty, go ahead.

11

12 MS. PHILLIPS: Are you ready for a  
13 motion, Mr. Chair?

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

16

17 MS. PHILLIPS: Move to submit a  
18 proposal to close a portion of Unit 1C Remainder, RG015  
19 permit area to goat hunting by non-Federally-qualified  
20 users from August 1 to August 31st.

21

22 MR. CASIPIT: Second.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Do you  
25 want to read the more specific locations for this.

26

27 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 The specific location is Federal public lands within  
29 the drainages of the Chilkat range south of the south  
30 bank of the Endicott River are closed to goat hunting  
31 August 1 to August 31st except by Federally-qualified  
32 subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Would you like to  
35 read what the rationale of the working group was for  
36 the benefit of the Council and the record.

37

38 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 The proposed Federal regulation, Unit 1C goat.  
40 Existing regulation is Unit 1C Remainder, one goat by  
41 registration permit only August 1 to November 30th.

42

43 The proposed wording is Federal public  
44 lands within the drainages of Chilkat range south of  
45 south bank of the Endicott River are closed to goat  
46 hunting August 1 to 31st except by Federally-qualified  
47 subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

48

49 Why should this regulation be changed?

50

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1                   At their January 2023 meeting the  
2 Alaska Board of Game adopted Proposal 31 to extend the  
3 resident goat season in the southern end of the Chilkat  
4 range in Unit 1C from September 1 to November 30th to  
5 August 1 through November 30th effectively eliminating  
6 the Federal subsistence priority. Previously  
7 Federally-qualified subsistence users had the month of  
8 August to hunt goat in this area without competition  
9 from non-Federally-qualified users.

10

11                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
12 for that Patty. Any further discussion from the  
13 Council or additions to this.

14

15                   Go ahead, Cal.

16

17                   MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 Cal Casipit from Gustavus. This is -- well, I'm going  
19 to talk about some things here and we can probably just  
20 hopefully keep some notes of what I'm saying and  
21 between the transcripts we can beef up the  
22 justification a little bit.

23

24                   But the situation here is kind of  
25 similar to the three proposals we discussed but it's  
26 kind of a hybrid thing. I'll beg the Council's  
27 patience with me as I kind of lay out how things go  
28 there. The area that's in question here is it's an old  
29 timber sale I think from back in the '70s or something.  
30 There's lots of logging roads back up there that get  
31 pretty high up close to Alpine. There is at the old  
32 log transfer facility, the dock that was there is no  
33 longer there, it got blown out by a storm a few years  
34 ago. They've modified that dock area so that there's a  
35 ramp going down into the water now so people can bring  
36 their boats right up and -- or their landing crafts or  
37 however and pull right up to shore, unload their  
38 fourwheelers and they have this huge road system to  
39 drive on and chase animals around on. That particular  
40 little anchorage there, right at the log transfer  
41 facility is not a very good place to keep a boat, when  
42 the southwesterly blows up it gets rolling in there, so  
43 there's not a whole lot of places to keep boats to  
44 begin with. You may be -- there's probably only a spot  
45 there for maybe three or four boats and every other  
46 place you anchor, you don't want to put your boat  
47 there, it's a very small area where you can keep a boat  
48 and not worry about it getting blown off anchor and on  
49 to shore. So that's an issue.

50

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1                   You know there's just a limited amount  
2 of where you can bring your boat to even start hunting.

3  
4                   And then beyond that you get on these  
5 logging roads and the idea is you want to get -- use  
6 those roads to get as high up and close to Alpine as  
7 you can and there are some roads that get pretty darn  
8 close, I mean it's a pretty easy walk up to Alpine.  
9 The problem is, is that people set up camps and, you  
10 know, block the roads and so you're not able to get  
11 above those areas and access the best areas to go up  
12 and find the goats. And this also happens during the  
13 moose season, so there's a period from -- there was --  
14 well, when it was a September opening it was pretty  
15 crowded there from September 1 to the end of the moose  
16 season to past the moose season with lots of people  
17 with boats anchored there, people up on the road system  
18 blocking the best roads up to Alpine. So there's a  
19 bunch of people there running around.

20  
21                   I remember the whole reason why the  
22 August 1st -- I can't remember when this was all done  
23 but it was a long time ago -- the whole reason the  
24 August 1st start date for Federal was put in, it was  
25 just because of that reason, to provide people an  
26 opportunity to get up there without being competed by  
27 mostly people from Juneau coming over, and be able to  
28 get up and hunt, and have a month with not very much  
29 competition from non-Federally-qualified users. Like I  
30 said, September 15th things kind of changed there  
31 because of the moose hunt and it really gets crowded  
32 after September 15th.

33  
34                   So that's kind of what's going on  
35 there.

36  
37                   Anyway, I hope that kind of helps for  
38 people to understand the situation there.

39  
40                   The other thing I wanted to point out,  
41 too, is when the Icy Straits -- I sit on the Icy  
42 Straits Advisory Committee and when we discussed the  
43 Proposal 31 to the Alaska Board of Game, you know, our  
44 -- the Icy Straits Advisory Committee was unanimously  
45 opposed to this -- to that Proposal 31 before the Board  
46 of Game but the Board of Game did it anyway.

47  
48                   So, anyway, thank you, Mr. Chair.

49  
50

0329

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
2 Mr. Chair. There's probably a lot of points that might  
3 want to be added to the justification there, DeAnna was  
4 taking notes, I think.

5  
6 Anybody else, comments on this  
7 proposal.

8  
9 Patty.

10  
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
12 This proposal is to establish a meaningful preference  
13 for the continuation of subsistence uses of goat.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.  
16 Anybody else.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 MS. NEEDHAM: Question.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, question's  
23 been called for. The motion was to put forward a  
24 proposal by the Council dealing with goat hunting in a  
25 portion of Unit 1C, generally described as Federal  
26 public lands within the drainages of Chilkat range  
27 south of south bank of the Endicott River, and that  
28 land would be closed to goat hunting August 1st to  
29 August 31st except by Federally-qualified subsistence  
30 users hunting under these regulations.

31  
32 So, Frank, you want to run through the  
33 roll on this for a vote.

34  
35 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, Mr. Chair.

36  
37 Larry Bemis.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 MR. WRIGHT: Frank Wright. Yes.

46  
47 Cal Casipit.

48  
49 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

50



0330

1 MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.  
2  
3 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.  
4  
5 MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.  
6  
7 (No comments)  
8  
9 MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.  
10  
11 (No comments)  
12  
13 MR. WRIGHT: Robert Schroeder.  
14  
15 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes.  
16  
17 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.  
18  
19 (No comments)  
20  
21 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.  
22  
23 (No comments)  
24  
25 MR. WRIGHT: Donald Hernandez.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.  
28  
29 MR. WRIGHT: Patricia Phillips.  
30  
31 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.  
32  
33 MR. WRIGHT: Louie Wagner.  
34  
35 MR. WAGNER: Yes.  
36  
37 MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.  
38  
39 MR. KITKA: Yes.  
40  
41 MR. WRIGHT: John Smith.  
42  
43 MR. SMITH: Yes.  
44  
45 MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.  
46  
47 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes.  
48  
49 MR. WRIGHT: The motion passes, Mr.  
50

0331

1 Chair.

2

3

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.

4

5

6

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11

12

13

(Pause)

14

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49

50

So that concludes our proposals. Good work by the subcommittees on that, very helpful -- they're not subcommittees, excuse me, working group. We don't have subcommittees. We can undertake a little more business here before a lunch break, I think. I just have to check with our Coordinator to see who is available to -- we have some presentations, a lot of presentations coming up.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, Council members. I just had to check to see who's available here. Like I say, we have a lot of reports coming up for the remainder of the meeting. And right now we have Kevin Hood who is the tribal relations person for the Forest Service. He has a little report for us. And I do want to make an agenda note here on our revised agenda, yesterday we added a topic of new business for discussion on extra-territorial jurisdiction, I think we will postpone that to a later meeting. It could be more than we have time to get into at this meeting.

So we have concluded -- no, we have one more item of new business that we may get to after Kevin Hood's presentation here. So, Kevin, go ahead.

MR. HOOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you for the coveted pre-lunch spot as well. I'll try to make it brief and just give a summary of some of the big topics going on in tribal relations with the Forest Service these days.

Okay, thanks. Can you all hear me okay?

(Council nods affirmatively)

MR. HOOD: As many of you may be aware the Secretary of Agriculture initiated a Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy and invested \$25 million in Southeast Alaska with half of that going specifically to support tribal and indigenous interests in the area. And the Forest Service has been working with Rural Development, that's another USDA agency,

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1 also with the Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
2 also in USDA, to really try to be responsive to tribal  
3 and community needs. The intent of the Southeast  
4 Alaska Sustainability Strategy is to diversify the  
5 economies in our rural communities and to try to  
6 promote culturally, ecologically and economically  
7 sustainable economies in those areas. We're now  
8 looking -- having invested those \$25 million in  
9 agreements to a variety of partners, including tribes,  
10 Alaska Native Corporations, community programs and non-  
11 Profit partners, we're now looking to have a subsequent  
12 stage of what we're calling SASS, Southeast Alaska  
13 Sustainability Strategy Forest Management, where we're  
14 looking at investment opportunities that focused on  
15 restoration efforts in areas that have been impacted by  
16 historic logging and also in transitioning from old  
17 growth harvest to sustainable young growth markets so  
18 we will be reaching out for consultation with tribes in  
19 the very near future to discuss what opportunities or  
20 interests they have where we could support them with  
21 additional investments.

22

23 So that all is kind of under the  
24 Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy.

25

26 Additionally at the -- this  
27 Administration has really been emphasizing co-  
28 stewardship. There was a Joint Secretarial Order 3403  
29 that was issued in 2021 by the U.S. Department of  
30 Agriculture and Department of Interior Secretaries that  
31 mandated Federal agencies to endeavor in co-stewardship  
32 work with tribal nations in the management of Federal  
33 lands and waters and to also help fulfill the trust  
34 responsibility. So that's led to us working a lot with  
35 tribes on agreements and having a lot of discussions as  
36 to what would co-stewardship look like. And the U.S.  
37 Department of Interior is organizing talking circles  
38 around the State of Alaska, there will be seven of  
39 these. There's going to be one here in Juneau.  
40 They've had one in Anchorage during the October's --  
41 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention, they had a  
42 session there. There's going to be another one in  
43 Glennallen and then five more further to the north, and  
44 I'll be honest I haven't tracked all of those as  
45 carefully because those will be a little bit beyond  
46 where I'm working. But they're hoping to, starting  
47 later this month and in April and early May, have  
48 talking circles where we can hear with our ears wide  
49 open as to what co-stewardship should look like and  
50

0333

1 then to discuss how we might be able to move forward on  
2 those kind of endeavors.

3

4 So if anyone's interested in these two  
5 I will -- I can have my contact -- DeAnna maybe can  
6 pass on my contact info and people can just follow up  
7 with me.

8

9 Yeah, and ask any questions at any time  
10 as well as I'm going down my list.

11

12 When this was in late January, the  
13 current administration also managed to publish a new --  
14 the 2020 -- let me see how this -- they published a new  
15 rule, a new code of Federal Regulations rule that  
16 repealed the 2020 Roadless Rule, by which repealing  
17 that rule, which removed the Tongass from roadless area  
18 protections it reinstated the 2021 rule which returns  
19 the Tongass National Forest to having roadless areas  
20 protected. And so that was popular and widely  
21 supported amongst the tribal nations here in Southeast  
22 Alaska and so we're glad that -- and that was a bit of  
23 a process so I just want to thank everyone who was  
24 involved for their patience and perseverance through  
25 that. It's one of those things that takes awhile to  
26 play out.

27

28 We also have, and this was in response  
29 to the 2020 rule, which has now been repealed but at  
30 the time when the rule in 2020 was passed that removed  
31 the Tongass from Roadless area protections 12 tribal  
32 nations in Southeast Alaska signed a petition to the  
33 Secretary.....

34

35 REPORTER: I'm going to have to  
36 interrupt you.

37

38 MR. HOOD: Oh, go ahead.

39

40 REPORTER: So people on the phone can't  
41 hear well. So I'm going to have to maybe change this  
42 microphone, okay, I'm sorry.

43

44 MR. HOOD: No, that's okay.

45

46 REPORTER: Okay. I don't know why they  
47 can't hear but they can't hear. I can hear it just  
48 fine through the recording.

49

50

0334

1 MR. HOOD: Thanks.

2

3 REPORTER: I know we can all hear you  
4 in the room. Can you say something.

5

6 MR. HOOD: Can folks on the phone hear  
7 me now, yeah, okay.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We can hear just  
10 fine.

11

12 (Council nods affirmatively - off  
13 record comments regarding hearing)

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, it sounds  
16 fine.

17

18 MR. HOOD: Okay, thanks.

19

20 REPORTER: Yeah, we can, but that  
21 doesn't mean the phone can, just a second let me find  
22 out, hold on.

23

24 (Teleconference interference -  
25 participants not muted - on hold)

26

27 REPORTER: Okay, now of course someone  
28 put us on hold so no one can hear other than music so  
29 let me try and get an operator to disconnect that line.  
30 Well, they can hear the music so yes we'll get it  
31 disconnected, or muted.

32

33 (Pause)

34

35 REPORTER: Okay, I think we're okay  
36 now, go ahead and try again.

37

38 MR. HOOD: Okay. Check. Can folks  
39 hear me okay.

40

41 MS. HERNANDEZ: I can hear you Kevin.

42

43 MR. HOOD: Okay, great, thanks.

44

45 REPORTER: Okay, let's go.

46

47 MR. HOOD: And I apologize that folks  
48 couldn't hear me earlier.

49

50

0335

1                   REPORTER: No, they could hear, but not  
2 well.

3  
4                   MR. HOOD: Okay. I won't start quite  
5 over at the top but I'll just -- I also note I didn't  
6 quite adhere to the protocol so apologies. So I'll  
7 just say for the record my name is Kevin Hood and I am  
8 the Tribal Relations Program Manager with the USDA  
9 Forest Service based out of Juneau, Alaska here. And  
10 I'm giving a tribal relations update and I've touched  
11 on so far the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy,  
12 what we've done and kind of where we're headed. I've  
13 talked a little bit about co-stewardship and some  
14 talking circles that will be coming soon hosted by both  
15 the USDOJ and USDA. And I've talked about the Roadless  
16 Rule. And I was just starting to -- which was  
17 reinstated in late January for the Tongass National  
18 Forest. And then I was just touching on the  
19 Traditional Homelands Conservation Petition.

20  
21                   And this is a petition submitted to the  
22 Secretary of Agriculture that was signed by 12 tribal  
23 nations in 2020 and that was in response, in part to  
24 the 2020 Roadless Rule at the time, which exempted the  
25 Tongass from protections. In that petition the tribal  
26 nation leaders asked that we undertake a rulemaking  
27 process which would protect customary and traditional  
28 uses and also conserve traditional territory and we are  
29 now working on a response.

30  
31                   (Vacuum Cleaner Running)

32  
33                   (Laughter)

34  
35                   MR. HOOD: The response to that  
36 petition was delayed a little bit by Covid and a few of  
37 the tribes as well, asked, while we were working on the  
38 Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy on the  
39 Roadless Rule that we kind of pause for a little bit on  
40 that petition so we're now trying to -- we are now  
41 working again with tribes to find the right way forward  
42 to meet the petition goals. And what we are looking at  
43 amongst our options are there's the rulemaking that the  
44 petition originally asked for and there's also the  
45 local decisionmaking processes in which, for example,  
46 we would heavily engage with the tribes to find ways  
47 within, for example, the Tongass Forest Plan to protect  
48 customary and traditional uses and traditional  
49 territory. So right now we're consulting with tribes  
50

0336

1 to see which way they think would be the best way  
2 forward. And once we have a consensus on that then we  
3 hope to have the Secretary respond and proceed with  
4 trying to achieve the petition goals.

5

6 So we are hopeful one way or another we  
7 are going to protect customary and traditional uses and  
8 traditional territories, we're just trying to find the  
9 best way to do that.

10

11 And then the agency's also doing a very  
12 strong ANILCA hiring push at the moment. ANILCA allows  
13 us to hire -- it has a special hiring authority for  
14 folks with local and special -- local experience and  
15 specialized knowledge. And so our partnership and  
16 public engagement office has been traveling up and down  
17 the state and they are explaining what job  
18 opportunities there are in the Forest Service,  
19 everything from admin assistants to biologists to  
20 recreation technicians, timber folks, fish and wildlife  
21 biologists, we're trying to fill many positions and  
22 we're helping them with writing resumes and applying  
23 and some folks are submitting applications right then  
24 and there. And there's a list of -- I think they're  
25 trying to hit about 15 communities and they also will  
26 be doing a virt -- they also have a virtual job fair in  
27 March. So, again, if anyone's interested please let me  
28 know and I can share all those details. I know that  
29 even yesterday during the blizzard they went down to  
30 Wrangell and they actually had 8 people come and submit  
31 applications so it's good, they're really trying to --  
32 we're trying to get local folks into these jobs and  
33 they're making a good effort. Especially when they do  
34 it in the driving snow.

35

36 MR. CASIPIT: Sorry, Mr. Chair, I just  
37 had a quick question for you on that.

38

39 MR. HOOD: Yeah.

40

41 MR. CASIPIT: Being an ex-Federal  
42 employee, part of the issue with the ANILCA hires was  
43 that they weren't career conditional.

44

45 MR. HOOD: Hummm.

46

47 MR. CASIPIT: That is, you know, they  
48 could work in Alaska but if they wanted to further  
49 their careers and move up the agencies they weren't in

50

0337

1 a career position, do you know if that's changed or is  
2 that the same or?

3

4 MR. HOOD: You know I'll be honest, I'm  
5 not sure. But I believe there's something like a two  
6 year period, I think, where if you go through the two  
7 years -- it's not like a probationary period, I think  
8 there is a conditionality but after two years you're in  
9 like a regular Fed. So I'm pretty sure that's how it  
10 is.

11

12 And one thing I'll add, too, is we're  
13 trying to also make a lot of these positions where we  
14 can, like have career ladders built into them already,  
15 so that way you don't have to keep applying just to  
16 move up. So, you know, if you're there for a couple  
17 years, you can go from a GS5 to a like a 6 and then on  
18 to a 7, or maybe a 7 to a 9, depending on what we're  
19 trying to fill. So we're trying -- you know, we're  
20 trying to make it -- yeah, we're' trying to make it,  
21 you know, we're like everywhere, we're struggling -- at  
22 times we're struggling to fill positions so we're  
23 trying to make them more appealing and more  
24 competitive. Yeah, and we're trying to get out to  
25 where the people are.

26

27 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you.

28

29 MR. HOOD: Yes. And then just two more  
30 notes and then I'll be done. Something of interest as  
31 well is late in January the Forest Service released an  
32 Office of Tribal Relations Action Plan which is really  
33 reminding the whole agency that we all have a role to  
34 play in tribal relations and the very first goal of  
35 that whole plan is to strengthen relations with the  
36 tribal nations where, you know, whom we -- a lot of the  
37 National Forest and grasslands were placed on top of  
38 the traditional territories of so strengthening  
39 relationships is the key emphasis. And then the second  
40 is fulfilling our trust and treaty obligations. And  
41 then further it goes on, it has a section that directs  
42 us to enhance co-stewardship endeavors. And then  
43 lastly it says we need to advance tribal relations  
44 within our agency ensuring everyone is properly trained  
45 and properly engaging with tribal nations and their  
46 citizens.

47

48 So this is still kind of hot off the  
49 presses and it's at least 40 pages and so it's a bit --  
50



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1 you know, while taking it in, but it's really good  
2 direction and energy and it will require us to start  
3 implementing some training and accountability measures  
4 locally, which, frankly are, in my opinion, long  
5 overdue. So I'm glad to see this getting to where we  
6 should have always been but it's good strides forward.

7  
8 And then lastly I would just note, too,  
9 that within our Tribal Relations Program within the  
10 Forest Service we're also building capacity. I came  
11 into this role in an acting capacity in October 2021  
12 and was offered the job permanently in January 2022,  
13 yes, that's right, sorry I can't remember the dates  
14 exactly. We have now also a full-time Tongass Tribal  
15 Relations Specialist, Jennifer Hanlon from Yakutat and  
16 she's really great to work with, and we are also hiring  
17 another two folks to help her out and we're hiring a  
18 new tribal relations person on the Chugach who will be  
19 fully dedicated to tribal relations. In the past it's  
20 been a position that's had to share it with heritage  
21 duties as well so we're making it dedicated. So,  
22 again, we're building our own capacity internally and  
23 we're really working more closely in the past than we  
24 have in the past with our grants and agreements folks,  
25 with our budgeting process, we're really trying to make  
26 everyone aware so we can -- when we hear about a need  
27 or an opportunity we can provide the full support, and  
28 not just through the Forest Service, but we're now  
29 working more closely with rural development, the  
30 Natural Resource Conservation Service and we're trying  
31 to extend our kind of collaborative effort to other  
32 USDA agencies as well and now also to the USDO I so  
33 we're trying to get everybody on the same page and all  
34 working together to support and strengthen tribal  
35 relations. So it's been a -- it's been heartening to  
36 see this resurgence.

37  
38 So that's everything I have.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
41 Kevin. There might be some questions. Mike, you have  
42 a question.

43  
44 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
45 Chairman. I have a couple questions.

46  
47 MR. HOOD: Uh-huh.

48  
49 MR. DOUVILLE: Let's see, I guess my  
50

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1 question is what footing or how are you looking at  
2 private corporations as opposed to the Federally-  
3 recognized tribes? I guess what I'm getting at here is  
4 the Native groups sued down south to keep private  
5 corporations from receiving Covid monetary benefits.

6  
7 MR. HOOD: Uh-huh.

8  
9 MR. DOUVILLE: The Supreme Court ruled  
10 that they were a tribe and gave them the benefits but I  
11 don't know how far that tribal status that the Supreme  
12 Court said they got extended. The concern is with our  
13 local tribe here, we have a local corporation which  
14 they consider themselves a full blown tribe and in  
15 reality are competing for the same kind of funding that  
16 the tribe has always been able to not have but utilize,  
17 so where could one find that definition or do you know  
18 it or how far that actually extends, there seems to be  
19 some disagreement between the Federally-recognized  
20 tribes and corporations that look at themselves as a  
21 tribe which for the most part the Federally-registered  
22 tribes do not recognize? They do not agree with that  
23 status, and we do not know how far that goes.

24  
25 MR. HOOD: Thank you for the question  
26 and that's a really good question and it's a  
27 complicated one in short -- one simple aspect to it  
28 though that I would emphasize is we only have a  
29 government to government relationship with tribal  
30 nations and that's -- and only tribal nations have that  
31 sovereign government status. But when it gets into  
32 like the funding programs every funding pulse or law,  
33 like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation  
34 Reduction Act, the Covid funds, they'll have in there  
35 very specific who is eligible for these funds and  
36 that's happening at the Congressional level. And so  
37 unfortunately I have to say it'll depend on the laws as  
38 to who's eligible but it seems to me from what I've  
39 learned, and I'm going to confess I'm at the bottom of  
40 the learning curve here, it seems that more recently  
41 when there's funding made available for tribal nations  
42 that Alaska Native Corporations are included as being  
43 eligible as well. That's -- my impression is that  
44 that's not always been the case but that's been the  
45 recent trend from what I have heard and just from what  
46 I've seen in terms of us determining who's eligible.

47  
48 And then locally when we -- when  
49 funding opportunities are available we try to reach out  
50

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1 to all the tribal nations and if, in the law, it says  
2 that the Alaska Native Corporations are eligible, too,  
3 you know, we'll reach out to all of them as well. And  
4 I'll be honest that's one of the challenges of the job,  
5 I want to find the best way to reach people and every  
6 tribe and every corporation, I don't want to have  
7 anyone who could be eligible not know of an  
8 opportunity, but not every tribe has the same capacity  
9 and not -- and we likely -- there's probably some  
10 better ways we can communicate and I'm open to any  
11 ideas because I do want to make sure that everyone is  
12 entitled, or has the same opportunities for the funds.  
13

14 But we're -- as to who's eligible that  
15 is set at the Congressional level and often it will --  
16 what I should note, too, they often will refer to  
17 previous Legislation or saying, you know, those who are  
18 eligible for this law are the same as -- were eligible  
19 let's say for like Farm Bill funding in 2018 or  
20 something. So sometimes you have to actually go back a  
21 few laws to actually figure out where it's listed and  
22 that can be a bit of a challenge as well.  
23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Followup, Mike,  
25 yeah, go ahead.  
26

27 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 Are you referring to tribal nations as original  
29 Federally-recognized tribes?  
30

31 MR. HOOD: Yeah. Yeah.  
32

33 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay. I kind of lost my  
34 train of thought but our local corporation does not  
35 have a history of working with like the city and city  
36 government, which, you know, we work together and do a  
37 lot for them but.....  
38

39 MR. HOOD: Uh-huh.  
40

41 MR. DOUVILLE: .....the private  
42 corporations do not have that same interest, you know,  
43 so I guess the most benefit comes from the tribe  
44 itself. So, you know, it's just interesting to see how  
45 this will go down the road. But there is some concern  
46 at the tribal level, competing for the same funds.  
47

48 MR. HOOD: I appreciate you making that  
49 point and, you know, I will -- I am studying and trying  
50

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1 to find ways to make sure we can -- you know, we can  
2 empower the tribes to compete for and participate in  
3 all these programs -- compete for funds and participate  
4 in these programs to the full extent that the law  
5 allows. So, yeah, I pledge to keep doing as much as we  
6 can and if you have ideas like how we can better  
7 connect or support tribes. Because one of the concerns  
8 I have, too, is just, the capacity isn't even -- and,  
9 you know, it's like anywhere, it's not -- even in the  
10 Forest Service sometimes we have turnover and then our  
11 capacity is diminished at times, these are things that  
12 happen, and so I would love to also just think of ways  
13 we could support capacity over the long haul so there's  
14 more resilience, you know, if there's like turnover in  
15 Staff, or if suddenly, like, there's five opportunities  
16 all available at once for a short period, it's not too  
17 overwhelming.

18  
19 So, yeah, if you're open to it I'd love  
20 to have a conversation, you know, subsequent to this  
21 meeting to hear your ideas on how we might do better.

22  
23 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: John, question.

26  
27 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
28 just want to give a thank you to Kevin and really  
29 excited about the tribal connection. And maybe echoing  
30 what was said earlier and I see Judy from the tribe  
31 from -- from Ketchikan and I seen her there at other  
32 meetings and just to share a note, it would be good to  
33 see their faces, the tribal folks and I echo what  
34 Michael is saying of the partnerships and we want to  
35 see that and definitely want to see them at the table  
36 and hear -- we got a phone here, they can write a  
37 paper. I'm a trib -- you know, I'm Tlingit, I'm  
38 Kaagwaantaan and I'm a tribal member with Sealaska and  
39 Goldbelt and, you know, the tribe definitely -- I'm the  
40 new guy here, I've only been on the -- just recently  
41 during this term and from the beginning I seen our  
42 tribal from Juneau there once and -- and they did shine  
43 partnerships and working together and -- and that but I  
44 haven't seen them since. And just to echo that they  
45 were on the schedule today and I didn't see them. so I  
46 was excited to see their face.

47  
48 So I echo that you have a lot of work  
49 to do and I know that half of the Board that's here are  
50

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1 tribal members and we'd love -- definitely would love  
2 to buy you lunch and sit down and have more  
3 conversations about strengthening that relationship  
4 between all the tribal folks and Sealaska, Huna Totem,  
5 Goldbelt, Kootznoowoo, Sitka, SheeAtika, even Haines, I  
6 mean all of them, you know, to have them all at the  
7 table supporting this effort.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, John.  
12 I don't know, comment.

13

14 MR. HOOD: I was just going to say  
15 thank you for those words and, yeah, I would love to  
16 have those conversations, those lunches and, yeah, we  
17 are here and, yeah, I would like to connect so thank  
18 you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other  
21 questions for Kevin.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
26 for all the information you've given us.

27

28 MR. HOOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank  
29 you, everyone. And I'll let everyone, enjoy your  
30 lunch.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Another brief  
33 consultation here, see who's available, just a second.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We have  
38 somebody standing by on the phone, hopefully the phone  
39 lines are working okay. We have Eva Patton from the  
40 National Park Service with a report on hunting and  
41 trapping regulations on National Parks and Preserves.  
42 Are you there, Eva.

43

44 MS. PATTON: Yes, good morning, Mr.  
45 Chair. Can you hear me okay?

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah, got  
48 you fine, go ahead.

49

50

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1 MS. PATTON: Great, thank you, Mr.  
2 Chair and Members of the Council. My name is Eva  
3 Patton, I work as the Subsistence Program Manager with  
4 the National Park Service in Anchorage. I used to work  
5 with OSM as a Council Coordinator and so you have a  
6 great Coordinator, DeAnna Perry, there, and wonderful  
7 discussions throughout your meeting so thank you for  
8 having me. And thanks for taking time in your busy  
9 schedule for this.

10

11 The Park Service is seeking feedback on  
12 a proposed wildlife rule. This rule did publish to the  
13 Federal Register notice on January 9th and is open for  
14 comment through March 10th. And you can find the  
15 actual rule in your meeting books on Page 33.

16

17 February 17th, 2022, the Assistant  
18 Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks directed the  
19 National Park Service to initiate this rulemaking  
20 process to reconsider factual legal, policy conclusions  
21 in a 2020 Alaska hunting and trapping rule and that  
22 2020 rule authorized several sporthunting practices  
23 that are controversial within the Park Service and  
24 there are some concerns about management and public  
25 safety and those 2020 sporthunting practices authorized  
26 under the 2020 rule are looking to be rescinded under  
27 this '22 rule are the hunting of black bears, including  
28 cubs and sows with cubs with artificial light at den  
29 sites; the hunting of black and brown bears over bait;  
30 and the hunting and trapping of wolves and coyotes  
31 including pups during the denning season; shooting  
32 caribou while swimming, which is specific to some parts  
33 of the state. And this proposed wildlife rule for the  
34 Park Service encompasses all National Parks within  
35 Alaska and it's applicable in some places and may not  
36 be in others.

37

38 And early on in this process the  
39 National Park Service engaged with Alaska Native Tribes  
40 and ANCSA Corporations to receive input about any  
41 concerns about this proposed rule. The rule would not  
42 affect any current Federal subsistence regulations in  
43 place, it would only affect non-Federally-qualified  
44 users, or what the Park Service is referring to as  
45 sporthunters on National Preserve lands in Alaska and,  
46 again, it wouldn't affect Federal subsistence practices  
47 or regulations, it would only restrict sporthunting and  
48 trapping on National Preserves.

49

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1                   And specific to the Southeast Alaska  
2 region, the areas that, if passed, the proposed rule  
3 would have an effect on, are in the Glacier Bay  
4 National Preserve, Dry Bay, which is in Unit 5A and  
5 also the Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve in  
6 Yakutat Bay, which is in 5B. And in State regulations  
7 bear baiting is allowed in Unit 5 and if this proposed  
8 rule were to pass bear baiting would not longer be  
9 allowed on NPS Preserve lands under the State  
10 regulations for sporthunting.

11

12                   And, again, the comment period is open  
13 through March 10th and the Park Service is seeking your  
14 feedback if you have any comments you would like to  
15 make or formal recommendations on the proposed rule.

16

17                   And, Mr. Chair, I'd be happy to take  
18 any questions.

19

20                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
21 Eva. Are there any questions from.....

22

23                   MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are there any  
26 questions from the Council.

27

28                   (No comments)

29

30                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I'm looking  
31 at the map here we have in front of us and I just want  
32 to confirm that the only affected lands are a very  
33 small portion there that essentially surrounds Dry Bay  
34 and then another small piece of land that's actually  
35 within Yakutat Bay, those are the only Preserve lands;  
36 is that correct?

37

38                   MS. PATTON: Yes, correct, Mr. Chair.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
41 Any other questions from the Council on what the Park  
42 Service is doing.

43

44                   (No comments)

45

46                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, not seeing  
47 any other questions so thank you Eva for informing us  
48 of that.

49

50

0345

1 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair and Council  
2 members. Thank you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think this would  
5 be a good time to take a lunch break. I don't think we  
6 want to get into any other of the topics we have before  
7 us right now that might be lengthy so it's a little  
8 before noon and we can come back at 1:00 o'clock. Let  
9 me just confer one more time with the Coordinator.

10

11 (Pause)

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
14 Council for being patient here. We've got time  
15 scheduling issues. When we come back after lunch we're  
16 going to have Chad VanOrmer and Barb Miranda come back  
17 and continue discussions with the Southeast  
18 Sustainability Strategy, they're on a pretty short  
19 timeline. If the two people that called in and wanted  
20 to do testimony over the phone, we're trying to get in  
21 touch with you and if you could be patient and hold off  
22 after one presentation that would be great.

23

24 So, yeah, let's just take a break and  
25 be back at 1:00 o'clock. 1:00 o'clock today.

26

27 (Off record)

28

29 (On record)

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Council  
32 members are present we can resume the meeting here  
33 after lunch break. I forgot my gavel, I brought it  
34 home to the room last night and forgot to grab it so --  
35 I had to pack up.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. DOUVILLE: I'll have to put a wrist  
40 strap on it.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So we had a couple  
45 people that were on the phone this morning that wanted  
46 to give some public comments after lunch and hopefully  
47 we've gotten in contact with them because we do have  
48 some other presenters here that are also on a time  
49 schedule, but they're here now, and we can do their

50



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1 presentation and then after that if the folks that  
2 wanted to give public comment are available we'll go  
3 straight to them.

4

5 So we have Barb Miranda and Chad  
6 VanOrmer from the Forest Service who are going to talk  
7 to us some more about the Southeast Sustainability  
8 Strategy. Yesterday we heard about the timber program  
9 and now we're going to hear more about the investment  
10 strategies, I guess would be the best way to put it.

11

12 So, Barb, go ahead.

13

14 MS. MIRANDA: Great, thanks for having  
15 me here. It's good to see you Cal, it's been awhile. I  
16 lived with Cal in Gustavus for a number, number of  
17 years and got to serve on the city council with him.

18

19 I'm Barb Miranda and I work for the  
20 Forest Service. I actually represent a One USDA Team,  
21 however, because I manage the Sustainability Strategy  
22 for Southeast Alaska, which is a strategy announced by  
23 Secretary Vilsack in 2021, in the summer, and it  
24 included multiple USDA agencies here in Southeast. He  
25 announced a four pronged strategy and it included a  
26 quicker transition, more of a focus on the Forest  
27 management side, of transitioning the young growth,  
28 which I think Frank Sherman came in here and talked to  
29 you guys about earlier this week, so ending the large  
30 scale old growth timber sales on the Tongass, engaging  
31 in meaningful consultation with tribal nations,  
32 restoring the 2001 Roadless Rule, and then finally  
33 identifying short and long-term investments and kicking  
34 it off with a \$25 million commitment from the USDA and  
35 I came in a year and a half ago to help manage getting  
36 that investment out the door and I'm happy to say we  
37 got all 25 million obligated last fiscal year and all  
38 those projects are now either underway or at the  
39 starting line about to get started.

40

41 I know DeAnna has brought a list of the  
42 SASS projects here before so it's a pretty diverse list  
43 of investments that we made. Half of that -- and I've  
44 got a couple handouts that I left here with you and  
45 I'll make sure DeAnna gets it so they can be shared  
46 electronically as well. But, you know, half of the 25  
47 million was -- went to projects that supported tribal  
48 and indigenous interests, the remaining 12.5 million  
49 was divided -- half of that went towards natural

50

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1 resources projects and the other half was divided  
2 between infrastructure, mostly focused on recreation  
3 infrastructure and community capacity, things like work  
4 force development and those types of things.

5  
6 The tribal and indigenous interests and  
7 the Natural Resources Programs really do include quite  
8 a bit of restoration work, some work from subsistence,  
9 I think Ann Johnson presented to you about the Unit 4  
10 deer management strategy, so there's some projects that  
11 I think are specifically of interest to you guys as a  
12 group, but a lot of those are just now getting started  
13 and under way.

14  
15 So I'm happy to answer questions, I'm  
16 not going to be the subject matter expert for the  
17 specific projects because these are locally led,  
18 locally driven projects. That was our goal, is to  
19 listen to local voices and distribute the money in a  
20 way quite different than normal Federal monies are  
21 allocated. We didn't come out with a formal RFP and  
22 say meet our requirements, we said what are your  
23 investment ideas, what will benefit your tribe, what  
24 will benefit your community, what will benefit your  
25 area the most and then we screened those and selected  
26 ones that we really thought catalyzed economic,  
27 ecologic and cultural opportunities in the area that  
28 could grow beyond just that initial \$25 million  
29 investment. Because let's face it, Southeast Alaska  
30 needs more than that to thrive.

31  
32 So we really are going to be monitoring  
33 the course of these projects over the next five years  
34 and coming out with reports so that we can document how  
35 successful we were with some of our goals of work force  
36 development, the qualitative, really getting to the  
37 heart of what the Sustainability Strategy is about,  
38 which is locally led, locally driven projects.

39  
40 I'm going to leave it there because I  
41 know that you guys have gotten other information about  
42 the Sustainability Strategy from other presenters and  
43 just open it up to questions.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
46 Barb. Harvey, do you have a question.

47  
48 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
49 have -- maybe it's a two part question.

50

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1 Sustainability, is it going into hiring of local people  
2 from different areas, restoration of -- are you talking  
3 just the Forest or are you talking some of the streams  
4 because before contact our people lived on these  
5 streams and took care of them. Since we got pulled off  
6 and our land got taken away nobody has taken care of  
7 these streams and some of them were major salmon  
8 producing streams and some of them.....

9

10 (Teleconference interference -  
11 participants not muted - on hold)

12

13 MR. KITKA: .....don't produce anywhere  
14 near what they used to produce because nobody's there  
15 to take care of them anymore.

16

17 I was wondering if at some time some of  
18 the remaining elders that are still around could work  
19 with you guys to show you which streams we're talking  
20 about that are -- that were major producing salmon  
21 streams in this area.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MS. MIRANDA: Thank you for those  
26 comments. And, yeah, I do think that the Forest  
27 management side of the Sustainability Strategy will  
28 provide those opportunities. We really are hoping to  
29 work with some of our collective impact network  
30 partners. We are partnering very, very closely with  
31 Sprucerooroot and the -- the Sustainable Southeast  
32 Partnership, they have quite a big chunk of funding for  
33 community Forest collaboration and we're hoping to get  
34 boots on the ground together to look at some of these  
35 areas where restoration can and should occur as part of  
36 that Forest management strategy. So I would hope that  
37 that will take place during this and other efforts.

38

39 And, you know, this \$25 million SASS  
40 investment is only one source of Federal funds, you  
41 know there are additional funds coming for restoration  
42 efforts so I do expect to see some of the Bill and IRA  
43 dollars coming down and being put to good use on the  
44 Tongass.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other  
47 questions.

48

49 Patty.

50

0349

1 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
2 Hernandez. Ms. Miranda?

3  
4 MS. MIRANDA: Yes.

5  
6 MS. PHILLIPS: So we have a program,  
7 this Federal Subsistence Program has a Federal -- or  
8 Fisheries Resource Monitoring and Wildlife Resource  
9 Monitoring Programs and we, the RAC priorities, you  
10 know, the types of projects we'd like for resource  
11 monitoring in Southeast Alaska and we always need  
12 additional funds for that. And one of the successes of  
13 that program is capacity building with the tribes, like  
14 Hydaburg, Hoonah, like with Hetta on Prince of Wales  
15 Island, Klawock and we are always in need of knowing  
16 how much resources are harvested and what is the status  
17 of the stocks and, you know, even stream restoration so  
18 is there a possibility of working with a Program like  
19 what we have here that's already -- we already know it  
20 works.....

21  
22 MS. MIRANDA: Uh-huh.

23  
24 MS. PHILLIPS: .....rather than to  
25 build something new, so that's -- thank you.

26  
27 MS. MIRANDA: Yeah, thanks for the  
28 question. It sounds to me and I would need to know  
29 more about how that structure is but we are funding  
30 some of that work. Hydaburg is getting money to do  
31 some of that monitoring, so are others. So I think  
32 we're already there, it's just a matter of making sure  
33 that we're tied into the RAC and the structure there.  
34 But, you know, I believe, you know, I know we're  
35 funding different aspects of what you just mentioned so  
36 I have a feeling that we're already there it's just the  
37 ties are not -- we're not connecting the dots on all of  
38 that.

39  
40 Yeah, I have a list with me of the  
41 different projects that were funded through SASS too,  
42 so I know DeAnna's handed that out to the group before  
43 but if you want a copy of that so you could see the  
44 specific projects and if they overlap with what you're  
45 talking about, I have that.

46  
47 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Mike, go ahead.  
50

0350

1 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 Are cultural projects a part of this, or could they be  
3 a part of it?  
4

5 MS. MIRANDA: Right, we don't  
6 anticipate getting another round of funds exactly like  
7 Secretary Vilsack's \$25 million investment but we did  
8 fund cultural projects as a part of SASS. Specifically  
9 the ones I can think of are the Sharing Our Knowledge  
10 Conference from the Wrangell Cooperative Association,  
11 and some infrastructure work around the Chief Shakes  
12 Tribal House in Wrangell. So there was some pretty  
13 substantial programs. Those are the ones I can think  
14 of off the top of my head, but they were definitely a  
15 component. We did get a few -- quite a few proposals  
16 elsewhere as well but those are the ones that I  
17 remember that we specifically funded.  
18

19 And the beauty of being able to fund  
20 those, those are not normally projects that the Forest  
21 Service can fund but the One USDA Team, through our  
22 partnership with Rural Development who does fund  
23 housing and infrastructure projects, that allowed us  
24 the leverage and authorities to make funding available  
25 in ways that just the Forest Service couldn't. So  
26 that's the nice thing about this partnership that we're  
27 developing with our sister USDA agencies and that I see  
28 as part of the future of the Sustainability Strategy is  
29 Rural Development just hired a rural partners network  
30 community planner based here in Juneau but serving all  
31 of Southeast and that Rural Partners, her name is Emily  
32 Marr and I would encourage you guys to reach out to  
33 her. Her job specifically through the Rurals Partners  
34 Network, which is a new initiative by Rural Development  
35 is to find Federal resources for local projects. So  
36 really trying to help source solutions for locally led  
37 projects. And I think having that institutionalized  
38 and a specific position, this is one of the first  
39 places in the country that's able to stand up a program  
40 like that and she's on -- she started about a month ago  
41 and is available as a resource to help find funds for  
42 projects like cultural projects, infrastructure  
43 projects, housing projects, the gamut of Federal  
44 resources, her job is to help align the agencies around  
45 that.  
46

47 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you.  
48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Bob Schroeder, go  
50

0351

1 ahead.

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9

10 This Council spent a lot of time over  
11 the last year, year and a half working up its position  
12 on co-management or cooperative management, we probably  
13 need the correct Tlingit word for working together  
14 rather than rely on these. You know, what we see in  
15 the long-term is what we would like to have happen is  
16 not community involvement, but tribal and community  
17 management of natural resources. Basically while  
18 working to reestablish indigenous management of natural  
19 resources in Southeast Alaska. So this is kind of a  
20 step in that direction. I don't think anyone has long  
21 enough stride to make that transition in one step so  
22 this is really good.

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If it's appropriate, I think the Council may write something to support these efforts and just say how we really appreciate this. Because as you know both Cal and I worked in the Bureaucracy and you got to support the things that you think are going in the right direction because, oh, my gosh, all the things that you don't like well they're getting a lot of support from the people who think that's the way the world should be. So I think it's up to us to say, yeah, this is a really good step in the right direction and \$25 million sounds like a lot of money but it isn't a lot of money in a region like this. So, you know, we'd obviously support future endeavors of this sort.

So that's not really a question but thanks much.

MS. MIRANDA: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Bob.  
Anybody else with a question.

Cal, go ahead.

MR. CASIPIT: Not a question, it's just a comment. Again, when Bob and I were working, we'd ask our other Department of Agriculture partner

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1 agencies about help on this stuff and a lot of time  
2 didn't get a very good response so I'm really glad to  
3 see that you're getting buy in help from our partner  
4 agencies because they have, you know, different  
5 authorities that can help.

6  
7 MS. MIRANDA: Uh-huh.

8  
9 MR. CASIPIT: So I'm really glad to see  
10 that. I'm so happy to see that. It kind of warms my  
11 heart because that was something I was trying to do  
12 when I was working so that's good.

13  
14 Also I wanted to compliment Ian and his  
15 group.....

16  
17 MS. MIRANDA: Uh-huh.

18  
19 MR. CASIPIT: .....through the harvest  
20 surveys that they're doing and all that. I've already  
21 been surveyed this year for deer. I was already  
22 interviewed before I came to this meeting. That is a  
23 fantastic effort and I really appreciate Ian including  
24 Gustavus in that because, you know, nobody's talked to  
25 us about our subsistence needs since, I don't know, the  
26 '80s. So I'm really glad that Ian's heading this up  
27 and we're finally getting some attention from our  
28 partner agencies, I really appreciate that.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 MS. MIRANDA: Thanks, Cal.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else.

35  
36 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: One more, Patty,  
39 go ahead.

40  
41 MS. PHILLIPS: So I'm Mayor for the  
42 city of Pelican and I was asked to, you know, submit --  
43 well, everyone was asked to submit comments prior to,  
44 you know, now it's been compiled, but one of my  
45 concerns was is that, you know, here's Pelican in the  
46 middle of this Wilderness area and yet we get this  
47 influx of industry in the summertime and it really  
48 impacts -- it significantly impacts those of us who  
49 live there yearround and many of who are on low income  
50

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1 or on fixed income, and, yet we're supposed to have  
2 this infrastructure that's up to a standard that  
3 visitors are accustomed to because they come from an  
4 area where they're used to that.

5

6 For instance, you know, with oil money  
7 there was a sledge tank farm put in, in the '80s, it is  
8 now -- it was obsolete when it was put in and now it's  
9 still obsolete and yet we are the community that  
10 visitors come to for recreational opportunities but we  
11 have this infrastructure that's mandated by Federal law  
12 that has to meet a certain standard and yet, you know,  
13 what are the resources out there for us to tap into.  
14 So when you talked about a person, Rural Partners  
15 Network.....

16

17 MS. MIRANDA: Uh-huh.

18

19 MS. PHILLIPS: .....who can find  
20 Federal resources for local projects I was just like,  
21 oh, that's what I asked for so I thank you. I feel  
22 like it's being responsive, I don't know if it is being  
23 responsive.....

24

25 MS. MIRANDA: Right.

26

27 MS. PHILLIPS: .....but it's a step  
28 towards that.

29

30 MS. MIRANDA: I will make sure.....

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: So thank you.

33

34 MS. MIRANDA: .....so Emily Marr is the  
35 Rural Partners Network and I will pass your name off to  
36 her but that -- and that falls right into Rural  
37 Development's bailiwick, right, is infrastructure and  
38 community infrastructure like that so I'm excited to  
39 get you guys connected.

40

41 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

42

43 MS. MIRANDA: Yep.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.  
46 Anybody else with a question or comment.

47

48 Frank, go ahead.

49

50



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1 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You  
2 know Hoonah -- I'm the President of the Hoonah Indian  
3 Association and we've been doing projects with the  
4 Forest Service and we're happy to do that, you know,  
5 because everything that we do, you know, as a tribe, is  
6 -- some people say, well, it's the tribe, but  
7 everything that Hoonah Indian Association does benefits  
8 the whole community of Hoonah, not just the tribe. And  
9 for the U.S. Forest Service to be working with us it's  
10 a new thing. I mean it's new. You know in fact I just  
11 had a meeting with U.S. Park Service on Friday and,  
12 you know, that was the same thing, you know, that we  
13 used to not be able to work with each other and now our  
14 tribe is -- we have work with the Park Service. They  
15 do a lot for us. And when you got government to  
16 government relations, it's good and it's good for the  
17 whole community.

18  
19 And I'll tell you, you know, we're  
20 happy to work for the Forest Service.

21  
22 And, so, Gunalcheesh.

23  
24 MS. MIRANDA: Gunalcheesh.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, any other  
27 Council members with questions, comments for Barb.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Maybe not, okay, I  
32 think we're done.

33  
34 MS. MIRANDA: Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Very  
37 interesting presentation. We also have Chad VanOrmer  
38 here from the Forest Service and we may have some -- I  
39 don't know if you have anything to add to that but we  
40 may have some questions for you on the co-management  
41 issue that's been brought up before, I don't know if  
42 you have anything to give to us at this time but if you  
43 do, go ahead.

44  
45 MR. VANORMER: Yeah, well, first of all  
46 thank you for having me back again here today. Yeah,  
47 my name is Chad VanOrmer, Deputy Regional Forester here  
48 in the Alaska region.

49  
50

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1                   And I'll just open by saying a little  
2 bit about some of our efforts around co-management or  
3 co-stewardship. Lots of times those words are used  
4 interchangeably and technically there is a bit of a  
5 difference in terms of how we divide that line. Really  
6 around -- you know, co-management is really kind of the  
7 sharing of formal decisionmaking authority, is kind of  
8 how we look at that term, co-management. Where co-  
9 stewardship is more of a collaborating, working  
10 together, still sharing a decision space but when it  
11 comes to like taking Federal action on the land, like  
12 signing a NEPA document, for instance, like an  
13 environmental assessment or something like that, you  
14 know, that's still very much reserved to the agency but  
15 it's how we get there is co-stewardship, how do we  
16 share in that decision space to get to that point.

17  
18                   I'm really excited about our work in  
19 the co-stewardship arena and we see opportunities for  
20 even co-management out there, you know, it would take  
21 some work from Congress to get us there, to a true  
22 shared decisionmaking authority on taking Federal  
23 action on the lands, but we're definitely open to kind  
24 of working in that arena up to that line as far as we  
25 can go there, legally. But with the co-stewardship  
26 arena, boy, we've come a long ways here I feel like in  
27 Southeast Alaska, like most of my career has been up  
28 here and I remember starting back in 2002 on Prince of  
29 Wales Island -- actually 2001 -- just where we were at  
30 in our relationships working with tribal nations and  
31 our Native corporations and fast forward to 2010 when I  
32 came back and started working as the District Ranger  
33 for Admiralty Island and working in Hoonah also, it's  
34 just been light years of change and difference in terms  
35 of how we're approaching our work and working with  
36 tribal nations and working across those boundary lines  
37 with Alaska Native Corporations towards kind of the  
38 common good for the community there.

39  
40                   So lots of great examples going on,  
41 everything from the Hoonah Native Forest Partnership to  
42 the Keek'Kwaan, some other stuff emerging along the way  
43 here too especially with this Administration and the  
44 Joint Secretarial order really just kind of directing  
45 both DOI and the Department of Agriculture to really  
46 advance this work together here even more so. And then  
47 in Alaska I think we've been leading the charge quite a  
48 bit nationally here with the Forest Service really  
49 leveraging the Southeast Sustainability Strategy, you  
50

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1 know, work that Barb just presented and really just  
2 exploring new avenues moving forward.

3  
4 So just wanted to kind of open by kind  
5 of showing where we're at and how we're thinking about  
6 it, you know, strategically here across the region and  
7 would be happy to entertain any questions or anything  
8 you all may have to have some further dialogue.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,  
11 Chad. Do we have questions.

12  
13 Patty, go ahead.

14  
15 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
16 Hernandez. Thank you, Mr. VanOrmer. So you said there  
17 might need to be some sort of Congressional action in  
18 order for co-management to happen, has there been any  
19 discussion of something being introduced for that to  
20 happen?

21  
22 MR. VANORMER: Yeah, that's a good  
23 question. You know when I think of co-management and  
24 I'm not intimately familiar -- you all probably are  
25 more so than I am, but when it comes to say like the  
26 Whaling Commissions and the work that's done up on the  
27 North Slope, you know, where there really is a tribal  
28 kind of entity that's sharing in that decisionmaking  
29 space in terms of how many whales to take and what not.  
30 I would say closer to home here, one thing that is  
31 being worked on with the Farm Bill Reauthorization  
32 that's coming up is an interest in being able to kind  
33 of modify -- I think it's the Tribal Forest Protection  
34 Act which allows the Forest Service and other agencies  
35 to kind of compact with tribes to take a broader, kind  
36 of longer term ownership in certain programs that the  
37 Forest Service does. We've kind of acknowledged that  
38 we've been kind of -- kind of -- since we don't have  
39 Indian Reservation lands like we do down South, Alaska  
40 was largely left out of the last revision there and so  
41 there's been some efforts, both with tribe here in  
42 Alaska as well as the Forest Service to kind of put  
43 that in the room for the future revision of the Farm  
44 Bill to kind of make that as a possible opportunity.  
45 But I would see compacting, similar to how like the  
46 Indian Health Services could be a real interesting  
47 opportunity if we were able to expand that into the  
48 natural resources realm to do kind of longer term kind  
49 of program -- programmatic kind of contracts, in that  
50

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1 arena.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,  
4 Patty.

5

6 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman. So  
7 we support like the Guardian Program.....

8

9 MR. VANORMER: Uh-huh.

10

11 MS. PHILLIPS: .....would that fall  
12 under like a compacting?

13

14 MR. VANORMER: You know it's a new  
15 authority. I don't know a whole lot about it so I  
16 don't want to, you know, get into the details of what  
17 it could be. But I think the Guardians Program would  
18 certainly be something we'd be interested in and even  
19 expanding, you know, further to how we can.

20

21 You know, right now, I believe it's  
22 largely looked at in some ways as a work force  
23 development program really trying to build capacity in  
24 the communities, the rural communities, you know, for  
25 participating in the Federal Programs and share in  
26 decisionmaking space but, you know, there's got to be a  
27 start somewhere and then we feel like that's a real  
28 good start to, you know, grow that out to wherever it  
29 could go in the future.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Bob, go ahead.

32

33 MR. SCHROEDER: Thanks, much, and  
34 really appreciate you being here and taking the time.

35

36 You talked about a bunch of  
37 jurisdictional and, you know, do you have the authority  
38 to do this.....

39

40 MR. VANORMER: Uh-huh.

41

42 MR. SCHROEDER: .....but that assumes  
43 that you have the will to do it if you could do it.

44

45 MR. VANORMER: Uh-huh.

46

47 MR. SCHROEDER: So we'll put you on the  
48 spot there.

49

50

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1 (Laughter)

2

3

4 MR. SCHROEDER: But also since you were  
5 the Admiralty Ranger, are the Monuments under the same  
6 decision tree as the rest of the Forest in terms of co-  
7 management or compacts or the other things you were  
8 mentioning, or are they kind of separate because  
9 they're Monuments?

10

11 MR. VANORMER: I would say largely  
12 they're the same. You know they're kind of managed,  
13 you know, similarly like a Ranger District. You know  
14 there are some unique authorities in ANILCA, especially  
15 around Admiralty Island and working with the  
16 Kootznoowoo Corporation that I believe haven't been  
17 fully exercised yet and so there are some opportunities  
18 we're exploring there, especially around as they kind  
19 of look at tourism opportunities there in their  
20 backyard, you know, that has -- look at ANILCA, there's  
21 a ribbon of land, you know, that kind of has some  
22 shared land ownership space between the corporation and  
23 the Forest Service there. So I mean when you really  
24 look at it, I mean there might be something there that  
25 actually has, you know, an opportunity there to kind of  
26 take it even further than where we've been in the past.

27

28 So -- but largely, you know, the short  
29 answer with the National Monuments is they're kind of  
30 wrapped in similarly as the Ranger Districts so no  
31 special unique circumstances there.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any other  
34 questions. Louie, go ahead.

35

36 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No  
37 question. I just heard you mention Indian  
38 Reservation.

39

40 MR. VANORMER: I'm sorry.

41

42 MR. WAGNER: Yeah.

43

44 MR. VANORMER: You do -- sorry.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. WAGNER: There is one.

49

50 MR. VANORMER: I should have.....

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1 MR. WAGNER: Well, they call us  
2 Canadians.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MR. VANORMER: I apologize for that. I  
7 totally acknowledge the Indian Reservation lands we  
8 have in Metlakatla.

9  
10 (Laughter)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other  
13 questions or comments. Okay, Bob, go ahead, again.

14  
15 MR. SCHROEDER: Well, since I'm sitting  
16 next to the only person at the table who lives in  
17 Indian Country.....

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 MR. SCHROEDER: .....you know really it  
22 may be -- this is just me standing back without a great  
23 deal of specific knowledge on this, but Indian Country  
24 really had to work hard to get management of its land  
25 -- direct management of natural resources on its lands.  
26 So we have to -- you know there are all kinds of secret  
27 heros here, our forbearers, certainly in Metlakatla and  
28 other reservations where there is Indian Country, to  
29 really work hard to get management authority back. So  
30 the key there is, back, you know, because it's  
31 abundantly clear that Southeast Alaska was  
32 Tlingit/Haida/Tsimshian Territory. And so what we're  
33 doing is -- it's kind of part of Forest restoration if  
34 you think of it in that way, to -- how to restore some  
35 local authority over land management. And so, you  
36 know, we basically applaud everything in that direction  
37 and if you have any suggestions on how we can be more  
38 effective in putting our views forth that would be  
39 useful for us.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Bob.  
42 Anybody else.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Chad, really  
47 appreciate you taking the time, I know it's been a busy  
48 week.

49  
50

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1 MR. VANORMER: All right, thanks a lot.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thanks for  
4 answering our questions.

5

6 MR. VANORMER: I appreciate all the  
7 work you all do so thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And, yeah, we will  
10 certainly be checking in from time to time as this co-  
11 management effort moves forward. We recognize that  
12 it's a process, you know, it's going to take a while  
13 and a lot of pieces have to come together but, yeah, it  
14 sounds like you are prepared to do that so very good.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MR. VANORMER: Thanks.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we can  
21 backtrack a little bit here. And we had two people on  
22 the phones who hoped to give us some public testimony  
23 this afternoon, hopefully they are standing by. We had  
24 a request from one of our old colleagues, Melinda  
25 Hernandez-Burke. Melinda, are you on the telephone.

26

27 MS. HERNANDEZ BURKE: Hi, Mr. Chair,  
28 I'm here. Hello. Thank you so much.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Hi, Melinda, go  
31 ahead. You're coming in loud and clear.

32

33 MS. HERNANDEZ BURKE: Awesome. Hey,  
34 everyone, thank you so much for allowing me a couple of  
35 minutes and I do promise I will only take a couple of  
36 minutes, I know that you guys have quite a bit to get  
37 done here before the end of the day.

38

39 My name is Melinda Hernandez Burke for  
40 folks who I have not gotten the pleasure to meet yet.  
41 I am now the Native American Affairs Program  
42 Coordinator for the Bureau of Reclamations and I'm  
43 calling in from Boise, Idaho today.

44

45 I wanted to just share with this  
46 Council an opportunity, a funding opportunity that's  
47 available through my new agency, the Bureau of  
48 Reclamations. I've given DeAnna a PowerPoint that I  
49 was hoping to deliver to you all in person today but

50

0361

1 obviously I got weathered out yesterday but this is a  
2 funding opportunity through our WaterSmart Program for  
3 environmental projects. About three and a half years  
4 ago Alaska tribes and entities were eligible for this  
5 funding.

6  
7 I just wanted to give folks just a  
8 little bit of background about the Bureau of  
9 Reclamations. It was established in 1902, probably  
10 best known for the dams powerplants and canals  
11 constructed in 17 western states. The mission of the  
12 agency is to manage and develop and protect water and  
13 related resources in an environmentally and  
14 economically sound manner in the interest of the  
15 American public. And the program that you all, your  
16 communities, your tribes are eligible for -- you're  
17 eligible for funding under our WaterSmart Program, and  
18 Mr. Louie Wagner, Council Member Wagner, your community  
19 has successfully applied for and received one of the  
20 first granting calls that were put out to Alaska  
21 tribes. One of the really great unique things about  
22 the Cooperative Watershed Management Program granting  
23 opportunity is that there is no Federal cost share  
24 required. I know that through many of the granting  
25 opportunities available to tribal nations from the U.S.  
26 government there's often Federal cost share  
27 requirements, there is none here through this program  
28 and there is up to \$200,000 in funding over two years  
29 that are available.

30  
31 Eligible projects include watershed  
32 group developments, which is what Metlakatla applied  
33 for successfully.

34  
35 Oh, I'm sorry, did somebody have a  
36 question?

37  
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Nope, go ahead.

39  
40 MS. HERNANDEZ BURKE: So watershed  
41 group developments and that was what Metlakatla was  
42 able to successfully apply for in partnership with the  
43 Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition. There's also  
44 watershed restoration planning efforts and project  
45 design work available. In addition to Metlakatla  
46 there's been a successful application in granting  
47 funding awarding to the Kenai Watershed Forum, the Cook  
48 Inlet Keepers and the Chugach Regional Resource  
49 Commission.  
50



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1                   So, again, I've shared with DeAnna a  
2 PowerPoint, I would love for you all to share this with  
3 your tribes, with your cities, municipalities who are  
4 also eligible and I'm happy to arrange calls, meetings  
5 with my team to help -- we offer technical assistance  
6 in the preparation of the granting documents. And so I  
7 just wanted to bring this funding opportunity to your  
8 awareness and I'm happy to answer any questions I can  
9 but again I know you're limited for time, and just  
10 please look over those materials and, again,  
11 congratulations to Metlakatla. It sounds like it's  
12 been a really good year so far.

13  
14                   I'm happy to take any questions, Mr.  
15 Chair.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
18 Melinda. Yeah, any other Council members have  
19 questions on that.

20  
21                   (No comments)

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And, DeAnna, you  
24 can pass along some information on that to the Council.

25  
26                   MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair, it has been  
27 emailed to everyone. I couldn't print it off.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, great.  
30 Louie, go ahead.

31  
32                   MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 Yeah, I'd just like to thank the lady there for the  
34 information she just gave us, that's some really good  
35 news so thank you again.

36  
37                   MS. HERNANDEZ BURKE: Thank you. Thank  
38 you, Council Member Wagner. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 Louie, I do really miss working with you, I previously  
40 was in the Tribal Liaison position there for the Forest  
41 Service in Kevin Hood's seat that he has now. So I  
42 really do miss working with this group but I'm so, so,  
43 so fortunate and blessed in my new position down here  
44 in Idaho where my mother is most happy that I am now,  
45 but I still get to engage and work with Alaska rural  
46 communities, tribes and so I'm here, my contact  
47 information is in that email and so I'm pleased --  
48 reach out any time, I'm happy to attend virtually or in  
49 the future possibly in person to share more information  
50

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1 and we will have a table at AFN so be on the lookout  
2 for me and my team at AFN this year.

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Cathy, do  
5 you have a question.

6

7 MS. NEEDHAM: It's more of a comment  
8 but also a point that I'd like to bring up for the  
9 Council's benefit. The funding -- first of all thanks  
10 Melinda for sharing that, I think that's a great  
11 opportunity and it's good to know that there's somebody  
12 within the region that's been really successful at  
13 getting some funding on the ground and I hope that that  
14 can be taken care of. And the point that I wanted to  
15 make that's kind of significant about everything that  
16 you just said, in my opinion, is that it didn't require  
17 the Federal -- it didn't require the match. I kind of  
18 wish that we'd had that presentation with the Deputy  
19 Forester was still in the room, and that SASS funding  
20 that we just heard about, all required like a  
21 significant amount of match from partners and for  
22 tribes it becomes a really difficult lift to apply for  
23 funds that require a match because most tribal funds  
24 are Federal dollars and you cannot match granting  
25 opportunities with Federal funds, you have to do it  
26 with non-Federal funds and becomes somewhat restrictive  
27 in terms of what kind of business that it can get done.

28

29 So, yeah, I heard everything that you  
30 said but that's what I heard the loudest so thanks for  
31 bringing that up and kudos to the Bureau of Reclamation  
32 for including that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah.

35

36 MS. HERNANDEZ BURKE: Thank you, Cathy.  
37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anyone else with a  
40 comment or question.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thanks for  
45 calling in and giving us that very valuable  
46 information, Melinda.

47

48 MS. HERNANDEZ BURKE: Of course.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, take care.

2

3 MS. HERNANDEZ BURKE: It's good to hear  
4 all of your voices again, thank you. Have a good rest  
5 of your meeting and travel safe everyone.

6

7 REPORTER: Bye Melinda.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
10 We also may have Heather Bauscher on the line who  
11 wanted to talk to us. Heather, are you there?

12

13 MS. BAUSCHER: Hi, yes, I am.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

16

17 MS. BAUSCHER: Can you hear me?

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, good  
20 afternoon, Heather, go ahead.

21

22 MS. BAUSCHER: Good afternoon everyone.  
23 Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak briefly  
24 and I'm sorry to not see you there in person. I just  
25 wanted to give you an update on some of the stuff that  
26 the Sitka AC has been working on that I know are shared  
27 issues that the RAC was also concerned about, the  
28 unguided rental boat issue and the lack of good  
29 information documenting those lands.

30

31 We managed -- well, there's folks on  
32 the Sitka Advisory Committee that are pretty frustrated  
33 and passionate about this topic and we also -- Cathy  
34 would probably remember, because we were both working  
35 on this and we were at the Board of Fish and going  
36 through the committee of the whole process and talking  
37 about this topic and we weren't able to get it anywhere  
38 on the State side so the Sitka AC has been pushing on  
39 this issue also on the North Pacific Fisheries  
40 Management Council side, and last meeting in December  
41 we weighed in on the bycatch issue, we weighed in on  
42 something about sablefish and them raising the total  
43 allowable catch which still ended up happening anyway  
44 and then we also weighed in on this unguided rental  
45 boat thing and tried to propose it during Staff tasking  
46 and I didn't think it was going to get anywhere but I  
47 was surprised at the AP level, which is the Advisory  
48 Panel to the North Pacific Council, which is much like  
49 what you all are to the Federal Subsistence Board. So

50

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1 at the Advisory Panel level we actually got them to  
2 make a motion to have -- during Staff tasking -- task  
3 Staff to look into the potential impacts and footprint  
4 of that sector, which didn't end up moving further at  
5 the Council level but there is a Council member that is  
6 interested in helping support that going forward. So I  
7 just wanted to let you know that we ended up getting  
8 more movement on that side than I initially inspected  
9 but if other groups who cared about this topic submit  
10 comments during Staff tasking, which is Item E at any  
11 of the next meetings coming up in April or June or give  
12 somebody on the Council the ability to give testimony  
13 on this issue, if there's enough of us, now that we  
14 have support on the decisionmaking side, it might be  
15 something that could be moved forward in the future.

16

17 So I just wanted to share that since I  
18 knew that was something that had come up.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you  
21 very much, Heather. Yeah, like I say that's been a  
22 much talked about topic here. So just a question, you  
23 know our process a little bit, if the Council were to  
24 say -- if the Council were to designate somebody to  
25 testify during that meeting they would take our  
26 testimony?

27

28 MS. BAUSCHER: Yep. Or you could also  
29 submit written comments before that meeting. And if  
30 there were some general comment that was put together  
31 officially that's something that could be resubmitted  
32 over again if necessary because the whole thing is we  
33 have to get it on -- through Staff tasking to like get  
34 it on the radar as an issue for it to become like a  
35 topic of action in the future.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Okay,  
38 understood. Yeah, any other questions from the  
39 Council.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not seeing any  
44 other questions here.....

45

46 MS. BAUSCHER: And then.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: What's that.

49

50

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1 MS. BAUSCHER: Oh, sorry. And then one  
2 other thing, I did hear that it was announced that  
3 folks know that I've just moved my household from Sitka  
4 to Petersburg, I just want to let everybody know that  
5 that's not a full clean break and I'm still doing some  
6 work in Sitka with Sitka Conservation Society, namely  
7 the student program and University of Alaska-Southeast  
8 so I still will be spending time in Sitka to make that  
9 program work and I'll still be doing similar fisheries  
10 and conservation work throughout the region and beyond  
11 as I was before just I'll be spending a little bit more  
12 time in Petersburg than in Sitka.

13  
14 So don't worry we still have the  
15 student program.

16  
17 IN UNISON: Yea.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

20  
21 MS. BAUSCHER: Thank you for your  
22 support on that.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We did hear that  
25 and glad to hear you're still going to be able to keep  
26 the student program going, that's good news.

27  
28 (Teleconference interference -  
29 participants not muted - on hold)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So any other  
32 questions from the Council.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I guess not.

37  
38 MS. BAUSCHER: Thanks everybody for  
39 your time.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, thank you  
42 Heather for bringing that to our attention.

43  
44 MS. BAUSCHER: Okay. Well, have a  
45 great day and good luck with the rest of your meeting.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

48  
49 (Teleconference interference -  
50

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1 participants not muted)

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we're going  
4 to check the phone lines again and see if Ian Johnson  
5 is available. Are you there, Ian.

6

7 MR. JOHNSON: Hey, Mr. Chair, yes, I  
8 am.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, okay, Ian,  
11 we've all been anxious to hear about your project down  
12 there in Hoonah so, yeah, go ahead.

13

14 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
15 Chair. Council members. My name is Ian Johnson. I  
16 live in Hoonah, I work for Hoonah Indian Association.  
17 And I obviously know most of you from my previous  
18 experience with the RAC.

19

20 We've been working on some of the Unit  
21 4 -- we're starting to kind of kick off conversations  
22 around the Unit 4 deer work so I'll give you a little  
23 brief history here. I'm going to go a little -- try to  
24 speak slow too, I wish I had visuals for this but I  
25 don't so -- yeah, so we were funded underneath the SASS  
26 program a year ago to start discussing some of these  
27 user conflicts and biological data gap issues with deer  
28 in north Unit 4 and western Admiralty. At the time,  
29 when we had first proposed the three deer proposals and  
30 the SASS came out at the same time and I worked along  
31 with a few others to put in for some funding and we  
32 were awarded a project that is going to extend for five  
33 years.

34

35 So we're in the first cycle of that  
36 right now.

37

38 It's good timing. I was listening in  
39 earlier when the new Subsistence Board proposals were  
40 proposed for Hoonah and Angoon and for Pelican so I'm  
41 excited to hear that. It's great to hear. And I think  
42 I'll have some data to help support the analysis  
43 process, that's really what this is about.

44

45 So the goal of this deer work group --  
46 the work is to increase sort of the collaboration  
47 amongst communities and stakeholder -- agencies and  
48 researchers and create a dialogue between different  
49 user groups so the non-Federally-qualified users and  
50

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1 Federally-qualified users.

2

3 And so that right now has two pieces.

4 The first piece is we've been working in Gustavus,  
5 Hoonah and Pelican to conduct surveys of deer hunters  
6 through gaining some information and that survey -- I  
7 worked along with Lauren Sill and Dave Coster with  
8 Department of Fish and Game to design it as well as  
9 members from each of the communities from Angoon,  
10 Gustavus, Hoonah and Pelican. So we tailored it to  
11 meet what we determined were community needs around  
12 deer based issues. And so our survey has four goals.

13

14 First is to quantify competition and  
15 it's effects in Hoonah.

16

17 The second is account more fully for  
18 the effort required to harvest deer.

19

20 Third is confirm a record of harvest  
21 from 2019 to 2020.

22

23 And the fourth is to help us identify  
24 primary issues and possible solutions to issues around  
25 deer hunting and hunting in each of those communities.

26

27 And to date we've received 38 surveys  
28 from those communities and I'm going to present -- so I  
29 was entering data this morning so the survey data is  
30 kind of ongoing and incoming so I want to just say that  
31 anything I say today right now is so preliminary but  
32 there's a high level messages I want to just take away.

33

34 I guess first is in regards to the  
35 reporting issue, among all of the surveys that have  
36 been collected so far, we have, again, 38 responses and  
37 16 of them reported that they don't report harvest  
38 effort, again, just effort, like how many days that it  
39 takes to harvest a deer. I know that's an issue that  
40 we discussed pretty extensively at the Council. I'm  
41 looking forward to getting a bigger data set, again,  
42 part of -- these are preliminary because we don't have  
43 -- we're not done with the interviews yet, I only have  
44 what I have but just some trends here.

45

46 The -- I guess the second thing in  
47 regards to subsistence needs being met, we have 38  
48 responses and across all communities so far there have  
49 been 14 responses that in 2021 they did not harvest

50

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1 sufficient deer to meet their needs. So another  
2 preliminary result of interest.

3

4 Those are the few, I guess, I wanted to  
5 highlight. there's -- one of the goals of this whole  
6 process is to be very transparent and open so I'll be  
7 sharing the data back to communities and agencies to  
8 help us all make decisions. Of course they'll all be  
9 anonymous, ensure that there's no lose of privacy when  
10 we do that. So once I have this data set put together  
11 I hope that folks from OSM could receive this and the  
12 State and each of the ACs and other groups.

13

14 Okay, so that's -- I guess I'll be  
15 happy to answer any questions there.

16

17 And then the second part of what we're  
18 working on is organizing a stakeholder group to start  
19 to have these discussions. So on March 15th, which is  
20 15 days from now, we have our first meeting and that's  
21 at 9:30 a.m. The group so far consists of folks from  
22 Juneau, researchers, agencies, Forest Service and State  
23 agency members and then members from communities. And  
24 the goal is to have these calls, probably quarterly,  
25 and help us work through the discussions that we need  
26 to have. And I assume as the current proposals start  
27 to make their way through the cycle that it will be an  
28 important forum to discuss these deer topics.

29

30 So my offer, I guess here -- or offer  
31 and ask, there will be some new and novel data to be  
32 used in the analysis process and once it's ready I'll  
33 be happy to share that with the right people. And if  
34 -- I guess my ask would be if the Board would like to  
35 integrate with the stakeholder group meetings I'm happy  
36 to do that and make sure that we have representation  
37 there in whatever way makes sense.

38

39 So I'll stop there and if people have  
40 questions let me know.

41

42 I will say I've had a little bit of a  
43 hard time hearing Council members so if you have a  
44 question, near a mic would be helpful.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Council  
47 members, could be a lot of questions there on things,  
48 do you have any questions. Anybody.

49

50



0370

1 Bob, go ahead.

2

3 MR. SCHROEDER: Thanks for being on the  
4 line, Ian. This is Bob Schroeder. I saw you on an  
5 airplane a month or so ago.

6

7 But it sounds like you've got some  
8 interesting work going on with getting hard data on  
9 deer harvest in Hoonah and Gustavus and I don't know  
10 what other communities, can you tell us when that's  
11 available -- when that's likely to be available,  
12 because the Council just voted to submit some proposals  
13 to the Federal Subsistence Board concerning deer  
14 harvest in a number of areas that you may be covering.  
15 So I know you're just in the midst of the work but we  
16 want the results.

17

18 Thanks much.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I expect to be done  
23 interviewing by the end of March and then I'll be  
24 presenting some of the preliminary findings at this  
25 March 15th meeting. But we should have this first  
26 round of data by March -- actually one thing I didn't  
27 say is that with this five year project the goal is to  
28 do surveys, not just deer related surveys but could be  
29 linked to just subsistence resources or culture and  
30 lifestyle in general every year in the communities to  
31 help us have a consistent record of the things that are  
32 important to the communities. It's community driven  
33 questions that they would like to bring into the  
34 management process. So expect four more years of data  
35 as we continue this work.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Other  
38 questions.

39

40 Patty, go ahead.

41

42 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
43 Thank you, Mr. Johnson. In your preliminary interviews  
44 is there -- do you have a trend on, you know, how much  
45 effort it takes to harvest?

46

47 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Member  
48 Phillips -- sorry, through the Chair. I got to get  
49 down -- get the process here. I kind of do. I guess

50

0371

1 the trend I'm seeing is that effort is definitely  
2 higher than one might expect.

3  
4 It's either -- there's like two sets of  
5 responses. It's either I hunted about five to seven  
6 days to harvest a deer -- or to harvest the deer I  
7 needed or I hunted 30 to 40 to even 60 days, so there's  
8 kind of two groups. Either very, very high number of  
9 hunt days and lesser hunt days. So I don't have  
10 anything more specific than that yet but I guess what  
11 -- yeah, what I'm seeing is some of it aligns with some  
12 of what I remember as being the predictions of effort  
13 from the State from their harvest reports and then some  
14 of it greatly exceeds what seeing in State reports.

15  
16 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
19 Followup -- yeah, no?

20  
21 MS. PHILLIPS: Yeah, I do.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

24  
25 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

28  
29 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 So we would like to have this data included when it  
31 comes to deliberation of these wildlife proposals that  
32 we just moved to submit. And from historical, you  
33 know, action is that the Federal Program relies heavily  
34 on the Fish and Game, you know, harvest records and so  
35 I'm just wondering how are we going to be able to have  
36 this as data for us to review as the same time as this  
37 historical data that we get from Fish and Game and, you  
38 know, how can we make sure that we're getting  
39 everything that the stakeholder, or Ian Johnson's  
40 research is working on?

41  
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, if you want  
43 to hold off for a second there Ian, I was going to put  
44 that same question you just asked to our Staff. I mean  
45 they're the ones who are going to be preparing the  
46 analysis for these proposals and I guess I wanted to  
47 know if, you know, if that was something that they can  
48 do. I mean do your analysis have to just be your Staff  
49 or can you accept analysis essentially from an outside  
50

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1 entity, I mean this is what we're talking about, co-  
2 management, you know, we want our program to be able to  
3 work with tribes in gathering information. Is that  
4 something that, at this point, you know, we're talking  
5 about -- you know, Mr. VanOrmer was talking about some  
6 of the limitations, I guess, that may have to overcome  
7 for this to happen so this is kind of like a first  
8 example. Do you know, can you incorporate this  
9 information into your analysis at this point?

10

11 MR. CROSS: Yes, Mr. Chair. For the  
12 record my name is Rob Cross. Yeah, so we work with OSM  
13 anthropologist to try to collect this information and  
14 we also cite various sources so when we use the ADF&G  
15 data we're citing often personal communication or ADF&G  
16 data bases and so this is just another source of  
17 information. I don't see any issue or anything that  
18 would inhibit us from using this information. And I'm  
19 also participating or soon will be participating in the  
20 Unit 4 deer working group and also very excited to see  
21 this data as well. So this is something that we've  
22 been eagerly awaiting. It's just we haven't  
23 necessarily had a vehicle to get it until this point  
24 so, yeah, we're very excited and very thankful to Mr.  
25 Johnson for this.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
28 Rob Cross, for that response.

29

30 Ian, do you have anything to add to  
31 that, it was kind of a question from Patty to you so we  
32 also wanted to hear that response.

33

34 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
35 Yeah, just that all I need to know is how to send it in  
36 and the deadline and I will make sure that it gets into  
37 the analysis process. I'm excited to hear that it'll  
38 be used.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Other  
41 questions.

42

43 Mike.

44

45 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
46 see the need for this type to happen in other parts of  
47 Southeast. It hasn't been done for many years. It  
48 would certainly be valuable to have an updated -- in  
49 case the Craig Tribe might have an interest in this, it  
50

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1 would be nice if we could reach out to you to ask for  
2 some information and insight.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, through the Chair.  
7 Thank you, Mr. Douville. I'm happy to help or, you  
8 know, coordinate any of these efforts that I can so the  
9 best way to get me is Ian.Johnson@HIAtribe.org. I do  
10 have quite a few Craig connections so hopefully folks  
11 within the tribe would have a good contact for me,  
12 especially your IGAP Program might have a good contact.

13

14 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
17 Ian. Anybody else. Questions.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thanks for  
22 bringing that information to us Ian. Good to hear from  
23 you again.

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We're still  
28 waiting to hear from some folks. Before we move on to  
29 -- oh, this is instead of Lauren Sill, okay, and she's  
30 available.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Uh-huh.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We were  
35 looking for a report from Fish and Game Subsistence  
36 Division and I understand we have Robbin Dublin  
37 standing by to give us that report.

38

39 MS. DUBLIN: Yes, hi, good afternoon.  
40 Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Council Members and  
41 anybody else that's participating. I'm Robbin Dublin  
42 and I'm the Southern Region Program Manager for  
43 Subsistence at Fish and Game. Lauren Sill is  
44 unavailable today because she's currently conducting  
45 subsistence research out in the community of Kake so  
46 she regrets not being able to do so but she can't be in  
47 two places at one time.

48

49 So the work that they're doing in Kake,

50

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1 many of you are well aware of, comprehensive household  
2 survey to document the importance of wild foods in the  
3 community of Kake and also important areas of harvest  
4 and that includes descriptions of (indiscernible -  
5 muffled) and lands that are used for subsistence  
6 harvest.

7  
8 We just finished the first two years of  
9 a harvest survey for Klawock subsistence sockeye  
10 fishery and that went really well. We're planning  
11 another one coming up this summer and sometime in the  
12 next month we'll be sending out a survey to Klawock  
13 fisheries about their experience with the State  
14 subsistence salmon permit process, how that permit  
15 process could be included.

16  
17 We'll also be doing comprehensive  
18 harvest surveys in Gustavus, Pelican and Tenakee  
19 Springs next season and that's from FRMP funding.

20  
21 And we've applied for more funding from  
22 FRMP to conduct surveys in Prince of Wales and that  
23 would be Coffman Cove, Thorne Bay and (Indiscernible -  
24 muffled).

25  
26 Are there any questions on what we're  
27 working on.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
30 Robbin. Anybody have any questions on the projects  
31 that Subsistence Division is undertaking?

32  
33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not seeing any  
37 questions so thank you Robbin for bringing that to us.

38  
39 MS. DUBLIN: Oh, thank you, appreciate  
40 it. Appreciate being able to comment at this time,  
41 thanks.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We'll be anxious  
44 to hear the results from some of those surveys, it  
45 should be very much of interest. Wait a minute, hold  
46 on a second, Mike Douville maybe has a question.

47  
48 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
49 Chairman. I heard you mention sockeye survey but, you  
50

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1 know, a lot of coho fishing goes on there, I was  
2 wondering if that was included in what you're doing?

3

4 MS. DUBLIN: That particular survey in  
5 Klawock it was specific to sockeye, harvest of sockeye.  
6 If coho is something the Council would like information  
7 on I'll have to get back to you on.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,  
10 Robbin. Cathy Needham.

11

12 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
13 can shed a little bit more light on that project as I'm  
14 one of the co-investigators for it with Klawock-Keena  
15 and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. It was a  
16 really limited funding cycle and the Council actually  
17 requested specifically to know more about the actual  
18 sockeye harvest that's happening in Klawock to get a  
19 better record of it and they wanted to model it after  
20 the same sort of on-site krill survey methods that were  
21 being used down in Hydaburg and so that's what that  
22 project actually does. And because of the limited  
23 amount of funding at the time when they put it through  
24 in the proposal cycle it can really only go for that  
25 one month long having subsistence harvest surveyors on  
26 the ground during the fishery at all time to be able to  
27 collect what the real harvest is coming out of the  
28 Klawock fishery. So that's why it doesn't include  
29 coho, even though we know it's important, it's a  
30 funding constraint.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.  
35 Any other questions on Subsistence Division projects.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not seeing any  
40 more questions once again thank you, Robbin.

41

42 MS. DUBLIN: Thanks. And thanks Cathy.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I think  
45 this might be a good time to move into our working  
46 group report on what we talked about on the various  
47 ANILCA issues and our recommendations on how to deal  
48 with the continuation of subsistence uses issue. The  
49 goal of that working group was to try and put together

50

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1 a position paper coming from the Council to the Board  
2 that would explain how the Council views that issue in  
3 relation to when it's necessary to restrict other uses  
4 and fish and wildlife harvesting. So we put together a  
5 work group. The work group consisted of Cal Casipit,  
6 Harvey Kitka, John Smith, Bob Schroeder, myself and we  
7 had some assist from Rob Cross and Greg Risdahl.

8  
9 So we had our discussion last night and  
10 what our intentions are today in the course of the  
11 Council meeting is to essentially bring to the Council  
12 what we discussed last night. There was a lot of  
13 discussion points were brought up and we'd like to  
14 present those to the Council and then seek input from  
15 the rest of the Council on any thoughts that they have.  
16 We would intend this to be a kind of roundtable  
17 discussion so everybody has a chance to put in their  
18 point of view. And we don't see being able to have  
19 anything written and produced during the course of this  
20 meeting. I don't think we have the time available to  
21 do that but hopefully we will have a list of topics  
22 that we will want to put into a letter as a position  
23 statement and with some drafting happening, you know,  
24 after the end of the meeting. Various people can work  
25 with our Coordinator and try and gather those points  
26 and put them into a position paper that will be sent to  
27 the Board.

28  
29 So that's our goal.

30  
31 I'll maybe start it off and get the  
32 discussion going here.

33  
34 Council members might want to refer to  
35 their copies of ANILCA that were distributed at the  
36 start of the meeting. We also have some notes being  
37 distributed by Rob, just kind of a few main points that  
38 were brought out during our discussions.

39  
40 So just to kind of get things started.

41  
42 We kind of went in to the work group  
43 with sort of, I guess you could say two topics under  
44 discussion. One of the topics was this considerations  
45 of subsistence priority and the meaning of some of the  
46 terms in ANILCA about priority uses, maybe outline  
47 those further, and then that kind of brought into the  
48 discussion the topics of this other wording that we use  
49 quite often is what a meaningful preference is. And  
50

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1 you might see on the cheatsheet here that Rob Cross  
2 distributed, that that term meaningful preference is  
3 not used in ANILCA but it does come into play as a  
4 result of a court case involving ANILCA, a judge's  
5 ruling used that term so it's kind of been incorporated  
6 into our discussions but it is not part of ANILCA. But  
7 our working group decided it was probably most  
8 important to focus on the concept of what is meant in  
9 ANILCA when they talk about placing restrictions on  
10 non-subsistence users in order to continue subsistence  
11 uses and what does that mean, you know, what does the  
12 term a continuation of subsistence uses mean.

13  
14 And I think we want to define what that  
15 means to us and how that interpretation that we have is  
16 used when we propose a restriction on non-subsistence  
17 users based on that term, you know, what are our  
18 justifications for a restriction -- proposed  
19 restrictions based on the need to continue a  
20 subsistence use.

21  
22 We figured if we could get a good  
23 definition from the Council on that it would go a long  
24 ways towards informing decisions on establishing  
25 priority as well.

26  
27 So that's kind of the main points of  
28 our discussion.

29  
30 I might refer you to some of the things  
31 we looked at closely in ANILCA dealing with that topic  
32 and we could start off with Section .801, the findings  
33 of ANILCA. And if you see paragraph three of .801 on  
34 the first page. It says that continuation of the  
35 opportunity for subsistence uses of resources on public  
36 and other lands in Alaska is threatened by increasing  
37 population of Alaska with result in pressure on  
38 subsistence resources by sudden decline in populations  
39 of some wildlife species which are crucial subsistence  
40 resources, by increased accessibility of remote areas  
41 containing subsistence resources, and by taking of fish  
42 and wildlife in manner inconsistent with recognized  
43 principles of fish and wildlife management.

44  
45 So I think I'll go back a second here.

46  
47 The other part of our discussion was  
48 that we felt that the Board, in their deliberations on  
49 a restriction focused too closely on the conservation  
50



0378

1 aspects, concerns, of a proposal and not enough on this  
2 -- the factor of the continuation of subsistence uses.  
3 And a lot of the discussion we've had in the last  
4 couple of meetings revolving around our proposals on  
5 wildlife in Unit 4 centered on competition. We say  
6 that, you know, we identify competition as an effect on  
7 the ability to continue subsistence uses. And when you  
8 read this paragraph, .801 of ANILCA, when it talks  
9 about this result in pressure on subsistence resources  
10 by sudden decline in populations of some wildlife  
11 species, that kind of indicates a conservation concern,  
12 but then it goes right on to say, by increased  
13 accessibility of remote areas. And our group kind of  
14 felt that by separating those two ideas out, two  
15 separate things, the people that wrote ANILCA kind of  
16 anticipated this increased accessibility of remote  
17 areas would be competition. I think competition was on  
18 their minds when they wrote that into ANILCA.

19

20 So we wanted to point that out.

21

22 And then move further along Section

23 .802.

24

25 That's where it deals with the priority  
26 uses. And paragraph two of .802 says non-wasteful  
27 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and other  
28 renewable resources shall be the priority consumptive  
29 uses of all such resources on the public lands of  
30 Alaska when it is necessary to restrict taking in order  
31 to assure the continued viability of a fish or wildlife  
32 population or the continuation of subsistence uses of  
33 such population. The taking of such population for  
34 non-wasteful subsistence uses shall be given preference  
35 on the public lands over other consumptive uses.

36

37 So I think that's the first time you  
38 see that the priority is stated and it says it shall be  
39 the priority. But also with no comma in between, it  
40 says it shall be the criteria when it is necessary to  
41 restrict taking in order to assure the continued  
42 viability of a fish or wildlife population or the  
43 continuation of subsistence uses of such population.

44

45 So once again they specify viability of  
46 a population and continuation of subsistence uses. So  
47 that's the first place you see it in ANILCA.

48

49 It's mentioned again in .804 but .804

50

0379

1 is slightly different because .804 deals with a  
2 situation where subsistence qualified communities are  
3 vying for a resource. And there it says, once, again,  
4 it says, the taking on public lands of fish and  
5 wildlife for non-wasteful subsistence uses shall be  
6 accorded priority over the taking of other such land --  
7 on such lands of fish and wildlife for other purposes  
8 so there it also specifies the priority.

9  
10 And then, again, you know, .815 is  
11 where it shows up again. And .815 is usually quoted  
12 quote often in the deliberations and that's where it  
13 also deals with the closure policy. And paragraph  
14 three of that one says: Authorizing restriction on the  
15 taking of fish and wildlife for non-subsistence uses on  
16 the public lands other than National Parks and Park  
17 Monuments unless necessary for the conservation of  
18 healthy populations of fish and wildlife for the  
19 reasons set forth in .816 or to continue subsistence  
20 uses of populations pursuant to applicable law.

21  
22 So, you know, in all cases they always  
23 delineate, you know, for conservation -- essentially  
24 for conservation purposes or for the continuation of  
25 subsistence uses.

26  
27 And to summarize I think one of the  
28 intents of ANILCA was to protect the rural resources  
29 from increased competition. I think that was -- we  
30 think that was an intention of ANILCA.

31  
32 So we want to convey that idea to the  
33 Board that competition is a valid reason for a  
34 restriction in order to protect the continuation of a  
35 subsistence use.

36  
37 And we also had a discussion to some of  
38 the limitations, some of the effects that have  
39 happened, you know, to subsistence users over time.  
40 And we had a discussion about regulation in general.  
41 There's an awful lot of regulation out there and we  
42 felt that you could look at all regulation as some form  
43 of restriction on subsistence uses. So there are a lot  
44 of restrictions already in place which could be thought  
45 to be harmful to the continuation of subsistence uses.  
46 That was a point that was brought up. And we also felt  
47 that there have been a lot of factors that have slowly,  
48 kind of eroded the subsistence -- the customary and  
49 traditional subsistence practices over time. Some of  
50

0380

1    them out of our direct control but, you know, just for  
2    instance we mentioned all the regulations in place you  
3    know have effects on continuation of subsistence uses,  
4    we've had a lot of land use activities that have  
5    affected continuation of subsistence uses. Increased  
6    competition we identified as having an effect. I can't  
7    think of the other things, I have them written down  
8    somewhere.

9

10                   But, yeah, so that's where we are.  
11    This whole idea of protecting the continuation of  
12    subsistence uses is actually a very important part of  
13    ANILCA. When we ask for a further restriction on non-  
14    subsistence users based on the need to continue  
15    subsistence uses, it's a very valid argument to make  
16    and it hasn't been considered properly by the Board in  
17    their deliberations to enough of a degree given the  
18    importance that it is and we want to convey those ideas  
19    to the Board.

20

21                   So that's just kind of a summary, I  
22    guess, of what we talked about last night. It was kind  
23    of a lengthy discussion. So some of the main points  
24    there. And other people probably have other things to  
25    add so I'll open it up to the rest of the Council.

26

27                   Bob.

28

29                   MR. SCHROEDER: Well, I can take a shot  
30    at a couple of things. One is that the -- well, first,  
31    you know, we have to understand why do we have ANILCA  
32    subsistence provisions and I did do some quick checking  
33    -- as much as I could get on Legislative history and a  
34    little bit of reading over the last day or two, and the  
35    Legislative history is really clear that you put these  
36    subsistence provisions into ANILCA, which was basically  
37    a large conservation act for a couple of reasons for  
38    sure.

39

40                   The one reason was that it was  
41    unfinished business from ANCSA because ANCSA was so  
42    excited about figuring out who owns what land so  
43    Prudhoe Bay could be developed that it was a spent  
44    force and didn't deal with hunting and fishing rights,  
45    and so ANILCA does a couple of things for hunting and  
46    fishing. One is it established the amazing  
47    conservation units in Alaska and expanded the existing  
48    conservation units and allowed subsistence hunting and  
49    fishing on these conservation units so that was

50

0381

1 something that made sort of -- completed some work that  
2 hadn't been done under ANCSA and the subsistence  
3 provisions, very specifically, wanted subsistence uses  
4 to continue over in time. That they wouldn't simply  
5 disappear.

6  
7 And Oh My Gosh as we proceed on this,  
8 we need to do a bunch more investigation of what the  
9 Legislative history is for ANILCA and so I'm hoping  
10 that we can get some really good Staff assistance on  
11 that because these are kind of sort of long ago and far  
12 away items, but they are really important because as  
13 with other Legislation passed in the United States a  
14 comma can be very important and in this respect it  
15 would -- so, you know, I'd really like to see if  
16 there's some discussion about where the -- in the  
17 Legislation history and what people say the future --  
18 because they were Legislating for perpetuity basically  
19 and what they had in mind. Now, they were absolutely  
20 precedent. I looked up population figures and we're  
21 not quite double the number of people in Alaska as when  
22 ANCSA was passed and ANILCA was passed in 1980 under  
23 the Jimmy Carter -- last days of his presidency, but  
24 since it was under discussion earlier, we're over  
25 double from when it started being discussed which was  
26 when ANCSA was passed in 1971. So that was absolutely  
27 precedent that there's going to be a lot more  
28 competition for resources there.

29  
30 So to date we've basically been  
31 operating under -- in terms of restricting non-  
32 subsistence users, it's been a pretty high bar to get a  
33 restriction on non-subsistence users through and this  
34 Council has been at this for, I don't know when the  
35 first recommendation from the Council was for  
36 restricting subsistence uses. My own recollection it  
37 was made at a Council meeting in Sitka probably 15 --  
38 oh, gosh, probably 20 years ago and it took many years  
39 for any limitation on non-subsistence hunting to take  
40 place. And somehow or another we got in a position of  
41 really needing to prove and not, you know, with a very  
42 high standard, probably a standard of beyond reasonable  
43 doubt, not just probable cause, that there was a  
44 conservation concern.

45  
46 Now, a little bit of the other history  
47 which should figure into what our comments would be  
48 which is why I'm presenting it, is that the Federal  
49 Subsistence Program and this Regional Council and all  
50

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1 the Federal Staff who are working for OSM, really,  
2 we're not supposed to exist. That when Federal  
3 management of subsistence was initiated the idea was  
4 that this would be just a really short-term stop gap  
5 program until the State would become -- would be back  
6 in compliance with ANILCA. And basically, you know,  
7 nobody at the time envisioned that we'd be here in 2023  
8 working out separate management; what a dumb idea. And  
9 so it was such a dumb idea that everybody thought,  
10 well, I know these people disagree, I know the State  
11 and Federal government and subsistence users don't see  
12 eye to eye but come on they'll wise up a little bit  
13 here, but here we are and we're now more than 30 years  
14 into a Federal Program.

15  
16 Now that's relevant because in those  
17 initial years the emphasis was simply pulling over  
18 whatever was on the State side into the Federal  
19 Program. So the initial regulations for hunting and  
20 fishing, when they were adopted after -- fishing, of  
21 course, came second, in Federal jurisdiction after the  
22 Katie John case, but the idea was let's not rewrite the  
23 book, it's going to be too complicated, we're not  
24 funded to do it, we don't know how to do it, we're  
25 going to make a bunch of mistakes. On the Federal  
26 Staff side, it might be, hey, I'm just going to ride  
27 this out because I'm going to get transferred to  
28 Montana in two years anyways and I don't want to rock  
29 the boat too much. And I think that was fairly  
30 reasonable because we really thought that State  
31 management would come on board again because it was  
32 really dumb not to.

33  
34 And, you know, other things we had to  
35 face is this Council took literally decades to resolve.  
36 The Federal Program adopted wholesale the State  
37 customary and traditional use determinations, which  
38 were something that the State dreamed up in its  
39 administration of ANILCA and it took us until a couple  
40 of years ago to get that lined up with the way we saw  
41 the world and possibly, in my opinion, a closer reading  
42 of what ANILCA really wants. ANILCA doesn't talk about  
43 customary and traditional use determinations. The very  
44 early Council meetings and I think Council Member  
45 Phillips was there and there was an excitement about  
46 possibly rewriting the whole book, like saying, okay,  
47 what we have now and whenever the first meeting was, in  
48 1981 under the Federal system, perhaps, Patty will  
49 know, but the idea was, well, maybe this is a chance to  
50

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1 really write it the way it wa -- the way it should be  
2 but it wasn't -- no one would take on the complete  
3 revision of all fish and game regulations for all  
4 species in Southeast Alaska. So we acquiesced to  
5 follow basically the existing playbook and then, you  
6 know, for these decades very much we've been fiddling  
7 around a little bit at the edges and then sometimes we  
8 fiddle -- we do something that's more significant.  
9 When I say the edges, I mean the edges are like raising  
10 a bag limit slightly, or extending a season very  
11 slightly, something big would be the C&T determinations  
12 that I mentioned before.

13  
14 So this could possibly explain why  
15 there has been this focus on the only possible way that  
16 you could put any restriction on non-subsistence users  
17 is if there's a resource emergency.

18  
19 I kind of see that -- I read ANILCA yet  
20 one more time and there's almost like there's short  
21 game ANILCA and long game ANILCA. And short game  
22 ANILCA would be, Oh My God this species really  
23 plummeted, we're in bad, bad shape, we have to do  
24 something for this next season and we cannot continue  
25 as we were before because there just isn't enough to go  
26 around and we only can harvest this much of whatever it  
27 is and so Oh My Gosh we better figure out a way to  
28 divvy it up and that's like, more than a conservation  
29 concern, it's like a resource disaster and in context,  
30 for those people who have been around for a long while  
31 in Alaska you're really aware of huge resource  
32 problems; the state of salmon in the early '70s was  
33 kind of an Oh My Gosh situation; the crash of the  
34 Western Arctic Caribou Herd a little bit later on was  
35 an Oh My Gosh what is going on here and I'm sure other  
36 people have better understanding of this historical  
37 stuff. So on the one hand I see that ANILCA has a  
38 short game strategy which is if you don't have any  
39 caribou any more and you can only -- you used to  
40 harvest 10,000 and now it looks like taking a thousand  
41 is a lot, you have to figure out how to divvy up those  
42 caribou. So that's kind of the short game. And that's  
43 heavily on the is there a conservation concern or is  
44 there a conservation disaster. The -- but I also think  
45 ANILCA, because as Don was pointing out it talks about  
46 it's kind of precedent, it's looking ahead to the  
47 population increase, the greater demand on resources,  
48 possible damage to subsistence resources from  
49 industrial development of natural resources or a timber  
50

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1 program or an oil program and it's saying, oh, wait a  
2 minute, these changes are likely to come our way but  
3 we, Congress, want because of our obligations under the  
4 under filled side of ANCSA need to have something in  
5 there that ensures that subsistence uses continue over  
6 time, hopefully in perpetuity although in perpetuity  
7 isn't in the Act, as near as I could find out.

8  
9 So what I think what we're talking  
10 about here and the -- some of the resource conflicts  
11 that we have before us right now aren't really short  
12 game kinds of things. When people from Pelican or  
13 Hoonah or Angoon are talking about trouble getting  
14 their needs met and being able to have their  
15 subsistence uses that are customary and traditional and  
16 cultural if you're Native, but apparently if you're not  
17 Native you don't have culture, ANILCA talks about  
18 social needs, well we're really not talking about a  
19 population crash here, we're not talking about how, Oh  
20 My Gosh I haven't seen a deer for the last 10 years,  
21 we're talking about things -- other things that get in  
22 the way of being able to fulfill subsistence needs and  
23 to continue subsistence uses.

24  
25 So we have the opportunity to kind of  
26 reorient how we think about these things and both to  
27 continue to be true to principles of conservation of  
28 natural resources because no one's talking about Oh  
29 Gosh we should just ignore those things and not  
30 consider those data but really to focus on what our job  
31 is, is to protect subsistence uses of fish and wildlife  
32 in Southeast Alaska.

33  
34 So that's my preamble.

35  
36 And I would say that we've gotten --  
37 the case law that's sent out, we got a very quick  
38 response from Ken Lord who's a Federal Subsistence  
39 Board lawyer for many, many years, and I suspect that  
40 the various case law in this and precedent will have to  
41 figure in because this is a really big issue for our  
42 little Council to take on.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Bob. I  
47 think Harvey and Patty had -- I just wanted to make one  
48 additional -- one addition to my initial statement  
49 there, I was looking for my list of impacts that I felt  
50

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1 were important in continuation of subsistence uses, and  
2 the one I missed was the commercialization of our  
3 subsistence resources has really had an affect on our  
4 ability to continue subsistence practices. So just add  
5 that to the list DeAnna.

6  
7 Harvey, go ahead.

8  
9 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. All  
10 of these things that have going on in the back of my  
11 mind for a time now but it seems without rewriting a  
12 whole lot of stuff, it seems like the Board is looking  
13 at basically, not really realizing what we mean by our  
14 subsistence needs are not being met. It seems like we  
15 have to find a vehicle to document how that's not being  
16 met so that they could be added to the criteria that we  
17 send them. I believe Ian is already starting that  
18 process. If we can follow up on that and add it to the  
19 criteria of everything we do then we might not have to  
20 do a whole lot of rewriting, just to let them know that  
21 the community needs are not being met.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: All right, thank  
26 you, Harvey.

27  
28 Patty.

29  
30 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
31 Hernandez. So .805, you know, gives -- establishes a  
32 Regional Advisory Council and then .805(d)(4)(c) says  
33 that the Secretary, that means the Secretary of  
34 Interior, in performing -- monitoring responsibilities  
35 and then the exercise of closure and other  
36 administrative authority over the public lands shall  
37 consider the report and recommendations of the Regional  
38 Advisory Councils concerning the taking of fish and  
39 wildlife on the publiclands within their respective  
40 regions for subsistence uses. That's the deference to  
41 Regional Councils. The Secretary may choose not to  
42 follow any recommendation which he determines is not  
43 supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized  
44 principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would  
45 be detrimental to the sacrifice -- or satisfaction of  
46 subsistence needs. And if a recommendation of this RAC  
47 is not adopted by the Secretary then the Secretary  
48 shall set forth the factual basis and reasons for his  
49 decisions. So I don't know if we got a reason why they  
50



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1 didn't accept -- you know why their decision was made.  
2 You know, I don't know if we've been given a factual  
3 basis. But there is deference and that should be a  
4 part of this discussion about subsistence being the  
5 priority consumptive use and that we be given  
6 preference.

7  
8 And I'm glad somebody referenced this  
9 ANILCA -- traditional council -- because I was thinking  
10 about that yesterday, this is really an important piece  
11 of case law and who brought that to the committee?

12  
13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I believe that was  
14 Rob Cross who provided us with that.

15  
16 MS. PHILLIPS: Good job.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Is that it  
19 Patty?

20  
21 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
22 Chair.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. You  
25 pointed out some other important provisions of ANILCA  
26 there. I think you did ask a question, though, and I  
27 think your question revolved around did we get a  
28 response from the Board detailing why they didn't give  
29 us deference on that on the recent proposals. There  
30 were several people who were at the Board meeting.  
31 Cathy Needham was there and she said she might be able  
32 to answer that and if not I'll get Staff up here.

33  
34 Go ahead, Cathy.

35  
36 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
37 don't think that information necessarily got  
38 distributed back to us but there was -- the U.S. Forest  
39 Service actually read the justification for the  
40 proposal that was put in and then there wasn't much  
41 discussion by the Board after that, it almost went to a  
42 vote, so, yeah, maybe Rob's going to give us that  
43 justification that was for that proposal.

44  
45 I shouldn't say that there wasn't much  
46 discussion, I guess there was the questioning to try to  
47 capture some of the information about subsistence uses  
48 but there is -- I was never even provided with a  
49 written thing, I was just listening to it and I was  
50

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1 like trying to take notes but they talk so fast so,  
2 yeah, it'd be great to hear it again.

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Question before  
5 Rob answers that. We get our .805(c) report on what  
6 the Board did, are the justifications by the Board  
7 included in that or was it just a list of their  
8 actions, I can't recall right at the moment?

9

10 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair. For the  
11 record this is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator.  
12 Since the Board meeting just happened a few weeks ago,  
13 I think we just received the transcript maybe a week  
14 ago, or we've received some of the transcript?

15

16 REPORTER: You received all of it well  
17 before a week ago.

18

19 MS. PERRY: Oh, okay. Well, the Board  
20 meeting was very close to the meeting cycle and there  
21 wasn't enough time to do our .805(c) report, get it  
22 through the entire OSM review and then back to you but  
23 I do anticipate that that would be coming and I do have  
24 the justification that the Council -- or that the  
25 Forest Service provided on the record. And the  
26 transcript, as our Court Reporter mentioned, is out  
27 there but I can share that now if you'd like.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, yeah, if you  
30 have it now we'd like to hear it.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Okay. And, again, this is  
33 from my notes, I haven't had an opportunity to verify  
34 word for word with the transcript but the Board  
35 rejected Wildlife Proposal 22-07, 08 and 10 and the  
36 reasoning was pretty much the same for all three. For  
37 all three deferred Unit 3 [sic] deer proposals the  
38 Board acknowledged the effort that the Southeast  
39 Advisory Council put in trying to address the concerns  
40 of the Federally-qualified users in the Southeast  
41 region and to come up with a meaningful priority. They  
42 recognized that the Southeast, especially, has seen a  
43 decline in the available food. No one's felt this  
44 impact more than the people in the smaller, more  
45 isolated communities like Angoon, Hoonah and Pelican in  
46 Southeast. The Regional Forester, when he provided his  
47 justification mentioned that he had listened to the  
48 Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
49 meetings and could appreciate how geographic isolation,  
50

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1 unemployment, high gasoline prices, empty store shelves  
2 and lack of ferry service had an affect on food  
3 security. He mentioned he sees it at Kake, Angoon and  
4 Pelican. However, this Board's authority is limited,  
5 there are only certain actions we can take for specific  
6 reasons. He pointed out what the Staff analysis  
7 pointed out, Section .815(3) of ANILCA states that the  
8 Board may only restrict non-subsistence uses of Federal  
9 public lands if it is necessary for the conservation of  
10 healthy populations of fish and wildlife; to continue  
11 subsistence uses of such populations or for the health  
12 and human safety reasons and then he mentioned that the  
13 existing deer population and harvest survey data showed  
14 that the deer population in Unit 4 had remained stable  
15 and is the highest in the state and there are no  
16 conservation concerns. Subsistence users have been  
17 able to continue to harvest deer approximately at the  
18 same level over the last 20 years. The amount it takes  
19 for Federally-qualified users to harvest deer hasn't  
20 changed. And then he did a quick summary, the proposed  
21 regulation change did not meet the criteria for a  
22 closure or restriction to non-subsistence uses.

23  
24 And, again, I'm paraphrasing again  
25 because I haven't had time to read the transcript word  
26 for word but I believe that's a good capture and our  
27 InterAgency Staff Committee Member Greg Risdahl can  
28 correct anything I might have gotten wrong.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Greg's coming  
33 forward, maybe he has something to add.

34  
35 MR. RISDAHL: No, I think that was just  
36 about right. I wrote that thing so I'm pretty sure she  
37 got it down right.

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 MR. RISDAHL: And actually she sounded  
42 better reading it than I did.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
47 DeAnna. So, yeah, where were we -- I think we were  
48 answering Patty's question.

49  
50

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1 Patty.

2

3

4 MS. PHILLIPS: I want to get back to  
5 the point of your -- of the working committee, or the  
6 working group. And my point is that there's deference  
7 to this Regional Council and the Secretary in  
8 performing -- monitoring responsibilities and the  
9 exercise of his closure and other administrative  
10 authority over public lands. So I mean where we're  
11 saying there's commas there's also -- you could put a  
12 -- what do you call that when you black something out,  
13 you know, you could black out exercise of his closure  
14 and put and exercise of other administrative authority;  
15 so this is an exercise of his -- of other  
16 administrative authority to provide that priority  
17 consumptive use or to give the, you know, the  
18 meaningful preference for subsistence.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.

22

23 John, you had something to add.

24

25 MR. SMITH: Yeah, just to kind of share  
26 my feelings about the whole process. I'm really  
27 excited if this falls [sic] through and, you know, just  
28 to share I have 11 kids and two of them are girls, I  
29 got 15 grandchildren and, you know, sharing about our  
30 culture and our history, you know, and my lineage to --  
31 to the land. I'm a great-grandchild of (Indiscernible)  
32 and Mary Martha Jack from Klukwan and Deishu and he  
33 managed the -- this area all the way from Mt. St. Elias  
34 to Portland Canal and -- and did it very respectfully.  
35 You know you were caught on his property, you know,  
36 there was a heavy consequence but if you came and  
37 knocked on his door he was very open to sharing you  
38 where all the resources are at and so that's how he  
39 managed it and it was very respectful. And we took  
40 when we needed it. We took it when we were hungry or  
41 we needed the food and not to take too much because why  
42 take too much when it's right there.

43

44 And just sharing that history of how we  
45 managed it, that -- that's lost and even the  
46 responsibility to our aunties and our uncles of  
47 teaching our children, you know, this history and this  
48 culture and not just talking about my own history and  
49 my own culture, there's many ethnicities and cultures  
50

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1 that participate in harvesting of all these -- the  
2 bear, the wolf, the deer, you know, the elk, so  
3 understanding I'm not just talking about the Tlingit  
4 people and definitely hear the worry about competition,  
5 yes, it is and it's more and more now that more people  
6 are coming here, the population is growing, more  
7 visitors, more ferries, more ships, and also  
8 understanding, you know, our kids -- you know, social  
9 media is really taking our kids from being out in the  
10 field and learning but trying to give back the  
11 responsibility to our uncles and our aunties of sharing  
12 this, you know, has been lost. So I'm hoping that, you  
13 know, us making a good decision so that we can put  
14 those pieces back together, you know.

15  
16 And then on the healthy side, you know,  
17 me, moving from Hoonah, I'm a Hoonah -- and having --  
18 being close to all the resources that were available in  
19 Federal subsistence, now I'm in Juneau and been here  
20 since 2006, I haven't been out in the field at all and  
21 I'm really glad that I've taught my kids how to harvest  
22 food off the land to where they send their dad some  
23 food and just to recognize that we trade amongst each  
24 other because of this process of the changes that are  
25 happening around here where even like eulachon -- the  
26 eulachon, where we couldn't get a whole bunch from our  
27 normal area where we called some other locations where  
28 they sent us some. So, you know, we still today, to  
29 right now, still hold strong to helping our families by  
30 trading food, you know, not money, but food.

31  
32 And just sharing the importance of all  
33 those and being safe for our children and, you know,  
34 even me, today, going out to -- I don't go out, I  
35 actually go to the store and buy 10 sockeyes so I can  
36 go home and I still hold to my tradition of making my  
37 really nice cuts and that and showing my family and my  
38 kids and showing those processes. So I really believe  
39 that, you know, the move that -- that we were talking  
40 about last night about opening the whole season and  
41 leaving all the demographics, I really believe that --  
42 I even heard, just to hear something -- and I'll make  
43 this short. I heard out in the field where there was a  
44 State -- that it was separated straight into half and  
45 one was doing it the way we're doing it and the other  
46 half opened the season up and if there's anybody in the  
47 -- in the crowd that knows this history and can share  
48 the good things that happened and the negative things  
49 between those two areas, from what I -- it sounded to  
50

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1 me was the State that opened the season all yearround  
2 everybody was happy, everybody and -- and things were  
3 balanced. You know I didn't like to use the word,  
4 restriction, I like to use the word more balanced.

5

6 But Gunalcheesh. Uh.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, John.  
9 Any other additions from the Council to our discussion.

10

11 Cathy.

12

13 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
14 don't have any additions but I guess I would like to  
15 pose a question, what are we going to do next, is the  
16 work group going to continue to meet and potentially  
17 draft a letter or a position paper, a policy paper  
18 between now and the next meeting and incorporate some  
19 of the great work that you guys did, yesterday, or  
20 whatever -- yeah, it must have been yesterday, it seems  
21 like so long ago and then some of this conversation  
22 that's happened around the table, is that kind of the  
23 matter of process, and is the work group prepared to do  
24 that if we task them to, I guess?

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, I believe  
27 that's what will happen. I think it will take another  
28 some kind of a meeting virtually with the work group,  
29 together with our Coordinator, to look over transcripts  
30 try and encapsulate all what was discussed around the  
31 table and put it into a letter and then send it off to  
32 the Board -- or excuse me, I guess that letter would  
33 have to come back to the Council to be approved, or is  
34 it -- no, maybe it's not -- I'd have to look at that  
35 correspondence policy, I guess. But maybe if the  
36 Council decides at this meeting, that we have enough  
37 input to write a letter that authorizes the working  
38 group to work on it we could send that letter; is that  
39 the way I understand it DeAnna? We just have to vote  
40 in order to do that -- thank you very much.

41

42 John.

43

44 MR. SMITH: Yeah, just to add to my  
45 response that I missed here, was weather. You know  
46 when it comes to August and what not, the weather here  
47 for us, you know, is getting worse and then you seen it  
48 the other day and us even getting out, you know, if the  
49 season was open all yearround it would be safer for all  
50

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1 of us to select a good day to go out, you know.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: All right. And,  
6 Bob, maybe you were going to correct me in what I  
7 already corrected myself, but, go ahead.

8

9 MR. SCHROEDER: No, I'll never correct  
10 you, Mr. Chairman, no matter what.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. SCHROEDER: Just, you know, to our  
15 Federal Staff who really supports us well, we really  
16 need your help on this, not on the conclusion because  
17 that's a policy decision and I have no doubt we'll be  
18 duking it out over time, but real specifically we need  
19 more stuff like what you provided, if it's relevant,  
20 Rob, on relevant case law and even though some of us  
21 think we've been around forever we don't remember  
22 everything, although Patty remembered Ninilchik really  
23 well. And then the other, which is a little bit more  
24 difficult, Lisa, is the Legislative history for ANILCA  
25 on specifically Title VIII and I've never had it in my  
26 hands. There's various Legislative histories around.  
27 One appears to be at the Alaska Law Library in  
28 Anchorage on microfiche or paper form but we'd really  
29 like to see if there's something there that's relevant.  
30 I suspect that this will be one of those things that  
31 will be a little bit -- it'll take some work and there  
32 will be some contention around this because it does  
33 represent major policy position and so we may as well  
34 as look at what we need to know earlier than find out a  
35 year from now, Oh My Gosh, did you see that Udall said  
36 this in the Legislative history and you're construing  
37 it completely wrong or something like that. So if we  
38 can get help from our great Federal Staff that would be  
39 super.

40

41 And I think our past performance has  
42 been if we have a good record, since it's impossible to  
43 group writing on a complex issue in a three day  
44 meeting, that's worked out well for us in the past as  
45 long as we don't go wildly outside of what's in our  
46 transcript.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right, thank you,  
49 Bob. Any other points that anybody would like to make

50

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1 towards this discussion, or if somebody's ready to make  
2 a motion to approve the writing of a letter we'll go  
3 there.

4

5 Cal.

6

7 MR. CASIPIT: I move that we task the  
8 work group to complete a writing of this letter for our  
9 Chair's signature and we draft needed Staff. Right now  
10 I can think of DeAnna, Rob and.....

11

12 MR. SMITH: Greg.

13

14 MR. CASIPIT: What's that?

15

16 MR. SMITH: Greg.

17

18 MR. CASIPIT: Greg, okay -- well,  
19 whoever over there on Staff want to work with us but at  
20 least those three to help us develop this letter  
21 regarding priority -- regarding meaningful priority and  
22 these discussions about Section .801 and .815 regarding  
23 closures.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cal.

26

27 Bob.

28

29 MR. SCHROEDER: And just so we have  
30 this in the record, I think it's our intention.....

31

32 REPORTER: So first.....

33

34 MS. NEEDHAM: Is there a second to the  
35 motion.

36

37 MR. SCHROEDER: Oh, excuse me.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, if you're  
40 going into discussion we need a second.

41

42 MS. PHILLIPS: I second it.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
45 Patty. Now Bob.

46

47 MR. SCHROEDER: Oh, just one other  
48 point would be that I don't think it's in the intention  
49 of the Council to say willy-nilly that we want to  
50



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1 restrict this, that and the other thing to protect  
2 subsistence uses, I believe that we'd follow our usual  
3 standard of receiving public testimony and looking at  
4 information very carefully before we made any  
5 recommendation based on protecting subsistence uses.

6

7 So I just want that in the record  
8 because we should put that in whatever we write up.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
11 Bob.

12

13 Patty.

14

15 MS. PHILLIPS: I would like to follow  
16 our sage Council Member Schroeder and say we have .805  
17 that we follow where we review and evaluate and we  
18 provide a forum for the expression of opinions and  
19 recommendations, we encourage local and regional  
20 participation, we prepare our annual report, we  
21 identify current and anticipated subsistence uses of  
22 fish and wildlife population and we evaluate the  
23 current and anticipated subsistence needs and we  
24 provide a recommendation for strategy and  
25 recommendations for policies, which is what we're doing  
26 with this letter.

27

28 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good for  
31 that, thank you, Patty. Any other discussion.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. NEEDHAM: Question.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Question's been  
38 called for. So the motion was to authorize the working  
39 group to work together with Staff.....

40

41 (Teleconference interference -  
42 participants not muted - coughing)

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: .....help to  
45 finalize a letter going to the Board dealing with the  
46 topics of continuation of subsistence uses as an issue  
47 in regards to closures and restrictions and the  
48 clarifications on meaningful preference. So I think I  
49 can do a voice vote on this.

50

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1 All in 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, we'll work  
11 on the letter when we decide on a time. We have a  
12 couple more presentations.....

13

14 MS. NEEDHAM: He only has time to do it  
15 right now.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right now -- okay,  
18 I was going to take a break but, you know, we've had  
19 trouble gathering people together to give their  
20 presentations, we have Tony Christianson on the line  
21 and he says he's available right now.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So we're going to  
26 -- and then we have Nicole Grewe in the room so Nicole  
27 we'll get to you. We do need to take a short break  
28 here but hopefully you've got the time, everybody's  
29 pretty busy this week. So we'll go to Tony  
30 Christianson. Tony, go ahead.

31

32 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, hello, can you  
33 hear me, Mr. Chairman?

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, hear you  
36 fine.

37

38 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Yeah, I'm all  
39 in favor of a break if you guys need one, I know how  
40 important that is as well. I appreciate the time  
41 today.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Definitely just want  
46 to thank the Board here, though, so whatever the  
47 Chairman wishes here, I'm not pressed for time now so  
48 if you guys need a break I can certainly wait for you.

49

50

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1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thanks,  
2 Tony. Yeah, let's take 10 minutes say, we'll be back  
3 at 3:20.  
4

5                   MR. CHRISTIANSON: Okay.  
6

7                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Chairman.  
9

10                   (Laughter)  
11

12                   MR. CHRISTIANSON: Sounds good, yep.  
13

14                   (Off record)  
15

16                   (On record)  
17

18                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Let's get ready to  
19 finish out the meeting.  
20

21                   (Pause)  
22

23                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, everybody  
24 we'll get back to the meeting. We've got somebody  
25 waiting on the phone.  
26

27                   MR. SCHROEDER: It'll be our Chairman,  
28 right.  
29

30                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, our Chairman,  
31 uh-huh. We're ready to get started. So we have  
32 Anthony Christianson who is the Chairman of the Federal  
33 Subsistence Board but he also has other roles and,  
34 Tony, I don't know what you're talking to us about  
35 today or in what capacity but go ahead and let us know.  
36

37                   MR. CHRISTIANSON: All right, can you  
38 hear me there Mr. Hernandez?  
39

40                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, got you fine.  
41

42                   MR. CHRISTIANSON: All right, cool.  
43 Thank you, Chairman, for the floor and appreciate the  
44 opportunity to speak to the Regional Advisory Council  
45 today. My name is, for the record, Anthony  
46 Christianson, and I am the Federal Board Chair but  
47 today I come with the hat of Food Security Senior  
48 Coordinator for Tlingit and Haida. And so today they  
49 asked me to speak as a representative of Tlingit and  
50

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1 Haida and to present some of the information sharing  
2 and priorities that the Federally-recognized tribe for  
3 the Tlingit and Haida people, which is the largest  
4 tribe in Alaska has going in, you know, in the realm of  
5 food security. So, again, I just want to thank all of  
6 you knowing, with my Federal hat on, that you guys are  
7 a volunteer service that fights for rural Alaska to  
8 have their rural priorities met in food consumption and  
9 to make sure it maintains the needs of our residents in  
10 our region and so I thank you for that. And you guys  
11 are the specialists I've always leaned on in our region  
12 and the experts in the room there to make the best  
13 decisions for our people and time and time again we  
14 prove to ourselves down here to be mostly up to the  
15 challenge through dialogue and communicating and so I'm  
16 thankful that that opportunity is presented here today  
17 to speak on behalf of the tribal Tlingit and Haida  
18 people of the region and those that the organization  
19 represents.

20  
21 And the feelings are pretty much the  
22 same, you know, the Food Security Division we created  
23 under the Natural Resource Program is to, you know,  
24 look at the resources in a conservation minded way so  
25 that we could maintain enough for the users that we  
26 represent which is the tribal residents of Southeast  
27 Alaska. And in that, you know, Tlingit and Haida has  
28 done many things throughout the years to help protect  
29 and to elevate the voice for our tribal citizens and,  
30 you know, a lot of those issues the Regional Advisory  
31 Council is aware of and has made some pretty good  
32 statements and letters, because they've heard the  
33 voices and elevated those concerns. And, so we, again,  
34 echo the support and gratitude for this Board doing  
35 that.

36  
37 One of the big issues has been with  
38 TransBoundary. You know we know that the mining in BC  
39 and the effects that it has on the water quality  
40 standards for those TransBoundary mines affects, you  
41 know, not just the subsistence users but everybody who  
42 uses the resource as an income or a lifestyle, so  
43 commercial industry is affected, subsistence is  
44 affected as well as water quality by something that we  
45 don't have any real regulatory standing to change. And  
46 Tlingit and Haida in the past few years, they've  
47 created the TransBoundary, you know, Mining Group so  
48 that they can evaluate those concerns to the national  
49 level and hopefully make change, but also they've done  
50

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1 work to get water quality programs in place and find  
2 out what the baseline is so they can protect the water  
3 quality of those systems because the health of the  
4 people is based on the water quality standards and, you  
5 know, and part of that request and work they -- you  
6 know, our department put a lot of work and would like  
7 to reiterate and urge that this Regional Advisory  
8 Council, you know, support some of the newer  
9 information coming out about, you know, how fish  
10 consumption rates in Alaska are higher and the water  
11 quality standards that need to be met to protect our  
12 citizens from any type of impacts needs to be elevated  
13 to match the consumption rate of the people that we  
14 serve here as both, you know, sovereign governments and  
15 as Subsistence Boards that set the regulations. Even  
16 though we're listening posts most of the time we are  
17 able to elevate those concerns to people who can  
18 address those. And so we'd like to work on issues like  
19 that with the TransBoundary.

20  
21 We also know that there's treaties in  
22 place with the North Pacific Salmon Council and having  
23 to meet quotas with Canada for escapement, you know,  
24 plays into the role of us as fish managers and wildlife  
25 managers and trying to meet those Treaty obligations  
26 and we're finding those to be concerns and also see it  
27 in these TransBoundary Rivers there's been unknown  
28 issues going on with the eulachon across the region.  
29 And so we'd like to, you know, just keep that a top  
30 concern. Eulachon is one of those prime resources that  
31 really described our trade routes, our people and, you  
32 know, specialized products that kept us healthy and  
33 engaged in networking with each other as tribal  
34 citizens across the region and across these borders we  
35 call countries. And so we'd just like to speak to  
36 that.

37  
38 One of the things Tlingit and Haida has  
39 recently got into is, you know, working with the Forest  
40 Service on many aspects of trying to figure out how to  
41 co-manage, you know, the resources, but we see co-  
42 management as an emerging reality for tribal  
43 governments in partnership with the Federal agencies  
44 that are good neighbors and so seeing that these  
45 policies are starting to gear towards those type of  
46 programs that are going to strengthen our ability to  
47 have that partnership we'd like to, you know, continue  
48 to bring that type of issue to the Regional Advisory  
49 Council on how important co-management is, you know, to  
50

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1 train up our rural communities and the people who are  
2 in the most affected areas, which I've seen this Board  
3 do time and time again about setting good regional  
4 priorities on the resources that are most specific to  
5 our overall needs regionally and then prioritize them  
6 down and then, you know, focus our energy on the most  
7 important and then down the line. And, you know, if we  
8 start developing co-management abilities both tribally  
9 with our Federal partners and build up the ability to  
10 start to address some of the information gaps that  
11 we've seen with the lack of funding. So as a co-  
12 management idea I see, you know, here with this ability  
13 now to be able to be players and start helping fill the  
14 gaps and elevate those rural voices so we can co-manage  
15 our local resources to benefit, you know, the initial  
16 users, the tribal citizens and the rural residents with  
17 a priority preference and use for those resources. And  
18 so co-management has many aspects to it, whether it's  
19 information gathering or enforcement or just getting  
20 out and doing the nuts and bolts field activities that  
21 a lot of these Federal agencies need to be -- to feed  
22 the system the information so we can make the best  
23 sound environmental management decisions we can based  
24 off both our traditional knowledge as well as the  
25 Western Science that we depend on to set these caps,  
26 boundaries and limits that are in place and that  
27 constitute a conservation measure. You know so co-  
28 management of fish and wildlife, you know, working to  
29 localizing issues and strengthen rural and Native  
30 access to these resources.

31  
32                   Something that they created the Food  
33 Security Division for myself and Anthony Lindoff is my  
34 supervisor, Deserie Duncan is our supervisor there and,  
35 you know, the Executive Council of Tlingit and Haida  
36 has seen the value of getting a Staff built up to  
37 teach, how to access these resources, what's available  
38 and to reengage our citizens and youth, and seeing the  
39 lifestyle of hunting and fishing as a means to balance  
40 your lifestyle and start to reengage ourselves on --  
41 not just the activity of harvesting itself, but all  
42 that goes into it and the life ways and pathways that a  
43 healthy lifestyle lead to. And so we'd like to  
44 continue to just promote co-management in that, you  
45 know, the FIS information system, you know, being able  
46 to maybe look at how we can fund more of the  
47 information gaps we have in the region and help support  
48 it, you know, like good neighbors. We see that  
49 happening. And more and more, being aligning and  
50

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1 finding synergy between our programs and what the  
2 priorities set by the Regional Advisory who is the  
3 sounding board and listening board for the issues in  
4 Southeast paired with, you know, managers and tribal  
5 governments who are empowered to have sovereignty at  
6 the forefront and taking care of the people's needs and  
7 that's co-management. And also it gives us that local  
8 voice to elevate those concerns up so that we as  
9 managers, agencies and tribal representatives can  
10 address the concerns of our people and bring it to the  
11 right table.

12  
13 We also see an emerging issue in the  
14 region with mariculture on many fronts, you know, but  
15 the main concern we've been hearing from tribal  
16 citizens is, you know, the introduction of the idea of  
17 seaweed and kelp farming being introduced across the  
18 region and being a concern to the tribal citizens  
19 because a lot of our subsistence activity is maritime  
20 in nature so we really rely on that marine ecosystem  
21 and all that acreage and it's highly concerning to  
22 tribal citizens when we start to hear how big some of  
23 these things may be. And so really if the State and  
24 the permitting programs are going to take off in that  
25 direction, that tribal consultation be at the forefront  
26 of that emerging industry and the concerns of the  
27 people and rural residents of Alaska are taken into  
28 account as they develop large and vast areas of the  
29 ocean that could constitute a hinderance or a problem  
30 to the subsistence activities of the Southeast  
31 residents.

32  
33 So that, in a nutshell, is the short  
34 presentation I had today.

35  
36 I'd just, again, like to thank  
37 everybody here at the Regional Advisory Council table  
38 for your volunteer time that you put in to address  
39 these issues and the expertise you bring forward. I  
40 look forward to -- I wish I was there in person today  
41 but the snow didn't want me there today so I just  
42 appreciate the work that you all do and I'm thankful  
43 and look forward to partnering on many levels and  
44 keeping food security for rural Alaskans and especially  
45 Southeast Alaskans at the front end of all the work  
46 that we do and prioritizing, keeping that lifestyle  
47 alive.

48  
49 So I just thank you, Mr. Chairman, for  
50

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1 the time to speak today and I'll turn it back over to  
2 you if there's any questions.

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
5 Anthony. Some really important topics there you're  
6 working on. Any questions from the Council.

7

8 Patty Phillips.

9

10 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
11 Hernandez. Thank you, Tony Christianson. So earlier  
12 Chad VanOrmer, Deputy Forest Supervisor -- Deputy --  
13 Deputy, anyway, he talked about -- I asked him about --  
14 he mentioned co-stewardship/co-management and he said  
15 that it would likely take Congressional action and so  
16 what the Forest Service is focusing on is work force  
17 development and participating in Federal programs, so  
18 does the tribe have Congressional language that you are  
19 asking the Congressional Delegation to work on? He  
20 said that there might be an opportunity in the Farm  
21 Bill Reauthorization Act under the Tribal Forest (ph)  
22 Protection Act to compact with tribes, what do you say,  
23 thanks.

24

25 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Hey, Patty, I think  
26 you answered the question. As far as I was aware, you  
27 know, that there was some stuff inside of the Farm Bill  
28 and they're actively working on that language right now  
29 so that is currently something they are working on and  
30 I know in our department has people that are tasked to  
31 developing that language. So that's a current process  
32 underway.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
35 Other questions from the Council.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not seeing anybody  
40 else, Anthony, so thank you very much for bringing all  
41 those issues to our attention and we definitely have to  
42 stay in contact on a lot of these things, TransBoundary  
43 mining, and in particular and the co-management issue  
44 has really struck me that we need to work together on  
45 those. So, yeah, thank you very much.

46

47 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.  
48 Chairman and appreciate your time today and you all  
49 have a good day and God Bless you.

50



0402

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Nicole  
2 Grewe from the Forest Service, you have a presentation  
3 for us.

4  
5 MS. GREWE: For the record my name is  
6 Nicole Grewe. I am a Program Manager and Social  
7 Scientist with Pacific Northwest Research Station of  
8 the Forest Service based here in Juneau.

9  
10 So my comments today are oral only.

11  
12 Oh, thank you, I don't want to confuse  
13 who I am.

14  
15 (Laughter)

16  
17 MS. GREWE: And start giving the wrong  
18 presentation.

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 MS. GREWE: Thank you for making time  
23 for me on the agenda. I hear you have had a busy week.  
24 I understand PNW Research Station is not often on the  
25 agenda, I don't know if we're ever on the agenda for  
26 agency update. I just happen to make a phone call to  
27 DeAnna and said I had some social science and economic  
28 updates on some projects where some of the ideas  
29 actually originated here at the RAC and I wanted to  
30 share back so thanks for making time.

31  
32 So prior to working for PNW Research  
33 Station some of you may recognize me as a regional  
34 economist for Region 10, I was doing that just prior to  
35 moving to the lab in Auke Bay here and working in  
36 research and development and, in particular, I was on  
37 the Alaska Roadless Rule for the 2020 decision which  
38 was recently reversed. So I did a couple hard years of  
39 RAC meetings and community meetings and subsistence  
40 hearings and here we are today. But, you know, even in  
41 all the controversy of natural resource and land  
42 management, as a social scientist, no matter how  
43 controversial the project I look for those little gems  
44 of information or ideas or projects that could be  
45 implemented to inform future land management decisions.  
46 And so whether it's the Forest Plan Amendment of 2016,  
47 you know, that's where we transitioned from old to  
48 young growth harvest, that had its own controversy, or  
49 the 2020 Roadless Rule, there's always these little  
50

0403

1 silver linings and gems that come forward that really  
2 are the most rewarding part of social science work that  
3 I do. It's things that I can implement in the future  
4 to actually make a difference in future decisions or  
5 more importantly to better represent the voices of the  
6 32-plus Southeast communities and the residents across  
7 this region.

8  
9 So, anyway, reflecting a little bit  
10 more on the Alaska Roadless Rule there was a lot of  
11 difficult conversations that happened with the RAC and  
12 the communities around the draft environmental  
13 statement and the range of alternatives and I feel like  
14 a little bit like this is ancient history now that it's  
15 been reversed and we're back to where we started. But,  
16 nonetheless, there were some hard conversations that  
17 happened and a lot of ideas of generating information  
18 that we couldn't quite do to make in the draft  
19 environmental statement, it was an expedited project,  
20 but here we are today. So I'm going to report back on  
21 a few ideas here.

22  
23 So I'm going to do a quick agency  
24 update for those of you that are unfamiliar with the  
25 Research Station.

26  
27 A little bit of an overview of a paper  
28 that we're going to submit for publishing soon that a  
29 few of you have seen on the RAC already and then  
30 introduce three upcoming projects briefly.

31  
32 So PNW Research Station, with the  
33 Forest Service you're generally working more with the  
34 land management branch of the agency, the National  
35 Forest system, there's also a research and development  
36 branch to the agency with five stations plus one in  
37 Puerto Rico that are dedicated to doing research around  
38 natural resources, social science, and always with the  
39 mission of impacting public land management or  
40 informing it. For PNW our geography is Alaska,  
41 Washington and Oregon, and so now instead of doing  
42 economics work just for Region 10, I manage social  
43 science across Alaska, Washington, and Oregon in  
44 addition to doing my own social science. There are  
45 other social scientists that work with me, in fact Bob  
46 used to be with the station and we were reminiscing  
47 about scientists that are still with the station living  
48 in Oregon -- no, Seattle, Washington that have also  
49 worked up here and so there's always been this allure  
50

1 of social science in Southeast in particular. There  
2 are 11 laboratories of PNW, one of them is here in  
3 Juneau out at the campus UAS on Auke Lake. It's a  
4 beautiful building. There's probably about total 20  
5 employees there, about a dozen that work directly work  
6 for the station and then university collaborators and  
7 post-docs and field crew in the summer. In the summer  
8 we're probably up to 30, 35 people all doing different  
9 projects. And as with most Federal agencies at this  
10 point in time, it's like we're undergoing a shift in  
11 generations, like at any given time 30 percent of the  
12 station is subject -- or is up for retirement. So  
13 we're also bringing in new scientists as we're losing  
14 scientists, some people, 30, 40 years. We have  
15 scientists that work well into their 70s because  
16 they're passionate about science and producing and  
17 publishing and they work as long as they would like to  
18 work and we also then sign them up to be emeritus after  
19 retirement, which is volunteer duty, because they're so  
20 passionate.

21  
22                   Anyway, moving on here, I want to talk  
23 a little bit about the forthcoming paper. So part of  
24 the 2020 Alaska Roadless rulemaking process we had to  
25 conduct subsistence hearings, to take oral testimony, I  
26 know you're well familiar with that. We did these oral  
27 -- we did these subsistence hearings in 18 communities  
28 across the region during late 2019, yeah, it was all  
29 during late 2019, 196 people provided oral testimony.  
30 I imagine nearly all of you probably went to one or two  
31 of these hearings and have fond memories. Yeah, I'll  
32 leave that alone there.

33  
34                   (Laughter)

35  
36                   MS. GREWE: Yeah, so these subsistence  
37 hearings, they're one of several inputs that are used  
38 to inform the environmental analysis with particular  
39 focus on subsistence resources and especially the  
40 abundance, access and competition and when you looked  
41 at all of the 196 pieces of oral testimony, in fact,  
42 when these hearings were going on I was actually  
43 working in Portland on another project at the station  
44 director's office but, anyway, my job was to listen to  
45 all of the oral testimony via audio files. So I would  
46 do my day job and then I'd go home at night and listen  
47 to all the audio and I would code all the themes and  
48 there were other people working this as well but it  
49 felt great to still feel attached to Southeast issues  
50

0405

1 while I was working in Portland, and I didn't want to  
2 drop the project either. So anyway I had a real  
3 intimate look at what was actually said at these  
4 subsistence hearings and I would say.....

5

6 (Teleconference interference -  
7 participants not muted - hold)

8

9 MS. GREWE: .....out of all those  
10 comments -- out of all the testimony offered -- it kind  
11 of ran the range of procedural concerns, lack of trust  
12 in the Forest Service, how we were doing the draft  
13 environmental -- is that my microphone?

14

15 REPORTER: No.

16

17 MS. GREWE: No, okay, keep going?

18

19 REPORTER: Yes. Someone put us on  
20 hold, I'll try and disconnect it.

21

22 MS. GREWE: Okay. There were also  
23 concerns around subsistence resources, there were  
24 concerns around the draft environmental impact  
25 statement and the range of alternatives and the  
26 perception of a foregone conclusion. I think the  
27 bottom line when you look across all of the testimony,  
28 the wide majority of people were speaking on the ends  
29 of the range of alternatives from no action to full  
30 exemption so you could tell the fight was on on this  
31 rulemaking process and people were polarized but the  
32 very large majority spoke to no action. And, in fact,  
33 when you hear the media reports even to this day, the  
34 media that was reporting around the recent reversal,  
35 when they site the 96/98 percent of the region was  
36 opposed to this rulemaking, they're citing the  
37 subsistence hearings, that's where they get that number  
38 because we wrote a report and it went into the planning  
39 record. And it was highly controversial that we  
40 actually formalized it with a report.

41

42 But back to my quest to give people  
43 voice. It was sort of the mission at the time that  
44 regardless of what our decisionmaker -- regardless of  
45 what the decisionmaker made at the time, Sonny Perdue,  
46 Secretary Sonny Perdue, that Region 10 wanted to  
47 represent the communities and the voices to the best  
48 that we could with written comment, subsistence hearing  
49 oral testimony, various means, and so here we are.

50

0406

1 That decision was made, has been reversed, there's a  
2 robust planning record behind it, it's all kind of now  
3 in the history of the Forest Service Region 10 history  
4 books but, you know, getting back to that generational  
5 change, I'm recruiting new scientists to work in Juneau  
6 and how do you teach them about land management in a  
7 state with such a high proportional of Federal land  
8 management with these laws that aren't necessarily  
9 applicable to other states and how do you teach them  
10 about ANILCA and so I said let's turn this into a paper  
11 for peer review publishing and I think this has an  
12 audience somewhere because of the unique way that we  
13 manage land and the meaning of subsistence resources  
14 and the meaning and intent and history of ANILCA.

15  
16 So we have a forthcoming paper now. It  
17 hasn't been accepted yet, we're close to submitting it.  
18 And, it, again, revisits all of the oral testimony, it  
19 kind of assesses for six themes to explore the input  
20 that was provided for people. It formally recognizes  
21 that Federal lands are managed for multiple  
22 conservation, social and commercial goals shaped by the  
23 visions of diverse interest groups from across the  
24 nation but that often times local input and community  
25 interests get lost in the volume of input provided from  
26 different places of this nation, and how that adds to  
27 the complexity of managing land up here and how do we  
28 kind of accommodate for that.

29  
30 Let me see here.

31  
32 So I have a couple copies of the paper  
33 that I brought. I'm happy to share it via email as  
34 well. It's still draft and we're still adjusting for  
35 comment but ideally I think we're going to submit it to  
36 society and natural resources and there'll be a story  
37 map produced on it. There's already graphics from the  
38 subsistence hearings, kind of like graphically  
39 displaying what peoplesaid, where they said it in  
40 combination, yeah, with the geography of Southeast.

41  
42 And the lead author on that is a Dr.  
43 Haley Wilmer who came up here and worked as a social  
44 scientist for a brief period of time during the  
45 Pandemic and she's the primary author and I regret that  
46 she can't be here with me today because, yes, she's  
47 still working for the USDA in social science but not on  
48 an Alaska project anymore except for this one. But  
49 nonetheless I'm excited to see that paper come forward.  
50

0407

1 I think it will further memorialize the importance of  
2 ANILCA, the importance of what people said at this  
3 testimony, it'll do it in multiple forms and not just  
4 in the planning record of the Forest Service archive  
5 but in a scholarly journal, hopefully, somewhere.

6  
7 And to those that provided comment,  
8 thank you, and we're adjusting.

9  
10 So upcoming research projects. So I  
11 wanted to focus a little bit on what's on the radar  
12 that might be of interest.

13  
14 So we have a project coming up that we  
15 sort of refer to as Alaska Wild Foods. It's Alaska  
16 National Forest Contribution of Wild Food systems. Dr.  
17 Ryan Belmore is the lead for that. He's here at the  
18 Juneau lab. It's a sequel to some 2019 work that you  
19 might have heard about because it was published right  
20 towards the very tail end of the former Alaska Roadless  
21 Rulemaking. And the 2019 basically quantified the  
22 volume and value of Alaska's commercial seafood harvest  
23 that is directly attributable to the Tongass and  
24 Chugach National Forest. So one of the, you know,  
25 conundrums, is like we have this robust, you know,  
26 commercial seafood harvest and we know the National  
27 Forests are value but really what proportion of these  
28 fish are reared in the Forest, what percentage of the  
29 economic activity is attributable to the National  
30 Forest and Ryan published this paper right at the very  
31 end of Alaska Roadless Rulemaking which is kind of an  
32 interesting -- you know, it's a highly influential  
33 piece of science that came out right at the time of  
34 highly controversial piece of policy was coming down,  
35 but, anyway, it was wildly popular and distributed and  
36 cited in the academic community and so we're going to  
37 use that project as a model but turn our attention  
38 towards other food from Forest and quantifying the  
39 diversity of other foods that come from the Forest,  
40 berries, fungi, plants, invertebrates, seaweed, and  
41 kind of take a little bit of a different direction.  
42 There's going to be some joint collaboration with  
43 Alaska Division of Fish and Game partially because  
44 they've been doing the subsistence harvest surveys  
45 since I believe about 1980 including a couple hundred  
46 different food items. So we're going to use that  
47 secondary data, add in some other data and take a look  
48 at this and try to repeat it for wild foods.

49  
50

0408

1                   So I'm kind of excited about that  
2 project because I think, again, it gives another layer  
3 of richness to the relationship of the people that live  
4 in Southeast, their relationship with the land. Pretty  
5 excited about that.

6  
7                   Here's maybe another project that you  
8 might have some interest in. It's that time of -- I  
9 can't say that time of the year -- it's that time of  
10 the decade where the Tongass Timber Demand estimate  
11 will be reproduced for the upcoming Tongass National  
12 Forest Plan Revision. So every time the plan is  
13 amended or revisioned there is a duty of the Forest  
14 Service to take a look at what is market demand for  
15 Tongass timber. The requirement is set forth by the  
16 Tongass Timber Reform Act and the station does that  
17 work, looking at basically long-term timber demand. So  
18 we're going to have to start working towards estimating  
19 what timber demand on the Tongass Forest will look like  
20 for the next 10 years.

21  
22                   Let me see.

23  
24                   And, you know, I was involved with the  
25 last iteration of it, I'll be involved with the next  
26 iteration of it but it's sort of interesting every time  
27 we do that report, which it does seem to be about every  
28 10 years, it's considered highly influential science  
29 because when the station sets timber market demand that  
30 is -- that becomes the basis of the Forest Plan's  
31 timber program. So it's a debated number, it's a  
32 debated process, it's a debated calculation. But every  
33 time we do it there's always these new contemporary  
34 topics that have really evolved since the last time we  
35 did it and so we struggle to kind of figure out how  
36 we're going to deal with it. I'll name some of those  
37 here quickly. Carbon sequestration. Carbon  
38 sequestration markets. Export. Are we going to  
39 continue to export Tongass timber. The rise of small  
40 sawmills. We're not having like an explosion of  
41 sawmills but the industry has definitely changed over  
42 the course of the last 20 years and we do have some new  
43 entrepreneurs.

44  
45                   And the third project I'll highlight,  
46 and is just in its first early infancy, Southeast  
47 Alaska Community Resilience is kind of what we're  
48 giving it the short name for. And it's kind of -- it's  
49 this effort to co-produce science with our  
50

0409

1 stakeholders, meaning other land managers, communities  
2 that have an interest and we'll sit down and be  
3 conducting probably two to three workshops here this  
4 spring to kind of identify what are the most pressing  
5 social science and economic research questions of our  
6 day for the next 10 years and we'll kind of set this  
7 agenda what we're going to pursue over the next 10  
8 years. So I'll be communicating with you through  
9 DeAnna so if you'd like to provide input for that, it's  
10 totally welcomed.

11

12 I'm thinking, what, you know, some  
13 topics that might rise to the top, again, this is  
14 through all the public meetings through the Alaska  
15 Roadless Rulemaking or the Forest Plan Amendment,  
16 there's always this unmet need and this kind of this  
17 ongoing discussion about improving the information for  
18 making decisions. I would say community socioeconomic  
19 conditions, it's been 20 years since the station has  
20 released sort of a synthesis of social and economic  
21 condition indicators for all of our communities.  
22 Current Forest products industry. I'd like to know a  
23 little more about the small operators. You know in the  
24 Forest Plan it calls for 5 million of old growth to  
25 support niche markets and local producers. And, yeah,  
26 I think it's a changing environment that we're in in  
27 terms of Forest products businesses. Subsistence and  
28 cultural use activities. Community use areas. That  
29 came up a lot through Alaska Roadless Rulemaking area.  
30 The idea that there's a lot of criticism around, you  
31 know, when the Forest Service does an environmental  
32 analysis and we take a look the impact to communities  
33 across the range of alternatives we use these community  
34 use areas that are like -- they're like lines around  
35 our community that were established by Fish and Game  
36 originally for the Forest Service and the Forest  
37 Service uses them, and it's the idea that the majority  
38 of residents that are harvesting from the land are only  
39 doing it within this confine, right, but technology is  
40 changed. People are able to go farther, faster in  
41 boats or what not, and should we really be only using  
42 these discreet areas or should we be adjusting those  
43 areas. Is it equivalent to traditional homelands,  
44 probably not, but it might not be as discreet as the  
45 way we make it sound. And actually Joel Jackson from  
46 Kake is a real advocating for revisiting the community  
47 use areas.

48

49 Let me see.

50



0410

1                   So you'll be hearing about that project  
2 eventually. We have other work that's always kind of  
3 percolating in the background.

4

5                   Tongass-wide young growth study has now  
6 looked at young growth or second growth trees for over  
7 20 years. So we're always collecting data every summer  
8 on that project. We're dipping our toes in carbon  
9 work. And biomass, of course, is right there. But  
10 these are the three projects that I just wanted to  
11 highlight because they might have peaked your interest.

12

13                   And then with that, since I kind of  
14 feel like I was at ANILCA story time this afternoon, I  
15 have to say I'll end on a cute little story here.

16

17                   So I recently hosted a meeting at the  
18 lab with the Region 10 planning director, the new  
19 planning director, Monique Nelson, I don't know if you  
20 guys have met her. Anyway, she's the new planning  
21 director in charge of Forest planning for the Tongass  
22 and the Chugach essentially, and then also the other  
23 end of it environmental analysis and the projects that  
24 come from the plans and supporting those projects  
25 through objections, hopefully not litigation but, if  
26 so, supporting through litigation and she's relatively  
27 new to Alaska. She's been to the ANILCA training but I  
28 asked her, do you want to meet your predecessor who was  
29 a long-time planning director, also a Forest Service  
30 attorney for a very long time and she has roots on  
31 Prince of Wales and she is passionate about ANILCA. So  
32 I set these two up hoping to establish some sort of  
33 coaching relationship with a rising leader and a very  
34 senior leader that has retired but still lives in  
35 Juneau and I thought we were just going to have casual  
36 coffee and donuts or something and we did it out at the  
37 lab and the retired leader showed up with a bag of  
38 Legislative history around ANILCA and she said you may  
39 think we're going to talk about HR and budget and all  
40 these really boring Federal things but I want to talk  
41 to you about ANILCA and it was the best three hours  
42 recently. So if you're looking for some consult on  
43 Title VIII.....

44

45                   (Laughter)

46

47                   MS. PHILLIPS: We are.

48

49                   MS. GREWE: .....I think I might know

50

0411

1 your person. But it was beautiful because the retired  
2 leader was able to not just discuss the law but talk a  
3 little about case history and where the Forest Service  
4 has fallen down from time to time but also to put  
5 context over it with her Prince of Wales family ties  
6 and to talk about it in that term. And I think it like  
7 completely changed -- you know, I hope that it really  
8 added color to the new leader's vision of working in  
9 Alaska and it was just something I think every Federal  
10 employee should have -- you know have the opportunity  
11 to experience. I had elders that did it for me and I'm  
12 trying to continue that tradition, although I'm not  
13 willing to admit that I'm approaching late career and  
14 -- not very late -- but, anyway, that I've transitioned  
15 from being a young professional to the senior in the  
16 group.

17  
18 I'll end my comments there.

19  
20 So it was good to see everybody here  
21 and thank you for the time and I'll entertain any  
22 questions and turn it back to the Chair.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Nicole.  
25 That was very interesting and informative and I got a  
26 feeling you're going to be one of those really late  
27 retirees. But question from Bob Schroeder.

28  
29 MR. SCHROEDER: Yeah, we're pretty  
30 short on time because we're at the end of our meeting  
31 so I'll talk even faster than usual.

32  
33 I'll note that since you analyzed all  
34 the comments from subsistence hearings and also what we  
35 wrote that carbon sequestration was a major, major  
36 comment theme in the Roadless Rule because this is our  
37 Rain Forest here. I'd like to do a pitch. You said  
38 that the Pacific Northwest Research Station was dipping  
39 its toes into carbon before it's too hot, I suppose,  
40 something that would be a wonderful project in my  
41 personal view but also with respect to the Council  
42 would be land breaking work on how much carbon is  
43 stored in the National Forest, quantitative. And also  
44 with the uptake of carbon is by various Forest types.  
45 And I could talk about that at great length but I don't  
46 want to take up any more time in our meeting.

47  
48 So I'm making my pitch and I'll buy you  
49 lunch if you get that project to happen.  
50

0412

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: John, go ahead.

2

3 MR. SMITH: Thank you, very much. Just  
4 -- for that information. And the plants and the items  
5 like that, our foods is our Tlingit Way of Life that  
6 was the -- the Forest Service put together back in -- I  
7 just remember my -- a lot of my grandparents and elders  
8 are in there and that's really a great book. I work  
9 with Darren Snyder in the 4H Program, I'm a volunteer,  
10 been working with him for quite a few years. But we go  
11 out and do a lot of plant identification and tree and  
12 all that, not just with the kids but with the families  
13 in the communities and it would be cool to have your  
14 team join in with us and we can share some of our  
15 knowledge and cultural points, that would be awesome.

16

17 Thank you for all that.

18

19 Thank you. Thank you.

20

21 What was really interesting about this  
22 book it had a nutritional value of all our foods of --  
23 and it's -- it's really beautiful, I really love it.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Let's see anybody  
28 else.

29

30 Bob again.

31

32 MR. SCHROEDER: I'd just also note that  
33 this may be the first time that someone from PNW has  
34 ever come to the Council and so we expect you to be at  
35 all our meetings in the future.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You know there are  
40 some things you're working on there that are of great  
41 interest to the Council and I think we'll need to stay  
42 in touch and keep sharing information. So thank you  
43 for bringing those to us Nicole.

44

45 MS. GREWE: Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes. Okay, just a  
48 couple more reports, agency reports, and then we can  
49 finish up with some tasks we might want to accomplish,

50

0413

1     yeah, some letter writing or whatever.

2

3                     So we'll get a report on the Tongass  
4     from Rob Cross. Whenever you're ready Rob.

5

6                     MR. CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
7     the record, again, my name is Robert Cross and I'm the  
8     Tongass Subsistence Program Manager. So this is an  
9     update on the activities of the Tongass Subsistence  
10    Program from 2022 and just real quick on what we're  
11    working on for the beginning of 2023.

12

13                    So in 2022 our subsistence Staff  
14    completed 16 special actions implementing adaptive  
15    management of fish and wildlife to provide the greatest  
16    sustainable subsistence harvest opportunities for  
17    salmon, eulachon, mountain goat, moose and wolves and  
18    I'll give an update of the ones that we've done for  
19    2023 so far and I can provide the list to anybody who's  
20    interested for 2022 again.

21

22                    Our Staff and OSM colleagues analyzed  
23    six Southeast fish and wildlife regulatory proposals  
24    and closure reviews and those resulted in newly  
25    established Federal subsistence fisheries on the Taku  
26    River. And then fishery closure to non-Federally-  
27    qualified users on Kah-Sheets Creek.

28

29                    And then for partnership and outreach,  
30    which is what I am most excited about is the Tongass  
31    Subsistence Program entered into seven fisheries  
32    resource monitoring partner agreements that totaled  
33    roughly \$740,000 in partner funding and these provided  
34    funds for six local tribal organizations as well as  
35    agency partners, which we heard from the State. They  
36    also contributed funding to roughly 36 community jobs  
37    and I can talk more at length with folks after the  
38    meeting if they're interested in those tribal  
39    partnerships. And we also partnered with the Sitka  
40    Conservation Society to continue supporting the  
41    collaborative UAS, University of Alaska-Southeast  
42    Federal Subsistence Policy and Procedures course for  
43    youth engagement in the Federal Subsistence process and  
44    so as part of that, as you saw at the last meeting and  
45    at the Federal Subsistence Board meeting we had Heather  
46    Bauscher and one of our new employees, Ashley  
47    Bollwerk(ph), bring some of those students to the  
48    proceedings. So we're excited to continue working on  
49    that and try to work with Heather and the Sitka

50

0414

1 Conservation Society to increase the scope of that and  
2 where we're getting the students from.

3

4

5 So in addition to the ongoing UAS  
6 course, we've been working with SCS to develop a  
7 Federal subsistence outreach seminar, kind of  
8 affectionately referred to as the Road Show, just  
9 because it's a little easier to say so we're offering a  
10 seminar in several rural communities around Southeast  
11 this spring. And the aim of it is just to increase the  
12 overall, I guess, understanding of how the Subsistence  
13 Program works and how folks from rural communities can  
14 interact with yourselves on the Council and just in the  
15 regulatory process, in general. So part of the seminar  
16 involves proposal writing and testimony procedures. So  
17 basically it's broken down into two parts, there's one  
18 hour that's like the Subsistence 101 course and if you  
19 only have an hour to give on a sunny Saturday that's  
20 the one to attend, and then the proceeding time which  
21 is roughly three hours is spent going into further  
22 detail of how the RAC is composed and Heather and  
23 Ashley actually put a diagram of this Council and lists  
24 everybody that's on it and where you guys are from and  
25 so basically letting people know who their contact is  
26 on the Regional Advisory Council and how to interact  
27 with those folks.

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So the first offering was actually last  
Saturday in Sitka and Member Kitka was there, which we  
greatly appreciated and so he sat through all of it and  
gave us some feedback on it and also some feedback on  
how we can engage more people and recruit more people  
to show up to the course. So we'll also be offering  
it in Petersburg, Wrangell and Kake over the next  
couple of weeks, I think over the next three weeks.  
And then the aim is also to bring it to Prince of  
Wales, which I think we could spend a month on Prince  
of Wales hitting all those communities. And then the  
northern Tongass as well to include Gustavus, Tenakee  
and Hoonah and some other communities. It's really  
limited by logistics and where we can get to.

So this is the first year that we're  
trying to do this. We heard from the Council that we  
need to do more outreach and sort of shake the bushes  
and get people excited and teach them how to interact  
with what can be -- that can be some real barriers to  
entry for this and it can be kind of intimidating for  
folks.

0415

1                   But, again, I just want to stress this  
2 is the first year that we're offering it and if we  
3 don't come to your community, I apologize for this  
4 year, but this is hopefully the first of many years  
5 that we'll be doing this.

6  
7                   So we'll be reaching out to you guys as  
8 Council members when we come to your community and try  
9 to get some ideas of how to recruit folks to show up to  
10 it. We'll be reaching out to tribal contacts, the  
11 local Rangers and then also local schools and we're  
12 thinking that maybe we'll try to convince them to offer  
13 some extra credit for attendance to just, you know, is  
14 the carrot to get people excited about it. And then  
15 we'll also be advertising it on the radio and in the  
16 newspaper.

17  
18                   And then we also participated in  
19 several local events this year.

20  
21                   So Dr. Sanders and I participated in  
22 the POW deer summit. And then also Dr. Sanders led a  
23 subsistence class at the Klawock High School and it was  
24 the Island of the Future course and I apologize if I  
25 got that title a little bit wrong. So basically they  
26 were looking at Prince of Wale Island and if they, you  
27 know, were king of the world and got to resettle that  
28 island and figure out how to make it the most  
29 sustainable, how would they go about that process and  
30 so, yeah, that was something that we participated in.

31  
32                   And then Mr. Musslewhite participated  
33 in the Angoon community subsistence fishery meeting and  
34 also led the Angoon Youth Conservation Corp sockeye  
35 harvest event and so basically took out a bunch of  
36 local Angoon youth and they harvested sockeye. I guess  
37 -- it's my understanding they put out one set and got  
38 more sockeye than they knew what to do with.....

39  
40                   (Laughter)

41  
42                   MR. CROSS: .....and so they went back  
43 to town and participated in, you know, processing those  
44 fish and distributing them out to the community.

45  
46                   And then, finally, as I mentioned  
47 before we'll be serving on the Unit 4 working group  
48 beginning, I believe, March 15th.

49  
50

0416

1                   So that's all I have for you and I'm  
2 happy to answer any questions or talk to folks after  
3 the meeting as well.

4  
5                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,  
6 Rob. Really glad to hear you're getting out in the  
7 communities, that's a real positive thing.

8  
9                   So any other questions or comments from  
10 the Council.

11  
12                  Louie, go ahead.

13  
14                  MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
15 just have a couple questions. Would you be able to  
16 issue the deer tags out of the Forest Service office  
17 again like we used to be able to get the deer tags  
18 there? And the count coming from you would be  
19 beneficial to the table. And are you going to try to  
20 get to Metlakatla soon to for the proxies?

21  
22                  Thanks.

23  
24                  MR. CROSS: Yes, through the Chair.  
25 Member Wagner. So, yes -- so I was talking to my  
26 Staff, I'm not familiar with -- I guess we used to  
27 print out the State deer tags at the Forest  
28 Service.....

29  
30                  MR. WAGNER: Yes.

31  
32                  MR. CROSS: .....and so I'll have to  
33 look into that, I'm not sure if there's a reason why  
34 we're not doing that anymore or if we are still doing  
35 that. When I was working at the District it was never  
36 something that came to my attention.

37  
38                  But, also, yes, we're looking at  
39 purchasing like a mobile printer or something small  
40 enough that we can fit on a float plane and bring it  
41 along with us as well just to get people checked off  
42 and get all their permits to them.

43  
44                  And, yeah, I'll have to check in with  
45 -- I believe it was John Hyde from Ketchikan or KMRD  
46 that was trying to make a flight out to Metlakatla to  
47 issue the Unuk River permits and the designated  
48 harvester permits.

49  
50

0417

1                   So that's definitely on our list of  
2 things to do and I know they tried to get out, I think  
3 it was a week and a half ago and got weathered out.

4  
5                   MR. WAGNER: Thank you.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else with  
8 a question for Rob, Forest Service report.

9  
10                  (No comments)

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No more questions.  
13 But, Rob, if you want to stay up there, I think it says  
14 here that you and Greg Risdahl are doing the  
15 Subsistence Program report.

16  
17                  MR. CROSS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this was  
18 part of that presentation so I'll just yield the floor  
19 to Mr. Risdahl.

20  
21                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, great,  
22 thanks.

23  
24                  MR. RISDAHL: Well, winding down. Mr.  
25 Chair. Members of the Council. This report was  
26 actually supposed to be done last fall but we ran out  
27 of time then.

28  
29                  (Laughter)

30  
31                  MR. RISDAHL: And I'm going to shorten  
32 it a little bit, just get to the meat of it. Primarily  
33 the budget and Staffing.

34  
35                  Most of you have met some of the new  
36 Staff already and so I'm really happy to be here with  
37 them in person. But first talk a little bit about the  
38 budget.

39  
40                  So the USDA Forest Service Subsistence  
41 budget is a line item in the Congressional budget. It  
42 has not changed in probably 20 years at \$1,999,000  
43 precisely, and every year we keep getting the same  
44 amount of money but it keeps costing more to do things  
45 or to get more things done. So that's something that's  
46 definitely in discussion with leadership but I'm not  
47 sure where it's going to go. In addition to the  
48 subsistence budget, we -- things are being done  
49 differently as of about a year ago, the salaries for  
50



0418

1 employees and travel, et cetera, comes out of a  
2 different cost code so that does not come out of the  
3 subsistence budget anymore, which is good.  
4

5 So what I'll do now is just refer you  
6 to -- this, by the way is in a supplemental piece of  
7 information report that DeAnna handed out to everybody.  
8 So if you have a chance you can look at Table 1, I'll  
9 just go through it very quickly.

10

11 Last year we spent \$853,869 on the  
12 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. And, Rob, he  
13 did mention what those projects were, there were seven  
14 new projects that were started. And in addition a new  
15 project was also started on the Chugach National  
16 Forest, which was financed by the Office of Subsistence  
17 Management because there's multiple land ownerships  
18 involved there, Fish and Wildlife Service, Park Service  
19 and the Forest Service. No funds are specifically  
20 available for Subsistence Wildlife Resource Monitoring  
21 in the same way that they are for the Fisheries  
22 Resource Monitoring Program. There is no Wildlife  
23 Monitoring Program as such. However, each Forest  
24 spends subsistence-based funds to monitor wildlife  
25 populations important for subsistence. So last year on  
26 the Chugach approximately \$37,600 went toward  
27 monitoring black bear, deer, moose and mountain goat  
28 populations and on the Tongass Forest \$78,465 went  
29 toward deer, moose and mountain goat surveys. In  
30 addition, we provided a little over \$23,000 to help  
31 fund Heather Bauscher's Sitka Conservation Society  
32 students, something that we've all been really pleased  
33 about. And I'll get to that, with the shortage of  
34 funds things are getting a little bit more difficult.  
35 But in addition to that we funded \$45,000 vet's  
36 (ph)work internship.  
37

38

39 Just to mention kind of a summary of  
40 how the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program has been  
41 doing in the Southeast. Over -- let's see since 2000  
42 -- well, I guess we're on the 23rd year now, there has  
43 been \$42.3 million spent in completing 132 FRMP  
44 projects in Southeastern Alaska. That's just Southeast  
45 Alaska. We've spent a lot of money when you look  
46 across the entire state. And as I said, I mentioned  
47 the new -- seven new projects started in 2022 and those  
48 will go through 2025.

49

50 So that kind of takes us up to the 2023

0419

1 budget and that's -- this is the updated part of the  
2 report that you would not have seen last fall. And  
3 believe it or not we still haven't got our budgets  
4 completely firmed up but we still anticipate exactly  
5 \$1,999,000 for the subsistence budget. Again, it is a  
6 line item in the Congressional budget, does not include  
7 cost of salaries and travel.

8

9 We anticipate spending, again, funds to  
10 support approximately 45 personnel in 2023 as we did in  
11 2022, just portions of various personnel costs. Some  
12 people are not full-time subsistence biologists,  
13 others, you know, they do just -- well, Chad, Dave,  
14 they do all kinds of things, some of their budget  
15 actually comes out of the funds that would be  
16 considered for subsistence as well, but not out of this  
17 particular budget.

18

19 So in 2023 we are anticipating that we  
20 will be spending about \$100,000 more than we did last  
21 year on the Fisheries Monitoring Program and there's  
22 been a little bit of discussion about how that all  
23 turned out. OSM has had quite a bit of Staff turnover  
24 and the Technical Review Committee that ranks and  
25 selects projects, one of the things that they did not  
26 take into account when they scored and ranked projects  
27 last year was that the project costs are not the same  
28 very year. So you've got four years of funding for  
29 every project and some years -- often times the first  
30 year, you know, is more or less than the following  
31 years. Usually the last year or two is a lower amount  
32 of money. Well, what happened for this year is we  
33 ended up needing an additional \$100,000 to make sure  
34 all seven of those projects that were implemented last  
35 year would also be implemented this year. So that's  
36 shortened our availability of funds. So the amount of  
37 money that we're giving to the Chugach and the Tongass  
38 for operations to do wildlife monitoring is less,  
39 however, the fleet costs that we spent last year are no  
40 longer coming out of those two Forest budgets. The one  
41 thing that is really different is we don't have  
42 anything in here for the SCS this year and I can assure  
43 you it is still going to be funded by the Forest  
44 Service but through different means. So I sat down  
45 with Dave on a couple of occasions, in fact, we talked  
46 this week already when he was here and he said we're  
47 still waiting to hear -- they're going to have a budget  
48 discussion but our goal is to continue to help fund  
49 that because we all feel it's really, really important.

50

0420

1 So that's the main thing that I wanted to say about the  
2 SCS.

3

4 We've been traditionally funding law  
5 enforcement for about 50,000 a year and that is still  
6 going to take place as well.

7

8 Jump into the Staffing changes. You've  
9 seen Rob quite a few times and we're very, very  
10 pleased, me, in particular, that we have Rob because  
11 he's my right hand man when I need to call and find out  
12 what's going on on the Tongass and he has taken the  
13 position permanently after detailing in it for a few  
14 months.

15

16 The Tongass Program is also looking to  
17 fill two InterDisciplinary biologists positions in the  
18 north zones and the south zones, and actually we have  
19 one in the north zone already. Kake. So we've done  
20 really good in bringing in good people to replace some  
21 of the folks that have moved on. We don't have a  
22 person in the south zone position yet but that's  
23 pending.

24

25 And just I'll mention Andrew Sanders,  
26 because he's also with us here today, very pleased to  
27 have Andrew here, he will be replacing Milo Burcham on  
28 the Chugach but he's a part of the team and we wanted  
29 to make sure he came and met all you guys too because  
30 he's been working on the Tongass.

31

32 So that's pretty much -- well, one  
33 other thing. We have a pretty active District Ranger  
34 down in Seward now, someone who is quite interested in  
35 subsistence and she is working to bring on a GS9  
36 subsistence biologist that will work out of the Seward  
37 District, which we have not had.

38

39 So that's where we are with Staffing.

40

41 Happy to answer any questions.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
44 Greg.

45

46 MR. RISDAHL: You bet.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Questions.

49

50

0421

1 Mike.

2

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

4 Is there any plan to put a game biologist on the south  
5 end, it's been quite a few years since we had one down  
6 there?

7

8 MR. RISDAHL: That's a good question  
9 and I would be happy to hand that over to Rob if he's  
10 got some thoughts on that.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
15 Douville. So as far as subsistence is concerned, yes,  
16 so we're hoping to, I guess, in a sense replace the  
17 position that Jeff Reeves had before but we're moving  
18 our subsistence positions up to the supervisor's office  
19 so that we have a broader scope of where these  
20 biologists can work. So Mr. Musslewhite will be  
21 covering everything from the Juneau area down to, I  
22 guess, we'll say Petersburg is going to be the limit  
23 and then we'll have another biologist who will be a  
24 fish and wildlife biologists that will cover from  
25 Petersburg, Wrangell, south all the way down to  
26 Metlakatla and so, yes, in the Subsistence Program we  
27 will. I know that also Prince of Wales has had some  
28 recent turnover with their wildlife Staff on the  
29 District level and those positions are being filled as  
30 well.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any  
33 other questions.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
38 Greg. Rob.

39

40 Lisa Grediagin, you have the honor of  
41 batting clean up here, last report, from OSM.

42

43 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, thank you,  
44 Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. Lisa Grediagin for  
45 the record.

46

47 On behalf of OSM I want to thank all  
48 Council members for your exceptional work on behalf of  
49 your communities and user groups. We value your

50

0422

1 expertise and the contribution of your knowledge and  
2 experience in this regulatory process.

3

4

5 Last fall we held our first in person  
6 Regional Advisory Council meetings since the beginning  
7 of the Covid 19 pandemic three years ago. All 10  
8 Councils were able to meet as scheduled in rural and  
9 hub communities across the state. It's been a  
10 tremendous honor to work with all of you, our Council  
11 volunteers, or OSM Staff and our multi-agency  
12 colleagues in subsistence to accomplish our goals of  
13 informed subsistence management and the implementation  
14 of Title VIII. We plan to repeat the success for the  
15 winter 2023 Council meetings. We are so happy to work  
16 with all of you face to face again.

16

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Over the past few years we have  
reminded Council members about the change in  
requirements for U.S. travelers who must be RealID  
compliant to board domestic flights and access certain  
Federal facilities. Beginning May 7th, 2025 every air  
traveler will need to present a Real ID compliant  
driver's license or other acceptable form of  
identification such as a passport to fly within the  
United States. This is applicable even when you fly on  
small commercial Bush carriers. Please note that all  
Council members will need to make sure that they have  
the required RealID for travel to the fall 2025 Council  
meetings. You can find more information on RealID  
requirements on the State of Alaska Division of Motor  
Vehicles website.

The Federal Subsistence Board recently  
held a fisheries regulatory public meeting in Anchorage  
the week of January 31st, 2023. This was the Board's  
second in person meeting and first regulatory meeting  
since the Covid 19 pandemic. The Board had a packed  
agenda addressing fisheries proposals and closure  
reviews, deferred wildlife proposals and agenda items  
touching on important subsistence and regulatory issues  
across the state. We also listened to you, the  
Councils, through your participating representatives at  
the meeting. The Board is always better informed by  
your expertise.

As for changes in Staffing at OSM,  
there is not much new information to report since the  
last time we met. OSM is advertising for a  
cartographer position to help with our mapping needs.

0423

1 And the closing date is actually this Friday, so if any  
2 of you know of anyone that would like to apply to be an  
3 OSM cartographer please pass that along. We hope that  
4 during the fall meetings we will be able to announce  
5 the hire of this new and important team member. While  
6 there have been no new additions there has been one  
7 very large subtraction. The great Tom Kron retired in  
8 early February after.....

9  
10 (Teleconference interference -  
11 participants not muted - hold)

12  
13 MS. GREDIAGIN: .....more than 22 years  
14 with the Program. Tom has been an OSM institution, and  
15 his generosity and wealth of knowledge will be greatly  
16 missed.

17  
18 I'd be happy to answer any questions  
19 and thank you, Mr. Chair, and members of the Council.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Lisa.

22  
23 Any questions.

24  
25 (No comments)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you  
28 once again. So unless somebody corrects me I believe  
29 we have accomplished everything on our agenda but that  
30 doesn't mean we're done.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We still have a  
35 few items to tend to and that's always, you know,  
36 things the Council wants to do in regards to sending  
37 letters or anything of that matter that requires a vote  
38 of the Council and I believe a couple of things have  
39 come up in the course of our meeting that we might want  
40 to comment on or write letters on.

41  
42 So I'm going to ask Cathy, we were  
43 discussing this earlier, I think you had like a short  
44 list there, do you want to run us through what we  
45 decided on. And there might be something else that we  
46 missed so if anybody else on the Council has anything  
47 they want to, you know, send off, now is the time.

48  
49 So, Cathy.

50

0424

1 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
2 list is very short, it contains one additional item.  
3 I'm sure there's things that I missed but the one thing  
4 that I was hoping maybe we could do or follow up on is  
5 Heather Bauscher raised the issue -- or brought to our  
6 attention that the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
7 Council was going to be talking about -- that there'd  
8 be an opportunity to have testimony regarding unguided  
9 non-resident sportfishermen and being able to collect  
10 data, like not have a good understanding of what that  
11 take is, and she recommend that we consider appointing  
12 someone from the Council that can speak on behalf of  
13 the past actions that this Council has taken on the  
14 subject. I think it could be a pretty quick thing to  
15 do, is just have a person nominated to do it and they  
16 would call in to testify so it's not even a travel  
17 item, it would just be that they're authorized to speak  
18 on behalf of our past Council actions with respect to  
19 that issue. And you remember in our annual report that  
20 we're getting ready to submit there's a really actually  
21 great detailed chronology list of the actions that we  
22 did take to try to address that and that could be used  
23 as the guide for that testimony to call in.

24  
25 So I think this is something -- an  
26 opportunity and something we should really consider  
27 doing because it's another avenue besides trying to  
28 work through the Board of Fish process that hasn't  
29 actually ever gotten any traction in the past.

30  
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.  
34 Any questions about what we might want to do there.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Maybe we  
39 could move on to somebody volunteering to do that and  
40 then of course we will have to have a vote to authorize  
41 it. So would anybody like to volunteer to present to  
42 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Team.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Everybody's  
47 looking at Cal and he's looking at everybody else.

48  
49 (Laughter)

50

0425

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You don't have to,  
2 Cal, no pressure.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MR. CASIPIT: No, I'll do it. That's  
7 fine.

8  
9 MS. PHILLIPS: Yea.

10  
11 MR. CASIPIT: I could find some time to  
12 do that, no problem.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
15 Cal. Cal's volunteered.

16  
17 MR. CASIPIT: And I have complained  
18 about it numerous.....

19  
20 REPORTER: Cal, your mic.

21  
22 MR. CASIPIT: Oh. I have complained  
23 about it numerous times on the record so I probably  
24 have a responsibility to clean that up so I'd be happy  
25 to.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. And it  
28 would be essentially a prepared statement. I think  
29 that with our past actions you would just kind of be  
30 presenting that. I don't know if they ask questions in  
31 those forums but you'd be well prepared to answer any  
32 questions I think. So a motion.

33  
34 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
35 move to designate Cal Casipit to represent the Regional  
36 Advisory Council at the North Pacific Fisheries  
37 Management Council regarding unguided sportfishermen  
38 data collection that our Council has worked on over the  
39 past.

40  
41 MR. DOUVILLE: I'll second.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.  
44 Any other discussion.

45  
46 MR. CASIPIT: Just that hopefully I can  
47 have some help from DeAnna to help me -- make sure I'm  
48 on the right number and the right day and that kind of  
49 stuff, so help with the administrative part.

50



0426

1 MS. PERRY: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We have a  
6 motion and a second.....

7

8 MR. SMITH: Question.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Question's been  
11 called for. All in favor of designating Cal Casipit to  
12 represent the Council at a North Pacific Fisheries  
13 Management Council work session meeting or whatever  
14 they call it, to give testimony on the Council's  
15 positions that we've taken in the past on the non-  
16 guided, non-resident sportfishery in Southeast Alaska.

17

18 All in favor say aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed  
23 say nay.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
28 Cal. any other Council members with issues that they  
29 think we need to write a letter on or send comments to  
30 or anything we've missed here during the course of the  
31 meeting that was discussed.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

36

37 MR. DOUVILLE: I can't think of any.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think we've kind  
40 of covered all of our bases.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So we have a  
45 little time left at the end of the meeting here if  
46 Council members want to make any closing comments, we  
47 have the time, and just, you know, just raise your  
48 hands.

49

50

0427

1 Cal.

2

3

4 MR. CASIPIT: I don't have anything  
5 really to report or I don't have an end of the meeting  
6 report but I just wanted to extend a huge thanks to  
7 Staff. It's been amazing, the quality of the  
8 information we've heard from you. I mean everybody  
9 that's come up and given us information, it's been  
10 great. It's the level of information, and the help in  
11 our work groups was greatly appreciated. A million  
12 thanks to you guys, really appreciated.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cal.  
14 Anyone else want to make closing comment.

15

16 Harvey.

17

18 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
19 just was hoping we could have gotten a little more  
20 information on ETJ. Basically I need to take it back  
21 to the clan to what we really need to get together for  
22 the letter. We've been talking about it but we kind of  
23 ran into some blocks on what we need to do. It would  
24 be nice to have a little more help on that, anyway.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harvey.  
29 Well, if you request some help I'm sure we'd be glad to  
30 help any way we can. I don't know we kind of lost  
31 track of what's going on with that process, I know it's  
32 been difficult.

33

34 Mike.

35

36 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 Just a comment. It is a pleasure to have Staff here  
38 helping us. We haven't always had that. And we really  
39 do appreciate it when we do have it. And it's also  
40 great to meet in person. We are much more productive  
41 when we can get together, talk, and make good  
42 decisions. We've struggled through Covid and it was  
43 very difficult. So that's my comment.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And now we've  
46 struggled through a blizzard and.....

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50

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1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:   .....managed to  
2   come out on top.  So really good.

3  
4                   (Laughter)

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:  Can't keep us  
7   down.  Anybody else.

8  
9                   Frank.

10  
11                  MR. WRIGHT:  Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
12   Yeah, we got through a blizzard and then they moved us  
13   in here and.....

14  
15                  (Laughter)

16  
17                  MR. WRIGHT:  .....I was trying to get  
18   by Cathy and I sucked in my stomach and I still bumped  
19   her.

20  
21                  (Laughter)

22  
23                  MS. NEEDHAM:  It was me, I need.....

24  
25                  (Laughter)

26  
27                  MR. WRIGHT:  But anyways it was a  
28   pleasure to be here again and see everybody, you know,  
29   looking at each other's faces and wondering, you know,  
30   what they're thinking, you know, so.

31  
32                  (Laughter)

33  
34                  MR. WRIGHT:  But have a good trip home  
35   and thank you Forest Service Staff and we appreciate  
36   you and we'll see you all next time around.

37  
38                  Gunalcheesh.

39  
40                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:  Thank you, Frank.

41  
42                  Bob Schroeder, go ahead.

43  
44                  MR. SCHROEDER:  Hey, give the guy a  
45   microphone, you know.

46  
47                  (Laughter)

48  
49                  MR. SCHROEDER:  But it's really good  
50

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1 seeing all of you and, you know, this continues to, you  
2 know, kind of this amazing experiment because it isn't  
3 like the United States is filled with Regional Advisory  
4 Councils that meet to advise government on hunting and  
5 fishing regulations. I mean this is sort of a really  
6 strange set up and who would imagine that we'd be doing  
7 this, and I think sort of think getting better at the  
8 game as things go by and I also appreciate the --  
9 giving kudos -- I'm not easy with giving kudos to Staff  
10 but I think I have to this time because I think I  
11 really think you're upping your game and that's really  
12 good.

13  
14 So, great, and I've enjoyed being back  
15 live here.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Bob.

18  
19 John.

20  
21 MR. SMITH: In Tlingit, we'd say (In  
22 Tlingit) And what that is is just echoing every good  
23 thing that was said on the table, so, (In Tlingit).  
24 And to respond to Robert, earlier, he talked about  
25 working together, and in Tlingit, and even Frank has  
26 said that, (In Tlingit) (In Tlingit), and that's  
27 working together. And if I was to show the children,  
28 or show you what that would mean would actually me take  
29 my hand and put it out like this and then every one of  
30 you would come out and put your hand there, that's (In  
31 Tlingit), we're all -- all together.

32  
33 So Gunalcheesh. Uh.

34  
35 Everybody in the room. It takes a  
36 community to make changes and I see that.

37  
38 Gunalcheesh. Gunalcheesh. Uh.

39  
40 (In Tlingit)

41  
42 Gunalcheesh. A big, big thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, John.  
45 Okay. I just want to say how appreciative I am of  
46 just, you know, working with this Council and Staff, I  
47 think it's probably as good as it's every been if not  
48 the best, and, you know, we really do work well  
49 together and I really appreciate being able to get  
50

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1 together like this and socializing and sit around the  
2 breakfast, lunch and dinner table and talk about what's  
3 going on in our communities, it's just really important  
4 and valuable. So it's really been a great meeting.

5

6 So I think we can adjourn the 2023  
7 winter RAC meeting.

8

9 MS. PERRY: Make a motion.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, we need a  
12 motion, sorry.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. DOUVILLE: Move to adjourn.

17

18 MR. CASIPIT: So moved.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody have a  
21 motion to adjourn.

22

23 MS. NEEDHAM: He did. He just did.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Mike.

26

27 MS. NEEDHAM: Turn on your microphone.

28

29 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 Mike Douville here, move to adjourn.

31

32 MR. CASIPIT: Second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
35 Cal. So all in favor of adjourning say aye.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, meeting  
46 adjourned.

47

48 MR. DOUVILLE: You didn't let me have  
49 any discussion but that's okay.

50

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1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sorry.

4

5 MR. DOUVILLE: I was going to say that

6 this was the first time that I can recall that we

7 adjourned 20 minutes earlier.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Adjourned.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

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 III taken electronically on the 2nd 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 26th  
27 day of March 2023.

28

29

30

31 \_\_\_\_\_  
32 Salena A. Hile  
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska  
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/26

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