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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Dimond Hotel
April 5, 2023
Anchorage, Alaska
9:05 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Reakoff, Chairman
Timothy Gervais
Tommy Kriska
Jenny Pelkola
Darrell Vent

Regional Council Coordinator, Nissa Pilcher

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 4/5/2023)

(On record)

CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, we got everybody here so we're going to start the -- reconvene the meeting. So, Tim and Tommy, are you on the phone this morning.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Tommy's going to be gone for a while.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Right now.

MS. PILCHER: He said he was going to call in at 9:00 and then he'd have to log off like 10:00, 10:30.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So are you on the call here, Tim Gervais.

(No comments)

CHAIR REAKOFF: Tommy Kriska.

(No comments)

CHAIR REAKOFF: So kind of need quorum. So for those on the phone we have Darrell and Jenny and myself in the room, we need either Tommy or Tim to call in to start the meeting.

(Pause)

CHAIR REAKOFF: So are you on the phone, Tim.

MR. GERVAIS: Yes, Jack, I just -- just logged in.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. And we're trying to find Tommy who's supposed to call in and then he's going to get -- log out for a while around 10:00 o'clock, 10:30 or something. So give him a couple more minutes and then we'll start the meeting.

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1 One of the first things we're going to
2 be doing is introductions around the room here. We got
3 Amy, we got a couple -- we got one more person that
4 wasn't here yesterday. And then we're going to find
5 out who's on the phone.

6
7 So we can do the phone thing, who's on
8 the phone right now. So I got Tim Gervais.

9
10 MR. KRISKA: Tom Kriska.

11
12 CHAIR REAKOFF: Tom Kriska, thank you.
13 Who else is on the phone this morning.

14
15 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah, good morning. This
16 is Dan Gillikin with Native Village of Napaimute.

17
18 CHAIR REAKOFF: Good morning, Dan.
19 Appreciate you being there.

20
21 MS. QUINLAN: This is Michelle Quinlan
22 with Tanana Chiefs Conference.

23
24 CHAIR REAKOFF: Good morning, Michelle.

25
26 MS. JULIANUS: This is Erin Julianus,
27 BLM Survey.

28
29 CHAIR REAKOFF: Good morning, Erin.

30
31 MR. HARWOOD: Chris Harwood, Kanuti
32 Refuge, Fairbanks.

33
34 CHAIR REAKOFF: Morning, Chris.

35
36 MS. REAKOFF: Kris -- Kristin Reakoff,
37 Kanuti Refuge, Fairbanks.

38
39 CHAIR REAKOFF: Good morning, Kristin.

40
41 MS. MORAN: Tina Moran, Kanuti Refuge.

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43 CHAIR REAKOFF: Good morning, Tina.

44
45 MS. FOX: Joanna Fox, Kanuti Refuge.

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47 CHAIR REAKOFF: Good morning, Joanna.

48
49 MR. HAVENER: Good morning, Jeremy

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1 Havener, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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3 CHAIR REAKOFF: Good morning, Jeremy.

4

5 MR. HAVENER: Good morning, Jack.

6

7 MS. OKADA: Good morning, Marcy Okada,
8 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

9

10 CHAIR REAKOFF: Good morning, Marcy.
11 So is that everybody.

12

13 MR. MASCHMANN: This is Gerald
14 Maschmann with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in
15 Fairbanks.

16

17 CHAIR REAKOFF: Good morning, Gerald.

18

19 MS. FLOREY: Good morning. This is
20 Victoria Florey, National Park Service in Anchorage.

21

22 CHAIR REAKOFF: Good morning, Victoria.
23 Anybody else.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIR REAKOFF: So I don't hear
28 anybody. We're going to bring the meeting to order.
29 At this point in the agenda we have public comments and
30 tribal comments on non-agenda items first thing in the
31 morning for anybody that would like to discuss anything
32 that's not on the agenda that's published on our -- on
33 the OSM website, the updated version. Does anybody
34 have comments.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIR REAKOFF: I don't hear any,
39 nobody's speaking up. So we're to drop back into our
40 agenda. We were in -- we were under H, the annual
41 report. So that is on Page 86 of our meeting book. So
42 you want to speak on that a little bit there, Nissa.

43

44 MS. PILCHER: Sure can. Okay. Good
45 morning, everyone. For the record, Nissa Pilcher,
46 Council Coordinator with OSM. Your Council's draft
47 2022 annual report can be found starting on Page 86 in
48 your supplemental materials packet. As a reminder your
49 annual report ensures the Board has the most up to date

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1 awareness of issues, concerns and current events that
2 impact your subsistence way of life. With your report
3 and recommendation the Board can make informed
4 decisions on regulatory and policy actions.

5

6 At your last meeting in October your
7 Council identified 10 different topics that your
8 Council wanted to include in this annual report. While
9 the report is a bit more than I can manage to read into
10 the record it is available online and if the Council
11 would like I can read the 10 topics into the record.

12

13 CHAIR REAKOFF: We can cover them one
14 at a time because I have a supplement to 1, the sheep
15 management plan. They're -- the State of Alaska, I
16 wrote a management plan for the Council because there
17 is no management plan. And I participated in the State
18 plan -- sheep management planning process which was
19 2014/2015, there was -- all the stakeholders were
20 there, we went to several meetings and basically
21 certain entities, if we said sheep were white, they
22 said they were black and if we said it was summer, they
23 said it was winter. They were -- they were -- it's a
24 consensus system and if it was their intention to have
25 no sheep management plan then they were successful in
26 doing that. And the leader of the meeting was from
27 Nova Scotia and he'd gotten Israelis and Palestinians
28 to agree on a management plan and I says well, you've
29 never dealt with some of these Advisory Committees,
30 these guys are dug in on their issues so that plan
31 failed.

32

33 So I wrote this sheep management plan
34 as a template which is -- I put a lot of time into this
35 thing, I spent a whole bunch of time thinking about all
36 the various issues that we covered in the sheep
37 planning process and so I'll read what -- into the
38 record the first part of the plan I wrote and it's got
39 certain bracketing, it's a seven -- I think a six page
40 document. And so this plan is the Western Interior
41 Dall Sheep Management Plan Guidelines for the April,
42 2023 meeting.

43

44 Western Interior Alaska Regional
45 Advisory Council continues to have grave concerns
46 regarding the current dall sheep populations within the
47 central Brooks Range and Alaska Ranges. The Council's
48 authority to ensure healthy populations of fish and
49 wildlife using recognized scientific principles as

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1 found in ANILCA, title VIII, section 805(3)(a) through
2 (d) and section 805(3)(a) is explicit regarding the
3 evaluation and recommendations concerning policies of
4 the -- and this is regarding Councils, concerning
5 policies and management plans. 3(d)(i) through 4
6 requires Councils to identify and make recommendations
7 regarding management of fish and wildlife to ensure
8 subsistence uses. So when these populations decline
9 Congress wanted the agencies, and I will tell the
10 agencies over and over and over, title VIII is not just
11 outlining the subsistence priority it's telling the
12 agencies that they are going to manage fish and
13 wildlife using recognized scientific principles, that's
14 in ANILCA title VIII. The agencies, oh, the State's
15 doing it, no, the State's not. The State is looking
16 for revenue and so they -- there's some big problems
17 come about when that happens. So the agencies have to
18 get it in their mind that title VIII is strictly how
19 management is to occur on the Federal public lands and
20 that's using recognized scientific principals.

21

22 The dall sheep populations have been
23 and this is the second paragraph. Dall sheep
24 populations have been reduced to numbers far below long
25 term carrying capacities of the habitat. These
26 declines are due to multiple climate events in the past
27 decade and in some excessive harvest mortalities in
28 popular sport hunting areas. Local rural residents
29 have utilized and relied on these sheep for nonwasteful
30 consumptive uses. The customary and traditional use
31 determinations reflect these uses. Many rural
32 residents have recognized the current declines in the
33 sheep populations and voluntarily reduced harvest. And
34 this has occurred since 2018. We voluntarily reduced
35 our harvest since 2018, the closure occurred -- Federal
36 closure occurred in 2022.

37

38 The State of Alaska Board of Game
39 endeavors to develop -- endeavored to develop a sheep
40 management plan in 2014/'15. The broad based user
41 groups' participants could not come to a consensus on
42 several issues. The planning process was a failure.
43 Without a plan to set basic parameters for dall sheep
44 management the populations can be harvested beyond
45 sustainability. WIRAC has successfully advocated to
46 the Federal Subsistence Board regulatory closure for
47 all hunting of suppressed populations, sheep
48 populations in game management units 24A and 26B west
49 of the Sagavanirktok through July 1 of 2024.

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1 The Council is compelled to recommend
2 management strategies regarding the biological
3 parameters needed to rebuild and maintain the sheep
4 populations and the subsistence and nonsubsistence uses
5 on the Federal public lands. So this plan outlines a
6 very extensive, multi pages on sheep ecology. And I'm
7 not going to read that into the record. It goes over
8 what sheep do, how they survive, how -- because
9 apparently when I went before the Board of Game
10 regarding caribou management issues with caribou cows,
11 the Board didn't even know that they only had one calf,
12 they assumed they had twins like most. No, they don't.
13 Apparently these -- some of the Board members don't
14 understand what the ecology, ecological parameters of
15 these populations and so I'm laying it out here.

16
17 Brian asked me what -- to make
18 citations. Some of this is documented in the citations
19 in the closure and OSM was -- had a very thorough
20 bibliography of the various citations using Alaska
21 Department of Fish and Game in several different
22 citations. So there's -- these are all documented and
23 what I'm discussing is a combination of documented
24 scientific data and TEK because I live with dall sheep,
25 I watch them all the time, summer and winter. A lot of
26 managers they only go in the summer and look at them at
27 certain times of the year. I watch them all the time,
28 I live right with them. They're out -- they live on
29 the mountains around my house. I trap, I go up and
30 down the valley, I look at these sheep all the time, I
31 know exactly what they're doing. I know what weather
32 they endure, I know exactly all the parameters of what
33 our sheep population has had to go through. And I
34 watch hunters stalking sub-legal sheep with intentions
35 to kill the sheep. I -- I'm aware of a lot of stuff
36 that the managers spending a little few minutes in the
37 country are not aware of.

38
39 So I go over how dall sheep manage --
40 the management plan remote weather monitoring by staff.
41 And it goes into how you can access weather data all
42 over. There's report -- data weather reporting. I
43 report weather for the National Weather Service in
44 Wiseman, the Profets got an ace snowtow. There's way
45 -- the other -- there's a whole bunch of devices all up
46 and down the valley. There's Tulick Research Station,
47 there's remote weather sites that the research -- the
48 managers -- the Federal land managers can access, they
49 don't necessarily need to go there, but they should at
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1 least go there at the end of the winter.

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4 Survey and timing methodologies. I
5 talk about its current survey methods where they survey
6 them in July. Arbitrarily the State of Alaska decided
7 to survey sheep in July. Well, that's a poor time to
8 survey sheep. Sheep come -- their whole ecology they
9 go to the south facing slopes of mountains, they go to
10 the lowest point on the mountain and then they work
11 their way upslope. And while they're landing, they're
12 landing on this -- all these blossoming flowers and
13 forbes are all putting out all these flowers. What --
14 why do they eat flowers, because it's pollen, pollen's
15 protein. Bees fly around with little sacks of pollen
16 on their legs to -- for brood, it's the protein source.
17 So the sheep are aggregated between -- on south facing
18 slopes, green, south facing slopes between June 5 and
19 June 20th. And surveys should be done during -- I'm
20 suggesting when they should actually fly surveys and
21 the currently suppressed sheep populations should be --
22 you know, certain methodologies should be avoided.

22

23

24 I talk about enumerating the ram group
25 compositions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Arctic
26 National Wildlife Refuge did a whole bunch of comp work
27 in 1986 through 2012 in the Atigun Gorge. In the
28 Atigun River Gorge the Refuge comes within one-half
29 mile of a road, Arctic Refuge avoids the idea that the
30 haul road area is not part of the road. No, you got
31 Refuge lands inside of the corridor. And so the
32 Refuge, Arctic Refuge, needs to be attending these
33 meetings and I want this document disseminated to all
34 the Refuges and BLM, Park Service, U.S. Fish and
35 Wildlife.

35

36

37 And I talk about how the -- what kind
38 of data's needed, what -- how the -- how sheep
39 populations if they're suppressed below carrying
40 capacity, we have to look at recovery and we have to
41 look closely at the demographics of the ram component
42 that tells us we have to have adult rams in the
43 population. If we don't have adult rams in the
44 population it shifts the breeding to young rams, young
45 rams don't have the same fat reserves, they die at a
46 higher rate and bad things happen to the sheep
47 population. This is all documented in the Wayne,
48 Himer, Watson report from how we came up with full curl
49 management. The State says oh, that's all been
50 refuted, but they've yet to produce a document that

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1 refutes that.

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There's regulatory changes that are needed and this Council submitted agenda change requests yesterday to the Board of Game to eliminate the public counting rings on dall sheep, going to a true full curl management which is full curl, both horns broken. That's where the Board of Game has to go to.

So the allocations on Federal lands, the -- this planning process has -- document has an allocation laying out that subsistence users have a high priority, healthy populations are the first priority. And so the how to in high access areas if there's a 20 mile zone that's affected by sport hunters. The Department of Fish and Game and a lot of managers seem to think that the five mile closure bow area has 1.2 sheep harvested. No, the sheep move laterally in and out of the corridor and the rifle hunters shoot the tar out of them in the early part of the season. And those hunters go to -- out to 10 miles, they're affecting sheep within 20 miles of the road on both sides of the road. So the -- so there's -- managers have to look at the affect of the intensive harvest areas.

The data that U.S. Fish and Wildlife, I successfully got them to provide me with the data from 1986 to 2012 and the data's presented on the last page of the plan. It shows graphically on the bottom line averaging out the sheep population oscillates with snow depths and winter conditions, but the long term average of the rams through three-quarter curl stays fairly stable with various cohorts and then drops abruptly past three-quarter curl showing that the hunters are taking sheep that are sub-legal, that are immature. And you end up with only one full curl out of several hundred sheep, that's your breeding, one breeding ram. Well, this has to change. We have to think more broadly and maintaining a healthy population using recognized scientific principals.

I'm not going to go read through the entire plan, I've laid it out orally here. I would like the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council to adopt the plan as a guideline to be disseminated throughout all of the agencies including the State of Alaska for comment to be brought back before the

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1 Council at our fall meeting. And so we'll fine tune
2 this plan slightly and adopt this and submit this to
3 the Federal Subsistence Board. That's my intention is
4 to have the Federal Subsistence Board then look at the
5 plan and go to the overall picture of we have to have a
6 management plan, we cannot by this by guess and by
7 golly game management that has been occurring with
8 State management, full curl is a cure all. No, it's a
9 not. When you look at the data we're losing all of our
10 recruiting rams, we have to go to a management plan.

11

12 So that's -- I would like to have
13 discussion with the Council now. Of course Tim and
14 Tommy don't have the plan and the -- did you get that?

15

16 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, it is online.

17

18 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, it's online. But
19 did you look at the plan at all, Tim?

20

21 MR. GERVAIS: Negative, Jack.

22

23 CHAIR REAKOFF: So yeah. The Council
24 members have to -- the plan has to be -- hard copy sent
25 to all of our Council members. I am a busy person, I
26 have to work for a living and stuff, I was hurt, I
27 didn't develop this plan -- I didn't finish this plan
28 until Sunday and so I do not expect the Council to
29 review the plan. I do not want to pass this plan, I
30 just want to move it forward so that the Council can
31 look at the plan and the -- all of the agencies,
32 especially the Federal land management agencies and
33 then we'll fine tune this plan at our fall meeting.

34

35 So does that sound like a good course
36 forward to the Council? I see affirmative from Jenny
37 and Darrell. And what do you think, Tommy.....

38

39 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, that's.....

40

41 CHAIR REAKOFF:and Tim.

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43 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, that sounds very
44 reasonable.

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46 CHAIR REAKOFF: Tommy.

47

48 (No comments)

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1 CHAIR REAKOFF: So anyway, the Chair
2 will entertain a motion.....

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4 MR. KRISKA: Hello.

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6 MR. VENT: Tommy's here.

7
8 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Tommy, so does
9 that sound like a good course forward to.....

10
11 MR. KRISKA: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIR REAKOFF:develop a
14 management plan?

15
16 MR. KRISKA: Yes.

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18 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So the Chair
19 will entertain a motion to adopt the management plan as
20 a guideline as it's stated as a guideline to move it
21 forward to be sent out to all the various agencies
22 including OSM analysis and the State of Alaska for
23 comments and to review all these comments at our fall
24 meeting and it'll be a agenda for the fall, 2023
25 meeting.

26
27 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
28 adopt the plan and to move it forward.

29
30 Darrell.

31
32 MR. VENT: Yes, that's good.

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34 CHAIR REAKOFF: Darrell makes a motion,
35 Jenny seconds. Any further discussion on the
36 management plan guidelines.

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38 MR. VENT: Just a few comments.

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40 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go ahead. Go ahead,
41 Darrell, please, do.

42
43 MR. VENT: All right. So I know this
44 is not the only place where they hunt sheep. I'm just
45 kind of curious what the other areas are, how they're
46 being affected by this hunting. I don't -- you know, I
47 don't have any -- seeing any information on here on
48 these other areas that do have sheep. I know there's
49 some up in -- around -- not too far from Arctic Village
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1 and there's some down here by Paxson and those areas.
2 And, you know, like you said Anaktuvuk has their area.
3 I -- you know, we don't -- I don't really have any, you
4 know, anything on paper on those. So I'm just curious.

5
6 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, the management
7 plan is not to go over all the data. I gave an example
8 of how road access areas in some sport hunting
9 intensive -- Unit 19C which is -- which is the west
10 side of the Alaska Range right from -- close to
11 McGrath, but also within easy striking range of
12 Anchorage is an intensely hunted area by sport hunters.

13
14 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

15
16 CHAIR REAKOFF: The Board of Game in
17 October the Vice-Chair, Stosh Hoffman, made a proposal,
18 a Board generated proposal to close dall sheep hunting
19 for five years because he was from McGrath and he's
20 very aware that they have a problem there, big time
21 problem like we do.

22
23 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

24
25 CHAIR REAKOFF: The Board reviewed the
26 proposal and then -- and when was that, last month they
27 reviewed the proposal and they -- all they did was
28 eliminate nonresident harvest which was a -- it helped,
29 but it does not affect the overall problem. Our
30 proposal to eliminate counting ring is a Statewide
31 proposal. The agenda change request is a Statewide
32 proposal that will address that 19C because at the end
33 of this plan here I talk about how the Council is
34 concerned about the Alaska Range sheep population, but
35 those are predominantly State land areas. So we -- so
36 the proposal that we're making will help in these
37 intensive hunting areas. And so there's areas that
38 don't have -- like Anaktuvuk Pass it's a park, there's
39 not a lot of people, it's the local people that are
40 hunting there.

41
42 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

43
44 CHAIR REAKOFF: There's some areas
45 around Arctic Village, it's a remote area, but they
46 have a closure because it -- even though it was way out
47 in the middle of nowhere they have the Red Sheep are
48 closure area near Arctic Village.

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1 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

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4 CHAIR REAKOFF: So there are some
5 areas, other -- and this is -- you're asking for this
6 kind of information. The OSM analysis -- this -- when
7 we -- OSM can review this and they can make -- please
8 make comments about other areas that may be -- I would
9 like the other Regional Advisory Councils to also
10 review this plan that have sheep, Southcentral, Eastern
11 Interior, Northwest Arctic, you know, North Slope
12 Regional Advisory Council has huge amounts of sheep
13 inside their region. Those Councils should also be
14 reviewing this plan and making comments also. Each
15 Council can make comments on the plan. So after -- my
16 vision is that the Federal process will take all these
17 comments, each Council will make their comments and
18 then the Federal Subsistence Board will adopt a final
19 document. We're not going to throw the document away,
20 we're going to move forward with some kind of a
21 document because we cannot rely on by guess and by
22 golly management. We're under healthy populations
23 using recognized scientific principle directive from
24 ANILCA.

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So does that answer your question
there.

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MR. VENT: Yes. It's.....

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CHAIR REAKOFF: And any other
questions.

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MR. VENT: Yeah, it's just, you know,
that these sheep hunts, they probably -- they probably
make a little bit of money for the State by handing
out, you know, hunting license and, you know,
expeditions or whatever they call those to bring people
out hunting. So I'm just, you know, curious that maybe
because it's so hard to get them that, you know,
they're going to pay a good price for something like
that. That's.....

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CHAIR REAKOFF: I'll speak.....

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MR. VENT: All right.

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CHAIR REAKOFF:I'll speak to
that. As the dall sheep population contracts, North
America wide sheep populations are contracting

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1 throughout all of Alaska and they got deep snow over in
2 the Yukon and the Northwest Territory right this
3 minute. As the sheep populations contract supply and
4 demand, the sheep hunts went from 18 to \$20,000 to 30
5 to \$35,000 last year. So these hunt prices are going
6 way up. Where does the State make money. The State
7 makes money from selling an \$850 nonresident license
8 tag and a \$160 nonresident license. When they come --
9 and then when we buy rifle shells, you buy your shotgun
10 shells, you're paying an 11 percent tax. We're paying
11 11 percent tax on sporting goods. Those are allocated
12 to the State on a three to one ratio. For every dollar
13 the State sells in license, they get \$3 in Pittman-
14 Roberts funds. A sheep is worth \$4,040 to the
15 Department of Fish and Game. The State of Alaska was
16 -- the U.S. Fish and Wildlife administers the Pittman-
17 Roberts funds, wildlife restoration funds. The State
18 of Alaska could have received an addition \$12 million
19 last year, but they didn't sell enough licenses. So
20 the State of Alaska is -- will cut the corner on
21 management trying to attract that other revenue. When
22 we made that closure, proposed a closure if -- Ryan
23 here came up with a number from the State of Alaska of
24 32 nonresident hunters hunted in the closure area, the
25 State actually mentioned that. Thirty-two hunters if
26 \$129,280 is what the State lost. That's why they're
27 fighting hard over that closure, they're losing money.

28

29

30 The reality is U.S. Fish and Wildlife
31 and I'll state this on the record, U.S. Fish and
32 Wildlife needs to seriously look at how Pittman-Roberts
33 wildlife restoration funds are allocated. They -- if a
34 State is eligible for \$18 million give it to them,
35 don't make them sell licenses, don't make them kill the
36 last animals to get that revenue. This is a big, big
37 issue. And it should be actually one of our annual
38 report topics is how these funds are allocated to the
39 states and how the states are overharvesting, driven to
40 overharvest resources because they're trying to get
41 those Pittman-Roberts funds. We got a -- we got a
42 democratic president, oh, my gosh, everybody goes out
43 and buys every last rifle shell. You can't buy a
44 shotgun shell, I can't get any animal at all, that's
45 because everybody bought -- they got toilet paper
46 stacked to the ceiling in their garage and on the other
47 half is shotgun shells and rifle shells. But the
48 Pittman-Roberts funds are unbelievably high right now.
49 This is a gen -- this is a problem, a giant problem

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1 throughout the State of Alaska. The State of Alaska
2 will drive to manage for maximum use and beyond
3 sustainability, many -- I'll state it many times,
4 Mulchatna, five nonresident caribou limit with massive
5 amounts of harvest power annihilated the bull component
6 of the Mulchatna Herd. The State will say oh, it --
7 they got hoof rotted. No, they didn't. They went to
8 one large bull per hundred cows and they only had 14
9 bulls. They went into reproductive failure. That's
10 what happened to the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. Nobody's
11 fooling me, I've got the numbers in my case right here.
12 So the reality is the allocation of these revenues is a
13 big problem. It should be one of our annual report
14 topics to the Federal Subsistence Board, how the U.S.
15 Fish and Wildlife needs to change the funding formula
16 to the State. It's a giant, giant problem for Alaska.
17 When we have to deal with declining populations because
18 of large nonresident participating there should be a
19 change. But right now we're stuck in that paradigm,
20 that's what the problem is. You're asking about how
21 these revenues -- there's a little bit of money, no,
22 we're talking millions.

23

24 MR. VENT: Yeah.

25

26 CHAIR REAKOFF: We're talking millions
27 of dollars.

28

29 MR. VENT: That's -- that's what I was
30 wondering about.....

31

32 REPORTER: Darrell. Darrell.

33

34 MR. VENT: That's -- I was just
35 wondering because I was wondering about the caribou
36 hunts, you know, they've been having a lot of hunters
37 go out there and hunt these caribou and it's being
38 diverted because there's too much hunting pressure in
39 there. And, you know, it's starting to show now
40 because we use to get caribou all the way up into a
41 shelter cabin area, that's about halfway from the hot
42 springs on.....

43

44 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

45

46 MR. VENT:but now we don't -- we
47 don't hardly see anything.....

48

49 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah.

50

0188

1 MR. VENT:it's.....

2

3

CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, the size of the herd, the bigger the herd the further they go, the smaller the herd, the less they go until they get to a point where there's residual herds that never -- like Augsan and Raymount herds, they don't anywhere, they kind of just handout wherever they live, they don't go anyplace, they don't have migrate, they don't have to.

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MR. VENT: Yeah, we saw a few of them around Donkey Flats, but the thing that, you know, that really gets to me is that you start seeing these herds and they're hanging around the villages because predation problem.....

CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

MR. VENT:and hunting. You know, it just.....

CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

MR. VENT:they just want to stay in one place and feel a little bit of safety even so they're getting show at, they're getting less shot at there than other areas that they're trying to avoid.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh. So we have a motion on the table.....

REPORTER: Jack.

CHAIR REAKOFF:to.....

REPORTER: Jack.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, excuse me. We have a motion on the table to adopt this plan to move it forward, there'll be -- we'll get plenty of discussion especially from the State of Alaska, but I encourage, I want everybody to be inclusive, I'm an inclusive person and I want the State of Alaska to have comments on this. But we are moving forward with this management plan, we're going to morph it into some kind of a document that's going to be a management plan. And the Councils, the various Regional Advisory Councils, need to look at the plan also. So, you know, it's apparent

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1 I -- we need to make one more Federal proposal. I --
2 that was -- we -- I had a little discussion this
3 morning, I think we need to make one more Federal
4 proposal. So we need to move this forward.

5

6 Any further discussion on the
7 management plan to move it forward.

8

9 Go ahead, Jenny.

10

11 MS. PELKOLA: I would just like to say
12 that it seems like when we come across this, this is a
13 new thing.....

14

15 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

16

17 MS. PELKOLA:maybe for us.

18

19 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Yes, brand
20 new.

21

22 MS. PELKOLA: But I think the
23 persistence, we need to continue to even if it fails or
24 whatever and they reject it, we just need to continue
25 to bring it up and bring it up and bring it up and
26 maybe someday they'll listen.....

27

28 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

29

30 MS. PELKOLA:hopefully.

31

32 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, we're going to
33 persevere on this one. We're going to endeavor to
34 persevere. So we -- so we're going to move this
35 document forward.

36

37 Any further quest -- any -- can we have
38 a question on the motion.

39

40 MR. VENT: Call for question.

41

42 CHAIR REAKOFF: The question is called.
43 Those in favor of adopting the Western Interior
44 Regional Advisory Council Dall Sheep Management Plan
45 Guidelines for 2023 signify by saying aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

0190

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: All right. So we move
2 that forward.

3
4 While we're on this sheep thing I was
5 discussing with OSM Staff that we need to make a
6 placeholder, we have a closure right now for dall sheep
7 in Unit 24A and 26B west of the Sagavanirktok River.
8 So we need to submit a proposal to maintain that
9 closure for another two year period with the -- as a --
10 referred to as a placeholder proposal under the State
11 system with the caveat that the -- contingent on
12 whether the Board of Game adopts or eliminates, repeals
13 counting sheep for adult rams as a legal. If they
14 adopt -- if they eliminate counting rings and go to
15 full curl and both horns broken then we'll retract --
16 my guess once we submit the proposal the Board could
17 retract it or defer it. Once it's submitted it's the
18 property of the Board, but we need to get that -- need
19 to submit that proposal for an extension for a two year
20 extension from July 1 of 2024 to July 1 of 2026 as
21 Federal subsistence proposal with the understanding
22 it's contingent on what actions the Board of Games
23 takes on addressing the heart -- the take of sub-legal
24 rams in a -- in a faltering population.

25
26 So that would be the outline of the
27 proposal. The Chair will entertain a motion make that
28 -- to submit that proposal to the Federal Subsistence
29 Management Program.

30
31 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

32
33 CHAIR REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.

34
35 MR. VENT: Second.

36
37 CHAIR REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrell.
38 Any discussion on that was clear on the record.

39
40 Do we have a question.

41
42 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

43
44 CHAIR REAKOFF: Question's called by
45 Jenny. Those in favor of submitting that proposal --
46 placeholder proposal as described signify by saying
47 aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

0191

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

4

5 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, before we.....

6

7 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

8

9 MR. GERVAIS:before we go on --
10 yeah, before we move on can we -- I think a big point
11 just came up with the Pittman-Roberts funds. We've had
12 trouble with that for years with the State trying to
13 habitude nonresident hunting permits to be able to
14 supplement those Pittman-Roberts funds. And we just
15 heard the caribou biologist yesterday advocating for
16 harvest of big caribou bulls as the most efficient way
17 to cull the herd. When you're -- when you're culling
18 the best of breed out of the herd then you're going to
19 get -- we get bad genetics going forward. I remember
20 when I was -- early in my guiding career when I was
21 working on the upper Nushagak River and they had a
22 spike four to 50 regulation there. And basically over
23 the five years that I was there they culled the -- the
24 fuller brow tine bulls were eliminated and we were just
25 harvesting the 50 plus bulls that had -- had three
26 tines because the bulls with the big -- with the large
27 number of brow tines just got eliminated from the
28 population. So I think yeah, I think the best strategy
29 is to ask to evaluate the way those Pittman-Roberts
30 funds are allocated and we think that the State can
31 pick up some of that money even (indiscernible -
32 distortion) conservation measures taken to reduce the
33 take of these healthy animals.

34

35 And also there's other States and lands
36 like Arizona and Utah, they have managed to put harvest
37 quotas on those desert big horn sheep and hunters are
38 way bidding up those permits, some of them go to
39 auction and other ones go for 100,000 even beyond that.
40 So there's way the State can generate revenue off of
41 sheep with -- even by restricting the harvest.

42

43 So yeah, I would like to see the
44 request for Pittman-Roberts funding reevaluation as one
45 of the topics in our annual report.

46

47 CHAIR REAKOFF: I feel that it's -- I
48 think it's -- my opinion is looking at the management
49 for the last 30 years, when a Deputy Director of

50

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1 Wildlife Conservation, Mr. Glasser, stands up in the
2 March of 2022 meeting and basically speaks so loud it
3 almost blew the mic out, that the State of Alaska is
4 the only agency in Alaska that makes money for the
5 State of Alaska. He spoke that really loudly. And
6 yeah, but at the cost to the resources many times. And
7 so the State of Alaska is like -- the Department of
8 Fish and Game is touting that they're making all this
9 money, but I can look at Nelchina Caribou, why do they
10 have high participation in Nelchina, because they have
11 a lot of demand for that herd, but Fortymile has
12 nonresident participation. They got lots of hunting
13 pressure, but they still -- they have to have a lot of
14 participation, have high nonresident participation.
15 Reality is the Pittman-Roberts funds issue is a big
16 problem. The State of Alaska would be more
17 conservation minded if they weren't trying to have lots
18 of participation.

19

20 So I think one of our annual report
21 topics should speak directly to the problem, money left
22 on the table for the State of Alaska in particular is
23 money lost in their mind. They will fight to have the
24 highest nonresident participation, nonresident
25 participation brings in the most revenue on a three to
26 one ratio. So it's a big, big problem.

27

28 The Board -- the Federal Subsistence
29 Board needs to be aware of this, the other Councils
30 needs to be aware of this. So this action on our -- on
31 our annual report.....

32

33 Are you capturing some of this, Nissa.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIR REAKOFF: So this annual topic is
38 one of the biggest issues in game management in Alaska
39 at this time. There's Dingell funds that are allocated
40 to sport fishing and but -- and sometimes that enters
41 into the equation, but not like this game management
42 stuff.

43

44 So we -- I do feel that you're -- that
45 we -- it needs to be in an annual report topic to the
46 Federal Subsistence Board so that they become aware and
47 speak to the Interior Department, to the Secretary of
48 Interior analyze -- and maybe this will work more
49 smoothly with OSM being higher up into the food chain,
50

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1 the Interior Department to analyze this allocation
2 problem, this is a nationwide problem, there are other
3 States that do the same thing. And Wyoming just had a
4 bad winter, they're going to be really pressing to get
5 their funding in Wyoming and some of the States. They
6 got some high mortality years.

7

8 So you're right. So anybody got
9 anything to add into this Pittman-Roberts discussion,
10 Tim or anybody else in the room.

11

12 MR. VENT: I.....

13

14 CHAIR REAKOFF: Darrell.

15

16 MR. VENT: Yeah, I just have a
17 question. I know that we have.....

18

19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted).

21

22 CHAIR REAKOFF: We've got -- we have --
23 we've got Darrell speaking. We've got Darrell speaking
24 right now.

25

26 Go ahead, Darrell.

27

28 MR. VENT: Yeah, I know that we're
29 having some issues with hunting which is transporting.
30 We have people coming in and they go out hunting and
31 there's like, you know, maybe six in a group, but they
32 catch a moose and they hang it and put plastic or, you
33 know, covering on it. And about six, seven days later
34 they finally get done with their hunt and they bring it
35 over to the airport and then they try to make us sign a
36 paper saying that could you accept this moose meat. I
37 say why -- why didn't you give it to us -- you know, we
38 saw it hanging there four days ago, you know, it was --
39 it was about six days altogether by the time they tried
40 to give us that meat and it was already -- it was -- it
41 was not good. So we told them we -- no, we can't sign
42 that paper for you.

43

44 That -- that's a problem that we're
45 having with, you know -- you know, there's some issues
46 like it's what we consider wanton waste, but then the
47 State doesn't have any kind of -- you know, not enough
48 on the transporting. That's what I figure because they
49 -- they don't have to abide by a lot of the rules that
50

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1 we -- you know, we have to in the village. Some --
2 it's just something that I thought was an issue because
3 that's part of hunting is transporting and I just
4 wanted to make sure that, you know, they're looking at
5 every aspect of all hunting.

6
7 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, that's an
8 educational issue and Eastern Interior's been working
9 on some of that Stuff. The Refuges should be make --
10 you know, handing out pamphlets on -- that's beginning
11 to be a big issue over in McGrath, there's a lot of
12 rotten meat coming off the Innoko Flats, a lot of
13 rotten meat's coming in. Tim or correction, Kevin
14 Whitworth was talking about that. That's an
15 educational issue.

16
17 So but this annual report topic of the
18 Pittman-Roberts funds, it's being added to our annual
19 report.

20
21 And what number would you like to
22 allocate it.

23
24 MS. PILCHER: I was thinking it could
25 become number 4 unless you wanted to bump it up higher
26 because that would be after and the first three
27 items.....

28
29 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

30
31 MS. PILCHER:are game based.

32
33 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

34
35 MS. PILCHER: But I could put it at the
36 top if you want, it's up to you guys.

37
38 CHAIR REAKOFF: No, we'll put it as 4.
39 And so we addressed the sheep 1 and 2, the sheep
40 issue.....

41
42 REPORTER: Jack.

43
44 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, excuse me. We've
45 addressed 1 and 2 of the sheep issue in the annual
46 report. Continued decline of the Mulchatna Herd. I
47 talked to Kenton -- I called up the Togiak Refuge,
48 talked to the Refuge Manager, there's basically been no
49 hunting, the herd has declined and there's no -- there
50

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1 is no hunting and there's lots of educational outreach
2 to the communities that are -- there's some illegal
3 harvest by communities in Unit 18.

4

5 Commercial interception of Kuskokwim
6 River and Yukon River bound salmon. That was a large
7 discussion at this meeting earlier. So there are
8 subsistence restrictions on the Kuskokwim River for --
9 during the coho's run, the -- I think the Board of Fish
10 is going to take this proposal up again. Did they --
11 they -- I think they didn't actually act on that. Is
12 -- too bad Kevin isn't on this call.

13

14 Go ahead, Nissa.

15

16 MS. PILCHER: For the record, this is
17 Nissa. I thought they did. I can verify. Hold on.

18

19 CHAIR REAKOFF: Maybe they did. And
20 number 6 -- number 4 will be the Pittman-Roberts funds
21 allocation discussion.

22

23 Number 6 on our annual report is
24 highlighting the success and request expansion of
25 tribal consultation. That's self explanatory.

26

27 Continued reliance on non-salmon
28 species for subsistence needs. That's self
29 explanatory.

30

31 Continue to encourage the Federal
32 agencies to assist in salmon recovery. That's pretty
33 self explanatory.

34

35 Development of the Ambler Road Project.
36 That's self explanatory.

37

38 And so that we -- I'm the Gates of the
39 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission, I asked Ambler
40 AIEDA what they were going to do, they basically have
41 been cutting helipads all the -- they haven't drilled
42 any river crossings, they haven't located any gravel
43 sites, they haven't accomplished anything, they're
44 cutting helipads for access. And they've done
45 archeological work. And when they do find -- they
46 found a real nice arrow point on the John River and
47 when they found that arrow point they -- the
48 archeologist says well, you got to document where this
49 came -- well, that floated down here on the ice, they
50

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1 didn't want to begin. So when they do find
2 archeological things they're going to make it come from
3 upriver or some other place other than the right of
4 way. So there's some real problems going on there and
5 she quit, the archeologist quit because this was going
6 on. Just as a side note to that Ambler Road Project,
7 nothing is happening so far. Spending a lot of money
8 to cut helipads.

9

10 Representation on the Council, number
11 10. So we're talking about, you know, we need -- and
12 so I was talking -- we were talking about that with --
13 I forget what his name is, Mr. -- the Assistant to
14 the.....

15

16 MR. VENT: Garrett.

17

18 CHAIR REAKOFF:Garrett yesterday
19 about this, getting -- oh, no, I'm looking at the right
20 one.

21

22 Representation of the Council on the
23 Wood Bison Planning Project. And Robert Walker made
24 application, is his -- is he up for appointment now or
25 what's going on with Robert.

26

27 MS. PELKOLA: Did they say if he did.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does anybody know if
30 Robert Walker was appointed.

31

32 MR. VENT: I do. I.....

33

34 MS. PILCHER: So the nomination panel
35 will meet over the summer.

36

37 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, I see.

38

39 MS. PILCHER: So.....

40

41 CHAIR REAKOFF: So he's still in the
42 process.

43

44 MS. PILCHER: Yes, this process is
45 long.

46

47 CHAIR REAKOFF: This will be addressed,
48 this representation on the -- of the Council on the
49 Wood Bison Management Plan. I've been attending that
50

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1 telephonically and Robert Walker was also on there, on
2 that call and so that's an issue. That's a very
3 important aspect of this region is wood bison
4 reintroduction. This -- for those newer members this
5 Council advocated heavily for the 10J rule making them
6 exempt under an experimental population. And this --
7 U.S. Fish and Wildlife was pushing back about releasing
8 them near Refuges. This Council was a driving force
9 and requested that they be introduced on the Innoko
10 Flats. And so that kind of was a turning point,
11 everybody forgot that part, but I was there. And so
12 this Council -- they says well, they wouldn't -- they
13 don't want to put -- nobody wants them on the Yukon
14 Flats, nobody wants them in Minto, I says we'll take
15 them, Mr. Chairman, we'll take them. And this Council
16 drove the acceptance of the 10J rule and wood bison
17 were introduced into the Innoko Flats. They're doing
18 -- they're actually doing really well. The first ones
19 released kept falling through ice, they were dumb, they
20 were raised in a pasture. The ones that live there now
21 they know how to live on the Innoko Flats. And their
22 population is -- they're really getting really healthy.
23 And they introduced some more there.

24

25 So I'm really encouraged by that,
26 they're really a nice animal, they do not compete with
27 moose, they forage for sedges and stuff. They have a
28 complete place in the ecosystem, but died out from --
29 well, various reasons, but 150, 200 years ago. There's
30 actual oral histories of the last hunt around a upper
31 Gwich'in area up around Fort Yukon. They talk about
32 the last hunts up there.

33

34 So those would be the 10 or now 11
35 annual report topics. Any discussion on those topics,
36 further discussion on those topics by Council members.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIR REAKOFF: Tim or Tommy,
41 discussions on the annual report.

42

43 MR. KRISKA: No comment.

44

45 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

46

47 MR. GERVAIS: I think you've got it
48 covered well.

49

50

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1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Darrell.

2

3

4 MR. VENT: Yeah, I just have one that
5 you were talking up introduce -- introduction of bison.
6 You know, that we're having real issues up in our area
7 with the caribou, we can't get the ones that's healthy.
8 We -- we've been eating, you know, real lean caribou,
9 it's not a lot of fan of them. And I was talking with
10 Ben Stevens over in TCC and they were talking about
11 reindeer. And I was saying, well, you know, if we're
12 running out of food sources, you know, our table used
13 to be -- we used to have a healthy food source. We had
14 fish, we had caribou, we had moose, you know, bear,
15 everything on that table. Now you look at the -- if
16 you, you know, if they ever did another analysis on it
17 they're going to find out that it's mostly moose on the
18 table and.....

18

19

CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

20

21

22

23

24

MR. VENT:a lot of times it's not
really healthy moose, but, you know, at least it's
something to eat.

25

26

CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

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MR. VENT: So we're, you know,
wondering if they had a -- something like reindeer
which would stay in the area and when they -- when they
drop their young they come back to the same area every
year to drop their young. And we were talking about
that and I said well, if they need someplace to put
that reindeer in order for later on if there's no food
sources because the way the State is managing right now
we're having a tough time with it. We need to try to
put something in place for that, we need -- we need
something's that going to make -- you know, help our
people along in the years. And we're talking about
reindeer. So that -- that was the only thing that, you
know, Nome area has and it's been successful. I mean,
there was a lady over there that sold reindeer and she
did really well with it. And we just -- we just needed
something to, you know, put on our table. And I think
reindeer might help us if we can get a way to get it
over there.

47

48

49

50

CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, I'm -- I used to
fish down Bristol Bay, there was an old timer down
there, Andrew Wasley, was a reindeer herder. He was

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1 trained by the Sami reindeer herders. But they brought
2 these reindeer there and they had to stay with the
3 reindeer up close, they call it close herding, they got
4 to live with the reindeer all the time. It's a
5 nightmare trying to stay with these reindeer because I
6 guess you wake up in the morning and they took off and
7 you've got to go find out where they're at. When the
8 -- over around Nome they used to have quite a bit of
9 reindeer until the Western Arctic Caribou Herd started
10 using the Seward Peninsula. When they got near those
11 reindeer, those reindeer herders -- the reindeer want
12 to go to the big herds, they were having a heck of a
13 time, they used helicopters. They lost thousands of
14 reindeer to the caribou herds. It happened up there in
15 Wainwright, they have -- they build up these reindeer
16 herds, the Western Herd was small back in the early
17 part of the century, you know, between 1900 to 1942.
18 By 1942 the herd -- Wainwright had 28,000 reindeer and
19 the west -- caribou came there that one year, they all
20 took off. An elder in Wiseman told me in 1943 he
21 killed four caribou, one of them had a ear tag, one of
22 them was those reindeer coming down from Wainwright.
23 You can hardly keep the herd -- if caribou come near
24 those herds you will lose your reindeer, that's what
25 happens to them.

26

27 So yeah, you should really talk to
28 these reindeer herders about if you got -- if caribou
29 come around over there on the Koyukuk Flats you'll lose
30 -- you will lose your reindeer. We should talk to
31 those guys, they know quite a bit about it.

32

33 MR. VENT: Yeah. Well, we notice, you
34 know, there hasn't been no caribou around Huslia area.
35 The only place that we see caribou is between Huslia
36 and Galena and that's mountain caribou there, I mean,
37 those are the ones that's up high because they're
38 bigger -- they're bigger, sturdier caribou, but there's
39 not very much left.

40

41 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

42

43 MR. VENT: And, you know, just for a
44 food source, you know, there's people that, you know,
45 would want to learn about something like that because
46 our people used to move around with the -- with the
47 animals. And that was what we call nomadic.

48

49 CHAIR REAKOFF: You -- you could -- you

50

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1 know, you got quite a bit of K Corp land around there,
2 you could fence -- you got quite a bit of lichen around
3 Huslia and it's.....

4

5 MR. VENT: Oh, yeah.

6

7 CHAIR REAKOFF:yeah, they -- if
8 you fence them you can keep them, it's your land, you
9 can keep them. But I don't think that you could -- the
10 snow's pretty deep there, you'd have to kind of like
11 take care of them and stuff, you know. But chasing
12 them around, that's a nightmare, these guys talk about
13 waking up in the morning and the cari -- the reindeer
14 are eight miles away and they got to pack up all their
15 sled gear and all their dogs and everything and go
16 chase them down. If you're close herding -- that's why
17 they quit close herding because it's too much trouble.

18

19 MR. VENT: Yeah, we were talk.....

20

21 CHAIR REAKOFF: So off topic here.

22

23 MR. VENT: Yeah.

24

25 CHAIR REAKOFF: And so we have a motion
26 to adopt, finalize our annual report. Did we make a
27 motion yet?

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIR REAKOFF: No. So we need a
32 motion to adopt our finalized annual report to submit
33 to the Federal Subsistence Board.

34

35 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

36

37 CHAIR REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.

38

39 MR. VENT: Second.

40

41 CHAIR REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrell.
42 Further discussion on the annual report.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIR REAKOFF: Call for question. Go
47 ahead, Darrell.

48

49 MR. VENT: Question.

50

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1 CHAIR REAKOFF: The question's called.
2 Those in favor of a.....

3
4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted).

6
7 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Those in favor
8 of the annual report.....

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 (No opposing votes)

13
14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted).

16
17 CHAIR REAKOFF: I'm getting feedback
18 from somebody else there. So anyways the vote is --
19 the vote is unanimous. They voted in favor of the
20 annual report.

21
22 Clear on the record, the -- there were
23 all affirmative votes on -- that's what -- they though
24 we were voting. So the annual report is finalized.

25
26 Nissa, do you want clar -- revote for
27 clarification?

28
29 MS. PILCHER: No.

30
31 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. What do you
32 want.

33
34 MS. PILCHER: I just wanted to verify
35 with you guys, so proposal 91 which is that one that
36 concerned the Kuskokwim area on lawful gear which would
37 allow Fish and Game more flexibility in their
38 management of the Kuskokwim.

39
40 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah.

41
42 MS. PILCHER: That did pass.....

43
44 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

45
46 MS. PILCHER:at the Board of Fish
47 seven to zero. It is in your supplemental material
48 packet at tab 2.

49
50

0202

1 And also to address some questions that
2 Darrell had earlier, there's an item further down the
3 agenda, Item K, hunter ethics education and outreach
4 initiative discussion. That might help with your
5 earlier discussion about the transporters and meat
6 care, we might get more into that a little bit.

7
8 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, maybe we should
9 have -- we voted a moment too soon, maybe we should
10 detract that, the Kuskokwim -- where is that, what's
11 the name of that. I got another -- lets restate it as
12 four because it's a non-issue now. Well, not really.
13 I was talking about this interception. That's still an
14 ongoing issue.

15
16 MS. PILCHER: Uh-huh.

17
18 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, we're good.....

19
20 REPORTER: Jack.

21
22 CHAIR REAKOFF:all is well.

23
24 REPORTER: Jack.

25
26 CHAIR REAKOFF: All is -- all is well.
27 So just internal discussion on the annual report
28 specifics, but we'll move that annual report forward.
29 Thanks for that information, Nissa.

30
31 And Federal Subsistence Board updated
32 draft Council's correspondence policy. Brent Vickers.

33
34 Brent, are you going to give us a
35 review on that. Oh, you're -- oh, you got -- you were
36 down for a time certain. Can you do that now?

37
38 MR. VICKERS: I can do this now, yes.

39
40 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

41
42 MR. VICKERS: Am I down for a time
43 certain?

44
45 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, this was our.....

46
47 MR. VICKERS: Oh, that's right.

48
49 CHAIR REAKOFF:teleconference.

50

0203

1 MR. VICKERS: Okay. I'm sorry. We
2 need to make sure that either Katya or Robbin is
3 available for questions since they're the.....

4
5 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Do you want
6 to.....

7
8 MR. VICKERS:engineers of this.

9
10 CHAIR REAKOFF:skip this
11 temporarily until we can find them, make sure they're
12 on the -- or just.....

13
14 MR. VICKERS: That's fine with me, I'm
15 in no hurry.

16
17 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, I mean, we want
18 to cover this.

19
20 MR. VICKERS: Yeah. I'm just -- I don't
21 need to do it now.

22
23 CHAIR REAKOFF: Is Robbin and Katya
24 available.

25
26 MR. VICKERS: We're checking that right
27 now.

28
29 MS. PILCHER: Let's find out.

30
31 MR. VICKERS: Thank you.

32
33 CHAIR REAKOFF: Just one moment people
34 on the phone. We're trying to find out if we've got
35 OSM Staff that can go over this. We're going to go
36 over the Federal Subsistence Board updated draft
37 correspondence -- Council correspondence policy.

38
39 (Teleconference interference -
40 participants not muted).

41
42 CHAIR REAKOFF: We've got -- we have
43 somebody that's on the phone with an open mic, you want
44 to push star, six unless you're talking. And except
45 for Tommy and Tim. Council members can stay with an
46 open mic, but I hear background discussion from
47 somebody.

48
49 Yes.

50

0204

1 MS. PILCHER: For the record this is
2 Nissa Pilcher. So what we could do is we could just
3 proceed with the correspondence and then if there's
4 questions we could maybe pause it.

5
6 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So we'll just
7 move forward with -- Darrell stepped out for a moment,
8 but I think we can proceed.

9
10 So go ahead.

11
12 MR. VICKERS: Okay. Thank you very
13 much. Mr. Chair, members of the Council, for the
14 record my name is Brent Vickers and I am the
15 Anthropology Division Supervisor at OSM. Meeting
16 materials for this agenda can be found on Page 93 of
17 your meeting books. And there is another material that
18 I believe Nissa just passed out to you, it's a printed
19 document. They're two versions of the same thing. So
20 I'll go through what's going on here.

21
22 What the Office of Subsistence
23 Management would like is for you to review the com --
24 and comment on suggested update to the current Council
25 correspondence policy which has been in effect and
26 unchanged since 2004. The update is meant to
27 streamline and clarify the policy. Hopefully the
28 suggested edits eliminate any unnecessary language and
29 information, clarifies the guidance on the official
30 scope of the Council correspondence, to whom the
31 Councils may or may not correspond directly and the
32 process for correspondence. The draft -- so the draft
33 updated version of the policy is on Page 93 of your
34 Council books. Any of the new language is in bold
35 while the proposed -- the proposed removed language is
36 not represented in it. So just the changed language in
37 here, anything removed isn't represented. For
38 comparison to the original, that's the document that
39 Nissa just passed to you.

40
41 Primary changes in the draft include a
42 shortened preamble, the introduction -- introductory
43 paragraphs of the policy summarizing the intent of the
44 policy and the authorities foundational to the
45 Councils. Element 1 uses clear language to define the
46 content and focus of Council correspondence. Element 5
47 combines elements that define the correspondence
48 process. Element 7 confirms that Councils can submit
49 comments on the State regulatory proposals directly to
50

0205

1 the Board of Fish and the Board of Game without any
2 review by Office of Subsistence Management, the
3 Assistant Regional Director, ARD. And element 9
4 clarifies that the Councils may not write directly to
5 Federally elected or appointed officials due to the
6 Hatch Act restrictions.

7

8 Finally and most importantly, these
9 changes will not prevent Council members from writing
10 to whomever they wish as private citizens or in other
11 capacities.

12

13 Please take a moment to review the
14 suggested changes or if you prefer I can read the
15 policy into the record.

16

17 CHAIR REAKOFF: We're looking at the
18 bold lettering here. The Hatch Act has always been a
19 restriction and the whole review process, this whole
20 correspondence review if driven because Councils were
21 writing to set Congressional delegations and delegates
22 and so forth. That's why there's a review process.
23 But I have an issue with this correspondence review
24 process and my problem is the Chair has to deal with
25 this problem. I write letters or finalize letters with
26 my Coordinator and they get stuck internally at OSM for
27 weeks or months on end. And this is a big problem.
28 This is a giant problem. And this occurred again. We
29 wrote a letter to the regional director of the U.S.
30 Fish and Wildlife about this complexing issue that was
31 submitted in late October. It didn't -- it wasn't
32 finalized until two months later and so there's this
33 big lag in the correspondence review.

34

35 So the -- my comments as the --
36 predominantly the Chair has to deal with this issue is
37 that it's stuck to internally. And I've said this many
38 times, it gets passed around and around and around and
39 there -- there's no significant change to the document,
40 it has to do with grammar or dot -- I's crossed and T's
41 -- I's dotted and T's crossed and kooky stuff. This
42 has got to stop. Some of these -- some of these
43 documents, the progression of some of these issues is
44 -- could either be -- well, one issue was the letter to
45 the State Board of Fish. Well, the final letter was
46 produced after the Board of Fish had actually addressed
47 the issue. We didn't actually get in a comment in
48 because we missed the timeline. This has got to stop.
49 This has -- this correspondence review document has to
50

0206

1 set a timeline for OSM. I want to see a timeline,
2 Council Chairs and Coordinators submit document for
3 internal review, those have to be approved within a
4 week. You got a week, it can't take over a week to
5 review the document. It's impossible for it to take
6 over a week, it's just a document. If it takes longer
7 than a week then there has to be a response, what's
8 going -- why -- why is it going to take any longer.
9 There has to be -- OSM has to have a timeline from the
10 review -- correspondence review process. This has got
11 -- this has been a large issue, it is affecting how the
12 Council's business is being executed.

13

14 So that'll be 11 of the document. So
15 OSM will set a timeline on themselves, right now they
16 have an open ended, it's like they have all year to do
17 it and sometimes we completely miss our windows. And
18 so this has got to stop. I would suggest a one week
19 window. Is that equitable, is that agreeable to the
20 Council, a one week window for internal correspondence
21 review unless there can be a valid reason produced.
22 There has to be a -- inform the Coordinator and the
23 Chair why they're going to take longer than one week.

24

25 That's enough. Anybody here at OSM.
26 Is Katya here, is Robbin listening? So Robbin and
27 Katya, do you have a response to that?

28

29 MS. LaVINE: Mr. Chair, members of the
30 Council, this is Robbin LaVine.

31

32 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robbin.

33

34 MS. LaVINE: I just popped in halfway
35 through, but I believe you were very clear, Mr. Chair,
36 from the point I heard. And I agree that our review
37 process in OSM is burdensome and slow. I think that
38 you should submit your comments and request a timeline.
39 I -- I might suggest that one week would be very
40 challenging given sometimes when a vast majority of
41 Staff are in travel status and the queue for review is
42 long. But we should be prioritizing Council
43 correspondence and supporting your ability to quickly
44 distribute your communications outside of this program.

45

46

47 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, most of the time
48 it's just basically.....

49

50

0207

1 MS. LaVINE: So.....

2

3

CHAIR REAKOFF:most of the time
4 the review I -- I see very little change to the
5 original document. It's just a matter of there needs
6 to be a Staff allocation of this is a fisheries
7 discussion, we're sending this over to fisheries or
8 this is a -- this is a policy discussion, you have your
9 various branch -- anthropological positions, some
10 person can sit down, review the document and go this
11 looks great, send it on. That could take like.....

12

13 MS. LaVINE: Uh-huh.

14

15

CHAIR REAKOFF:10 minutes, not
16 even a week. Sometimes that -- the Staff might be out
17 and you might have a problem, but we have to have some
18 kind of a timeline, a preferred timeline. And the
19 preferred timeline is one week. And so Councils are
20 typically meeting at time frames in the fall and in the
21 spring when Staff is not on vacation. And so I don't
22 -- I don't see where there's a one week timeline as --
23 aspiring for a one week timeline cannot be met.
24 There's a -- I think it's an allocation, work
25 allocation, throughout the program, a letter is
26 submitted, Katya or the Division Chief looks at this
27 letter, oh, this is a fisheries issue, this goes over
28 to fisheries, this one goes to anthropology, this one
29 goes over here to Ken Lord or whatever. It can be
30 allocated to the correct person, not just sitting on
31 somebody's desk for somebody to review it that might be
32 on vacation. That's not a good enough excuse. I want
33 to see a timeline because some of -- because we're
34 missing our windows or we're missing the affect, you
35 know, when we submit a document that has time sensitive
36 stuff and if -- when an agency is making an analysis
37 about something the -- they've already progressed so
38 far out by the time our letter shows up we missed our
39 window. And so this is kind of a big issue. And so
40 I'm just explaining from my side what's happening to
41 our Councils. So I would aspire for a one week
42 turnaround.

43

44

So that -- can that -- I would like
45 that to be a comment into -- on this correspondence
46 review process. I think the other Councils should be
47 aware that this Council has had problems. I would like
48 this -- this aspiration for a one week turnaround to be
49 transmitted to the other Councils who are still

50

0208

1 meeting, YK Delta or whoever it might be.

2

3 So do you have a response to that,
4 Robbin, or.....

5

6 MS. LaVINE: YK Delta has -- through
7 the Chair. YK Delta has met and reviewed this agenda
8 item. I think that there would be a chorus of voices
9 supporting your comments. I don't need to go to other
10 Councils to hear some other comments on the glacial
11 pace of our review process. It would be helpful to
12 have that collection of voices only to add strength to
13 your argument, but regardless I hear you. I would
14 suggest actually rather than an element 11 that under
15 the correspondence process number 5 we add an element
16 there similar to recognizing such correspondence is a
17 result of an official Council action and may be urgent,
18 the ARD will complete this review in a timely manner.

19

20 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, yeah.

21

22 MS. LaVINE: That sub-bullet.....

23

24 CHAIR REAKOFF: That bullet is.....

25

26 MS. LaVINE:could be specified.

27

28 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, instead of
29 reviewed in a timely manner it shall say aspire for a
30 one week review, you know, basically.....

31

32 MS. LaVINE: Uh-huh.

33

34 CHAIR REAKOFF:set the one week
35 time frame right there, that's a great place.....

36

37 MS. LaVINE: Right.

38

39 CHAIR REAKOFF:to put that.

40

41 MS. LaVINE: So that's a good spot for
42 it, Mr. Chair, and then the next thing that I would
43 like to say on record is that we are developing
44 guidelines step by step just to kind of support when
45 this happens these people are tapped to take things the
46 next step, right. And one of the things we're talking
47 about to ease our review process in all things, not
48 just correspondence, is to identify the importance of a
49 limited review so not all people need have eyes on the
50

0209

1 document, only the most critical and that will also
2 streamline the process. And so we are beginning to do
3 that now.....

4

5 CHAIR REAKOFF: That sounds great.

6

7 MS. LaVINE:in many of our
8 document reviews.

9

10 CHAIR REAKOFF: That -- that's exactly
11 what I was talking about. So I'm glad to hear that
12 you're already moving in that direction. So, yeah, I
13 think you're exactly right, Robbin, it would be under 5
14 bullet point 4, that instead of timely manner ARD will
15 complete the review within a one week time frame unless
16 valid reasons can be -- and that has to be responded to
17 the Council Coordinator and the Chair why is this going
18 to take longer than a week. We have to know what's
19 going on, can't be just sitting in the dark.

20

21 So that's the issue, those would be
22 the.....

23

24 MS. LaVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIR REAKOFF: So that discusses that
27 correspondence review, there's no action needed to be
28 taken, that was all just comment. So we made our
29 comment.

30

31 And do we need a break, is everybody
32 good?

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIR REAKOFF: Do we need a -- we can
37 keep going. So.....

38

39 MS. PELKOLA: You didn't want water
40 anyway.

41

42 CHAIR REAKOFF:review of
43 Southeast Regional Advisory Council's indigenous
44 management position statement. This is number 95. And
45 so we became aware that the Southeast Council was
46 discussing co-management issues, this is on Page 95 of
47 our book. And so I felt that this Council should take
48 a look at this. I feel that they made a lot of valid
49 points incorporating Federal Councils and, you know, a
50

0210

1 lot of tribes have lot land tracts and so forth,
2 working toward cohesive management associated to those
3 lands would be a wise thing to do.

4

5 So I feel that this Southeast Regional
6 Advisory Council -- if you call it a plan, co-
7 management plan, from January 20th, 2023 has many valid
8 points. I feel that the Council should look at the
9 plan at this -- at these land management -- especially
10 near these traditional lands which are associated to
11 the corporation lands. And so I feel that they made a
12 lot of valid points and agreed with a lot of what they
13 had to say, not everything, but I agreed with a lot of
14 what they had to say with this.

15

16 And so has the Council had a chance to
17 look at this document on Page 95. Darrell's shaking
18 his head affirmative. Have you looked at this, Tim or
19 Tommy.

20

21 MR. KRISKA: Yes.

22

23 CHAIR REAKOFF: And, Tim.

24

25 MR. GERVAIS: No, I haven't Jack.

26

27 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So I.....

28

29 MR. GERVAIS: Well, let me rephrase.
30 I've had a chance to look at it, but I haven't looked
31 at it.

32

33 CHAIR REAKOFF: You're just a little
34 bit far from your phone there, Tim. Say that again.

35

36 MR. GERVAIS: I just said I haven't had
37 a -- I haven't looked at it yet.

38

39 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. All right. But
40 what is the status now of this Southeast document, has
41 OSM got a -- this is just a submittal to the Federal
42 Subsistence Board, it's kind of like part of their
43 annual report or.....

44

45 MS. PILCHER: I believe it was an
46 addition to, but as for that.....

47

48 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

49

50

0211

1 MS. PILCHER:I am unclear.

2

3

4 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. All right. So
5 we would -- basically we'd like to be apprised of what
6 is the point and process of this document. And I would
7 like -- I like -- would like this Council to transmit a
8 -- telegraph OSM that we would like to be -- continue
9 to be apprised of where this document moves forward to.
10 If this is going to move forward we would like to be --
11 may possibly be a joiner to it. So we would like to be
12 apprised at our fall meeting what happened with this
13 particular document. If the Federal Subsistence Board
14 -- this is going to the Federal Subsistence Board, but
15 what did the Federal Subsistence Board deal -- do --
16 deal with it. This may be a -- this could be a -- I
17 would consider this a Statewide issue, not just a
18 Southeast regional issue. And so I would like our
19 Council to be apprised of where -- what happens with
20 this document by the Federal Subsistence Board when
21 they have their work session or whenever they may deal
22 with this.

22

23

Is that agreeable to the Council.

24

25

MR. VENT: Yes.

26

27

CHAIR REAKOFF: Jenny and Darrell.....

28

29

MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

30

31

32

CHAIR REAKOFF:are shaking their
heads. Is that agreeable, Tim and Tommy.

33

34

(No comments)

35

36

37

CHAIR REAKOFF: Are you still there,
Tim?

38

39

(No comments)

40

41

42

CHAIR REAKOFF: They might have gotten
cut off or.....

43

44

Tommy, are you there?

45

46

(No comments)

47

48

49

CHAIR REAKOFF: Can anybody else on the
phone hear us?

50

0212

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIR REAKOFF: I'm not hearing

4 anybody.

5

6 MR. KRISKA: I can hear you fine.

7

8 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, you can hear us

9 fine. Okay. Thanks.

10

11 So, Tim and Tommy, are you there.

12

13 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, I'm here.

14

15 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Okay. I'll just

16 find out -- so this document about basically including

17 tribal co-management consultation especially around

18 corp lands, we're going to be maintaining a tracking on

19 this -- on this at our fall meeting. So.....

20

21 Is that okay, Tommy.

22

23 MR. KRISKA: Yeah.

24

25 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. And, Tim.

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: No comment at this time.

28

29 CHAIR REAKOFF: No comment. Okay. So

30 yeah, we can look at it further in the -- in our fall

31 meeting. So that was that particular item.

32

33 And so Item K on our agenda, 12 is

34 hunter ethics education and outreach initiative.

35

36 Nissa.

37

38 MS. PILCHER: Good morning. For the

39 record Nissa Pilcher, Council Coordinator with OSM.

40 This is some information on this outreach initiative.

41

42 So beginning in about 2009 the Eastern

43 Interior RAC became increasingly concerned about

44 escalating user conflicts in their region and voiced a

45 need for hunter ethics education and outreach program.

46 The main issues of concern to that Council were one,

47 cultural misunderstandings between rural subsistence

48 hunters and urban sport hunters; two, poor meat

49 handling including edible meat or parts left in the

50

0213

1 field; Item three, increasing competition and safety
2 concerns in crowded hunting areas typically located
3 close to roads; and four, trespassing on private
4 property.

5
6 The Eastern Interior RAC sought Board
7 support in this initiative and in the summer of 2016
8 the Board supported the concept. By fall of 2018 two
9 workshops had been held that were attended by large
10 groups of stakeholders to develop and refine pilot
11 projects and identify working groups. Those
12 stakeholders were, apologies, this is off the cuff,
13 Council members, tribal councils, Advisory Committees,
14 Federal and State agencies and there were some -- this
15 is the wrong term, but outdoor groups that were
16 invited, the Sierra Club, Alaska Outdoor -- AOC.

17
18 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

19
20 MS. PILCHER: So during these workshops
21 there were -- three overarching goals were established
22 to assist in working to reduce user conflicts. One,
23 promoting understanding and tolerance for different
24 cultural hunting values; two, encouraging respect for
25 the resource, land and fellow users in the field; and
26 three, reducing meat spoilage and waste.

27
28 During the workshops three pilot
29 projects were developed. One pilot project was to
30 create a program entitled Hunt Like an Alaskan that was
31 directed towards engaging with military personnel new
32 to Alaska and the Eastern Interior region to promote
33 safe and ethical hunting practices. Due to covid and
34 OSM Staff changes this pilot program stalled. Eastern
35 Interior RAC will be working to restart this program
36 this year by reengaging with project partners,
37 developing outreach materials and eventually holding
38 outreach events on military bases and in the Eastern
39 Interior region.

40
41 A second pilot project created was the
42 community hunter liaisons. These liaisons were to
43 facilitate direct communication between local community
44 representatives and nonlocal hunters, inform nonlocal
45 hunters of meat donation options, local cultural values
46 and practices and private land holdings in the area.
47 There have been hunter liaisons stationed in Circle and
48 Fort Yukon since 2018. These positions were funded by
49 the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge with help from
50

0214

1 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Yukon
2 Charley River National Park through an annual funding
3 agreement with CAT, the Council of Athabaskan Tribal
4 Government. The desired next step of this program is
5 to continue to fund the current positions as well as to
6 evaluate the project and explore the expansion of the
7 project to have more liaisons stationed in other areas
8 of the region.

9

10 After the fall, 2022 meeting the
11 Eastern Interior RAC sent a letter requesting the
12 Federal Subsistence Board to one, reaffirm support for
13 the initiative; and two, discuss funding options for
14 the pilot projects to move forward. The Board voted to
15 support the projects at their January and February
16 regulatory meeting held earlier this year.

17

18 That concludes my update on the hunter
19 education and outreach initiative. Yes, but -- I can
20 take questions, I may not be able to answer them fully,
21 but I can certainly get you more answers by the fall.

22

23 CHAIR REAKOFF: I call into these other
24 Regional Council meetings and I was listening to EIRAC
25 talking about this project. We have exactly -- this is
26 not unique to Eastern Interior, this is -- this is the
27 way it is in the Western Interior because we have road
28 systems, we got high use areas like on the
29 Huslia/Koyukuk Flats, we got the Innoko Flats, we have
30 very little interaction. There's a drastic need for
31 hunter education. And Mr. Vickers here can attest to
32 the misinformation that's coming out of these Air Force
33 Bases, JBER, about populations of animals and
34 regulatory processes. This meat care thing is a big
35 deal and you were talking about that just a while
36 ago.....

37

38 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

39

40 CHAIR REAKOFF:it's a giant deal
41 in McGrath. There's tons of rotten meat getting thrown
42 into the dump in McGrath because guys are coming off
43 the Innoko Flats, they have -- they -- somebody shoots
44 a moose, it's raining so they put it in a greenhouse of
45 plastic and let it cook for a week before they actually
46 take it down off the -- because they're waiting --
47 everybody's going to kill a 65 inch moose over a 10 day
48 period. Ten days later the first moose is rotten, the
49 middle moose is rotten halfway and the third moose is

50

0215

1 spoiled on the outside edges, especially if they're
2 boning meat.

3

4 MR. VENT: Yep.

5

6 CHAIR REAKOFF: So this -- hunter
7 education is a big, big problem. So this -- I would
8 like to not reinvent the wheel, the Federal Subsistence
9 Board has already adopted EIRAC's hunter education
10 process, but the Western Interior should use that as an
11 exact template to submit to the Federal Subsistence
12 Board to have hunter education within our region using
13 these pilot projects, these -- you need a -- what do
14 they call them, liaisons.....

15

16 MS. PILCHER: Hunter liaisons.

17

18 CHAIR REAKOFF:hunter liaisons in
19 Huslia. Like what they need to have is somebody at the
20 Ellis Cabin checkpoint to go hey, if you boys want to
21 get rid of meat don't let it hang on a meat pole for a
22 week, bring it into the village right away and they'd
23 probably be real happy to do that, if they know they
24 can. And please bring in the liver and heart and the
25 head and other stuff too.

26

27 MR. VENT: Yeah.

28

29 CHAIR REAKOFF: So this is a big
30 problem and it's a giant problem on the road systems
31 when you got thousands of hunters, thousands. They had
32 a check station at the Yukon River bridge back in the
33 early 2000s, there were 2,000 hunters that were only
34 enumerated on the weekend. And I talked to a lot of
35 hunters that went, I was going to stop there, it wasn't
36 mandatory, they -- it was my estimation they were only
37 accounting for a third of the hunters. There are
38 thousands of hunters hunting off the haul road. And
39 it'll be excessive this year because Nelchina's going
40 to be shut down, Fortymile's going to be vastly
41 restrictive where the hunters in Fairbanks realize it
42 or not and they're all going to push up the haul
43 road.....

44

45 MR. VENT: Yeah.

46

47 CHAIR REAKOFF:so we're going to
48 need this sooner than later.

49

50

0216

1 So I would like the -- a motion to be
2 -- the Council to make a motion to adopt the Eastern
3 Interior Regional Advisory Council's hunter education
4 management plan template with needs to be identified
5 for hunter liaisons in certain communities and those
6 work through the tribes. One should be in Galena, one
7 should be -- you know, these hunter liaisons can be --
8 I worked out with tribal consultation, government to
9 government consultations. And so this Council has had
10 exactly these same problems and so we need a similar
11 education process.

12
13 And the combined processes will go to
14 the same -- the primary user group whether people
15 realize it or not is the military. The military are
16 stationed here for two years. And I'm not down on the
17 military, I'm just going to tell you how this works.
18 They're here for two years. The first year they gain
19 residency, the next year they're going to deploy out
20 and typically in October, they're on this Federal
21 regulatory year thing. They're going to deploy away so
22 that last -- the last year that they're here they want
23 to get a moose, they want to get a caribou, they want
24 to get a sheep, they want to get all these bears and
25 all this stuff because they're going back to wherever
26 they came from and so they want to get all this stuff.
27 Except they don't know a whole lot about meat care,
28 they don't have the slightest clue about the size of
29 these animals that they're actually hunting.

30
31 There's -- down in the States they got
32 these little white-tail deer and they're like oh, my
33 gosh, we got to drag this deer out of the woods. The
34 thing weighs 125 pounds. Cut it in half and carry --
35 you can pack it out on a pack frame real easy, it's no
36 big deal. We're talking about caribou, 400 pound bull
37 caribou, we're talking about moose, 1,500 pound bull
38 moose laying there and the hind quarter weighs more
39 than a white-tail deer. These guys need to know what
40 they're getting themselves into. Not just them, I had
41 some guys from Wisconsin were in my yard and he goes
42 they're waiting for the weather to pick up and they're
43 going to get flown out. I says you got pack frames,
44 you got -- they were both going to kill a moose. I
45 says you got pack frames, you got -- they had their
46 little pickup there and I go you got your pack frames,
47 you got the stuff to -- game bags to handle -- what. I
48 says I got some antlers there, I says this is a 50 inch
49 bull moose, this animal weighs a minimum of 1,200 to
50

0217

1 1,300 pounds on the hoof. The hind quarter on this
2 moose weighs 135 pounds when you cut it off of there.
3 Huh. They got day packs. We need education bad
4 because these guys hadn't the slight -- I said you
5 better think seriously about getting flown in on a
6 float plane into some swampy lake full of tussocks and
7 going way off the -- away from the river and kill --
8 away from the lake and killing some moose. You're not
9 going to get it back. Wanton waste is a big deal. The
10 Trooper imposed a -- had 26 cases in 2004 and 24 of
11 those were nonresident hunters, did not have the
12 slightest idea of what -- we also have this nonresident
13 mentality with our resident hunters that are coming
14 from these military bases. And these boys, I'm not
15 faulting them for anything, they just don't know, they
16 need better education.

17

18 And this EIRAC thing yeah, but they
19 need to know that this applies all over the rest of
20 Alaska, this is not just some regional thing, this is a
21 problem where we need to have better, you know, hunters
22 that want to kill a moose, don't want to take meat out
23 of the Koyukuk, please bring it in a day after you get
24 it, cool it down and bring it in.

25

26 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
27 adopt EIRAC's template, don't reinvent the wheel. And
28 the Federal Subsistence Board's approved that and so we
29 need to identify -- work with a process to identify
30 hunter liaisons in various communities. Which -- who's
31 going to make that motion.

32

33 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

34

35 CHAIR REAKOFF: Jenny's moved.....

36

37 MR. VENT: Second.

38

39 CHAIR REAKOFF:moved and seconded
40 by Darrell. Fur.....

41

42 MR. VENT: I.....

43

44 CHAIR REAKOFF:further
45 discussion.

46

47 Darrell.

48

49 MR. VENT: Yeah, just wanted to, you

50

0218

1 know, look at some other options that they have when
2 they bring hunters out. I mean, they fly them in too
3 and then they raft down on the tributaries. So they --
4 they can fly them into Donkey, you know, because that's
5 outside the controlled use area. And then there's
6 other areas that they do that up along the river and
7 they float down and when they're floating down they
8 stop and they -- you know, if they get a kill there,
9 but then they still got these other guys so that meat
10 just sits there.

11

12 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

13

14 MR. VENT: And, you know, we watch and,
15 you know, if we go by and say hey, there's meat hanging
16 there, you know, wonder what they're going to do with
17 it. Well, it just keeps sitting there. And then
18 finally when they get -- they all get their moose they
19 bring it in and the guy's moose that had sat the
20 longest, he doesn't want the meat because it doesn't
21 smell good.....

22

23 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

24

25 MR. VENT:so he says hey, you
26 know, could you guys take this meat off our hands,
27 would you sign a paper to transport it over -- I mean,
28 transfer it over to you. We don't.....

29

30 CHAIR REAKOFF: Unh-unh.

31

32 MR. VENT:that's not the meat we
33 wanted.

34

35 CHAIR REAKOFF: Unh-unh.

36

37 MR. VENT: They should have gave it to
38 us when it was, you know, we would buy them, you know,
39 they could have said hey, you guys want the meat here
40 and we'd sign a paper for it.

41

42 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

43

44 MR. VENT: But they -- they wouldn't do
45 that, they're not educated.

46

47 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, there.....

48

49 MR. VENT: So.....

50

0219

1 CHAIR REAKOFF:there could easily
2 be a process where they're informed if you don't want
3 the meat.....

4
5 MR. VENT: Right.

6
7 CHAIR REAKOFF:hang it up on a
8 meat pole and put up an orange flag or a green flag or
9 something.....

10
11 MR. VENT: Something to.....

12
13 CHAIR REAKOFF:hang -- hang
14 something out there, we're.....

15
16 MR. VENT:something to let us
17 know when to pick it up.

18
19 CHAIR REAKOFF:looking to get rid
20 of this meat. If a boat goes by.....

21
22 MR. VENT: Yeah, because we're out
23 there hunting the same time they are and it -- you
24 know, that meat's still sitting there and we're all
25 trying to get a moose and, you know, if that meat's
26 available that would -- that would help us out. We're
27 not -- we're not after the horn.

28
29 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, there's a lot of
30 elders that will take that meat.

31
32 MR. VENT: Oh, yeah.

33
34 CHAIR REAKOFF: I mean, fresh meat like
35 that.....

36
37 MR. VENT: Yep.

38
39 CHAIR REAKOFF:and the -- and the
40 heart, liver, stuff?

41
42 MR. VENT: Well, those -- we don't see
43 none of those, they just hang, you know, arms and legs,
44 you know, and.....

45
46 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, there's like lots
47 of fat, there's all kind of stuff, those.....

48
49 MR. VENT: Everything. Everything.

50

0220

1 CHAIR REAKOFF:gibs -- I call
2 those giblets.

3
4 MR. VENT: Yeah. Well, you know, we
5 eat that stomach lining and everything, that's.....

6
7 CHAIR REAKOFF: The liver's this big,
8 the heart's that big.....

9
10 MR. VENT: Yeah.

11
12 CHAIR REAKOFF:you better have
13 some -- lots of bags for those giblets.

14
15 MR. VENT: Oh, yeah.

16
17 CHAIR REAKOFF: There's lots of
18 fat.....

19
20 MR. VENT: Oh, well, we eat the.....

21
22 CHAIR REAKOFF:inside there.

23
24 MR. VENT: Yeah, well, the kidney's
25 covered in fat.

26
27 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, yeah.

28
29 MR. VENT: You know, you got to cut it
30 open quick though, they have to be educated on that
31 also.

32
33 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right. So yeah, we --
34 this is a very important issue.

35
36 Do you have comments on that, Tommy.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIR REAKOFF: Are you still there.

41
42 MR. VENT: He might have left.

43
44 CHAIR REAKOFF: And, Tim, do.....

45
46 MR. KRISKA: Yeah.

47
48 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, good. Go ahead,
49 Tommy.

50

0221

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIR REAKOFF: You got comments,

4 Tommy.

5

6 MR. KRISKA:(indiscernible -
7 distortion) call back at (indiscernible - distortion)
8 at the earliest.

9

10 CHAIR REAKOFF: I couldn't hear you
11 very good. Speak closer to your mic.

12

13 MR. VENT: He said he's going to call
14 back later.

15

16 MR. KRISKA: I said I'm on a thing,
17 I'll call you back at 1:00 at the earliest. You'll --
18 okay.

19

20 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. All right. And,
21 Tim, did you have comments.

22

23 MR. GERVAIS: No, I don't have a
24 comment now.

25

26 CHAIR REAKOFF: So motion on the table
27 to move forward with a template of the Eastern Interior
28 educational process.

29

30 MS. PELKOLA: I just have a comment.

31

32 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead, Jenny.

33

34 MS. PELKOLA: This has been going on
35 for years and years and years and years, this wanton
36 waste and I -- with this education thing, I think it
37 really needs to be really pushed and pushed because
38 like you say a lot of these people don't know what to
39 do with a moose, you know. I remember years back my
40 cousin, my husband's cousin, came up to go -- you know,
41 go hunting with us. And he -- he got -- when he was
42 going to shoot this -- the moose, we didn't shoot a
43 moose, but he was going to shoot a moose, he just -- he
44 froze and he -- he couldn't, you know. I'm like shoot,
45 shoot, shoot and he was just frozen right there with
46 the gun.

47

48 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

49

50

0222

1 MS. PELKOLA: And so I could see where
2 looking at this huge animal, you know, some of them
3 just don't know what to do, they just get -- they just
4 lose their mind or something. But this, we really need
5 to support this or just go -- I think we get everybody
6 onboard, not only the villages, but in Fairbanks,
7 Anchorage, wherever there's -- there's a lot of waste
8 out there.....

9
10 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

11
12 MS. PELKOLA:which we could use,
13 you know, I mean, the -- when they're fresh.

14
15 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah. Yeah, stressing
16 the educational process should stress how fast that
17 animal has to be cut. I don't -- I want those guts out
18 of that moose within 20 minutes. If it's -- soon as it
19 stops moving I want to start cutting. My wife's like
20 let's get one more picture. No, let's start cutting, I
21 want to get this thing cut.....

22
23 MR. VENT: Yeah.

24
25 CHAIR REAKOFF:get -- get --
26 you've got to get those guts out of there and you've
27 got to start cooling it down. It's very super
28 important. Everybody knows this, but some of these
29 moose -- but they're -- I've watched videos on TV where
30 these guys are sitting around this moose in the sun, I
31 watched it puff up before my very eyes. I'm like oh,
32 my gosh, makes me sick.

33
34 So okay, we're going to call for
35 question on that.

36
37 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

38
39 CHAIR REAKOFF: The question's called
40 on the -- on the motion to adopt the Eastern Interior
41 Regional Advisory Council's hunter education process
42 with the -- with the tribal liaison program to be
43 further analyzed. All those in favor of that program
44 signify by saying aye.

45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48 CHAIR REAKOFF: Opposed.

49
50

0223

1 (No opposing votes)

2

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CHAIR REAKOFF: And then Tom left. So okay, we got four votes. Tom's coming back at 11:00 or correction, 1:00 o'clock he said.

Nissa.

MS. PILCHER: Just to clarify for -- so it's on the record. WE are still maintaining quorum with four members in the room and online.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you. So we're to the Denali National Park individual C&T analysis, Amy Craver.

MS. CRAVER: Okay. Good morning, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. For the record my name is Amy Craver and I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for Denali National Park and Preserve. Today we'll present to you two individual customary and traditional use determination analyses for Blaine and Kevin Mayo and members of their household. And these -- the proposal should be on Page 102 of your meeting materials.

The first proposal, ICTP 23-01 submitted by Blaine Mayo and members of his household request an individual customary and traditional use determination and from this point on I'll just refer to it as an individual C&T determination, for caribou, grouse, ptarmigan, in game management Unit 13 in areas managed by Denali -- by the National Park Service where subsistence uses are allowed. Blaine Mayo and members of his household already have a C&T determination for moose in GMU 13 and areas managed by the National Park Service where subsistence uses are allowed.

The second proposal, ICTP 24-01 submitted by Kevin Mayo and members of his household, request an C&T use determination for moose, caribou, grouse and ptarmigan in game management Unit 13 in areas managed by the National Park Service. Kevin Mayo is currently a resident of Healy and already has an individual C&T use determination for moose and caribou in GMU 13.

In order for someone to qualify for an individual C&T use determination they need to

1 demonstrate the following. Pre-ANILCA pattern of use
2 in Park and Preserve; must remain a Federally-qualified
3 rural resident; if they move out of the resident zone
4 community they must still reside in a resident -- in a
5 rural community to qualify. If they move to a non-
6 rural area they do not qualify. For family members of
7 the applicant to qualify they must actually reside in
8 the residence of the applicant.

9

10 According to the National Park Service
11 regulation if a person has a 13440 subsistence
12 eligibility permit, lives in the Park or lives in a
13 resident zoned community, that person must also live in
14 a community or area that has C&T use determination for
15 the desired species and harvest area that they must
16 remain a rural resident. If a person has a 1344 permit
17 and lives in a community without a C&T determination
18 for the species they wish to hunt they may submit a
19 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board for an
20 individual C&T use determination.

21

22 Federal subsistence regulations allow
23 the Federal Subsistence Board to make individual C&T
24 use determinations in National Park and Monument areas.
25 National Park Service regulations include unique
26 subsistence eligibility requirements for National Park
27 Service lands. Requests for individual C&T use
28 determinations are analyzed in the same way a community
29 or area request for C&T. Subsistence harvests are
30 authorized only in the ANILCA additions to Denali
31 National Park.

32

33 The proponents have described a history
34 of C&T use for moose, caribou, grouse and ptarmigan in
35 Denali National Park and Preserve, part of GMU 13E
36 where subsistence uses are allowed. Blaine and Kevin
37 Mayo and their families are from Cantwell which is a
38 resident zone community of Denali National Park. In
39 2022 the Federal Subsistence Board determined that
40 Blaine Mayo and his household had substantial evidence
41 to support the issuance of an individual C&T
42 determination for moose. Currently Blaine Mayo's
43 family members are unable to harvest caribou, grouse
44 and ptarmigan because they now reside in a rural
45 community, Healy, which does not have a positive C&T
46 use determination for caribou, grouse and ptarmigan.

47

48 In 2010 the Federal Subsistence Board
49 determined that Kevin Mayo had substantial evidence to
50 support the issuance of an individual C&T use

50

1 determination for moose and caribou. However this C&T
2 request for moose and caribou to the Federal
3 Subsistence Board did not extend to his family members.
4 Currently Kevin Mayo's family members are unable to
5 harvest moose, caribou grouse and ptarmigan because
6 they now reside in a rural community, Healy, which does
7 not have a positive C&T use determination for moose,
8 caribou, grouse and ptarmigan.

9
10 The community of Cantwell's located
11 near the Alaska Range in the confluence of the Park and
12 Denali Highway which is north of Broad Pass and 28
13 miles south of Denali National Park and Preserve.
14 Within Denali National Park Cantwell subsistence users
15 harvest moose and caribou in the southwest -- on the
16 southwest boundary just outside the designated Denali
17 wilderness. This area where subsistence hunting is
18 permitted under the Federal program is referred to
19 local subsistence users as the Cantwell traditional use
20 area.

21
22 In January, 2021 the Federal
23 Subsistence Board adopted a revised policy on
24 individual C&T use determinations to follow the
25 procedures described in the National Park Service's
26 standard operating procedures for issuing of
27 subsistence eligibility permits and individual C&T use
28 determinations. The new policy allows for proposals to
29 be submitted on a continuous basis and provides for
30 concurrent applications for 13440 subsistence
31 eligibility permits. The Federal Subsistence Board
32 makes C&T use determinations based on a holistic
33 application of eight factors. In addition the Board
34 takes into consideration the reports and
35 recommendations from appropriate Subsistence Resource
36 Commissions and Regional Advisory Councils regarding
37 C&T use of subsistence resources.

38
39 A community or area's customary and
40 traditional use is generally exemplified through the
41 following eight factors. One, a long term consistent
42 pattern of use excluding interruptions beyond the
43 control of the community or area; two, a pattern of use
44 reoccurring in a specific season for many years; three,
45 a pattern of use consisting of methods and means of
46 harvest which are characterized by the efficiency and
47 economy of effort, cost and conditioned by local
48 characteristics; four, the consistent harvest and fish
49 -- harvest and use of fish and wildlife as related to
50

0226

1 past methods and means of taking near or reasonably
2 accessible to the community or area; five, a means of
3 handling, preparing, preserving and storing fish or
4 wildlife which has traditionally been used by past
5 generations including considerations of alternative
6 practices due to technological advances where
7 appropriate; six, a pattern of use which includes the
8 handing down of knowledge and -- of fishing and hunting
9 skills, values and lore from generation to generation;
10 seven, a pattern of use which the harvest is shared or
11 distributed within a definable community of persons;
12 and finally eight, a pattern of use which relates to
13 the reliance upon a wide diversity of fish and wildlife
14 resources of the area and which provides substantial
15 cultural, economic, social and nutritional elements to
16 the community or area.

17
18 CHAIR REAKOFF: Amy. So we -- this
19 Council is aware of the eight criteria and some of the
20 -- a lot of this information. So we -- I would like
21 you to basically speak to the -- how this process -- I
22 want this Council to know how this individual C&Ts
23 work, we don't need to know about the entire --
24 entirety of the analysis. And so this doesn't affect
25 our region, but it's an important issue and so you have
26 in our region which is Unit -- would be portions of
27 Unit -- the eastern -- Western Interior region
28 including portions of Unit 19, we would have these
29 individual -- are there individuals C&Ts for like
30 Minchumina or do they have -- or do they have just a
31 blanket C&T for those communities on that side. This
32 Council is more interested on the west side of the
33 Denali Park and so whereas -- whereas this is
34 discussing something that would be Southcentral's and
35 the Eastern Interior's jurisdiction. So I would like
36 to enter more into a conversation about the allocatur
37 for Preserves' customary and traditional use
38 determinations for uses in -- are there -- are there
39 actually portions of the Denali National Park in the --
40 on the west side in Unit 19 and 20, what is that 20 or
41 Minchumina is, I think it's Unit 20?

42
43 MS. CRAVER: Yes. So on Lake
44 Minchumina and Nikolai are both resident zone
45 communities for Denali National Park.....

46
47 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

48
49 MS. CRAVER:and Preserve.
50

0227

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: So they don't -- is
2 there anybody that has individual use permits on --
3 within -- in Unit 19 and 20C?

4
5 MS. CRAVER: No.

6
7 CHAIR REAKOFF: So there's been no
8 applications?

9
10 MS. CRAVER: There's been no
11 applications.

12
13 CHAIR REAKOFF: So this -- there are
14 individuals and I will -- for the record I will state
15 for our Council that Gates of the Arctic has like one
16 1344 permit, these individual use permits. And so
17 there's only one of those. This is a -- Amy's
18 describing an important process that interacts with
19 this Council as far as how the Park units are -- how
20 these specific -- Gates of the Arctic is a -- is a new
21 Park while Denali -- portions of Denali Park are old
22 Parks which have no subsistence use which I'm not sure
23 why Congress didn't allow in-roads into the old Park,
24 but that's what Congress did. So I don't really want
25 to delve deeply into this issue, I just want to kind of
26 get sort of an overview of how this process works.

27
28 Do you have any additions to what we --
29 what I was saying there.

30
31 MS. CRAVER: I don't have any
32 additions. I was just getting.....

33
34 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

35
36 MS. CRAVER:ready to just kind of
37 talk about their specific pattern of use, but if you
38 want to kind of skip over that that's fine.

39
40 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, we -- that
41 doesn't really affect us. But this -- the species, you
42 know, that was kind of an interesting aspect where they
43 were requesting like ptarmigan and grouse and species
44 specific. In the future this may be applied to other
45 portions of our region, especially Gates of the Arctic
46 National Park where there may be a need for individual
47 use permits, but this is sort of a -- sort of an
48 absolute periphery of our -- what we mainly deal with.

49
50

0228

1 And so do you have any further
2 comments.

3
4 MS. CRAVER: I might just add that the
5 reason they're asking for grouse and ptarmigan is it's
6 really important for the kids to be able when they're
7 going moose hunting to be able to practice using a
8 .22.....

9
10 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

11
12 MS. CRAVER:and so then there's a
13 lot of meaning in terms of the kids being able to
14 provide the family.....

15
16 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

17
18 MS. CRAVER:with their own meat
19 that they.....

20
21 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

22
23 MS. CRAVER:harvested. So that's
24 why the grouse and ptarmigan are part of this
25 individual C&T is to allow the kids to have an
26 opportunity to practice.

27
28 CHAIR REAKOFF: So for newer members of
29 our Council this is a -- sort of an important thing to
30 keep in -- take into consideration. And it is part of
31 the training process for younger kids. And so I
32 thought that it was an interesting analysis, but I
33 didn't want to delve into putting all that onto the
34 record, this all has to be transcribed and so forth.
35 But I do think that the Council has to be aware that
36 there's certain areas within our region, especially
37 Gates of the Arctic National Park, portions of Denali
38 and actually portions of Lake Clark that are actually
39 within our region though we don't get a lot of comment
40 out of Lake Clark, you know, about uses in -- from our
41 region into the Lake Clark Preserve -- Monument rather.

42
43 So any questions from the Council on
44 this -- on this issue.

45
46 Darrell.

47
48 MR. VENT: Sorry, I've been busy making
49 reservations for another meeting. I had to step out

50

0229

1 for a minute.

2

3

CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

4

5

MR. VENT: Thanks.

6

7

CHAIR REAKOFF: So I think that kind of covers that issue.

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MS. CRAVER: Okay. Well, I apologize for belaboring the point. I might just add for the Council we did get -- the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission supported this proposal or these individual C&Ts, Eastern Interior and Southcentral RAC. So we got support from those.

CHAIR REAKOFF: And my question is on Denali, you know, who's rep -- who's the Subsistence SRC membership coming from over on -- within our region?

MS. CRAVER: That would be Mike Alexia from Nikolai and then also Miki Collins from Minchumina and Penny Green from Minchumina.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So they -- I had questions earlier about those -- Minchumina has C&T within our region and I was asking about Regional Council membership coming from that area because they do have C&T and so we're having a hard time getting membership on the Kuskokwim River, and so I -- but I don't think they live within our region so that does not qualify them. But we do want to have -- we want to know what that SR -- the Denali SRC, those SRC members from Minchumina have any questions or comments to this region, they just don't deal with EIRAC, they deal with this Council also because of their C&T consideration.

MS. CRAVER: Well, Mr. Chair, it's unfortunate that, you know, with Ray Collins just recently passing away, he was sort of our -- kind of our liaison between the Denali SRC and the Western Interior RAC so.....

CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

MS. CRAVER:we kind of -- we're -- because of covid and everything we're kind of struggling to kind of make that transition to get more

0230

1 involvement from the Denali SRC to the Western Interior
2 RAC.

3

4 CHAIR REAKOFF: So from Mike -- what
5 was his name from.....

6

7 MS. CRAVER: Mike Alexia.

8

9 CHAIR REAKOFF: Alexia. Have you.....

10

11 REPORTER: Jack.

12

13 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, excuse me. Have
14 you given -- has he been made aware that we're seeking
15 Regional Council memberships and so I would like OSM to
16 contact him for possible membership on this Council.
17 So we're out of -- it will be for next cycle. I mean,
18 I'm looking for RAC members. I may even poach -- I
19 wanted to poach one out of Minchumina, but that's not
20 going to happen apparently. So we need to -- we need
21 -- we have three open seats and we need -- we need to
22 have membership and I'm looking for Council members
23 wherever we may find them. I was hoping to be down in
24 Aniak and round some up and so -- and Dan Gillikin was
25 on this -- on this call and so I would.....

26

27 You wouldn't want to be on our Council,
28 would you, Dan?

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIR REAKOFF: I would like to have
33 more -- our full membership so that we have -- because
34 it's a huge region, it's not just me representing -- I
35 know quite a bit about this region, but I've gone to a
36 lot of different places and I've been -- I used to fish
37 at Bristol Bay, flew -- I've flown all across the
38 region at low level and I know exactly where Mulchatna
39 Caribou Herd trails go. And I know quite a bit about
40 this region because I lived in Galena and lived in
41 different portions of this region. But we can't be
42 expected to know what the local conditions are and so
43 I'm looking for membership on the Kuskokwim River so
44 that -- which is part of our charter and we want to
45 have membership in different places. So if Mike Alexia
46 wants to support an application to Western Interior
47 Regional Advisory Council that would be great.

48

49 Is he an active member?

50

0231

1 MS. CRAVER: Yes.

2

3 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Good. Nissa.

4

5 MS. PILCHER: Well, when the
6 application period opens again I will make a very
7 significant point to reach out to Amy and have.....

8

9 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

10

11 MS. PILCHER:have more
12 communication.

13

14 CHAIR REAKOFF: That would be great.
15 And there's an SRC.....

16

17 REPORTER: Jack.

18

19 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh. There's an SRC for
20 Lake Clark and did they have any membership within our
21 region. Do you know or maybe you can get back to us on
22 that one.

23

24 MS. CRAVER: I don't think that there's
25 anybody from Lake Clark that would be part of this
26 region.

27

28 CHAIR REAKOFF: Lake Clark has portions
29 within our region like they.....

30

31 MS. CRAVER: It does?

32

33 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, it does, it has
34 portions in the -- it's in 19, Unit 19. So there's
35 portions of.....

36

37 MS. CRAVER: Oh.

38

39 CHAIR REAKOFF:of 19B which is
40 real close to Lime Village and so I'm surprised that
41 they don't have an SRC member from Lime.

42

43 MS. CRAVER: Well, they just had their
44 SRC meeting last week and I can reach out to Karen
45 Evenoff and I apologize, I didn't realize that they
46 were in 19C, but I'm not sure what their vacancy is
47 right now, but.....

48

49 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh. I'm just --

50

0232

1 I'm just asking. You know, you can get back to us on
2 that.

3

4 MS. CRAVER: Okay.

5

6 CHAIR REAKOFF: And Eva Patton was on
7 here yesterday, we need to -- I want to find out if
8 there's an SRC member that would be -- is active that
9 would -- for their SRC, would they want to be on this
10 Regional Council. I'm looking for membership, I'm
11 going to -- I'll steal members from other SRCs, other
12 Councils. So we need to fill this Council up, it's
13 tough to do our work without proper representation.

14

15 So thanks so much, Amy, I think that
16 covered that issue.

17

18 Nissa.

19

20 MS. PILCHER: Did you guys want to vote
21 on if you wanted to support the C&T finding or.....

22

23 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, it's out of our
24 region and we don't -- we don't even -- EIRAC has --
25 they have customary and traditional use overlaps there,
26 we don't have any customary and traditional overlaps in
27 13. We don't have any -- we don't have any
28 relationship to that -- to the two applicants. We
29 don't actually have any -- if we're non -- we don't --
30 it doesn't have an affect on our region. You know,
31 Unit 13 is on the -- on the east side of Denali
32 National Park and we don't have any customary and
33 traditional uses over there. So I don't think that we
34 can or would comment on that. We could, but.....

35

36 MS. PELKOLA: We can.

37

38 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, we could -- okay.

39

40 MS. PELKOLA: I mean.....

41

42 CHAIR REAKOFF: I was supportive of
43 their -- but I didn't think that having -- not having
44 any customary -- I looked at -- for the customary and
45 traditional use determinations were for Unit 13. They
46 don't have C&Ts in 19 or 20 -- 20C and we don't have
47 C&Ts in Unit 13. So typically these crossovers we have
48 to have customary and traditional use overlaps. Like
49 if it was Minchumina yeah, we would, we'd have an
50

0233

1 overlap there.

2

3

MS. PELKOLA: What do you.....

4

5

CHAIR REAKOFF: I don't think that the Council would defer to the region.

6

7

8

MR. VENT: Like I said would you like to -- we could defer to the region or.....

9

10

11

CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, we could -- we could make a motion to defer to region. So the Chair will entertain a motion to -- what were those -- the numbers. So these are individual C&T for Kevin Mayo, it's 23-02.....

12

13

14

15

16

17

MR. VENT: Yeah.

18

19

20

CHAIR REAKOFF:and the C&T -- individual C&T for 23-01 for Blaine Mayo. So 23-02 and 23-01 the Council will -- the Chair will entertain a motion to defer these to region.

21

22

23

24

MR. VENT: So moved.

25

26

27

28

MS. PELKOLA: Second.

29

30

CHAIR REAKOFF: Moved and -- by Darrell and seconded by Jenny. Further discussion.

31

32

33

34

MS. PELKOLA: Question.

35

36

CHAIR REAKOFF: The question's called. Those in favor of deferral signify by saying aye.

37

38

39

40

(No opposing votes)

41

42

CHAIR REAKOFF: Thank you. Thanks so much, Amy.

43

44

45

46

MS. CRAVER: All right. Thank you.

47

48

CHAIR REAKOFF: Thanks for coming to our meeting. And we would like to know of any issues from -- within our region from -- especially around

49

50

0234

1 Nikolai, Telida or Minchumina or Lime Village. The
2 Park Service should -- and I want to -- I would like
3 Park Service to inform us what's going on with the SRC
4 for -- within our region also. So covered that one.

5

6 And so Fisheries Resource Monitoring
7 Program, this will be Liz Williams and Cory Graham.

8

9 MR. VENT: Yes, we did skip that.
10 Yeah.

11

12 CHAIR REAKOFF: Are we -- oh, yeah.
13 Oh, we didn't skip that. I missed that part, I guess
14 I didn't put a big enough cross.

15

16 Partners for Fisheries.....

17

18 REPORTER: Jack.

19

20 CHAIR REAKOFF:Monitoring Program
21 update.

22

23 REPORTER: Jack.

24

25 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh. Sorry about that,
26 Nathan. Which ones are skipped. Proposed changes to
27 hunting and trapping regulations in National Preserves.
28 Oh, we covered -- we covered that one.

29

30 MS. PILCHER: Oh. Nope, we haven't
31 yet. It's a different thing, but it is Park Service.

32

33 MR. VENT: We covered hunters at -- at
34 the.....

35

36 MS. PILCHER: Yeah.

37

38 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, I see, we're --
39 yeah, I see where we're at here. We covered L.....

40

41 MS. PILCHER: Yes.

42

43 CHAIR REAKOFF:which was Denali
44 individual. Okay. I'm mix -- I'm mixing these two up
45 here. Go ahead. Sorry.

46

47 MS. PILCHER: We'll use bigger font
48 next time.

49

50

0235

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: You're -- state your
2 name for the record.

3
4 MR. HILDERBRAND: I'm M. So yeah, my
5 name's Grant Hilderbrand, I'm the Associate Regional
6 Director for the Park Service here in Alaska. I've
7 been in Alaska about 28 years now as a Wildlife
8 Biologist, worked 12 years for the State of Alaska and
9 the last 13 or 14 with Department of Interior. And
10 just want to say thanks for making time on your agenda
11 today, we appreciate it. And it's good to see everyone
12 in person, I know some folks are on the phone too, but
13 appreciate all you do.

14
15 I think this is a topic you guys are
16 really well versed in so I thought I would give maybe a
17 three or four minute overview and then.....

18
19 CHAIR REAKOFF: Sure.

20
21 MR. HILDERBRAND:we can have
22 discussion and talk about questions and -- then if you
23 like.

24
25 So the Park Service is looking at
26 revisiting some wildlife and trapping regulations that
27 are specific to Preserve lands and apply to harvest
28 under State sport regulations. This is actually the
29 third time we've looked at this particular sort of
30 suite of activities and I'll go through a few of the
31 highlights here in a second. The first time we
32 addressed these topics was in 2015 so we refer to that
33 as the 2015 rule and it largely prohibited a suite of
34 practices that I'll talk about in a second. There was
35 -- there was litigation pretty quickly with that one
36 from some hunting organizations as well as the State of
37 Alaska.

38
39 The Park Service revisited that rule in
40 2020 and passed a new rule we call the 2020 rule that
41 largely undid what was prohibited in the 2015 rule. So
42 largely a reversal. That 2020 rule is still under
43 litigation at present. And so we're looking at it for
44 a couple of reasons. One is our Associate Secretary
45 asked us to look at this rule again and then also we
46 have the ongoing litigation.

47
48 I want to be really sort of clear about
49 the topics and context. One is so this would not
50

0236

1 affect any harvest under title VIII subsistence. That
2 being said it does have the potential to impact rural
3 residents when they are hunting under the State hunting
4 regulation or hunting under State seasons. The vast
5 majority of harvest opportunity that occurs on
6 Preserves under State regulations isn't touched by this
7 particular proposal, but there are a few specific
8 practices and frankly there ones are just challenging
9 and complex and nuanced that keep coming up and so I'll
10 walk through those in a second.

11

12 I guess one thing I did want to mention
13 and this is really important is the public comment
14 period for this rule has closed. So that being said if
15 we get comments from this group it's something we'll
16 absolutely accept and we will -- we welcome feedback
17 from everyone and we're especially interested in
18 feedback from local folks. We won't be able to upload
19 it to regulations.gov and when we go to respond to
20 comment we won't explicitly call these comments out,
21 but we can -- we can absolutely have ongoing
22 conversations.

23

24 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

25

26 MR. HILDERBRAND: And so we very much
27 would appreciate feedback from this group.

28

29 I'm going to walk through just the
30 practices that are -- that are at play. One is bear
31 baiting. And so again this doesn't relate to bear
32 baiting that would be authorized under Federal
33 subsistence regulations, but it applies to bear baiting
34 under State regulations. I think the reason this one
35 keeps coming up is that there are folks that are
36 interested in bear baiting under State regulations on
37 some Preserve lands. And on the -- on the counterside
38 is I think us looking and trying to balance public
39 safety as well as opportunity. The -- you know as well
40 as I do the challenge with bear baiting is it's tied to
41 access and in some places -- I would say the McCarthy
42 Road's where we've had the most challenges with bear
43 baiting. You've got multiple users coming together
44 around individual access points. So, you know, a
45 comment that's really useful is if it's the practice
46 that this group or the folks you represent want to
47 engage in it, if you want to engage in it under State
48 regulations if you're not in favor of it or if you see
49 any -- have any recommendations relative to how to
50

0237

1 maybe mitigate some of the public safety risk. We
2 don't have any concerns about these activities having
3 population level affects, it really comes down to sort
4 of the convergence of these different activities on the
5 landscape. When we think about public risk it's -- the
6 likelihood is likely small, but when it occurs it can
7 be catastrophic. So that's just what we're looking at.

8
9 There is a handout in the back that
10 lays out the proposed rule language and there's a
11 table, it's actually the last thing that exists in the
12 proposal. And so definitely look at all of them. A
13 few that I think we've heard the most interest in and
14 are certainly interested in feedback on, one ties to
15 harvest of sows with cubs and cubs. And so again it's
16 a practice that seems to be one that we hear different
17 opinions as to whether or not that should occur under
18 State harvest regulations. Another one that's of
19 interest is taking wolves and coyotes during the May
20 1st to August 9th period and what that means for
21 harvest (indiscernible - distortion) interstate
22 regulations and concerns or not concerns about health
23 quality and the like. There are other things on there
24 so definitely look at all of them. Some of them I
25 think are I would say less challenging. It's shooting
26 from across the roadway, it's use of poison, I think we
27 touch on electronic devices and the like.

28 One that also is I think important and
29 of interest ties to the take of swimming animals. And
30 so this largely -- I think when we craft this we're
31 looking at the harvest of caribou in Onion Portage. So
32 it's a somewhat local issue. That being said as we're
33 talking to folks we are hearing more and more about
34 historic use in other places of harvest of swimming
35 animals. So folks have feedback. The question is
36 still whether it makes sense under State regulations.
37 If one wanted to do that under Federal regulations it's
38 a different process.

39
40 The final thing I was just going to
41 mention -- well, I'll mention two more things. I think
42 if I'm longer than four minutes for that, but.....

43
44 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

45
46 MR. HILDERBRAND:we're also
47 looking at the definition of a trap. I'm going to try
48 and explain the nuance. We have a Federal -- I mean,
49 so we have a National Park Service definition of a trap
50

0238

1 and it does not explicitly authorize use of a firearm
2 as part of trapping or under a trapping license, you
3 know. So at times I think the Federal Board has
4 authorized seasons near trapping seasons so that folks
5 can use a firearm. I think we're cognizant of the fact
6 that -- of how people actually functionally trap and
7 that a firearm is part of that. So we definitely want
8 feedback from folks as to how is that actually
9 practiced, there may be something we can cleanup and
10 clarify.

11

12 So I guess the last thing I just wanted
13 to share is, you know, one discussion we have really
14 commonly with folks at RACs, SRCs who are meeting with
15 tribal entities and partners is a recognition that
16 there are many folks that have ties to rural Alaska
17 that are from rural Alaska that now live in urban areas
18 maybe for military service, maybe for medical care,
19 maybe for education, maybe for jobs. And so there is,
20 you know, a real desire to see some of these things be
21 allowed under State regulations because that's the
22 window for folks to be able to come back and
23 participate. The challenge, I guess the counter to
24 that is that it also opens it up to folks that don't
25 have those types of ties to rural Alaska. So we hear
26 that -- we hear that far outside of just this rule, but
27 it's -- yeah, it's something that we ponder and we --
28 we're cognizant of.

29

30 So I guess I'll pause there. I'm happy
31 to take any questions. I'll answer them if I can, I'm
32 happy to have some discussion.

33

34 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So does the
35 Council have questions. This issue's come before this
36 Council since 2015 or whenever that was. And so any
37 comments or questions on Mr. Hilderbrand's.....

38

39 Go ahead, Darrell.

40

41 MR. VENT: You talked about bear
42 baiting. You know, we're having a issue with our
43 grizzlies in our area. And it's hard to hunt those
44 king of animals because they don't stay in one place,
45 they don't tend to -- they travel, you know, whether it
46 be five, six days and then maybe they might be back in
47 the same area, but we -- you know, we're just having an
48 issue with them right now because they're coming out of
49 the mountains and they're coming into our village. And

50

0239

1 I know in the past few years there's was a lady, she
2 was walking with her kid and all of a sudden the bear's
3 coming straight at her. Well, she was fortunate enough
4 to jump onto a four-wheeler and get out of the area
5 because that bear was hungry.

6

7

CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

8

9

10 hungry so they're -- you know, they're competing with
11 us. And we're having a real tough time with our moose
12 because of those. I mean, it's -- those calves are --
13 you know, those bears are -- they're good at -- you
14 know, good at hunting, they're like some humans here,
15 probably a lot better than humans.....

16

17

CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

18

19

20 those young calves, you know, when they're -- and the
21 cows too. For instance, you know, we were coming up
22 the river and you see a big old gash in the side of the
23 cow and it's looking back in the woods, you know, its
24 calf is back there, but it can't go back in there, that
25 bear already got it and it had a big old gash on the
26 side there. We knew that cow wasn't going to last and
27 next day we're back in the same area looking for the
28 cow and that one was gone too. So he took the calf and
29 the cow. So.....

30

31

CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

32

33

34 pretty good at hunting and they're going to get even
35 better because that's their food, I mean, you know,
36 that's what they're hunting, they're not after fish no
37 more because they're not there. So we're competing
38 now. And we're just -- you know, we need ideas on how
39 to, you know, slow them down in growth because once
40 they find out they can, you know, get calves at a --
41 you know, at a increasing amount they're going to
42 increase. And that's what's going on, we're starting
43 to see -- some of them are the size of a little truck
44 now, they're getting so huge. I mean, they're growing,
45 they're -- you know, because they come out of the
46 mountains they're in pretty good shape when they come
47 out of there.....

48

49

CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

50

0240

1 MR. VENT:because they're
2 dominant. They tend to own that area. If they had
3 that -- you know, they come out of that and they own
4 that area right there because that's how they operate,
5 they don't just, you know, own one of the small parts,
6 they go five -- five days and that's quite a -- that's
7 quite a ways they can go.

8 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

9

10 MR. VENT: But we know down in the
11 Dalby River area this one -- you know, a dominant
12 animal, it doesn't sleep. So it's not only operating
13 in the summertime, it's out there wandering around in
14 the winter. And they shot it in December. So, you
15 know, these animals are not resting no more, they're --
16 once they get old they just tend to move, keep moving.

17

18

19 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, they -- that's
20 how large brown bears die, they get old, they put on
21 less and less weight and when they run out of fat in
22 the winter then they come out and there's -- they
23 killed one in Coldfoot on January 3. It was -- it was
24 clean -- it was chasing wolves off of kills up to the
25 east of Coldfoot and when the wolves got sick of that
26 and left and quit feeding it it ended up coming into
27 Coldfoot and it was very shy of humans. When they
28 killed it its teeth were worn to the gums.....

29

30 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

31

32 CHAIR REAKOFF:it was excess of
33 25 years of age. Kimberly Beckman at Fish and Game
34 wanted it to be shipped into Fairbanks to find out why
35 in the world it died. It was like you just look at its
36 mouth and see why it died.

37

38 MR. VENT: Yeah.

39

40 CHAIR REAKOFF: This is how old bears --
41 so if you've got a bear out in winter, that bear's
42 dying.....

43

44 MR. VENT: Yeah.

45

46 CHAIR REAKOFF:and so you should
47 really put it down.

48

49 MR. VENT: Yeah.

50

0241

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: You're -- you're not --
2 leaving it to run around you're not helping it, it's
3 going to die, it's going to starve.

4
5 MR. VENT: Yeah, there's some other
6 issues that we run into, you know, a couple of times
7 where the animal had a broken jaw, it had got in a
8 fight and it had no way to survive. So it went into
9 the village and started, you know, just going through
10 trash and everything, trying to find something to eat
11 because it -- it was hungry.

12
13 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

14
15 MR. VENT: And it's kind of a danger
16 because it only operates at nighttime, you know, so our
17 kids are playing out and we all of a sudden have to get
18 the kids into the houses so they don't, you know,
19 actually end up being food.

20
21 CHAIR REAKOFF: Back on the subject
22 here. Park Service has resubmitted in fact I made
23 comments -- well, you probably saw my comments from the
24 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission.
25 The Park Service drove this proposal forward and it was
26 adopted. And in 2016 OSM decided we were going to have
27 a 10 RAC meeting in Anchorage and there were 10
28 Regional Advisory Councils, I was tapped to Cochair
29 that meeting, there was five this way, five that way
30 and a huge part of that discussion, I couldn't even
31 stop the discussion, was about that proposed rule and
32 the -- and that rule. The Coun -- some Councils just
33 kept going on and on. I was like, all right, we've
34 belabored that issue. Then the Park Service swaps in
35 and they start -- they go in the opposite direction
36 because Congress actually made a resolution, I forget
37 what they call that, but what's the term for that.....

38
39 MR. VENT: I couldn't tell you. I.....

40
41 CHAIR REAKOFF:it's a -- as an
42 acronym. So anyway the Congress made a resolution to
43 oppose that and so that drove it in the other
44 direction. So the Parks Service was fighting forward
45 and environmental groups were fighting the Park
46 Service. And that's where you're in litigation right
47 now. So I'm at a complete -- as an SRC member I'm at a
48 complete loss as to the Park Service is fighting itself
49 at the moment. Right now they're chasing their tail.

50

0242

1 They're -- they're still litigating against the -- to
2 maintain the current rule which is to basically repeal
3 all those regulatory restrictions. Yeah, now there's a
4 no proposed rule that's actually fighting themselves.
5 So I'm at a complete loss as to -- and I stated it in
6 that email which I've tried to find and I can't find
7 it. I'm concerned that there's still litigation in
8 process. I feel that it was very premature to submit a
9 proposed rule when you're still in litigation. I'm
10 still -- I'm concerned that Congress actually voiced --
11 and I kind of sit up and pay attention to Congress when
12 they make -- when Congress says something, jump, how
13 high do you want us to jump because ANILCA and these
14 statutes. So Congress was actually opposed to the
15 original proposed rule. I've -- I don't think that the
16 current proposed rule that -- I feel comfortable
17 commenting on that.

18

19 As I stated in that -- in that email to
20 the Park Service for the Gates of the Arctic
21 Subsistence Resource Commission because right now the
22 Park Service is fighting to maintain the current
23 proposed rule yet is proposing a new one and we're
24 still in litigation. And this Federal judge here,
25 Gleason, hasn't actually gone to a final decision on
26 this whole process. That is I feel that our Council
27 should defer to Park Service. You go and chase your
28 own tail, I don't want to be involved in this thing.
29 That's where I'm at, I don't feel that I want to make
30 any kind of a comment because we've already -- you
31 know, there's been a lot of discussion since the
32 original proposed rule was adopted. So I just don't --
33 personally I don't want to -- I don't want to go there.
34 So I feel that this thing has turned into this giant
35 mudball rolling down the mountain and I just don't want
36 to be -- have any kind of mud slung in my face on this
37 one.

38

39 So personally I don't -- I don't want
40 to make a comment other than those. Do you have any
41 comments, Jenny, on the new proposed rule.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIR REAKOFF: Darrell.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIR REAKOFF: Tim, would you have any

50

0243

1 comments on the new proposed rule.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: No, I think -- think what
4 you're saying is -- has been done, it's done.

5

6 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So at this time
7 those would be our comments. So I do appreciate you
8 coming -- coming here to speak with us and, Mr.
9 Hilderbrand, and not that I have anything against the
10 Park Service, I work well with the Park Service, but I
11 just feel that this issue is just so convoluted that
12 it's just not worth even go -- even getting close to
13 it. The mud is flying so I just don't want to get
14 close to it.

15

16 Nissa.

17

18 MS. PILCHER: Oh, for the -- Nissa
19 Pilcher for the record. I just wanted to let you know
20 that at your fall meeting you -- the Council did vote
21 to defer to the Gates of the Arctic SRC in part because
22 the comment period wasn't going to be open when you
23 guys held this meeting.....

24

25 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah.

26

27 MS. PILCHER:just to let you
28 know.

29

30 CHAIR REAKOFF: When I was asked -- the
31 Gates of the Arctic was -- is -- our meeting is in mid
32 April so we're not going to meet the window and when we
33 were asked to submit previous comments I was -- I says
34 I don't feel like it. I just -- I made a -- I
35 basically said everything that I just read -- said onto
36 the record in an email to the Parks Service and so I
37 was like I just don't want to go there, I'm the Vice-
38 Chair of the Gates of the Arctic and our Chair sort of
39 agreed with me. So like this is where we're at. The
40 Gates of the Arctic Resource Commission will meet in
41 mid April here in a couple weeks and we'll probably
42 talk about it again, but we'll probably say the same
43 thing.

44

45 So that's where I'm at.

46

47 MR. HILDERBRAND: I just want to say I
48 appreciate your time and appreciate the comments. So
49 thanks, everyone.

50

0244

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Thank you.

2

3 MR. HILDERBRAND: You bet.

4

5 CHAIR REAKOFF: So we're -- Yukon
6 Delta. Okay. Let's see. They adopted proposal 23-01.

7

8 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, the special action
9 request. You guys wanted -- the Council yesterday
10 wanted to wait until the YK Delta.....

11

12 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

13

14 MS. PILCHER:RAC weighed in on
15 that.

16

17 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

18

19 MS. PILCHER: So do you want to.....

20

21 CHAIR REAKOFF: So yes, we -- we do
22 want to go back to that one. And which page was that.
23 It's on Page 132, 132 in our book. So Yukon Delta has
24 adopted Federal Special Action Request 23-01, the
25 Kanektok River chinook and chum salmon fishing closure
26 to non-Federally-qualified users during the June, 2023
27 and June, 2024 fishing seasons. And so this Council
28 discussed this proposal yesterday and so since YK Delta
29 we wanted to know what they did with it.

30

31 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
32 support FSA 23-01 in alignment with the Yukon Delta.
33 Okay.

34

35 MS. PILCHER: Can we have -- Mr.
36 Vickers might have some additional information.

37

38 CHAIR REAKOFF: Further information.
39 Brent.

40

41 MR. VICKERS: You summarized it pretty
42 well. For the record this is Brent Vickers, Office of
43 Subsistence Management. Let me just read the
44 justification that I have.....

45

46 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

47

48 MR. VICKERS:from the YK Delta
49 for that.

50

0245

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, that would be
2 great.

3
4 MR. VICKERS: Okay.

5
6 CHAIR REAKOFF: Please do.

7
8 MR. VICKERS: Yes, the YK Delta
9 Regional Advisory Committee just -- Council, sorry,
10 voted to support Federal -- Fisheries Special Action
11 FSA 23-01. Their justification was that it was due to
12 low numbers of chinook and chum salmon. The Council
13 felt very strongly that sport and commercial fishing
14 should be closed for conservation reasons, subsistence
15 fishing should not be restricted by the special action.
16 That's all.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIR REAKOFF: Thank you. Go ahead,
21 Nissa.

22
23 MS. PILCHER: Sorry. Nissa Pilcher for
24 the record. And just to make you aware that this
25 special action speaks specifically to sport so the
26 commercial fishing was an addition by the YK Delta RAC.

27
28 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. And they have a
29 district at the mouth of the river or -- apparently.

30
31 MR. VICKERS: Kevin, do you want to --
32 I don't want to -- I have an answer in my head, but
33 you're the analyst and on the phone. Would you like to
34 answer that, please.

35
36 MR. FOLEY: Through the Chair. For the
37 record my name is Kevin Foley, Fisheries Biologist,
38 OSM.

39
40 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yes, go right ahead.

41
42 MR. FOLEY: Can you repeat the
43 question, please.

44
45 CHAIR REAKOFF: The question is the
46 Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Council supported the
47 proposal with modification to include closing
48 commercial fishing. Is there a commercial fishery at
49 the mouth of the river or near that -- near that

50

0246

1 drainage?

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MR. FOLEY: Through the Chair. I'm aware of a notification that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has recently put forward. And this is a -- one moment while I pull it up, please, this is a Kuskokwim Bay salmon fishery announcement that they've put out on March 29th by the Department. And it mentions that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not anticipate any commercial gillnet openings in Kuskokwim Bay fishing districts 4 and 5 in 2023.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. That's what we wanted to know. So we can -- I feel comfortable with going along with the Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Council's closure to nonsubsistence uses including commercial and sport use in the Kanektok drainage as seen in proposal FSA 23-01.

So any further discussion.

(No comments)

CHAIR REAKOFF: The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt proposal FSA 23-01 as modified by the Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Council.

MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

MR. FOLEY: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Yes. Go ahead.

MR. FOLEY: Yes. For the record this is Kevin -- for the record this is Kevin Foley of the Office of Subsistence Management. I just want to point out that -- a point of clarity. There is no commercial fishing inside the Kanektok River itself. There is only a commercial fishing district out in the marine waters within Kuskokwim -- within Kuskokwim Bay.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. They seem -- the YK Delta seems to have made this closure just for general purposes, whether it's -- they're have juris -- extraterritorial jurisdictions or not. So I just want to -- I don't want to cloud the issue before the Federal Subsistence Board.

0247

1 So Jenny made a motion to adopt that
2 modification. And do we have a second.

3
4 MR. VENT: Second.

5
6 CHAIR REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrell.
7 Discussion, any further discussion.

8
9 MR. GERVAIS: Jack. Jack.

10
11 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

12
13 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, I have a question.

14
15 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

16
17 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. What was the
18 modification from YK Delta, please?

19
20 CHAIR REAKOFF: Do you have the
21 modification verbiage again, Brent. Read it into the
22 -- Tim wants the exact verbiage.

23
24 MR. VICKERS: This is Brent Vickers
25 from Office of Subsistence Management on the record.
26 Let me read what I have written here. I'll note that I
27 don't -- Kevin might be able to speak better on this,
28 but I don't think it was actually a modification, but
29 more just justification. And it said that -- what I
30 have written here is that the Council supported the
31 fisheries special action due to low numbers of chinook
32 and chum salmon. The Council feels that sport and
33 commercial fishing should be closed for conservation
34 reasons. Subsistence fishing should not be restricted
35 by this act -- special action.

36
37 Kevin, do you want to specify if that
38 was a modification to the special action or a comment
39 or am I just off base here?

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MR. FOLEY: Thank you for that
44 question, Brent. Through the Chair. Mr. Chair, Brent
45 Vickers. The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory
46 Council accepted the Federal Special Action 23-01 as
47 is. There was a good deal of discussion regarding
48 commercial fisheries although the -- it came down in
49 the end to accepting or providing support for the
50

0248

1 motion. The motion carried. And as Mr. Vickers cited,
2 the rationales are due to low numbers of chinook and
3 chum salmon the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council felt that
4 sport fishing should be closed for conservation
5 reasons. This would be fishing inside of Federal
6 waters on the Kanektok River. For conservation reasons
7 subsistence fishing should not be restricted by this
8 special action.

9

10 But I know that was a little long-
11 winded, Mr. Chair, but I hope that provides a little
12 bit of clarity. The special action was voted on as is.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIR REAKOFF: Thank you so much. I
17 needed that clarity. We need to retract that motion
18 because we're -- we actually stated it as a
19 modification through like a -- we can vote the original
20 motion down, we need to make a new motion to support
21 the proposal as written.

22

23 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
24 adopt the motion made and I intend to vote against the
25 motion signify by saying aye.

26

27 (No affirmative votes)

28

29 CHAIR REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIR REAKOFF: So new motion.....

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: Oppose.

36

37 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

38

39 MR. VENT: He said oppose.

40

41 CHAIR REAKOFF: You're opposed to that
42 motion.

43

44 MR. GERVAIS: I was opposed to the --
45 to the original motion that had the modification
46 language in it. Are you going to re -- are you going
47 to go back and.....

48

49 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, we were oppose --

50

0249

1 we were voting to oppose it. So we're going to go back
2 to make a new motion to adopt the proposal FSA 23-01 as
3 written.

4
5 So would you like to make that motion,
6 Jenny.

7
8 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

9
10 MR. VENT: Second.

11
12 CHAIR REAKOFF: Jenny's making that
13 motion to adopt proposal FSA 23-01 as written, seconded
14 by Darrell.

15
16 You want further discussion, Tim, go
17 ahead.

18
19 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, further discussion
20 on the proposal as written or the mod -- the closure as
21 written. We've had -- we've had conversations with the
22 State Area Management Biologist before, they were there
23 executing a sockeye salmon fishery somewhere off of
24 Quinhagak which is the southern part of Kuskokwim Bay
25 and he's under the impression that due to the timing of
26 the openings they're not -- they're not intercepting
27 much, they're not having a significant interception of
28 chum and pink salmon. But I've talked to the folks
29 that tender that fleet out of there, they do -- they do
30 catch pink salmon on the south boundary drift inlet in
31 the fall. I -- and at the time -- I don't remember the
32 gentleman's name, but he was -- he was the -- he acted
33 perturbed that we were bringing up the fact that there
34 was a bycatch issue with the pink salmon during like
35 (indiscernible - distortion).

36
37 So I hope if we go to the extent of
38 limiting that -- this -- the fishing access due to this
39 closure that the -- can respond not -- not allowing the
40 commercial drift sockeye or -- yeah, sockeye salmon
41 fishery to occur if it's going to be a situation where
42 they're -- they're harvesting pink salmon. That would
43 be a -- that would be a travesty to be under duly
44 restricted fishery closure and still have the
45 commercial fleet even harvesting kings.

46
47 So I would just -- I know I would --
48 I'm going to vote for this proposal as written, but I
49 hope that the State Manager will now persecute the --
50

0250

1 prosecute the drift sockeye fishery off of Quinhagak
2 because it's going to be an issue for some of these
3 king stocks.

4

5 That's all I have right now.

6

7 CHAIR REAKOFF: Nissa just pulled up
8 the fisheries -- Kuskokwim Bay salmon fishery
9 announcement number 1. Nick Smith, Kuskokwim Area
10 Management Biologist.....

11

12 REPORTER: Hang on, Jack.

13

14 CHAIR REAKOFF: What.

15

16 REPORTER: Hang on. The phone just cut
17 out. I dialed back.

18

19 CHAIR REAKOFF: Our phone dropped here
20 so our court recorder, Nathan, has dialed us back in.
21 So you're hearing me okay, Tim.

22

23 MR. GERVAIS: Just came back. We lost
24 you for about 20 seconds.

25

26 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So I'm going to
27 read into the record, there's a Kuskokwim Bay salmon
28 fisheries announcement number 1. This was March 29,
29 2023. Nick Smith, Area Management Biologist. This
30 announcement is for the Alaska Department of Fish and
31 Game for commercial fishermen in the districts 4 and 5,
32 Kuskokwim Bay. ADF&G does not anticipate any
33 commercial gillnet openings in Kuskokwim Bay fishing
34 district in 4 and 5 in 2023.

35

36 So the Department does not intend to
37 execute any commercial fishery in Kuskokwim Bay. Even
38 though they're in a state of denial they were taking
39 quite a bit of bycatch of chum and chinook.

40

41 I'm supportive of proposal FSA 23-01 to
42 closure to sport fishing. There's a significant
43 incidental harvest mortality with catch and release of
44 chinook salmon. And so this -- unless -- and depart --
45 and there's regulations about in specific waters about
46 breaking the water with the fish and all that kind of
47 stuff, but the reality is when you have so few chinook
48 returns a deep catch in a -- in a gill could be a
49 mortality before the fish actually spawns. So closure

50

0251

1 to sport fishing is completely warranted when we have
2 below management objectives. And so I fully support
3 this proposal FSA 23-01 as written.

4

5 The Chair will enter -- you made a --
6 Jenny made a motion to adopt, Darrell seconded. Any
7 further discussion on the proposal.

8

9 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

10

11 CHAIR REAKOFF: The question's called.
12 Those in favor of supporting FSA 23-01 as written
13 signify by saying aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 (No opposing votes)

18

19 CHAIR REAKOFF: So prop -- Western
20 Interior Regional Advisory Council adopted FSA 23-01
21 unanimous with the quorum we had.

22

23 So we're back -- we're down to -- down
24 to -- let's see here.

25

26 MS. PELKOLA: N.

27

28 CHAIR REAKOFF: Where are we at here,
29 Nissa, I'm.....

30

31 MS. PELKOLA: N.

32

33 MS. PILCHER: We are at Item Number 11,
34 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update.

35

36 MR. VENT: N.

37

38 MS. PELKOLA: N.

39

40 CHAIR REAKOFF: M.

41

42 MS. PILCHER: N.

43

44 MR. VENT: N.

45

46 MS. PILCHER: N as in Nissa.

47

48 CHAIR REAKOFF: N as in Nissa.

49

50

0252

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIR REAKOFF: So that would be 12 --

4 12N. So fisheries -- okay, Lisa or Liz and Cory

5 Graham.

6

7 Okay. Cory.

8

9 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair, members of the

10 Council. For the record my name is Cory Graham and I'm

11 a Fisheries Biologist with OSM. So I will be providing

12 an update on three Fisheries Program topics including

13 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, Partners for

14 Fisheries Monitoring and the Fisheries regulatory

15 cycle. These will be brief updates and none are action

16 items.

17

18 So I'll start with the update on

19 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and the funding

20 opportunity that closed on February 24th. So the

21 mission of the monitoring program is to identify and

22 provide information needed to sustain subsistence

23 fisheries on Federal public lands. The Monitoring

24 Program also supports meaningful involvement in

25 fisheries management by Alaska Native and rural

26 organization and promotes collaboration among Federal,

27 State, Alaska Native and local organizations.

28

29 So these funding opportunities seek

30 applications for projects that address priority

31 information needs developed by the Councils and for the

32 2024 funding cycle it's anticipated there'll be

33 approximately 2.25 million available in funding for the

34 first year of new projects. Applications will be

35 reviewed by the Technical Review Committee, summaries

36 of project proposals submitted for your region will be

37 presented to you at your next meeting for your input.

38

39 If there are any questions I'd be happy

40 to address them now and that concludes my presentation.

41

42

43 CHAIR REAKOFF: And this is -- so if

44 there's an administrative change and there's additional

45 funding that would come in the next fiscal cycle

46 or.....

47

48 MR. GRAHAM: We don't know for sure

49 what the funding -- the final funding number will be,

50

0253

1 it may be more than 2.25, it may be less. If you're
2 referring to the proposal to change.....

3
4 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

5
6 MR. GRAHAM:OSM's place, I don't
7 know when that would happen and I couldn't answer that.

8
9 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So we do know
10 that we have these.....

11
12 REPORTER: Jack.

13
14 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, excuse me. We do
15 know that this is -- these funds are available?

16
17 MR. GRAHAM: Correct. We have
18 available funds, we don't know what the final number
19 will be yet, it's estimated it will be 2.25 million,
20 but that could change.

21
22 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Any other
23 questions, Council members.

24
25 Tim. Tim Gervais.

26
27 MR. GERVAIS: No question.

28
29 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Continue.

30
31 MR. GRAHAM: So my next update will be
32 on Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. So this
33 winter OSM sought proposals for the Partners for
34 Fisheries Monitoring Program to strengthen Alaska
35 Native and rural involvement in Federal subsistence
36 management. The Partner -- Partners Program funds
37 salaries for biologist, social scientist and educator
38 positions in Alaska Native and rural nonprofit
39 organizations with the intent of increasing the
40 organization's capacity. The program also supports a
41 variety of opportunities for local rural students to
42 connect with subsistence resource monitoring and
43 management through science camps and paid internships.

44
45 For this funding cycle it's anticipated
46 that approximated 1 million will be available yearly.
47 There were 15 proposals received and the Review Panel
48 met in mid February to determine what applicants would
49 be funding. More information about that will be
50

0254

1 provided soon through a news release by OSM and Karen
2 Hyer is the point person in our office to contact if
3 you have any more in depth questions about the Partners
4 Program.

5
6 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Any questions
7 from Council members on the Partners Program.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIR REAKOFF: No.

12
13 MR. GRAHAM: So, Mr. Chair, yeah, I
14 will be providing one more update, but based on the
15 schedule it looks like NVN might have a project update
16 right now, is that -- is that correct.

17
18 MS. PILCHER: Jeff's trying to see if
19 Dan is online. Dan, are you online.

20
21 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah, hello. Nissa, was
22 that you calling for me?

23
24 MS. PILCHER: Yes, it sure is. Were
25 you ready to give your presentation now, we do need to
26 get the laptop hooked up real quick, but it shouldn't
27 take too long.

28
29 MR. GILLIKIN: Sure. I can provide
30 that anytime.

31
32 MS. PILCHER: Okay. One minute.

33
34 CHAIR REAKOFF: One minute.

35
36 MS. PILCHER: Or.....

37
38 MR. GRAHAM: I can.....

39
40 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, how about Cory
41 finishes and.....

42
43 MR. GRAHAM:I can finish. Does
44 that work? Whatever works best for the Council.

45
46 CHAIR REAKOFF: You could finish up and
47 then we'll go to Dan.

48
49 Go ahead.

50

0255

1 MR. GRAHAM: So my final update will be
2 on the recently concluded Fisheries regulatory cycle.
3 The Federal Subsistence Board took action on all of the
4 fisheries proposals and closure reviews at their
5 January fisheries regulatory meeting. We expect the
6 new regulations will be published in the Federal
7 Register in late spring or early summer. The following
8 is a list of actions on the proposals or closures that
9 your Council provided input on.

10

11 So we had FP 23-01 which is the Jim
12 River and the Board approved allowing the harvest of
13 non-salmon fish in the Jim River drainage by rod and
14 reel only and increasing Arctic grayling harvest limit
15 to 10 per day.

16

17 For FP 23-02 the Board recognized the
18 customary and traditional use of chinook, summer chum,
19 coho, sockeye and pink salmon for residents of Chevak,
20 Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay.

21

22 FCR 23-02. The Board removed the
23 closure to the subsistence harvest of non-salmon fish
24 in the Kanuti River, but it kept the closure to the
25 harvest of salmon.

26

27 The Board also removed the closure to
28 the harvest of non-salmon fish in Bonanza Creek, but
29 kept the closure to salmon.

30

31 And finally for the Delta River
32 closure, FCR 23-05, the Board deferred action on the
33 closure review until the next fisheries regulatory
34 cycle.

35

36 We will begin our next cycle --
37 fisheries regulatory cycle during your winter, 2024
38 meetings. At that time we'll provide Councils with
39 draft closure reviews similar to what Wildlife did this
40 cycle and we'll also solicit proposals to change
41 Federal fish and shellfish regulations.

42

43 And that concludes my presentation.

44

45 CHAIR REAKOFF: Thank you, Cory. Any
46 questions or comments.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0256

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: No. Thank you so much.
2 So, Dan, are we going to -- we're trying to get your
3 presentation on the screen here. So standby
4 momentarily.

5
6 MS. PILCHER: It's up now.

7
8 MR. GILLIKIN: Sure.

9
10 CHAIR REAKOFF: It's up now.

11
12 MR. GILLIKIN: Maybe we can do a sound
13 check. Can you hear me okay?

14
15 CHAIR REAKOFF: Your presentation is on
16 screen so go right ahead.

17
18 MR. GILLIKIN: Okay. Good morning, Mr.
19 Chair, Council members. Can everybody hear me okay?

20
21 CHAIR REAKOFF: We hear you loud and
22 clear. The best of the morning.

23
24 MR. GILLIKIN: Okay. Great. So Nissa
25 said she could just advance the slides as I request,
26 that'll be great.

27
28 So my name is Dan Gillikin, I'm the
29 Environmental Director for the Native Village of
30 Napaimute. I'm also the Partner's Biologist here in
31 the middle Kuskokwim through the Partners in Fisheries
32 Monitoring Program. So that's a picture of me there in
33 case you were wondering.

34
35 If we can go to the next slide, please.
36 So our Environmental Department actually consists of
37 several different programs and the Partners in
38 Fisheries Monitoring project is just one of them. We
39 also get funded through the EPA or the Indian General
40 Assistance Program where we do environmental mulching,
41 back haul activities, things like that. We have a
42 large environmental education, outreach, technical
43 assistance and a program that we provide to
44 stakeholders and tribal members related to proposed
45 projects and regulations.

46
47 We have a couple of -- actually we have
48 three Fisheries Monitoring projects, the Salmon River
49 weir, the Aniak test fishery and starting this year the
50

0257

1 whitefish project. That's all funded through the FRMP
2 Program. We support our other Napaimute programs such
3 as the Brownfield funded through the EPA, we have
4 forest management and forest operations plan where we
5 harvest firewood and build log cabins. And we have a
6 Logistical Support Division where we have a LPM, that's
7 a landing craft and freight that we do on the ice roads
8 in the wintertime. And of course we build
9 administrative support.

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One of the areas that we try to focus on is developing partnerships with universities, other interested parties to address the environmental concerns that are identified by my tribe, the EPA and other Advisory Committees. We have a couple of different projects where we're involved in primarily stream temperature monitoring. And then youth outreach is another area that we focus on while we're trying to build young professionals, develop our workforce and we do that through providing ANSEP and TKC internships and through our math, science education and George River internship projects.

Next slide, please. So more of a focus on the Partners Program. As many of you are aware, you know, there's a lot of different aspects to it, one of which is to provide fisheries monitoring opportunities and help support those efforts here in the middle Kuskokwim. We represent our tribal members related to fisheries issues and concern and any kind of a regulatory review that they want to provide input on. I work on developing position statements, finding cooperators on developing proposals, things like that. We work closely with the various Advisory Groups like yourself to address concerns related to fisheries and we're always trying to build our local workforce and provide opportunity for them through our youth outreach and just administrative workforce development projects.

Next slide, please. So one of our Fisheries Monitoring projects is the Salmon River Weir and it's funded through the FRMP at Fish and Wildlife Service and it operates typically from July 15th to August 7th. Last year we had some issues with gray water like many of the weirs did out here and it blew -- it blew out so we had to discontinue operations a little prematurely, but we did have enough salmon count at the weir to provide for good estimates of the passage that we did see before the weir blew out. It

0258

1 is a picket weir design which is a little bit different
2 than the ones that are typically deployed out here, the
3 floating type weirs. A picket weir is a little bit
4 more vulnerable to the high water events. We'll have
5 our work cut out for us to rebuild that this year, but
6 we've been coordinating with the State and we see no
7 issues related to that.

8

9 Next slide, please. So we should be on
10 slide 5. The other monitoring project takes place
11 right here in Aniak and it's also funded through the
12 FRMP. It operates June 1 to July 15 and what we do is
13 we conduct a series of drifts twice -- twice a day, in
14 the morning and evening through set location on the
15 river here just above Aniak and they're timed drifts.
16 So we repeat this every single day precisely -- as
17 precisely as we can so that there's no variation in the
18 methodology there. And what it does is it provides a
19 real time index of abundance and species ratio and we
20 send those numbers to ADF&G and the Fish and Wildlife
21 Service in Bethel on a daily basis and they use that
22 information when discussing the need for conservation
23 actions here in the middle river. We've got eight
24 years of data now actually so it's starting to become a
25 pretty robust data set and last year we saw chinook
26 indices which were a little bit below average, but a
27 little bit better than the most recent years. And chum
28 salmon as you might expect was extremely low, almost
29 just a blip on our graphic there and there's a couple
30 of graphics there on the slide that show the data that
31 we've been collecting so far.

32

33 Next slide, please. So one of the
34 other monitoring projects we have are assisting OSM and
35 FRMP with the whitefish -- broad whitefish tagging
36 study where we're trying to -- they're trying to
37 estimate the spawning abundance and harvest of broad
38 whitefish on the Kuskokwim here. It's a mark recapture
39 type of project, those fish were marked last fall up in
40 McGrath and they'll be migrating downriver. As they go
41 to their summer areas we'll be collecting tags,
42 providing outreach and any technical support that might
43 be required for the tag recovery side of that
44 operation.

45

46 Next slide, please. So we're on slide
47 7. So like I mentioned through our IGAP program and
48 other projects that we have funded through AYK, SSI and
49 other funding organizations we do try to do quite a bit
50

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1 of water related monitoring projects. One of the goals
2 with the IGAP program over the last few years has been
3 to develop a standard sampling protocol that would
4 cover the entire Kuskokwim River basin. We found after
5 reviewing a lot of the data that's been collected that
6 there's a lot of different methodologies being deployed
7 and they're not necessarily being -- data's not being
8 collected in a strategic way. So one of the objectives
9 I had is to develop a standardized protocol that
10 hopefully people can adopt. And then we'll be able to
11 analyze a lot better data sets to tell us what's going
12 on with stream temperatures here on the Kuskokwim. And
13 we are doing that. We also developed a stem and life
14 history location temperature specific model that
15 actually will tell you whether or not the critical
16 temperature thresholds were exceeded at any given site
17 when the salmon, it's species specific also, was
18 passing through that area. We sampled about 40
19 different sites that we had data for and we found that
20 only 20 percent of the sites were exceeding at least
21 the critical threshold of 18 degrees celsius which is a
22 little bit concerning for the Kuskokwim given that we
23 really didn't have that much data, but it's already
24 looking like there's some issues that need to be
25 further researched.

26
27 We've been working with the University
28 of Montana and southwest partners organization to
29 actually collect stream surface temperature data. We
30 deployed about 55 data loggers throughout the Kuskokwim
31 drainage including a very intensive deployment on the
32 Aniak River. That data's going to be used to train and
33 calibrate satellite imagery that we hopefully can then
34 interpellate stream surface temperature data from once
35 that model is completely developed and that will allow
36 us to then be able to with some degree of accuracy
37 monitor stream surface temperatures throughout the
38 entire basin and just inferred from satellite imagery
39 and hopefully to be able to go back in time with
40 satellite imagery and do some retrospective analysis.

41
42 And we assist different organizations
43 out here with collecting ice thickness, National
44 Weather Service has a program that we're a part of to
45 do that annually. We've just -- the Alaska Department
46 of Fish and Game with stream discharge measurements and
47 any other pretty much information that they're
48 interested in. We always are ready to provide support.
49
50

1 Next slide, please. So one of the
2 areas that I get involved in is I provide technical
3 support. This last fall I worked with the local
4 Advisory -- ADF&G Advisory Committee on a couple of
5 proposals. You probably looked at those at the Board
6 of Fish meeting and reviewed them. Neither of the
7 proposals passed. Proposal 90 would have been to put a
8 tier two chinook permit in place on the Kuskokwim and
9 then 93 was to close the Buckstock River to all fishing
10 to protect chum spawning in that drainage which are
11 extremely vulnerable due to the low waters. One of the
12 areas that we're uniquely situated to help is that we
13 are collecting a lot of the information that goes into
14 these proposals. In particular things like closing the
15 Buckstock River, we had temperature data specific to
16 the Buckstock, we had hydrology data specific to the
17 Buckstock and then we had chum salmon passage run
18 timing at the weir which is very similar to the
19 Buckstock timing. And from that we were able to pin
20 down the dates of closure rather than just closing a
21 complete closure you got a window that we propose of
22 when those fish would be most vulnerable.

23 Like I said neither proposal was
24 adopted at the Board of Fish meeting, but we at least
25 are starting to raise some of these concerns.

26
27 Next slide, please. So the outreach
28 projects we have, the George River internship which
29 usually accommodates up to 12 internship opportunities
30 and we spend seven days up on the George River and the
31 focus of that internship is to study salmon and river
32 ecology and then teach the interns how to collect
33 actual data related to that. We've got seven years of
34 data from long term reference sites that we established
35 with our first trip up there and so now it's starting
36 to draw a pretty interesting picture about what's going
37 on on the George River which has been greatly impacted
38 actually by wildfires. And so from that we're hoping
39 to be able to do some analysis in the future and take
40 wildfires into consideration when we're talking about
41 protecting salmon streams out here.

42
43 The science expedition is another youth
44 outreach project that is funded by the Fish and
45 Wildlife Partnership event specifically and that one
46 has about 40 students that go on a 10 day float down
47 the Salmon River and the Aniak River and that
48 instruction is centered on building leadership skills.
49 They evaluate salmon habitat on their way down, they
50

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1 capture juvenile salmon using minnow traps, they ID
2 juvenile salmon and they actually measure their length
3 and weight. From that we can calculate their condition
4 factor. That also has about 10 years of data and it's
5 starting to become pretty interesting to look at that
6 data set and see how it's changing over time both with
7 the distribution of juvenile fish and then their
8 condition factor.

9

10 Next slide, please. So my Council and
11 our leadership here we -- we're -- we place a strong
12 emphasis on developing, you know, a young workforce
13 that will help make our programs more sustainable.
14 Currently we've been sending folks off to various
15 trainings and in the last year we have -- we now have
16 five U.S.....

17

18 CHAIR REAKOFF: Can you hear me, Dan.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIR REAKOFF: I think we lost him
23 somehow or his phone died maybe. Can anybody else hear
24 me on this phone?

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIR REAKOFF: Can anybody else on the
29 call hear me.

30

31 MR. MASCHMANN: I can. This is Gerald.

32

33 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, we lost
34 Dan there. So his phone may have died or something
35 happened.

36

37 (Pause)

38

39 MR. GILLIKIN: Hello.

40

41 CHAIR REAKOFF: Are you there, Dan.

42

43 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah, I'm here. I'm
44 sorry about that, but my phone just cut off on me.

45

46 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, I -- we caught
47 there. So you were -- we were -- you were down about
48 the LCM, talking about your training programs go.....

49

50

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1 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIR REAKOFF:continue.

4

5 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah. Right. So we've
6 been providing training opportunity for young folks out
7 here and like I was mentioning we have licensed boat
8 operators, we're providing charter services with our
9 landing craft and our small boats and we've been --
10 along those lines we've been supporting various
11 environmental studies that have been going on out here
12 on the Kuskokwim related to the Donlin Mine
13 development. That's one area that we're hoping to
14 expand on along with annually we've been supporting the
15 backhaul activities of hazardous materials from
16 various villages and this year hopefully we'll be out
17 also hitting some of the fish camps in the lower river.
18 We're sending out a lot of folks out to be certified,
19 to handle hazardous materials and conduct environmental
20 sampling and then heavy equipment operation.

21

22 So next slide, please, slide 11. So
23 along those lines of building capacity we're in the
24 process of renovating an office facility that we
25 purchased here in Aniak. It'll provide a library, an
26 office, shop, smokehouse space and hopefully we can --
27 if you guys ever do get out to Aniak hopefully we'll be
28 able to support you in your meetings and any needs that
29 you might have. And we're about halfway through those
30 renovations. And it will significantly increase our
31 capacity for operations out here.

32

33 And last slide, please, slide 12. I
34 just want to give a quick shout out to my crew for last
35 year, most of them will be returning and it looks like
36 this year I'll also have a couple of ANSEP students and
37 four interns to fill out my crew.

38

39 So with that I thank you for your time.
40 Any questions I'd be happy to answer.

41

42 CHAIR REAKOFF: Thanks so much, Dan.
43 We really wanted to have a meeting down in Aniak and
44 we're on our way there and Ravn blew our meeting out of
45 the water and so we were going to lose a whole day by
46 continuing with going to Aniak. And this Council had a
47 lot of business to cover and so we -- we're getting a
48 full meeting in. We'll try to reschedule for and OSM
49 to learn not to fly with Ravn. And so I really

50

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1 appreciate all of the work you're doing there, that's
2 some very innovative work.

3

4

5 I had a couple questions myself. Are
6 you doing stream temperature profile in the mainstem of
7 the Kuskokwim River for salmon species vector
8 corridors. Chinook typically swim deeper in the water
9 whereas chum swim closer to the beach so when you're
10 doing temperature analysis are you doing deep water and
11 shallow, are you -- when you're doing drifts are you --
12 are your stations correlated to chinook areas and chum
13 areas or is it just sort of just a general surface
14 temperature, that's the overall.....

14

15 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah.

16

17 CHAIR REAKOFF:question? Go
18 ahead.

19

20

21 MR. GILLIKIN: For the extreme
22 temperature data that we've been collecting it's all
23 been shallow, it hasn't been deep because it's got to
24 be correlated to the satellite imagery. So the intent
25 there is we're looking at surface water temperatures,
26 typically less than, you know, a couple of feet, a foot
27 of -- couple of feet under the surface of the water.

27

28

29 But you're absolutely correct, you
30 know, these fish are traveling at different depths
31 because of the temperatures and they're actually
32 seeking out during warm years that refusia and we've
33 seen that in our test fishery actually where the fish
34 are falling out of the test fishery once it -- most of
35 the fish that we catch in the test fishery we release,
36 99 percent of them. In years of really low warm water
37 what we saw was we saw a group of -- a spike in our
38 catch data and it looked a little curious and so what
39 we did is we started marking fish and we found that
40 what we were doing is we were recapturing fish that
41 were flowing back to the confluence where the Aniak
42 River comes in because it was cooler and then they were
43 coming back up. And so as part of that we made it
44 standard to mark all the fish that we released.

44

45

46 As far as the different depths we're
47 fishing a 45 mesh deep net through three different
48 drifts in the study area. You've got a right bank, a
49 center, and a left bank and that net pretty much
50 extends all the way to the bottom of the river. And we

50

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1 just do it the same way every time, right bank, center,
2 left bank, 15 minute drift, that way we're able to
3 compare apples to apples every time.

4

5 CHAIR REAKOFF: I think it -- that's an
6 excellent project. Another question I would have is
7 are you monitoring velocity, stream velocity of the
8 mainstem and then the spawning streams which have an
9 impact on energy expenditures, and then the.....

10

11 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah.

12

13 CHAIR REAKOFF:also the delay in
14 progression and are you seeing ichthyophonous in some of
15 the chinook on the Kuskokwim?

16

17 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah, we -- well, as
18 part of our discharge measurement we are measuring
19 stream velocity, but that's just at those specific
20 sites where we're calculating discharge, right. But
21 you're absolutely right as, you know, temperatures
22 increase and, you know, the stress is increased whether
23 it's stream velocity or whatever, you know, you're
24 going to see consequences of that and less effective
25 spawning activity.

26

27 So, you know, these are all great
28 questions that we have. And hopefully with some
29 funding in the future and some focused studies we can
30 start answering it. But temperature is becoming a big
31 concern out here for a lot of people and a lot of
32 researchers and that's probably one of the areas we're
33 going to try to focus on. We did submit a proposal to
34 AYK last year in partnership with Georgetown Tribal
35 Council to monitor reds actually and institute
36 temperatures for spawning chum salmon sites and then
37 doing some modeling of that to see how temperature --
38 different temperature regimes that are affecting things
39 like survival and emergence timing of the juveniles.
40 So but that one didn't get funded. We'll see about
41 this coming cycle and what gets funded.

42

43 And I probably neglected to mention we
44 did get funded for the Partners Program for another
45 four years and we currently have a proposal in to fund
46 the FRMP projects for -- from '24 to '27, but they're
47 currently in review.

48

49 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. I personally

50

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1 really appreciate all the work you're doing there,
2 excellent work. I'm also looking for a Council member
3 from Aniak, would you like to apply to the Western
4 Interior Regional Advisory Council?

5

6 MR. GILLIKIN: Well, I consider it a
7 real honor that you would ask that, Mr. Chair. I would
8 love to apply, but I'm already stretched so thin
9 that.....

10

11 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

12

13 MR. GILLIKIN:I -- I'm not sure I
14 can find the time to do it, but I.....

15

16 CHAIR REAKOFF: But I.....

17

18 MR. GILLIKIN:can certainly put
19 the word out. I know a few folks that may be
20 interested.....

21

22 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

23

24 MR. GILLIKIN:if you're.....

25

26 CHAIR REAKOFF: I see some happy little
27 faces of your Staff there. You pick your best person
28 and have them apply to this Regional Council. We need
29 -- we need representation from your -- for your area on
30 the Kuskokwim bad because we have none, we have no
31 representation on this Council from your area. So if
32 you can get the word out I'd really appreciate that.

33

34 Any other Council questions for Dan
35 about the presentation?

36

37 Yes, go ahead, Jenny.

38

39 MS. PELKOLA: This is Jenny Pelkola.
40 I really enjoyed your presentation and a lot of the
41 areas you were talking about I wasn't familiar with. I
42 was looking in the Federal subsistence book and I put
43 up the -- your area and I was able to follow along,
44 found out where that George River is. And sounds like
45 you're doing a good job and everyone looks happy in the
46 picture and so when they're happy everybody's happy and
47 you're doing a good job.

48

49 Thank you.

50

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1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Thank you, Jenny.

2 Any.....

3

4 MR. GILLIKIN: You're welcome.

5

6 CHAIR REAKOFF:questions. Tim,

7 questions.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIR REAKOFF: Tim Gervais, are you
12 still there. So must have lost him.

13

14 Darrell.

15

16 MR. VENT: No, I'm good.

17

18 CHAIR REAKOFF: So thanks so much, Dan.
19 I think we've gotten the -- covered that issue pretty
20 well. Really appreciate all your work you're doing
21 there, it's excellent.

22

23 So we're going to go to lunch, it's
24 quarter after. We have a time certain for 1:30 with
25 Brian Glaspell, Kanuti complexing issue and that's a
26 time certain. So we'll break for one hour and we've
27 got to be back here at quarter after 1:00 prompt
28 because we have this fairly important issue with a time
29 certain.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 So we're recessed for this until 1:15.

34

35 (Off record)

36

37 (On record)

38

39 CHAIR REAKOFF: So we're back to quorum
40 again so we're going to bring the meeting back to
41 order. We have a time certain discussion, we're going
42 to -- are you on the phone, Brian Glaspell, Brian, U.S.
43 Fish and Wildlife Refuge Division Chief or Refuge Chief
44 or something like that.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIR REAKOFF: Anyway the -- I'll kind
49 of layout the preliminary on this whole issue. The

50

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1 last fall meeting, Western Interior Regional Advisory
2 Council was advised that there was consideration of
3 significant budget cuts for Kanuti, possible complexing
4 with the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. And so
5 during that meeting I -- we'd had experience and had
6 great discourse with the regional office about the
7 complexing of Innoko National Wildlife Refuge with
8 Koyukuk, Nowitna. And so we had spent quite a bit of
9 time on that Innoko complexing issue, advocated for the
10 maintenance of the Refuge basic program. And so I was
11 concerned that complexing Kanuti with Yukon would again
12 -- Innoko at the time -- at this moment isn't --
13 there's virtually hardly any enforcement, we've got
14 rotten moose meat coming off the Innoko Flats into
15 McGrath. And so we keep hearing about issues there,
16 but there's very little presence of Koyukuk, Nowitna,
17 Innoko Staff are cut down to such low levels they
18 cannot actually administer that large of -- of that
19 many conservation units simultaneously. They don't
20 have enough budget for it, they don't have Staff for
21 all that. So this is what happens, Innoko goes by the
22 wayside.

23

24 I was concerned about this issue at our
25 fall meeting and so wrote this letter that was
26 transmitted to the Regional Director which is the one
27 you see with our title at the top, December 22, 2022,
28 describing what's going to -- you know, the Ambler Road
29 is going to be built, there's all these -- all these --
30 this Council has various statutory authority about
31 anything that affects subsistence. And so if Refuges
32 cannot -- don't have enough maintenance funding to do
33 basic law enforcement and various issues that affect
34 the subsistence users then we have a say in that. And
35 that's part of our 805 authority under ANILCA. So we
36 talked quite a bit about that and you can read the
37 letter and have gotten letters about what the various
38 issues are of -- regarding, you know, complexing Kanuti
39 without -- and cutting it to a skeletal -- skeletal
40 funding. Then we received the letter yesterday from
41 the Regional Office.

42

43 And so Brian Glaspell, are you on the
44 phone yet.

45

46 MR. GLASPELL: Yes, sir, I am. Yes,
47 this is.....

48

49 CHAIR REAKOFF: All right.

50

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1 MR. GLASPELL: Brian Glaspell, I'm here
2 and -- yeah.

3
4 CHAIR REAKOFF: So I was just laying
5 this out while we were waiting for you to get on the
6 phone. And so I -- at this point we just received your
7 letter. Do you want to go over the Regional Director's
8 response to us, basically laying out what your -- how
9 -- as you're the Refuge Chief, right, your position --
10 do you want to give your name for the record and spell
11 it and your position in the regional office.

12
13 Go ahead.

14
15 MR. GLASPELL: Sure, you bet. And I --
16 and maybe I'll follow it by providing a little context
17 here and I'm happy to answer any questions following
18 that.

19
20 So my name is Brian Glaspell. Last
21 name is spelled G-L-A-S-P-E-L-L and I am the Assistant
22 Regional Director in charge of the National Wildlife
23 Refuge system in Alaska.

24
25 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. And so you --
26 you want to give an overlay for the Council about the
27 need to complex and the budgets that will be -- that
28 will be provided for Kanuti and Yukon Flats. I -- I've
29 utilized Yukon Flats. In the '70s I would go out there
30 muskrat hunting and spent the whole spring out there.
31 So I'm quite familiar with the Yukon Flats also.

32
33 So I would like to move this into your
34 realm and so you can -- you might have more information
35 that you can provide at this time. So go right ahead,
36 we'll let you speak.

37
38 MR. GLASPELL: You bet. Thanks for
39 this opportunity. So I'm getting a lot of feedback on
40 my end here, if you all can't hear me clearly somebody
41 let me know, but I'll work through things at this end.

42
43 CHAIR REAKOFF: You're coming in real
44 clear here. Are you -- are we garbled on your end?

45
46 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah, it's probably just
47 some feedback from whatever kind of mics and speakers
48 you have in your room. So no worries, as long as you
49 can hear me I'm good with it.

50

1 So let me -- let me step back a little
2 bit and provide you all some context. I'm guessing it
3 will come as no surprise to anyone that the Refuge
4 system nationally and particularly in Alaska has been
5 in a declining budget situation for more than a decade,
6 specifically since about 2011 which was our high point.
7 We're down about 25 percent. That's 25 percent in
8 terms of our spending capacity and 25 percent in terms
9 of our staffing. And we struggled through that for a
10 number of years and around 2016 collectively decided
11 that we couldn't keep patching things together on an ad
12 hoc annual basis and we needed to revisit our whole
13 system and in particular our program for allocating the
14 money that we get from Congress and through the
15 National Fish and Wildlife Service headquarters office
16 to do specific Refuges. So we tackled that via two
17 ways.

18
19 First of all we convened a whole bunch
20 of teams to look at what we call efficiency, where can
21 we save money. And second of all we started to take a
22 look at our actual allocation method, how do we make
23 the decisions about how much money goes to each
24 individual station. And the outcome of that process
25 again which started in about 2016 as an internal
26 discussion and proceeded through various stages until
27 last year was a couple things. Our so called
28 efficiency team identified a lot of places where we
29 could make changes, combining a lot of administrative
30 functions, streamlining a variety of things. A lot of
31 that is sort of behind the scenes for lack of a better
32 term paperwork kind of stuff. But the basic thing is
33 that we took a look at what are the -- what are the
34 issues, what are our priorities, what are the demands
35 facing each individual Refuge and how do we better
36 align our limited budget with those things.

37
38 And the net of that for the purposes of
39 our conversation today at least the specifically
40 relevant thing that we identified an opportunity to
41 combine some of the functions at Kanuti and Yukon Flats
42 Refuges. And I want to take an opportunity to say this
43 now and I'll come back to it later, this is not the
44 same as the McGrath Innoko complexing effort. In that
45 case Innoko of course was headquartered in McGrath,
46 Koyukuk and Nowitna were headquartered in Galena, they
47 were geographically spread out, the offices anyway and
48 the Fish and Wildlife Service buildings and other
49 resources by a significant margin. And that decision
50

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1 did result in actually moving some people and divesting
2 some Federal resources, closing an office and so on.
3 That's not what we're proposing here.

4
5 At Kanuti and Yukon Flats Staff are co-
6 located in the Federal building there in Fairbanks,
7 we're not talking about moving or reassigning anybody
8 at all. The net effect if we were to fully realize
9 this proposal is that right now we have between those
10 two Refuges a combined 15 Staff and that will be
11 reduced to 10 shared between the two programs. We
12 would retain a Refuge Manager at both Refuges and in
13 addition have a so called complex manager, a person in
14 charge of the assembled units. There would be fewer
15 Biologists and again fewer Staff overall, a reduction
16 from 15 to 10. Yeah, I guess that's the really rough
17 outline of that proposal.

18
19 A couple of other important points here
20 are that this is what I would call a slow burn
21 proposal. Last year was the first year that we -- that
22 we began the adjustment, not just at these two Refuges,
23 but across our 16 Refuges all over Alaska to reallocate
24 resources and we expect it'll take at least five years
25 to complete the process. We're not making any
26 irretrievable commitments here. We agree and we've
27 heard loudly that it's important to retain the
28 identities of the two individual Refuges, Kanuti and
29 Yukon Flats and to have a Manager at each and we'll
30 continue to do that. We'll regularly reevaluate every
31 year and if for example the Ambler Road moves forward
32 or there are new threats we have an opportunity to
33 recalibrate. And we are engaging with you here and
34 others. I to date have three specific requests for
35 consultation at -- I believe so far it's at Allakaket
36 and Beaver and Fort Yukon have all requested
37 consultation on this topic and we'll do that and listen
38 closely and, you know, perhaps make some changes based
39 on what we hear.

40
41 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

42
43 MR. GLASPELL: I think that's -- I
44 guess that's all I have to start, but I'm happy to
45 answer questions.

46
47 CHAIR REAKOFF: So I -- my concern is
48 that Innoko is -- still has issues. And so the
49 complexing issue there, we still got issues. And so I
50

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1 don't see where complexing Innoko into Galena is
2 actually address -- we got a problem there. I want to
3 know what -- our region encompasses Innoko. I want --
4 A, I want to know what you're going to do for Innoko to
5 have more presence there and especially enforcement
6 presence and also funding for Staff for Koyukuk,
7 Nowitna, Innoko to go down there to do basic resource
8 monitoring. That's one of the issues in our region.
9 Dropping Kanuti Staff to two or one person when there
10 used to be four that used to do quite a bit of work
11 there, they had a couple Biologists and they got kind
12 of a lot of work done there, is -- how is this going to
13 work with sharing the resource management with 10
14 individuals for Yukon and Kanuti because a lot of these
15 things overlap.

16
17 So in the -- and in the future I see
18 there's quite a bit of Staff in the regional office and
19 so there's a -- are you going to share regional Staff
20 with these Refuges, enforcement and so forth from the
21 regional Staff, I see Kanuti or Kenai Soldotna visitor
22 center's got a huge Staff. We have -- are you going to
23 share Staff from that with the Coldfoot visitor center.
24 I -- there's need, I see the regional office has a lot
25 of Staff and we're going down to skeletons at the
26 Refuges that are within our region. And especially I
27 want to see some resource vector that Innoko and I want
28 to make sure that Kanuti and Yukon Flats have adequate
29 to administer those Refuges so that we maintain a LE
30 presence and a monitoring presence, we got moose
31 populations, we have goose enumerations and all these
32 various aspects. So can you address that to this
33 Council, so how do you envision moose -- are you going
34 to send Staff from the regional office which you have a
35 lot of, are you going to -- how are you going to
36 administer these -- and how are you going to increase
37 the performance at Innoko because right now it's
38 completely failing. We got hunters, a lot of hunters,
39 and I keep hearing our constituents on the Innoko Flats
40 talking about a lot of hunters or more and more hunters
41 keep going there and all this meat's showing up over in
42 McGrath that's rotten. We need to have more LE
43 presence there. How are you going to address some of
44 these issues for this Council's satisfaction, if you
45 could address that.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. GLASPELL: Yes, fair -- fair
50

1 questions all and a couple of different issues there.
2 So I guess first of all regarding overall Staffing, our
3 goal here once again is to find some efficiencies and
4 so yes, you can -- you can look at it one way and say
5 that's -- we're reducing the overall staffing at Kanuti
6 Refuge, but by combining the organization the goal is
7 that we actually have greater resources. So right now
8 Kanuti functionally has two Biologists, in the combined
9 organization there would be four that would be
10 available to work directly on Kanuti things,
11 acknowledging that in some cases the season or the
12 timeline for doing things overlaps and that wouldn't be
13 feasible.

14
15 But once again the goal here is
16 ultimately to have more resources available by
17 combining our teams rather than shortchanging anyone.
18 That said, you know, I'm not trying to fool anyone
19 here. At the end of the day we're in a net zero or
20 even a net negative gain. And I can't promise that for
21 example that we can provide more resources at Innoko,
22 not in the short term anyway. I'm just being honest
23 there. We have 16 Refuges, everyone of them with a RAC
24 that has a stake and a number of tribal organizations
25 and lots of local people that care deeply about that
26 place and we're dealing with a budget that's been flat
27 or declining for a decade. And so we've -- we and I
28 specifically have been compelled to make some pretty
29 tough choices right now.

30
31 I want to emphasize that this is our
32 plan, this is our proposal. We've asked each Refuge
33 Manager to prepare a so called business plan for how
34 they would manage their workload and achieve their
35 purposes given the budget we think they might have in
36 the future and this is what we're basing our plans off
37 of. But things could change and one can certainly be
38 hopeful that there'll be more money in the pipeline and
39 it won't look like it does right now.

40
41 With respect to the questions about
42 visitor services and the visitor center in Kenai and
43 law enforcement, without a doubt we consider all of
44 those individuals and those program as regional
45 resources. We have the largest Federal Wildlife
46 Officer cadre stationed in Soldotna and Kenai Refuge,
47 but they don't just serve Kenai Refuge, they serve the
48 region and they spend more than half their time
49 traveling to other Refuges. And likewise our visitor
50

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1 services professionals are available to do the same.
2 So as we work through this we are hoping that we can
3 meet the needs at the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center
4 for example, but if we need to draw some resources from
5 another part of the State then I'm certainly open to
6 that. And in our law enforcement group, you know,
7 that's already how we operate.

8

9 CHAIR REAKOFF: So I -- my question is --

10 I see you got quite a bunch of regional office Staff,
11 do you have Biologist Staff there that could be shared
12 with these individual Refuges at specific times of the
13 year. I see quite a bit of presence in Kenai and the
14 regional office, but I want to see that, you know,
15 there's more of the overall -- you have 16 different
16 Refuges and they have to be also all taken care of
17 equitably.

18

19 Another issue that we have is, you
20 know, we have a crisis situation for dall sheep in the
21 central Brooks Range. The Arctic comes within a half
22 mile of the road and there was comp work, composition
23 work, done with dall sheep by the Arctic Refuge 2000 or
24 1986 through 2012. And we needed that comp work. And
25 so I was trying to work with Arctic Refuge on trying to
26 get composition for dall sheep, but they didn't have
27 funding for it last year. Yet when I was at Galbraith
28 Lake they're re -- they're building a brand new
29 bunkhouse, a multi million dollar bunkhouse. I says
30 what's up with that, you're talking about budget cuts,
31 but why was there such a phenomenal expenditure on a
32 bunkhouse at Galbraith Lake that's only used very
33 occasionally in the summer season. So I'm -- that's
34 question. I have -- we have resource issues for the
35 Refuge yet we're -- I see large capital construction
36 projects going on under Refuge dime, regional office
37 dime. I know it's a different pot of money.....

38

39 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah.

40

41 CHAIR REAKOFF:but what the what?

42

43 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah, well that is the
44 short answer, but so let me take those each in turn.
45 So to the first question about.....

46

47 CHAIR REAKOFF: You're fading away, get
48 closer to your mic, please, come up to the mic.

49

50

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1 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah, can you hear me
2 okay?

3
4 CHAIR REAKOFF: I can hear you better
5 now. Go ahead.

6
7 MR. GLASPELL: Okay. Well, again two
8 different questions there so let me address the first
9 one regarding regional office resources. You bet, we
10 have an inventory and monitoring biological science
11 program in the regional office. And every single one
12 of those individuals exist to serve the field. So
13 there's nobody -- there's nobody in Anchorage working
14 to support Anchorage, they're working to support our
15 Refuges in the field. We've sliced and diced that
16 program every which way and what we've heard
17 consistently from the field is that yeah, these folks
18 actually are supporting our program and we don't want
19 you to get rid of those. So that -- that's the world I
20 live in, and we're -- those positions are located in
21 Anchorage, but it doesn't mean they're not working for
22 you.

23
24 The other issue regarding the Galbraith
25 Lake cabin and other capital improvements on Arctic
26 Refuge or elsewhere, I mean, you said it, it's -- those
27 are different pots of money and that's not -- that's
28 not even discretionary for me or anybody in this region.
29 That's Congress and the way they allocate money and
30 sometimes they color it, you know, for new buildings or
31 deferred maintenance or safety improvements at
32 facilities, you name it. And sometimes it could be
33 another path, but we can't -- we can't redirect those
34 funds. And I -- from my earliest days in the Federal
35 government that's been a challenge for me. People see
36 us building new things or buying new equipment and say
37 why can't you put that money towards surveys in the
38 field. And the simple answer is because Congress tells
39 us what to do with our money.

40
41 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Well, I'm going
42 to open this up to the Council's discussion. Does any
43 Council members have questions or discussions on this
44 issue, we've covered it.

45
46 Darrell, go ahead.

47
48 MR. VENT: Yeah, just -- you know, that
49 we're getting more industrial in our area there, that
50

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1 Ambler Road and I know that, you know, it's going to be
2 a lot of people on that road if it opens. And are they
3 -- you know, are they going to provide any assistance
4 in that area or is it -- is it just going to be the one
5 person for the area of how is that going to operate if
6 it does come down to opening the road?

7

8 CHAIR REAKOFF: That -- that was a
9 question. And so the -- you know, the Ambler Road
10 crosses and basically the alignment is getting more and
11 more defined where there's some strategic watersheds
12 like the Henshaw drainage has a massive amount of chum
13 salmon spawning habitat. Some of these habitats need
14 baseline work done and that should be -- the regional
15 office has to come under consideration for Kanuti's
16 budget to come up with these baseline data because once
17 the road is built, once they start hauling copper ore
18 and there's dust all over the place and it starts to --
19 copper ore changes the pH of the water and can cause --
20 that's in fouling paint, it kills microbes. So it
21 could change the whole ecosystem of the associated
22 drainages of the Kanuti Refuge.

23

24 So I -- if anything I would like this
25 to be a proactive program to evaluate, come to these
26 Councils, talk about what is being missed, what is
27 being needed and so I don't want to see these other
28 Refuges within our region going the way of Innoko.
29 Innoko is a template of failure and I'll state it for
30 the record. Innoko is a template of how to fail to the
31 statutory requirements of Congress for the Innoko
32 Refuge. These are -- these Refuges need to have proper
33 oversight and funding, they can't be just ignored, just
34 let them go their -- you know, go through their natural
35 processes when we have completely changing demographics
36 of hunting pressure, construct -- road construction and
37 all kinds of other things that are going to be
38 happening.

39

40 So I did want you to be involved in our
41 discussion today and I appreciate you coming on to the
42 phone to talk to us. We have a lot of other agenda.
43 Any other Council member questions regarding this
44 issue.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIR REAKOFF: Tim or Tommy.

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(No comments)

CHAIR REAKOFF: I don't hear anybody else. So I hate to put you on the hot seat there, Brian, but I guess the buck stops at your door so to speak. And so I would seriously want to see a -- this coming fall for sort of a how you're going to maintain the level of -- so your Managers will come up with a plan. We want to see that the needs of each Refuge within our region are met. And I would like to see something drawn up for ANILCA. Can that be done by our fall meeting in October?

MR. GLASPELL: Yes, I believe so. I think that we should -- we should have a follow-up conversation so that we can clearly understand those needs and address them specifically in the plan that we deliver to you. And I'll just say as we're wrapping up here too that I appreciate the opportunity to be here, I don't feel like I'm on the hot seat at all. I -- this is the work we do, I think we serve you all and I'm happy to hear the feedback. I think that at the end of the day I'll be honest, I mean, we're squeezing a turnip here, you know, and it's tough to go to these meetings in every region and talk to all the different RACs and try to explain how we're going to meet their needs with less than we've ever had. So we can talk as well about how to find other efficiencies and ultimately, you know, about how to get the resources we need.

I think we're all in this together and I look forward to our future conversations.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So if you have any resource monitoring funding available I would like to see a composition work reinitialized in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the Atigun Gorge because that has a long baseline data set for dall sheep and we have a critical situation with thousands of hunters that utilize the Dalton Highway and that sheep population is being -- has been affected for years. We need that baseline data. Since you might have something to say to the Arctic -- I understand you don't have your new Refuge Manager at Arctic and so I would -- I'm speaking directly to the horse's mouth here. So if you could push that forward I'd appreciate that.

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1 MR. GLASPELL: You bet. I've got that
2 on my notes too. Yeah.

3
4 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

5
6 MR. GLASPELL: Thank you.

7
8 CHAIR REAKOFF: Appreciate you coming
9 on the call and we expect to be -- further dialogue at
10 our fall meeting. Thank you for being on the phone.
11 Have a great day.

12
13 MR. GLASPELL: Thanks for inviting me.

14
15 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, I.....

16
17 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, you got a question
18 there, Tim, go ahead.

19
20 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I was wanting -- I
21 wanted to know if the -- if the biggest part of those
22 funding cuts was just during the Trump Administration
23 like will some of the funding get restored or is this
24 level of funding a permanent situation going forward?

25
26 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah, that's a -- that's
27 a great question. So our really significant declines
28 started about 2013. There was a somewhat novel
29 situation that happened in Congress that where there
30 was.....

31
32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted).

34
35 MR. GLASPELL:a budget recision
36 that actually pulled some money back.....

37
38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted).

40
41 MR. GLASPELL:and we've been
42 going backwards ever since.....

43
44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted).

46
47 CHAIR REAKOFF: Standby a second there,
48 Brian. Whoever's got a -- whoever's on this call
49 that's washing dishes or doing something without your
50

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1 mic being muted, please push star, six.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 Go ahead, Brian.

6

7 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah. So once again our
8 -- the budge troubles predate the Trump Administration,
9 they really started around 2013 and we've just been
10 going backwards since then. And it hasn't been a
11 really targeted effort, you know, that was directed at
12 the Fish and Wildlife Service or at the Refuge system,
13 but we -- in essence we've had flat or slightly less
14 than flat budgets every year and you all know things
15 cost a lot more than they did 10 years ago. So our
16 budget this year for the Refuge system Statewide is
17 right around \$50 million and our estimate is just to
18 keep even with where we were 10 years ago based on
19 inflationary costs.....

20

21 (Teleconference interference -
22 participants not muted).

23

24 CHAIR REAKOFF: Whoever's washing
25 dishes.....

26

27 MR. GLASPELL:we would need.....

28

29 CHAIR REAKOFF: If anybody -- stand by.
30 If anybody's on this phone that's washing dishes and
31 running water mute your phone because you're blasting
32 over the top of this call.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 Go ahead, Brian.

37

38 MR. GLASPELL: Yeah, Jack, just letting
39 you know if you guys get this part, I just want to get
40 the numbers across. Our budget this year is just a
41 little north of \$50 million for the Refuge system
42 Statewide. And our estimate is that in order to just
43 be even with where we were in 2011 we would need a
44 little more than \$62 million. That's just to maintain
45 the basic functions and Staff that we had 10 years ago.
46 But again we're -- we're more than \$10 million short of
47 that. So I can't attribute this to any particular
48 administration or anything like that, it's just been
49 semi benign neglect for more than 10 years where we get
50

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1 the same money we had the year before or a little less,
2 but things cost a lot more. And the net effect of that
3 now is that we've got 25 percent or more less capacity
4 than we did back then.

5

6 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. That answers
7 your question, Tim. Any others.

8

9 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, it does. I just
10 wanted to wish you good luck in navigating. That
11 sounds like a really tough budget shortfall to overcome
12 and making do with what you -- what you have available.

13

14 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so much,
15 Brian. And look forward to further dialogue with you
16 on this issue at our fall meeting.

17

18 So have a great day.

19

20 MR. GLASPELL: You bet. Thanks to you
21 all. Have a good rest of your meeting.

22

23 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Bye. So that
24 covered that issue. And so that was -- let's see,
25 where are we at here. I've lost track of where I'm at
26 here, Nissa. Oh, we're on Q. So that would be talking
27 about the 17(d)(1) public lands orders. The handout is
28 -- where's our handout.

29

30 MR. SEPPI: I've got your -- I've got
31 some here.

32

33 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, we got one.

34

35 MS. PILCHER: The draft letter is in
36 your handout so it's in the manila folder. This one.

37

38 Mr. SEPPI: Good afternoon. I'm Bruce
39 Seppi, Anchorage Field Office, BLM. Members of the --
40 Mr. Chair, members of the Council, and also our Field
41 Manager is here, Jake Vialpando, to answer any
42 questions we have. I introduced this last fall up in
43 Fairbanks at the fall meeting about the ANCSA 17D-1
44 withdrawals, the public land orders. And I'm just
45 going to give you an update about where we are with the
46 process, the EIS and just a little background.

47

48 First of all these ANCSA, the Alaska
49 Native Claims Settlement Act 17(b) withdrawals are a

50

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1 series of public land orders that withdrew lands at the
2 beginning of ANCSA in the 1970s for selection by ANCSA
3 Native corporation and for the protection of the public
4 land interests. BLM made recommendations to revoke the
5 17(b) withdrawals in the approved resource management
6 areas and there's five of them, the Bay Plan, the
7 Bering Sea Western Interior, East Alaska, Kobuk Seward
8 Peninsula and the Ring of Fire Plan. And of course in
9 this RAC area the Bering Sea Western Interior are where
10 the bulk of the lands are that would be of your concern
11 and there are a lot of withdrawn lands there.

12
13 In January of '21 just before the
14 administrations changed, the Secretary acted on those
15 recommendations from BLM and signed public land orders
16 to revoke all of those 28 million acres of these
17 withdrawals in those five land planning areas. But
18 then right away when the new administration came in in
19 February of '21 the Department reviewed those public
20 land orders and identified several legal defects with
21 it and in the decision-making process. So in April of
22 '21 the Department directed BLM to address the legal
23 defects in those processes and do an environmental
24 impact statement for it. So in August of last year BLM
25 kicked off this EIS program to write an EIS and start
26 the whole process going. There was a notice of intent
27 in April 18th of '22 to open a 60 day public scoping
28 period that end -- that had ended in October of '22.
29 And BLM, they were mostly or they were all meetings
30 that were over the phone and over the internet so they
31 weren't in person, but following that scoping the BLM
32 compiled public input and published a scoping permit
33 that was posted on our website. And incidently this --
34 all of this information is available to the public on
35 our E planning website which I'll include in the
36 documents here to the Council.

37
38 So currently the BLM is developing
39 alternatives for the EIS. And since this process was
40 drawn back by the new administration and an EIS was
41 initiated the main caveat of that is it had to be done
42 in two years. So for an EIS that's a pretty quick
43 turnaround.

44
45 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

46
47 MR. SEPPI: So by October of '23,
48 October of this year, the draft EIS is due to be out.

49
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1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

2

3

4 MR. SEPPI: And within two weeks
5 there's a meeting at our office to start developing
6 alternatives for that EIS. So after the public comment
7 period the draft EIS -- and the draft EIS is complete
8 the BLM will be addressing public comments and
9 preparing a final for that. And I will say part of an
10 EIS in accordance with ANILCA means we have to do an
11 810 subsistence impacts analysis. And so coinciding
12 with that we'll do that and that will -- as we go out
13 to the public with that EIS we'll have a preliminary
14 810 analysis that we'll also bring out and we'll very
15 likely have to have.....

15

16 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

17

18 MR. SEPPI:subsistence hearings
19 or a pre -- with that preliminary EIS and the input
20 from everyone will be incorporated into that final 810.

21

22 CHAIR REAKOFF: And the 810 time frame
23 would be -- the hearings would be taking place around
24 what?

25

26 MR. SEPPI: About the -- we have to
27 have a draft 810 the same time the draft EIS is out so
28 that would be October, '23.

29

30 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So we would have
31 hearings previous to that?

32

33 MR. SEPPI: I suspect that they'll be
34 simultaneous when we go out with the draft EIS although
35 we haven't been given, you know, absolute schedules on
36 that, but what I know about EIS is from these land use
37 plans, they happen simultaneously.

38

39 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

40

41 MR. SEPPI: You can't write an 810
42 analysis until you have the alternatives in a
43 preliminary or draft EIS. So most likely in October.

44

45 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

46

47 MR. SEPPI: Although they have to be
48 separate meetings, we can't just go combine them and go
49 talk to people one time although they may happen at the

50

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1 same time much as we did the land use plans. We'll
2 have a meeting on the draft EIS, but then during that
3 meeting we'll officially have an 810 subsistence impact
4 hearing.....

5
6 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

7
8 MR. SEPPI:to.....

9
10 CHAIR REAKOFF: I've been at meetings
11 where they.....

12
13 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.

14
15 CHAIR REAKOFF:they finalize that
16 meeting and opened it for the 810 comments, but it --
17 they were happening at the same time. They just
18 closed.....

19
20 MR. SEPPI: Yes.

21
22 CHAIR REAKOFF:one meeting and
23 opened the hearing immediately after that.

24
25 MR. SEPPI: Yes, because by law we're
26 required to do that and so we have to.....

27
28 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

29
30 MR. SEPPI:have a very definite
31 line between.....

32
33 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

34
35 MR. SEPPI:the EIS hearing and
36 the 810 meeting. So the alternatives are -- you know,
37 they -- there's a lot of different things. When this
38 originally went through in the last administration it
39 was a wholesale -- all of these lands will be conveyed
40 either to the State or Native corporations, most of
41 them to the State. And there's a lot of very varied
42 land issues and land status issues. So these lands
43 could be open to mining development, they could -- some
44 of them are already open and it won't make any
45 difference, some of them potentially could be retained
46 under this PLO or under this EIS, but the alternatives
47 will decide that. So it'll be alternatives that show
48 the whole range of possibilities with that. And I
49 don't pretend to know all of the land status in 28
50

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1 million acres, but there'll be a lot of areas that are
2 really important to subsistence and some areas that are
3 not as much and will likely then have the -- these
4 withdrawals lifted. But I can't point at the map and
5 tell you anything, you know.....

6
7 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

8
9 MR. SEPPI:specifically what will
10 happen right now. But BLM will consider a range of
11 alternatives within the EIS including a full or partial
12 revocation of the withdrawals or retaining them all
13 together in some areas like I said. And those actions
14 when the final EIS comes out will be based on what we
15 hear at public meetings, and we're going to be talking
16 to tribes, we're going to be talking to ANCSA
17 corporations, the State of Alaska and the public in
18 general. And of course having an 810 hearing in each
19 of those communities. What communities we go to right
20 now hasn't been decided, but it will probably be the
21 hub communities not just in this region, but, you know,
22 that 20 million acres. So it's no small task to go and
23 have these meetings in a relatively short period of
24 time.

25
26 CHAIR REAKOFF: Those meetings would be
27 open on like a Zoom type meeting coinciding with that?

28
29 MR. SEPPI: Yes, but as I understand it
30 of my past experience doing 810 for EISes is you can't
31 have an 810 on a Zoom meeting or telephonically, you
32 have to do it in person which I'm not absolutely sure
33 about that, but I'm hopeful that we do actually fly out
34 to these communities. And not every community that's
35 affected, but probably the hub communities and anybody
36 who requests to have a meeting in person.

37
38 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Okay.

39
40 MR. SEPPI: So BLM would like comments
41 that relate to the potential impacts associated with
42 the full and partial revocation of these ANCSA lands.
43 And there is a map of the area that's an interact map
44 on our website, our E planning website that you can
45 look at the whole area, you can zoom in to certain
46 areas and look at the actual land status of it on BLM's
47 public E planning website that's available to the
48 public.

49
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1 And just for thoroughness here I'm just
2 going to read the rest of this. BLM has to ensure that
3 we engage with Federal trust responsibilities with
4 Alaska tribes in compliance with BLM's tribal
5 consultation and ANCSA corporation consultation per DOI
6 guidelines. One of the things that wasn't done the
7 first time around here was a 106 which is a -- a 106
8 compliance to National Historic Preservation Act. So
9 that will be done. In addition to the EIS there'll be
10 a cultural review of all 28 million acres which is also
11 a giant undertaking.

12
13 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

14
15 MR. SEPPI: So there are -- on this
16 handout I just handed to you the contact information
17 for the Field Manager, Jake Vialpando, with Anchorage
18 Field Office, Marty Graham, the Field Manager up in
19 Glennallen for the East Plan are on that if you had --
20 wanted to make contact or any questions about
21 specifics.

22
23 That's in a nutshell what's going on.
24 I'll open it up to questions and as it comes together,
25 as these plans come together and this EIS comes
26 together we'll be talking with the RACs also.

27
28 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. You had
29 questions, Darrell. Go ahead.

30
31 MR. VENT: I remember when we first
32 started having discussions on this road process that
33 was going to be put in, there were -- it was kind of
34 fast tracked, we didn't have any -- all the
35 information, they provided a great amount of
36 information that -- saying what they were going to do
37 and, you know, what was the -- you know, what was the
38 input from the tribes. Oh, there's not a lot of input
39 because you had to read through quite a bit of
40 information. We were worried about, you know, all
41 these areas we utilize for cultural and traditional
42 uses and those were not being included in that -- in
43 that, you know, information that we wanted. So we
44 wanted to -- you know, we wrote it all down, we handed
45 it in and sent it to Washington and all of a sudden it
46 was rejected. We were not allowed to have put our
47 information in. So we wanted to make sure that, you
48 know, we had really had involvement in this road
49 process and that wasn't going to be -- you know, the
50

1 State didn't want that to go through some somehow it
2 got pushed out of Washington which was called areas of
3 critical environmental concern. Now we are really --
4 this has -- this is being reintroduced in order for our
5 people to have input on how we utilize these lands.
6 And it's -- it's not only that, it's that, you know, we
7 have subsistence use in these areas and our fish
8 spawning, our -- you know, our animals up in these
9 areas are -- they're all going to be impacted
10 especially, you know, the caribou that we have. We
11 have to go way over to Shungnak, which is over a 300
12 mile round trip just to, you know, have some of our
13 subsistence food back, but that's -- you know, that's
14 going to make it even harder if they do, you know, put
15 a road through there. Then one of my friends down in
16 Bristol Bay they started working on this process and
17 they've been really pushing for that, you know, to get
18 that mine stopped down there because they have impacts
19 with their subsistence use. So, you know, we're just
20 -- we're just worried because we hardly have anymore
21 food to put on our table and this is not going to
22 really help us by putting this road in there.

23

24 MR. SEPPI: If I could make a
25 clarification. Bruce Seppi with BLM. You're just --
26 you -- when you say the road you're talking about the
27 Ambler Road. The Ambler Road EIS is a completely
28 different EIS process from this. It's BLM, but it's a
29 different process than this ANCSA.....

30

31 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

32

33 MR. SEPPI:17(b) withdrawals. I
34 completely understand and agree with your concerns on
35 that, but this is separate. As far as the ACECs I also
36 hear you on that because I was very much a part of the
37 process in the BISWE Plan and we talked for a number of
38 years with all the villages and village corporations
39 about where their subsistence use areas and most
40 important areas were and we -- they were part of some
41 of the alternatives in the BISWE Plan. And then they
42 weren't chosen as the preferred alternative and all of
43 them were essentially thrown out of the plan. That
44 hurt us as much as it hurt you, but that was a process
45 that was above our decision process.

46

47 And so I will say -- so these lands are
48 within these five land use plan areas, but they've been
49 in this status since 1970 or sometime in the 1970s

50

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1 since ANCSA was signed. And so through government
2 bureaucracy or just a lot of complicated land decisions
3 or land status decisions the State has always wanted
4 these lands to be conveyed and done with and get them
5 out of Federal ownership, but it's taken a long time
6 and just the bureaucratic process of getting them
7 surveyed and getting them conveyed to the various
8 places has taken a lot of time. And the last
9 administration just kind of cut through all that and
10 said we're going to convey these now. And this
11 administration has pulled it back and said yes, they
12 need to be conveyed, but these are important lands and
13 what about all these issues with subsistence and T&E
14 species and the 106 compliance.

15
16 So I think we can all view this as a
17 good thing that the government is actually going back
18 and looking at this and asking subsistence users for
19 their input. I can't guarantee an outcome here, but I
20 can tell you that we're going back and looking at it
21 because if they didn't this would be a done deal and
22 over with.

23
24 The main thing I think people have to
25 understand with this is these lands are withdrawn
26 meaning they -- nothing can happen with them, they're
27 Federal lands, but as soon as those withdrawals are
28 lifted there's selections on them, there are top out
29 selections by the State, some by Native corporations,
30 but mostly by the State and they really want some of
31 these lands. And under ANILCA as soon as these lands
32 are considered selected they're no longer considered
33 Federal lands under ANILCA so they don't -- they lose
34 their subsistence priority. So if you had a moose hunt
35 that -- in these areas that, you know, you had a
36 subsistence priority and a non-qualified subsistence
37 user couldn't hunt there if these lands are withdrawn
38 it's wide open, you don't have a Federal priority
39 anymore. That's what I as a subsistence person working
40 for BLM worry about the most is that all these lands
41 could be taken out of having a subsistence priority.
42 So not that they all will, but we're going back to look
43 at and hopefully retain some of those most important
44 areas.

45
46 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, the State has 20
47 percent overselected and so they.....

48
49 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.
50

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: and so they --
2 they have a lot of selection. So they act like they
3 need to have these 51 or these land with -- these
4 withdrawals alleviated and in some cases they can be.
5 In some cases there's some very important lands that
6 are super important to subsistence users that are
7 actually the jewels of the BLM lands, that do not need
8 to be conveyed to the State of Alaska.

9
10 Tracy Stone Manning, the Director of
11 BLM came to my house in mid July and had a big long
12 chat with me about those various issues. And so I said
13 I would (indiscernible - distortion) from her talking
14 to her for about an hour and a half about these -- a
15 whole bunch of different issues with BLM and about
16 these withdrawals. And being -- some of it, you know,
17 could be conveyed to the State and some do not need to
18 be conveyed to the State. They have a lot of land that
19 they've selected, you got to remember they had from
20 1959 to 1970, '71 to make these selections. Well, they
21 -- now they want to reevaluate them, like want to
22 cherrypick out all the better lands from BLM. So FLPMA
23 is not allowed the BLM to do that. Congress was real
24 concerned about BLM conveying lands to -- dissolving
25 lands that were integral to the public interest. And
26 so some of these lands are integral to the public
27 interest, they're vital for subsistence uses and so
28 these lands do not need to be under FLPMA, they're --
29 BLM is under constraint to only convey lands that are
30 not vital to the public interest. And that's the
31 Federal government. And we all know that the State had
32 a long time to make these selections, but now that they
33 -- now want their -- they made their bed, but they want
34 to cherrypick the Federal lands and take out all the
35 better lands again. So I'm opposed to that. My -- the
36 area I live in is in a 2.1 million acre oil and gas
37 transportation utility corridor. I'm opposed to
38 lifting any lands to the State of Alaska, that's the
39 jewel, the jewel of the BLM lands. You can look at all
40 the BLM lands throughout all of Alaska and you will not
41 see lands on the BLM that look like the central Brooks
42 Range. And so those lands are important for
43 subsistence, they're important for the people of the
44 United States and the State has overselected and they
45 do not need -- they can make you believe that you have
46 to lift all of those. And so I made that very clear to
47 the Director of BLM that as the arm -- I says you're
48 the arm of the Secretary of Interior and you have to
49 advise her to the effects that this will have on
50

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1 subsistence uses. So that's what happened at my
2 kitchen table.

3

4 So I would like to have other Council
5 comments. Did you have any Council comments, Jenny.

6

7 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, seems like in the
8 past like -- I forgot your name.

9

10 MR. SEPPI: Bruce.

11

12 MS. PELKOLA: Bruce. That our Council,
13 not only ours, but all the Councils really worked hard,
14 you know, and we had special meetings and it just seems
15 like it's all we heard about is this land stuff. And
16 it's sad that it didn't go through. Again we have
17 people that don't understand us, the way we live,
18 making decisions for us up here. And it's sad, but
19 it's something that we have to fight for and we have to
20 go forward regardless of what people say. And right
21 now as Jack said that the State of Alaska they had many
22 years to choose their lands.

23

24 And I remember one time and I can't
25 remember, 1950 or 1957 Alaska -- I should -- too bad I
26 lost that paper, but the Alaska -- State of Alaska gave
27 me a one -- one inch of land and I have a paper and
28 they gave it to a bunch of us. And I don't know if it
29 was legal or not, but, you know, one little inch. And
30 I think about that, you can't even stand on an inch of
31 land.

32

33 So that's what I think they're trying
34 to cut our throats or something and it's sad, but like
35 I say we must go forward and we must fight and fight
36 until we can't fight any longer. And, you know, I just
37 hope things will work out a little better for us.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIR REAKOFF: So, Tim or Tom Kriska
42 on the phone, do you have any comments on this issue.

43

44 MR. KRISKA: No, no comments. This is
45 Tommy.

46

47 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. We have a
48 document here to make comment on this issue. And so I
49 feel that this document here that was in our packet, we
50

1 could read it into the record as -- be part of the
2 record. And so the -- this is -- this is regarding the
3 ANCSA D-1 EIS. Alaska Federal Subsistence Board
4 members and the Secretary of Interior Haaland.

5
6 The Western Interior Subsistence
7 Regional Advisory Council supports the Bureau of Land
8 Management, BLM process to review and thoughtfully
9 consider the impacts that decisions on the Alaska
10 Native Claims Settlement Act, ANCSA 17D-1, hereafter D-
11 1, withdrawals have on fish and wildlife populations
12 and subsistence resources. Federally-qualified
13 subsistence users in the Western Interior region must
14 be -- will be most impacted by the BLM's decisions on
15 the D-1 environmental impact statement, EIS, because of
16 the large contiguous blocks of BLM managed land in our
17 region under the review in this process. The subject
18 28 million acres of BLM lands being analyzed in the D-1
19 EIS process support important subsistence resources
20 throughout the State and in our area. And our area is
21 land central to fish spawning and rearing habitat and
22 important habitat for moose and caribou and other
23 species, game species. I'll add that.

24
25 The previous administration prepared
26 five public BLM lands orders without adequately
27 consulting the Federally recognized tribes and
28 qualified subsistence users who will be most impacted
29 by these -- the decisions. The flawed decisions
30 advanced the PLOs was also made without consideration
31 of how lifting the D-1 orders would -- could negatively
32 affect cultural use areas, fish and wildlife habitat,
33 subsistence resources, hunting, fishing and gathering
34 rights or priorities and the foods -- and food security
35 for hundreds of communities and thousands of Federally-
36 qualified subsistence users. Under ANCSA the Secretary
37 of Interior must evaluate whether the D-1 protections
38 should remain in place to protect the public interest.
39 In the Western Interior region it is the public
40 interest to retain the D-1 public lands orders to
41 retain land under Federal management that prioritizes
42 subsistence uses.

43
44 Alaska's at the forefront of climate
45 change, widespread impacts are already occurring
46 including melting permafrost, coastal and bank
47 erosions, increasing air and water temperatures and
48 habitat displacement of fish and wildlife populations
49 across the subArctic and Arctic environments. It is a
50

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1 rapidly changing environment with so many future
2 unknowns, it is in the public interest to adopt a
3 precautionary approach and prioritize the protections
4 of the natural environment that support our subsistence
5 resources on these intact lands and pristine waters.

6
7 We urge action to retain the D-1 public
8 land orders to protect subsistence habitat and
9 resources that support the way of life of our region's
10 Federally-qualified subsistence users. Sincerely, Jack
11 Reakoff, Western Interior Regional Advisory Council, if
12 adopted.

13
14 So this -- it's not that these D-1
15 lands will be -- preclude any kind of other uses, the
16 multi uses that the Bureau of Land Management has, but
17 there's no need, there's no absolute driving force to
18 commit these orders and convey these lands, violating
19 FLPMA. I consider them a direct violation of FLPMA.
20 Two of these are -- these lands were withdrawn because
21 of their public -- the U.S. government's public
22 interest in those land, the State of Alaska had access
23 to make withdrawals, they did not do that, there's no
24 driving force to life these D-1 lands.

25
26 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
27 adopt this letter to be submitted for comment on this
28 D-1 17 -- ANCSA 17D-1 lands.

29
30 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

31
32 CHAIR REAKOFF: So moved by Jenny.

33
34 MR. VENT: Second.

35
36 CHAIR REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrell.
37 Council discussion. Tommy and Tim, discussion on that
38 letter that I just read into the record.

39
40 MR. GERVAIS: That -- the language
41 sounds great. I will go with this one necessary.

42
43 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Tommy.

44
45 MR. KRISKA: Say the same thing as Tim.

46
47 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

48
49 MS. PELKOLA: I have one comment.

50

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1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Jenny.

2

3

4 MS. PELKOLA: I know you're doing all
5 this subsistence stuff, you know, gathering, right. Is
6 that -- would that include like potlatches and stuff,
7 gathering, memorial potlatches and.....

7

8

9 CHAIR REAKOFF: That's a subsistence
10 use as far as I know, mortuary. The question Jenny's
11 having is is subsistence uses including potlatch.....

11

12

13 MS. PELKOLA: Memorial.....

13

14

15 CHAIR REAKOFF:that -- those are
16 consistent -- considered subsistence uses.

16

17

18 MS. PILCHER: I know -- I know on the
19 State side, but I have never issued on the Federal
20 side. So I was double checking.

20

21

22 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right. So as far as I
23 know, we're having Staff check that. We could add --
24 where would you like to add that, Jenny.

24

25

26 MS. PELKOLA: I think those are under
27 gathering.

27

28

29 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, let's see, where's
30 this -- oh, gathering rights. Food security for
31 hundreds of -- oh, let's see, hunting, fishing and
32 gathering rights are priorities. Gathering -- let's
33 see, strike and -- so hunting, fishing.....

33

34

35 MS. PELKOLA: Right there.

35

36

37 CHAIR REAKOFF:gathering rights
38 and food security as well as -- it's a -- it's a
39 protected thing, it's one of the subsistence uses.

39

40

41 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, okay.

41

42

43 CHAIR REAKOFF: So we don't really need
44 to put it in there, but we could, but we don't really
45 need to put it in there.

45

46

47 MS. PELKOLA: No, if it's there that's
48 fine.

48

49

50 CHAIR REAKOFF: So yeah, we've -- we've

50

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1 addressed that, it's in the regulation. But more for --
2 I knew it was there somewhere. So that's a protected
3 subsistence use.

4
5 So further discussion.

6
7 MR. VENT: I think.....

8
9 CHAIR REAKOFF: Darrell.

10
11 MR. VENT: Yeah, just wondering, you
12 know, what was considered as a priority, was it
13 subsistence use as a priority?

14
15 CHAIR REAKOFF: Under ANILCA title VIII
16 so Federal subsistence -- rural subsistence users have
17 a priority use of fish and wildlife and other wild,
18 renewable resources. And I throw that other in there,
19 including timber resources, firewood, et cetera, et
20 cetera, berries and things like that.

21
22 MR. VENT: So we have considerable
23 rights.....

24
25 REPORTER: Darrell.

26
27 MR. VENT:when -- oh, excuse me.
28 So we have considerable rights when it comes to whether
29 they could do mining or any other activities on there.
30 Is that what this is saying?

31
32 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah. If they -- if
33 they -- if these lands are conveyed to the State's --
34 State of Alaska, all of those rights go away, it all
35 reverts to the State management which has little
36 consideration, and I'll tell you, little consideration
37 of -- the tier for the State of Alaska and I'll state
38 it for the record, the Federal government's tier is
39 subsistence is the highest priority. Other uses are
40 protected in ANILCA under 815 of ANILCA. Other uses
41 can be had if the resources can provide that. And but
42 the resource of priority tier is subsistence, other
43 uses, the State is an inverted priority. The State's
44 priority and its graphic is nonresident participation
45 to attract all this funding that basically runs Alaska
46 Department of Fish and Game. So sport hunting or
47 political interests of Alaska have a second tier in the
48 priority and the lowest priority is rural subsistence
49 priority because a lot of times they buy a \$5 hunting
50

1 license, they don't care -- they don't care about that.
2 So the tier for Alaska is graphically if it's
3 nonconflict with urban hunters they don't really --
4 okay, you can have subsistence. But if it comes down
5 to where there's road systems like where I live, I had
6 the Division of -- Subsistence Division laugh in my
7 face in the '80s when I proposed subsistence hunts
8 under -- which was managed under the State of Alaska's
9 rural priority at that time, I had the Subsistence
10 Division laugh in my face that we would never have a
11 subsistence hunt on the Dalton Highway because that was
12 a high priority sport hunting area that had been
13 designated by the State.

14
15 Well, when they lost -- in 1989 they
16 fell out of compliance, in 1990 there were 286 Federal
17 proposals to rectify what the Board of Game process had
18 been doing to the subsistence users in Alaska. Why is
19 that, because the Board of Game is a seven member,
20 politically appointed Board that had no affinity for
21 rural subsistence priority. And the State of Alaska's
22 Legislature refuses to address the subsistence issue
23 for a referendum for a rural subsistence priority
24 because they're never going to fund that.

25
26 So I'll get off my high horse about the
27 subsistence issue.....

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MR. VENT: Okay.

32
33 CHAIR REAKOFF:we lose -- we
34 complete -- they lift these ANCSA 17D withdrawals we
35 immediately lose a rural priority period.

36
37 MR. VENT: Okay. The reason I mention
38 that because we were in a meeting and this was on area
39 M and they have a lot of money involved in there
40 commercial wise.

41
42 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

43
44 MR. VENT: So we have -- we were
45 arguing about, you know, why can't we get any fish on
46 the Yukon River for subsistence use. And a lot of
47 people, you know, was in this meeting, we were really,
48 you know, trying to get this proposal 140 to pass. And
49 when it came up to the Board which was appointed by the
50

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1 State, it was rejected. I mean, you know, all this
2 hard work, we're trying to push this -- get this
3 proposal to help our people and all of a sudden the
4 State say no, you guys aren't our priority. There's
5 people on the Yukon River that were practically crying
6 in that meeting.....

7

8 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

9

10 MR. VENT:trying to say, you
11 know.....

12

13 CHAIR REAKOFF: I heard.....

14

15 MR. VENT:we need this food.

16

17 CHAIR REAKOFF:I heard the
18 tears.....

19

20 MR. VENT: Yeah.

21

22 CHAIR REAKOFF:I heard the tears
23 on the phone.....

24

25 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

26

27 CHAIR REAKOFF:I was listening to
28 those comments.

29

30 MR. VENT: Yeah.

31

32 CHAIR REAKOFF: There was a lot of
33 crying going on.

34

35 MR. VENT: Yep.

36

37 CHAIR REAKOFF: Not a little bit.

38

39 MR. VENT: And the -- and the area M,
40 the State, they weren't even considering that. They
41 already knew what their mind was made up on. And
42 we.....

43

44 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

45

46 MR. VENT:we lost, you know,
47 something that we're not going to get back because the
48 State is not going to provide it. What about the
49 Federal government, they have a priority for us. What
50

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1 -- whose fingers are we going to be pushing, you know,
2 what's going to happen here. I mean, this is not going
3 to go away.

4
5 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, we -- we're --
6 stay on task here.

7
8 MR. VENT: Okay.

9
10 CHAIR REAKOFF: I have a motion on the
11 table. Is there a question on the motion.....

12
13 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

14
15 CHAIR REAKOFF:to submit this
16 letter. Question's called. Those in favor of
17 submitting the letter to the State Bureau of Land
18 Management and the Federal Subsistence Board process
19 through -- to basically direct it to Debra Haaland.
20 Those in favor of submitting that letter signify by
21 saying aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 (No opposing votes)

26
27 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So five members
28 present voted to submit that. So I'll just hand it to
29 you. And so I.....

30
31 Go ahead, Nissa.

32
33 MS. PILCHER: I just wanted to double
34 check, somehow I missed the motion and I just wanted to
35 verify who made the motion.....

36
37 MS. PELKOLA: I made the motion.

38
39 MS. PILCHER: You made the motion, you
40 seconded?

41
42 MR. VENT: I seconded.

43
44 MS. PILCHER: Okay. Thanks. That's
45 all.

46
47 CHAIR REAKOFF: So and did you want to --
48 we have the Field Manager here, Jake, did you want to
49 speak to the Council, introduce yourself briefly.

50

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1 Since we have a new Field Manager I would like to
2 introduce him. You want to state your name for the
3 record.

4
5 MR. VIALPANDO: Good afternoon. Jake
6 Vialpando, the new BLM Anchorage Field Office Manager.
7 My pleasure to be here. Interesting -- interesting
8 discussion. I'm -- you know, I'm new to Alaska.....

9
10 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

11
12 MR. VIALPANDO:as of -- this is
13 my third month so I've got a lot to learn not only about
14 this project, but just Alaska in general. And, you
15 know, my priority for this year is just talking and
16 listening -- primarily listening, but getting out and
17 talking to folks and listening and learning, learning
18 the priorities from the people and understanding --
19 getting a better understanding of the issues and
20 challenges that everyone -- you all have been facing.
21 So.....

22
23 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, welcome to --
24 welcome to Alaska and I hope you stay for a long time.
25 And so we build all this knowledge base up and then
26 people deploy away or move away and so that's always --
27 but I hope you -- hope you like it here and stay for a
28 while.....

29
30 MR. VIALPANDO: Thank you very much.
31 The.....

32
33 CHAIR REAKOFF:and hunt in the
34 country.

35
36 MR. VIALPANDO:the plan is to
37 stay. I'm 30 years in and I've got a few left to go
38 and I don't plan to leave unless somebody kicks me out
39 I guess.

40
41 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, good.

42
43 MR. VIALPANDO: And I think Bruce did a
44 really good job of summarizing this project that's, you
45 know, bestowed upon BLM, you know, understanding that
46 the decision will be made much higher than especially
47 my level, but from my perspective what's really
48 important is it's a quick timeline, I mean, two years
49 is going to go by very, very fast and a draft document
50

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1 will be on the street before we know it. I don't quite
2 understand yet how we're going to reach out to
3 everybody between now and October to really have
4 discussions. Maybe the majority of those discussions
5 will be after that document's released, but with that
6 said I'm going to do my best to have the majority of
7 discussions before that document. So and -- so I say
8 that because please don't hesitate to reach out to me
9 or Bruce and I don't know how the Council works, but if
10 there's opportunities for emergency sessions or, you
11 know, call upon us to have a session, by all means
12 please let me know.

13
14 CHAIR REAKOFF: So you can contact me
15 through our Coordinator, Nissa, here. Just get ahold
16 of OSM and Bruce knows how to -- all those channels.
17 So if you have some emergency questions or so forth you
18 can contact me and I -- if it affects the Koyukuk area
19 or wherever it affects our region we can try and get
20 Council members to interact with the BLM on those
21 various issues. Or myself, one of the -- somebody will
22 respond to you.

23
24 MR. VIALPANDO: Yeah, great. Thank you
25 very much. I appreciate that and thanks for the
26 introduction and I'm excited to be here.

27
28 CHAIR REAKOFF: Thank you.

29
30 MR. VIALPANDO: Thank you.

31
32 CHAIR REAKOFF: Welcome aboard. So I
33 think we've covered that issue pretty well. So we're
34 going to move to update on the Alaska Board of
35 Fisheries actions.

36
37 Nissa.

38
39 MS. PILCHER: Hello. Hello. This is
40 Nissa Pilcher, Council Coordinator for the record.
41 This is a really, really quick update. So the summary
42 of actions for the Board of Fisheries Arctic, Yukon
43 Kuskokwim meeting can be found in your supplemental
44 materials packet starting on Page 3. I did not include
45 the summary of action for the -- what we call the area
46 M meeting which is that AK Pen, Chiniak meeting, but I
47 do know a couple members that were in attendant --
48 attended that meeting. Also included in your packet is
49 comments submitted by OSM as a public copy which would
50

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1 be prior to the meeting as well as during the meeting
2 clarifying their comments submitted which was submitted
3 as a RC. Eastern Interior had some concerns about the
4 comments that were submitted so I wanted to give you
5 guys a copy of them if there were questions.

6
7 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Are there any
8 questions on the Board of Fish actions, of course,
9 Darrell was there that whole meeting.

10
11 MR. VENT: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrell.

14
15 MR. VENT: Yeah, just, you know, this
16 appointment to the Boards that was kind of
17 disappointing about how the process has to go compared
18 to, you know, what our fish management, you know, use
19 in the area. We only -- we always explain to them that
20 we only took what we needed, we didn't overharvest
21 everything. You know, we only used what we needed out
22 of the area, but after everything was gone, you know,
23 we're wondering geez, why -- why -- why could this
24 happen, you know, it just -- why -- what kind of
25 management is that. That's -- you know, it's supposed
26 to be something that was supposed to work with our
27 people. And we found out, you know, they don't have to
28 worry about our subsistence use, they can do what they
29 want with any resources. And that's what's been going
30 on seem like.

31
32 So, you know, it's becoming something
33 that, you know, I know they provide a lot of push on
34 the Federal government because they sue them. And if
35 they want to get something done that's their process.
36 And so the TCC area put a lawsuit against and they
37 didn't like that, you know, But they -- if they tend
38 to work this way that might be other process they would
39 have to follow in those orders. So, you know, it's up
40 to them.

41
42 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

43
44 MR. VENT: They're the ones that
45 supposed to be managing so we can sustain our living
46 out there in the villages.

47
48 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, the State of
49 Alaska's under constitutional mandate for sustained
50

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1 yield management. The Department will tell you, it
2 says maximum sustained yield, but that's in a different
3 section.....

4

5 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

6

7 CHAIR REAKOFF:that's not
8 actually in the replenishable resource section of the
9 constitution. It does not say maximum there. So
10 they'll try to lead you to believe it does, but it does
11 not actually say that. So the reality is the State of
12 Alaska's under an obligation to maintain sustained
13 yield on the Yukon Kuskokwim River. The Commissioner's
14 office is under an obligation if they've got depleted
15 stocks in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River it's incumbent
16 upon the Commissioner's office to come up with a
17 strategy to avoid that. But they don't, they're
18 derelict in their duty. So when the Board process and
19 the Commissioner's office doesn't come forward with a
20 remedy, they're in derelict of duty. So if we wanted
21 to -- somebody wanted to sue, I don't have enough money
22 to sue this multi billion dollar State of Alaska, but I
23 would hold their feet to the fire to make them do that.
24 But nobody's got enough money to sue the State of
25 Alaska. They just get away with doing this, all this
26 stuff, all the time. Overharvesting resources seem to
27 be a chronic issue. And so I get frustrated and I --
28 I'll say it on the record, I get frustrated with that.

29

30 So we covered our -- the Board of Fish
31 actions. Update on the Board of Game.

32

33 Brian.

34

35 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 For the record, Brian Ubelaker, Wildlife Biologist,
37 OSM. I will keep this much briefer than Nissa.

38

39 I attended most of the Southcentral
40 Board of Game meeting. If there are any questions or
41 concerns I was kind of hoping to update anybody if they
42 had questions.

43

44 CHAIR REAKOFF: The only question I
45 have is about 204, the dall sheep proposal, Board
46 generated proposal. Was there significant support for
47 that proposal? I didn't -- I didn't have a chance to
48 listen to that deliberation.

49

50

0300

1 MR. UBELAKER: So that -- so -- okay.
2 I'll backup. I didn't -- I attended two days of the
3 meeting. I was out at Nome, I was listening on the
4 phone.....

5
6 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, okay.
7

8 MR. UBELAKER:when they discussed
9 204. There was not a whole lot of support from what I
10 caught, Stosh was the only one who fervently fought for
11 it.

12
13 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
14

15 MR. UBELAKER: The other members of the
16 Board reverted to full curl. And it was a -- it was a
17 like I say a tooth and nail fight I believe to get the
18 resident and I think it's the ewe season closed out
19 there.

20
21 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah. Yeah. So I
22 think the Board -- the Board needs to address this, our
23 proposals, our ACR to this -- this -- they keep saying
24 full curl, it's not full curl. They're actually
25 letting hunters kill three-quarter curl sheep. They're
26 seizing sheep that are three-quarter curl. In fact
27 it's on their -- it was the display for their
28 discussion with the Board in October of 2000 -- 19th of
29 2022. It showed a three-quarter curl ram that was
30 seized from a hunter that thought it was eight years of
31 age. This is happening all the time. So the Board, I
32 should have called into that meeting and made comments,
33 but I just didn't have time for that. I still had lots
34 of -- I had to go back to work, I hadn't worked for
35 four months and I had some thing going on. I just
36 couldn't get to that one. So I want to know what they
37 did there.

38
39 Okay. Any other questions about the
40 Board actions, State Board of Game.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIR REAKOFF: Thanks, Brian. Nissa.

45
46 MS. PILCHER: If the Council would like
47 to entertain it, Mr. Ubelaker has come up with some
48 draft language on those proposals you guys were
49 discussing earlier.

50

0301

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, okay.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: If you wanted to get to
4 that before the agency reports we were thinking we
5 could display it on the screen so you can.....

6

7 CHAIR REAKOFF: That would be great.

8

9 MS. PILCHER: Okay.

10

11 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah. We do have those
12 proposals that were written up and so we'll look at --
13 take a look at those, make sure that looks good.

14

15 MR. UBELAKER: Okay. First up, the
16 proposal to reduce sheep harvest in units 24A and B
17 from three sheep to one ram. There you see the reg --
18 the affected regulation, Unit 24, excluding the
19 Anaktuvuk Pass hunt. is that -- that is what you were
20 leaning towards, right?

21

22 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yes.

23

24 MR. UBELAKER: Okay. Do you want to
25 read the proposal, would you like me to read it to you?

26

27 CHAIR REAKOFF: You can read the
28 proposal into the record.

29

30 MR. UBELAKER: Okay. Why.....

31

32 CHAIR REAKOFF: Tim and Tommy are
33 listening on the phone. So.....

34

35 MR. UBELAKER: Correct. Okay. Why you
36 are seeking to change the regulation. This proposal is
37 being submitted to address the declining sheep
38 population in Unit 24. Recent steep declines in sheep
39 abundance concern the Council and we feel the remaining
40 population needs to be protected from overharvest and
41 allowed to recover. Allowing ewe harvest from the
42 population may slow or severely restrict the growth of
43 the population. This reduction would be a major
44 restriction to Federally-qualified subsistence users,
45 however allowing the harvest of one ram will still
46 allow for some harvest, but hopefully also aid in the
47 recovery of these declining sheep population.

48

49 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. I would say

50

0302

1 that's excellent justification, that's the crux of this
2 -- of the proposal.

3

4 Any other comments from the Council
5 members.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIR REAKOFF: No, don't see any. Any
10 comments, Tim or Tommy.

11

12 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, the language sounds
13 good.

14

15 CHAIR REAKOFF: Darrell.

16

17 MR. VENT: Yeah, just, you know, I'm
18 curious, you know, they're talking about Anaktuvuk.
19 And, you know, in our area we're getting less and less
20 subsistence use. I'm just wondering, you know, are
21 they facing the same thing, are they getting enough
22 adequate food is what I'm trying to find out.

23

24 CHAIR REAKOFF: All of the comments by
25 residents of Anaktuvuk is they -- they're having --
26 they're not finding nearly the sheep that they used to,
27 they're -- they used to rely pretty heavily on sheep,
28 they're actually moving more towards -- you know, they
29 actually flew to Nuiqsut to go hunt caribou over
30 there.....

31

32 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

33

34 CHAIR REAKOFF:they actually
35 transported caribou down to Anaktuvuk, now they've got
36 caribou returned again. They're moving away from
37 taking so many sheep. They're on -- basically going
38 into personal restrictions just like we have.....

39

40 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

41

42 CHAIR REAKOFF:is what they're
43 actually doing there.

44

45 MR. VENT: Yeah.

46

47 CHAIR REAKOFF: So but that's more the
48 North Slope Regional Council's area. So I feel that
49 this proposal is -- should be submitted as written.

50

0303

1 Thank you.

2

3 And you have another one there?

4

5 MR. UBELAKER: I do. Okay. In regards
6 to the special action request for reducing caribou
7 harvest. So this special action request would be to
8 reduce caribou harvest limit across the range of the
9 Western Arctic Caribou Herd from five caribou per day
10 to four caribou per year only one of which may be a
11 cow. Specifically to reduce the harvest limit in units
12 21D remainder, 24B remainder, 24C and 24D and all
13 caribou hunt units within units 22, 23 and 26A.

14 And I know this is -- I believe this is
15 different from how you worded it yesterday, Mr.
16 Chair.....

17

18 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

19

20 MR. UBELAKER:I believe you said
21 all of units 24 -- or all of Unit 24. This is the
22 language that Lisa pulled for I believe the draft
23 proposal for Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

24

25 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

26

27 MR. UBELAKER: Would this -- is that
28 sufficient, is that what you had envisioned?

29

30 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, there's a --
31 there's a delineation line in Unit 24 from the Kanuti
32 River. I guess the Kanuti River south has a one
33 caribou limit. So that has to be -- but the general
34 Unit 24 north of that line could be dropped from --
35 right now it's five caribou to -- drop to four with --
36 et cetera. So this -- yeah, and it should describe
37 that in Unit 24, it's in the regulation book, Unit
38 24.....

39

40 MR. UBELAKER: Yeah, I believe 24A
41 south of Kanuti is one.....

42

43 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, south of the
44 Kanuti. Now that's got its own.....

45

46 MR. UBELAKER:and then 24A
47 remainder.

48

49 CHAIR REAKOFF:that's Ray

50

0304

1 Mountain, Hodzana Caribou, that's a.....

2

3 MR. UBELAKER: Yeah.

4

5 CHAIR REAKOFF:different hunt,
6 bag limit. So that line.....

7

8 MR. UBELAKER: Okay.

9

10 CHAIR REAKOFF:has to stay there.
11 Everything north of that line would drop to this new
12 regulation of four caribou.

13

14 MR. UBELAKER: So include 24A
15 remainder?

16

17 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah.

18

19 MR. UBELAKER: Okay.

20

21 CHAIR REAKOFF: Remainder.

22

23 MR. UBELAKER: Let me -- hold on. I
24 will make a note before I lose that.

25

26 MR. VENT: Was that Unit 24 remainder?

27

28 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh.

29

30 MR. UBELAKER: Do the rest of the units
31 appear correct?

32

33 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah. 21D, 22, 23, 24B
34 and A remainder. And portion -- it's portions of Unit
35 26A. And that's another -- that was a -- that gets
36 into discussion with Area Management where -- I'll let
37 North Slope make that delineation. But it would be
38 port -- I would prefer to have portions of 26A and let
39 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council delineating
40 where that -- where they would consider the Western
41 Arctic Herd's range. So that'll be in discussion with
42 the Area Management Biologists for the Alaska
43 Department of Fish and Game.

44

45 MR. UBELAKER: Okay. Are you referring
46 to the 26A portion of the Colville and then the 26A
47 remainder that the delineation.....

48

49 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, that's probably

50

0305

1 it. Yeah, something like that.

2

3

4 MR. UBELAKER: Okay. I will make a
5 note of that as well. Okay. And then we'll just jump
6 down to why this request -- the special action is
7 needed. Data from Alaska Department of Fish and Game
8 Biologists presented to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
9 Working Group at their December, 2022 meeting,
10 illustrate that there has been continued decline in the
11 Western Arctic Caribou Herd. The July, 2022
12 photocensus estimated 164,000 caribou in the Western
13 Arctic Herd which is down from 188,000 in 2021. Census
14 numbers for past years. In 2020 there was no census;
15 2019 there's 244,000; 2018 no census; 2017 there's
16 259,000 caribou; and 2016 was 201,000. In the two
17 years between 2019 and 2021 census the herd declined
18 nearly 12 percent per year. Additionally data shows
19 that the cow survival rate was 71 percent in 2021, well
20 below the average of 81 percent from 1981 to 2020.

20

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The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group is intending to propose a reduction in harvest limits from five caribou a day to four caribou per year with no more than one cow allowed for the 2024/2026 regulatory cycle. The Western Interior Regional Advisory Council is greatly concerned about the precipitous decline of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd which is approaching 1976 levels and feels that immediate action is needed to slow the decline and prevent the herd from reaching a point it could not recover from. We feel that the harvest recommendations set forth by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group are a good starting point for the conservation of the Western Arctic Herd while still allowing some harvest. We believe incidental mortality of the herd is affecting the overall population and feel that there is an immediate need to address the situation.

The Western Interior Regional Advisory Council recognizes that Federally-qualified subsistence users are already facing food insecurities, but this drastic reduction of caribou harvest and protection of cows is necessary to protect the remaining caribou herd. We feel that restricting harvest limits, users -- we feel that restricting harvest limits across the entire range of the Western Arctic Herd is the most equitable method to reduce harvest. I'll rework that last sentence, that doesn't make sense.

0306

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah. Okay. But that
2 encapsulates it perfectly other than.....

3
4 MR. UBELAKER: Okay.

5
6 CHAIR REAKOFF:a little.....

7
8 MR. UBELAKER: I'll buy a dictionary
9 and fix it.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIR REAKOFF: Thank you. So those
16 look agreeable to the Council? I see affirmative. Tim
17 and Tommy, did you listen to those, does that sound
18 agreeable justifications?

19
20 MR. GERVAIS: That language is fine.

21
22 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Tommy.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIR REAKOFF: Might of had to go let
27 his dog out or something.

28
29 So we're going to continue to move on
30 in this agenda. So we're down here on 13, agency
31 reports.

32
33 Tribal governments. Do we have any
34 tribal governments, TCC or tribal governments that
35 would like to speak on any issue, give presentation.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIR REAKOFF: So we've got Native
40 organizations. We have Yukon.....

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIR REAKOFF: I'm not hearing
45 anybody. Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association,
46 Catherine Moncrieff, are you there or is YRDFA on here.

47
48 MS. PILCHER: I.....

49
50

0307

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go ahead, Nissa.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: Nissa Pilcher for the
4 record. I do believe that Catherine had emailed me and
5 said she was unable to attend, that you guys do have
6 the YRDFA update in your meeting book.

7

8 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. In our meeting
9 book on 139.

10

11 MS. PILCHER: Yep. Oh, right there,
12 yep. 139. And same with if Terese isn't on, she said
13 the same thing about the Kuskokwim River Intertribal
14 Fish Commission. In your supplemental material there
15 was a newsletter update from that organization as well
16 because she was going to be busy with their meeting
17 today as well.

18

19 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Okay.

20

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I think they
22 encountered a panelist meeting.

23

24 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, I see. Okay. So
25 we got these -- we have their reports in our book here.

26

27

28 So DOI, Indian Affairs briefing. We've
29 already addressed that one.

30

31 MS. PILCHER: Uh-huh.

32

33 CHAIR REAKOFF: And so U.S. Fish and
34 Wildlife Service, 2023 Yukon River Fisheries salmon
35 outlook. And Gerald Maschmann was on earlier.

36

37 Are you there, Gerald?

38

39 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes. Chairman Reakoff,
40 this is Gerald Maschmann with the.....

41

42 CHAIR REAKOFF: Maschmann.

43

44 MR. MASCHMANN:U.S. Fish and
45 Wildlife Service.

46

47 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

48

49 MR. MASCHMANN: Can you hear me okay?

50

0308

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: I can hear you great.
2 Continue.

3
4 MR. MASCHMANN: Okay. Thank you.
5 Thank you, Council. Again my name's Gerald Maschmann,
6 I'm the Assistant Federal Manager on the Yukon River.
7 Holly sends her regards, she's at the Yukon River Panel
8 Right now and she couldn't make this meeting. I had
9 hoped to be with you guys in person and hopefully do
10 double duty and hit the YK Delta RAC meeting too, but I
11 also had a travel issue so I'm here with you on the
12 teleconference.

13
14 I'll be brief. I don't know if Nissa
15 can point to my report in your supplemental materials.
16 I -- looks like FM 15 or.....

17
18 CHAIR REAKOFF: It's on Page.....

19
20 MR. MASCHMANN:Page 5.

21
22 CHAIR REAKOFF:Page 15 of our
23 supplementary packet. So it would be this one.....

24
25 MR. MASCHMANN: Okay.

26
27 CHAIR REAKOFF:on Page 15. And,
28 Darrell went out.

29
30 And so it's Page 15 of the
31 supplementary packet, Tim and Tommy. So it says
32 2000.....

33
34 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you. Thank you,
35 Chair.

36
37 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go right ahead, Gerald.

38
39 MR. MASCHMANN: I won't read it, but
40 I'll summarize it.

41
42 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yes, please.

43
44 MR. MASCHMANN: And it looks like, you
45 know, chinook salmon is forecast for a range of 62 to
46 104,000. A run of this size is not expected to meet
47 escapement goals. Additionally the Canadian origin
48 chinook salmon forecasted run is probably going to be
49 well below the interim management escapement goal. So
50

0309

1 we don't anticipate chinook salmon meeting any
2 escapement goals this year unfortunately, but that's
3 what we've been experiencing the last few season -- few
4 seasons.

5

6 Summer chum salmon is looking a little
7 bit better than it has the last couple of years, but
8 our forecast is for a range of 280,000 to 900,000 which
9 is pretty broad. There's a lot of uncertainty with the
10 summer chum salmon this year. Our drainage wide
11 escapement goal for summer chum is 500,000 to 1.2
12 million. So, you know, if we're -- if we're -- if we
13 come in, you know, closer to the upper end there could
14 be some opportunities to fish for summer chum, but
15 right now there's a lot of uncertainty with that. You
16 know, we had those extreme water temperatures in 2019
17 and that's -- that could have some ill effect on our
18 four year old age class this year.

19

20 Likewise with the fall chum salmon, the
21 forecast is for a run size of 251,000 with a range of
22 112 to 602. Again a lot of uncertainty with that kind
23 of broad range. You know, our drainage wide escapement
24 goal for fall chum is 300 to 600. So if things come in
25 better than expected, gets closer to the top end, there
26 might be a chance to harvest a few fall chum, but again
27 it's very uncertain right now. And again the expected
28 Canadian origin fall chum are -- you know, we're
29 unlikely to probably meet that goal of 70,000 to 104.

30

31 And coho salmon were just expected to
32 be below average and average is typically 222,000.
33 Again some uncertainty with that coho run.

34

35 As far as fishing this year, you know,
36 we've got to temper our expectations. You know, based
37 on the trends fishers should expect limited salmon
38 fishing opportunities. Fishermen should probably
39 expect closures especially early in the season. And if
40 the run continues to be poor salmon fishing could be
41 closed all season, kind of similar to what we've seen
42 last year and year before. And fishermen should
43 probably expect to harvest other species -- I'm sorry
44 to -- harvest other fish species. But again we'll be
45 watching the lower Yukon test fishery and the Pilot
46 Station sonar and listening to local fishermen to, you
47 know, assess the strength of the salmon runs this year.
48 And again if runs come in better than anticipated, you
49 know, we're going to do our best to provide some

50

0310

1 fishing opportunity, you know, based on any surplus
2 that's available.

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As far as preseason public outreach and upcoming meetings, we are inviting tribal governments to -- for some government to government tribal consultation meetings. And I would encourage your tribal governments to participate in these government to government meetings.

Additionally like I said the Yukon River Panel is occurring right now in Whitehorse, it's happening this week. We expect the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association Board meeting will be happening April 17 and 18th and the annual public preseason fisherman's meeting will be April 19th and 20th.

Sometime at the beginning of May, you know, fishermen on the Yukon should get the, you know, colored information sheet that goes out every year to fishing households. And again we'll be doing the -- you know, the weekly YRDFA teleconference is on Tuesday.

And so additionally, you know, Fish and Game will be posting things on the ADF&G Facebook page and, you know, typical news releases.

Again the North Pacific Fish Management Council meeting is happening April 6th through the 11th in Anchorage. So if you're -- you happen to be in Anchorage I'd encourage you to maybe go down and listen in on that.

And a couple of things before I finish up. We are continuing with the ichthyophonous study. If I was with you I would have an ichthyophonous handout for you. I don't know if Nissa has copies to hand out, but we are doing an ichthyophonous sampling again this year and so be aware that'll be going on this season.

Additionally the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is doing a salmon radio tagging study. Some of you have been around a while might remember back in around 2000, 2001, 2002 there was a chinook salmon tagging study and we learned a lot about chinook salmon on the Yukon River. And we're -- the Fish and Game is tagging chinook salmon again this season So be

0311

1 aware that'll be happening. If I was with you I'd have
2 a handout on that, but we'll make sure you get copies
3 of those two handouts.

4

5 So again we're -- you know, it's going
6 to be another tough season and we're looking for
7 fishermen to, you know, talk to us on the YRDFA
8 teleconferences and let us know how things are going
9 and let us know what they're seeing and, you know, what
10 they're harvesting instead of salmon. And we
11 definitely appreciate their feed back and their input.

12

13

14 So if there's no questions that's
15 really all I have for a report.

16

17 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so much,
18 Gerald. That was a good overview.

19

20 Do Council members have any questions
21 on the preseason forecasts for the Yukon.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIR REAKOFF: No, I think that kind
26 of covered it, Gerald, thanks so much.

27

28 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim.

29

30 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, Tim, you got a
31 comment or question.

32

33 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
34 Chair. Gerald, this is Tim Gervais. When you or all
35 of you are working with Yukon River Panel or having
36 other discussions with the Canadians, do you get any
37 feedback from them that Alaska or the U.S. is not doing
38 enough to meet these transboundary escapement goals. I
39 mean, we're -- I know -- I know the fishing is shut
40 down on the Yukon, but do they ever -- do they ever
41 complain about that we still have allowable bycatch in
42 the Bering Sea of chinook salmon, is that something
43 they ever bring up?

44

45 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, thanks, Tim.
46 This is -- this is Gerald with Fish and Wildlife and
47 through the Chair. I'm not as intimately involved with
48 the Yukon Panel, but, you know, my impression is that
49 they're -- you know, been pretty disappointed about,
50

0312

1 you know, not meeting escapement goals and our treaty
2 obligations across the border and, you know, they
3 wonder why we're not -- why we're not doing more. But
4 other than that I can't really speak for the Canadians
5 too much. There's -- you know, I would encourage you
6 to kind of contact those panel members, there's, you
7 know, U.S. Panel members. I'd contact them directly
8 and ask them, you know, what their thoughts and what
9 they've heard with folks up there.

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: So is Holly -- Holly's
12 one of the panel members or she's just attending?

13

14 MR. MASCHMANN: I believe our project
15 leader's Sarah Conn, that would be Holly's boss, she --
16 she's the project leader for the Fairbanks Fish and
17 Wildlife Field Office. She's now on the panel and I
18 believe Holly is basically, you know, attending the
19 panel to assist Sarah who's now the panel member.

20

21 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

22

23 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Do you -- do you
24 have any recommendations on what we can do to get out
25 of our chinook salmon and chum salmon deficits?

26

27 MR. MASCHMANN: I don't have any
28 recommendations. All that we -- Holly and I can do and
29 the State Managers on the Yukon, the State Managers for
30 the Yukon, all we can manage is what comes in the
31 Yukon. And what we're looking at this year is pretty
32 much no -- probably no salmon fishing this season,
33 maybe a little bit of some chum fishing if they come in
34 better than we anticipate, but, you know, fishermen to
35 try and harvest other fish if they can, to share when
36 they can. We know that folks on the river are -- you
37 know, strongly share their resources. So that's really
38 all we can do. And, you know, I always ask fishermen
39 to, you know, pay attention, you know, listen to the
40 teleconferences, that's really your -- you know, your
41 -- where your information -- you know, the latest
42 information's coming is those teleconferences and then
43 following ADF&G Facebook page if that's -- you know,
44 folks are tied into that. So, you know, being careful
45 with your four inch, trying -- you know, when you're
46 harvesting other fish with your four inch gear try and
47 keep it out of known salmon migratory areas. So I
48 think fishermen on the Yukon are working really hard
49 and they're doing a really good job of trying not to
50

0313

1 harvest salmon, you know, during these tough times.
2 So.....

3

4 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Thanks for your
5 report, Gerald, and your work managing these salmon
6 resources and your comments today.

7

8 Jack, I would like to give an obvious
9 statement for the record, but subsistence users on the
10 Yukon and Kuskokwim are just incredibly frustrated with
11 lack of fish, lack of ability to fish, lack of fishing
12 in the foreseeable fish -- in the foreseeable future.
13 And the basic -- the basic feeling is that they've
14 borne a lot of conservation burden and everybody's
15 extremely upset that there's still, you know, bycatch
16 allowed in the marine fisheries. And they're -- nobody
17 is happy with the current or near term future state of
18 affairs regarding king and chum salmon.

19

20 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, it's an unhappy
21 situation. I'll state for the record if I was -- if I
22 was in Canada I'd be leaning heavily on the Secretary
23 of States Department to put leverage on the State of
24 Alaska. I'm sure they listen closely to the Board of
25 Fish meeting regarding the area M issue and the State
26 not doing enough outside of the Yukon and Kuskokwim
27 drainages. Whatever the Managers -- the in-season
28 Managers in the Yukon and Kuskokwim they -- they --
29 that's what their card -- the hand they're dealt. But
30 the State can do more to address the issue outside of
31 the drainages.

32

33 So I think we've covered this -- the
34 Yukon River fishery. Thanks so much, Gerald,
35 appreciate that.

36

37 And Kuskokwim Delta National Wildlife
38 Refuge update is in our packet on Page 144. And is
39 Aaron Moses on the phone also.

40

41 MR. MOSES: Hi, Jack. Yes, I am.

42

43 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. You want to give
44 us a short briefing if you'd care to.

45

46 MR. MOSES: Yes. Thank you, guys.
47 I've been on travel for several months, I've missed
48 seeing you so I hope I get to see you guys in the
49 falltime. So this is just a quick update, it's on Page
50

0314

1 144 of your packet.

2

3

4 Pertaining to the Kuskokwim River
5 salmon season, we are projecting that there's going to
6 be Federal management on the Kuskokwim River. We have
7 the new delegation of authority letters which allows us
8 to implement temporary special action. This may --
9 this allows us to have longer windows, up to 90 days
10 for these special actions and soon, we're still getting
11 them set up, we're going to have tribal consultations
12 and a listening session on KYK about the summer salmon
13 season. So just look out to that, that will be -- last
14 year was pretty good, it was -- lasted around two hours
15 and there was a lot of comments from up and down the
16 river.

16

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As for something that happened new, we
had our first ever winter moose hunt on the Kuskokwim
Federal.....

CHAIR REAKOFF: If I could.....

MR. MOSES:land.....

CHAIR REAKOFF:if I could -- if I
could stop you there.

MR. MOSES:(indiscernible -
distortion) '02.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Aaron, if I could stop
you there for a moment. I have a comment.....

MR. MOSES: Yeah.

CHAIR REAKOFF:on the delegated
authority letter. I read the delegated authority
letter. The consultation does not include the Western
Interior Regional Advisory Council. The delegated
authority does -- it consults with the Yukon Delta
Regional Advisory Council, but it does not specifically
state the Western Interior Council. I feel that it was
an oversight by OSM, possible oversight, but I wanted
to make that -- state that on the record. It's a
signed document, but in the future the Western Interior
Council should have somewhat of a say in the
consultation process with the -- with the Refuge
Manager. Not a huge deal, but I do feel that it was a
possible oversight.

0315

1 So continue on, Aaron.

2

3 MR. MOSES: Okay. Thank you. Yes, I'll
4 talk with OSM and see about that delegation of
5 authority.

6

7 One of the new things that we had this
8 year was a winter moose hunt for zone two. We were
9 under -- under the quota of 110 moose after the fall
10 season. And we've tried different ways of implementing
11 this hunt, we extended the season to October 15. We
12 had one of the longest seasons around. Unfortunately
13 we had really bad weather in January. We were able to
14 (indiscernible - distortion) this hunt. Fifty-four
15 tags were issued, but only one moose was harvested.
16 We're in the process of writing a special action and
17 putting in a proposal to kind of tweak this hunt a
18 little bit because we were gathering information from
19 the hunters and they said it was really hard. And the
20 way we issued it was kind of confusing. So we're
21 working on that within our team.

22

23 We're still working on Mulchatna
24 Caribou management on this side of the -- of the herd.
25 We've been going to a bunch of those, doing a lot of
26 meetings with the tribes and it has been very positive
27 and people are understanding that we are trying our
28 hardest.

29

30 Another thing that we're seeing a high
31 rise in is lead shot. It's unfortunate, but we are
32 starting to see a lot of lead shot shotgun shells
33 coming into our Refuge. They are not illegal to buy,
34 but having them in possession and using them during
35 hunting is illegal in all of Unit 18. And so for the
36 second year in a row I hooked up with Chris Tulik and
37 doing the lead shot shotgun outreach and exchange where
38 we exchange lead shot box for box to anybody and
39 everybody within the Refuge. And so we're hoping that
40 will help. And this last year when we did it we
41 exchanged around 20 cases of lead shot which was a lot
42 higher than we thought we would be doing for that time
43 and so we felt like there was a need to bring it up
44 again.

45

46 And one of the biggest things that is
47 coming out right now is our Refuge information
48 technicians. We now have four of them. They are
49 working very hard and going to our schools. They have

50

0316

1 a focus on giving school presentations this year and
2 next year. Because of the pandemic we weren't able to
3 go to schools and so we're very happy to see them going
4 to the middle school and high school.

5

6 As our -- on Page 145 is all the
7 waterfowl projects that we are going to be doing. Our
8 Wildlife Waterfowl Biologist this summer did take
9 samples of the many dead birds and we did find there
10 was a high number of avian influenza within the Refuge
11 and a lot of birds were dying. Fortunately for some
12 reason emperor geese were not as susceptible to avian
13 influenza as a lot of the other waterfowl so our
14 emperor geese numbers stayed pretty stable and so we
15 did go over our emperor goose population goal so
16 hunting is still open for emperor geese, but egging is
17 closed.

18

19 Going to the next page, 146. Next week
20 we're actually starting our summer season. We're going
21 up to the Kwethluk weir and setting that up with Kenai
22 Field Office and the Fish Commission. This is the
23 second year that the fish screw trap's going to be in
24 operation and that crew will be up there throughout the
25 spring and pretty much into early June.

26

27 And lastly our Staff updates. Our Big
28 Game Biologist, Aaron Webber, has moved to work for the
29 Forest Service down in Montana. We have a new Deputy
30 Project Leader, Laurie Boeck. She just started last
31 week and she comes from Fairbanks and she used to work
32 for Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Spencer
33 Rearden has decided to move back to the Big Game
34 Biologist position so we are in the process of
35 advertising his old Supervisory Biologist position. We
36 just closed our Fish Biologist and Visitor Service
37 Manager positions and so hopefully by the fall meeting
38 we should have those positions filled. And we're also
39 looking for more Refuge Information Technicians mainly
40 on the Yukon, the lower Kuskokwim is pretty well taken
41 care of with Kristin and Emmett. We used to have a RIT
42 from Aniak, but we haven't had one in about four years
43 so we're looking for RITs from Aniak, Western Mission
44 to downriver so if you guys know anybody send them our
45 way, please.

46

47 Other than that, did you guys have any
48 questions?

49

50

0317

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Council member
2 questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIR REAKOFF: No. Tim or Tommy.

7
8 MR. GERVAIS: No questions. Thanks.
9 Well, Aaron, can you -- what's people's feelings down
10 there, or what's the perception with the Mulchatna
11 Caribou Herd situation, are people -- is there much
12 illegal hunting going on or what -- what's the pulse
13 down there?

14
15 MR. MOSES: We have had a high presence
16 of both State and Federal law enforcement and they have
17 given out -- I don't know how many tickets, but I know
18 there has been a handful of tickets issued and some
19 high fines. Other than that it seems like a lot of
20 people are leaving them alone. I'm out there a lot in
21 the springtime trapping and stuff and I -- fortunately
22 I think a lot of people realize that they just need to
23 leave the caribou alone.

24
25 CHAIR REAKOFF: Thank you. That was my
26 question.....

27
28 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

29
30 CHAIR REAKOFF:also and I.....

31
32 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you for your
33 presentation.

34
35 CHAIR REAKOFF:I do appreciate --
36 oh, go ahead, Tim. Go ahead, Tim, were you speaking.

37
38 MR. GERVAIS: Sorry, Jack, or sorry,
39 Mr. Chair. Thank you for your presentation.

40
41 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yes, thank you, Aaron.
42 Appreciate that presentation. I had questions that Tim
43 asked regarding Mulchatna and I appreciate the Refuge's
44 outreach to the communities, trying to -- and their
45 understanding now that this herd needs protection. The
46 moratorium on the Yukon is exemplary of how people can
47 work together to build the resource back up again.

48
49 So thanks so much for your
50

0318

1 presentation, Aaron, good to hear from you and
2 hopefully see you at the fall meeting. Have a good
3 day.

4

5 MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIR REAKOFF: So Togiak Refuge,
8 Mulchatna Herd update is on Page 148 of our packet
9 book. And there's other discussions here. Is anybody
10 from Togiak on this call.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIR REAKOFF: But they did give us an
15 update. I mean, the main thing that this Council is
16 concerned about was the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and I
17 had a -- I talked to the Biologist on the phone, plus I
18 talked to the Refuge Manager at about what -- you know,
19 what their law enforcement aspects are and whether they
20 had any harvest at all. There's no legal harvest on
21 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. So I don't think Togiak's
22 on, but that's -- it's in our packet on Page 148.

23

24 So we have U.S. Forest Service. Is
25 anybody from Forest Service on this call.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIR REAKOFF: Don't hear anybody.
30 National Park Service, Gates of the Arctic National
31 Park and Preserve update, Marcy Okada which is on Page
32 140 -- correction, it's -- oh, it's a supplementary
33 document over here in our packet. It's on Page 17 of
34 the supplementary documents on our packet.

35

36 So, Marcy, are you there.

37

38 MS. OKADA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
39 Chair, Council members. My name is Marcy Okada, I'm
40 the Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the Arctic
41 National Park and Preserve. I just have a quick update
42 for you.

43

44 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go ahead.

45

46 MS. OKADA: So our Subsistence Resource
47 Commission of which Jack Reakoff is the Vice Chair and
48 Pollock Simon, Sr. of Allakaket is also a member of the
49 Commission. The Commission met on November 9th and

50

0319

1 10th in Fairbanks of last year. And the Commission
2 continues to hear updates about the Ambler Access Road
3 Project as well as updates about the Western Arctic
4 Caribou Herd, moose survey results, dall sheep survey
5 results and the Commission also has concerns about law
6 enforcement along the eastern boundary of the Park.

7

8 Our next meeting is scheduled for April
9 18th to 19th in Fairbanks. And we have a full agenda
10 and Jack will most likely report back information from
11 this SRC meeting at your next RAC meeting.

12

13 Additionally I'd like to share that the
14 Park Service is providing funding for a representative
15 from each of the seven Subsistence Resource Commissions
16 around the State to send a representative to the North
17 American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate
18 conference you heard about yesterday.

19

20 Moving on, the rest of the report is
21 results from our dall sheep survey that was conducted
22 last July. We currently -- Will Deacy, our dall sheep
23 Ecologist, has moved on to a lower 48 Park Service
24 unit, down to Rocky Mountain National Park so currently
25 we're looking to fill his position. Surveys are being
26 planned for, dall sheep surveys are being planned for
27 this summer. The three main areas that are scheduled
28 to be surveyed are areas around Anaktuvuk Pass,
29 Itkillik Preserve which is the northeastern portion and
30 then the southeastern portion of Gates of the Arctic
31 National Park.

32

33 And so that's just my quick update if
34 folks have any questions.

35

36 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so much,
37 Marcy. So I will -- I will be traveling for the Gates
38 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission to the
39 Caribou Ungulate Workshop in May. I'm -- as Marcy
40 probably heard during this meeting we've developed a
41 sheep management plan, that'll be an action item for
42 the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
43 to review also at our next meeting. And there's
44 discussions about -- there'll be discussions regarding
45 distance sampling versus minimum counts, referred to as
46 minimum counts. So that's -- I would like the Gates of
47 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Comm or correction, the
48 Gates of the Arctic Park to have some kind of a Staff
49 to have discussion regarding how surveys are done.

50

0320

1 I was crunching the numbers that were
2 produced this last year and they're not correlating
3 specifically with other minimum count surveys. And so
4 we're going to have to have a discussion about that so
5 I wanted to telegraph that to you while we're on this
6 call here, Marcy. And we need to have somebody from
7 the Regional Office or somebody that can -- Matt
8 Cameron or somebody there to talk about this -- about
9 this methodologies.

10

11 So any questions for the Gates of
12 Arctic presentation.

13

14 Darrell.

15

16 MR. VENT: Yeah. That Pollock, I sure
17 appreciate all the effort he's been putting in all
18 these years. And, you know, lately he's been kind of
19 holding off on meetings I notice. It's -- he's getting
20 up there in age so I understand. I'd just like -- you
21 know, I just like to show appreciation that he -- you
22 know, all the effort he put in through all these years.
23 He did a good job. I -- you know, I always -- he's
24 kind of like my uncle because when I go to Allakaket he
25 always invite me into his house and give me a place to
26 stay. So I appreciate that, you know, I think he put a
27 lot of years into YRDFA and unfortunately he hasn't
28 been going to a lot of meetings there too so I've been
29 noticing. Just letting you know.

30

31 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah. Yeah, Pollock
32 has been a -- sort of a mainstay, he was actually at
33 the first WIRAC meeting in 1993. He went off the
34 Council for a while, then he came back on again, but
35 yeah, I've -- he's starting to, you know, he's -- he
36 has his priorities. He's got dogs and stuff and he's
37 probably sticking a little closer to home these days.
38 So you got to give it to him. He told me one time, he
39 says well, when I'm at a meeting I wash my face and
40 shave and put on a clean shirt so that somebody might
41 listen to what I have to say.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIR REAKOFF: It's like oh, cool. So
46 that's a Pollock saying on the record there.

47

48 MR. VENT: Yeah.

49

50

0321

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: So yeah, I do
2 appreciate all the -- all the work that Pollock's put
3 into these Commissions, Councils, Advisory Committee
4 and YRDFA.

5
6 So we're -- thanks so much, Marcy.
7 We'll see you in Fairbanks. And I did attend that last
8 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission.
9 My wife drove me in, I crawled into the -- into the
10 Sophie's Plaza, and I -- my room. My room was just
11 like here, I was like about 30 yards from the meeting
12 room and I could crawl to the meeting room. So that
13 was the first meeting I could personally attend last --
14 this last winter.

15
16 So we're at Denali National Park and
17 Preserve, Wildlife update. And Amy was here, but I
18 don't.....

19
20 Go ahead, Nissa.

21
22 MS. PILCHER: So Pat Malone was
23 supposed to give the update and I received word a
24 little bit ago that she wasn't able to give it. I have
25 the written report.....

26
27 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

28
29 MS. PILCHER:that I'll pass out
30 and make sure that digital copies get sent to the other
31 members. And she did want me to let you know that if
32 you have any questions her contact information is in
33 the very back.

34
35 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. We'll take those
36 and I'll look at that so the digital ones can be sent
37 out to Tim and Tommy.

38
39 So I do want -- I have requested that
40 Denali be more involved with this Commission -- with
41 this Council because we used to have Ray Collins that
42 was on the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission, he
43 unfortunately passed on. And so we need to have inter --
44 more interaction with the Denali SRC and Staff because
45 part of our region encompasses the western portion of
46 Denali.

47
48 So I'll read that on my -- on the
49 flight back to home. And so we're going to move on to
50

0322

1 Bureau of Land Management, Bruce and Erin. So we'll
2 have Bruce step up to the plate. So if you have
3 anything that -- additions, Bruce, we can -- you can
4 present that at this time.

5

6 Go ahead.

7

8 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chair, members of the
9 Council. I don't have anything in addition, I just
10 wanted to introduce our new Field Manager and talk
11 about the PLO. But unless there's further questions
12 that's all I had.

13

14 CHAIR REAKOFF: That, huh. Okay. So
15 we covered that.

16

17 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.

18

19 CHAIR REAKOFF: And so appreciate --
20 appreciate your presence here and.....

21

22 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.

23

24 CHAIR REAKOFF:interacting with
25 the -- with the Council. So thanks so much.

26

27 MR. SEPPI: Yep, you're welcome.

28

29 CHAIR REAKOFF: So, Erin, are you on
30 the phone, Erin Julianus.

31

32 MS. JULIANUS: Yes, I am. This is Erin
33 Julianus. Can you hear me, Mr. Speaker or Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIR REAKOFF: You're a little --
36 you're a little bit distant. Can you come a little
37 closer to the mic.

38

39 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah, let me -- let me
40 try taking it off speaker. How's that?

41

42 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, that sounds a lot
43 better. So let's see, where are we at on the.....

44

45 MR. LaMAR: And, Jack, Jeff is here as
46 well.

47

48 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, say again.

49

50

0323

1 MR. LaMAR: And, Jack, Jeff is -- Jeff
2 Byersdorf is here as well.

3
4 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, Jeff Byersdorf.
5 Okay. Okay. Cool. Yeah, Jeff -- Jeff is -- used to
6 interact with this Council quite a bit back when he was
7 Subsistence Coordinator at Koyukuk Nowitna Refuge, many
8 moons ago. So good to hear your voice again.

9
10 So okay. go ahead with Central Yukon.

11
12 MS. JULIANUS: I think -- I believe
13 that Tim LaMar is also on the call, at least he was a
14 little while ago. So there's a couple of us here.

15
16 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

17
18 MR. LaMAR: Yeah, Mr. Chair, Tim LaMar,
19 Field Manager Central Yukon Field Office. I'm here
20 also.

21
22 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So appreciate
23 your Staff being on the call.

24
25 Go ahead, Erin, or whoever's
26 presenting.

27
28 MS. JULIANUS: Yep, I'll go ahead and
29 read the report or highlights from the Central Yukon
30 Field Office report. So yeah, for the record my name
31 is Erin Julianus and you should have a copy of the
32 Central Yukon Field Office report and also our
33 supplemental dall sheep survey summary in the materials
34 as well.

35
36 So for -- from the report just a couple
37 things that I have. For the Central Yukon RNP, we
38 don't really have any updates on the schedule for the
39 Central Yukon RNP. The draft EIS was published in
40 2021, it's still available for review. We received a
41 lot of public comments on the draft, but we're still
42 waiting on the direction from the BLM Washington
43 office, from the Department, on the proposed final RNP,
44 EIS and the preferred alternative as well as the
45 associated timeline for preparing the final RNP.

46
47 And then for Ambler, the BLM is moving
48 forward with the supplemental EIS for the Ambler Road
49 to address identified -- issues identified as

50

0324

1 deficiencies in the original EIS. These issues include
2 revisiting impacts on caribou forage, vegetation, water
3 quality, fish, and the resultant potential impacts on
4 subsistence in the Section VIII and then also
5 conducting a more thorough consultation with the tribes
6 through the National Historic Preservation Act section
7 106 process.

8

9

10 So we were -- we are working with a
11 contractor for that supplemental EIS right now. We're
12 working through the -- there was over 22,000 comments
13 submitted for the supplemental EIS and we should have a
14 scoping report to share with the public later this
15 month I believe. It's likely that the draft EIS or
16 SEIS will be published later this summer, followed
17 after that by a public comment period and government to
18 government consultation is ongoing, but additional G to
19 G and public meetings would be held at that time. And
20 yeah, I know that Jeff spoke to this Council at the
21 meeting -- at the last meeting this past winter. He of
22 course is the authorized officer on the Ambler Road
23 and, you know, continues to be available for questions.

24

25

26 So moving on in the report. We have
27 had several Staff changes and have recently filled
28 multiple positions in the Field Office so we have a lot
29 of new faces. We hired a Realty Specialist, an
30 Archeologist, as HazMat Specialist and A Park Ranger in
31 the last year. I'm probably forgetting a position or
32 two. And we're really excited to welcome Tara Olstad
33 as the new Arctic InterAgency Visitor Center Manager.
34 So she's going to be a new face up in Coldfoot this
35 summer. We're excited to have her onboard. And we'll
36 hopefully be filling our Ecologist and Fish Biologist
37 vacancies this summer.

38

39

40 Our permitting workload, this is kind
41 of peppered throughout the report, continues to be
42 heavy with most of our permit authorizations and
43 compliance work occurring in the vicinity of the Dalton
44 Highway. We authorize maintenance and construction
45 activities for the Dalton Highway and the TransAlaska
46 Pipeline, we've been doing a lot of that work recently.
47 Many of these authorizations are for gravel and use of
48 existing gravel pits along the highway, but also placer
49 mining operations and various authorizations related to
50 mining, rights of way permits, research permits and
51 special recreational permits for hunting guides,
52 highway tour operators and dog mushing tours.

53

0325

1 So this report as we usually do at the
2 winter meeting includes post use report information for
3 our hunting guides, so that's on the first page into
4 the second page of the report. We permit eight
5 commercial hunting guides under special recreation
6 permits, five of which operate in or around the Dalton
7 corridor. We're still waiting on a couple of the 2022
8 post use reports and that -- that's indicated in the
9 report. But the bulk of the activity should be in
10 there. These are multi use or multi year permits so
11 just as a point of clarification the number of sheep
12 hunts allowed under each permit is -- it's listed in
13 the report, but these -- these operators of course did
14 not hunt or harvest sheep on BLM managed lands in the
15 closed areas in 2022.

16
17 Two of the permits are up for renewal
18 this year. We will process the applications, but the
19 renewals will not include authorizations for guided
20 sheep hunts. We still intend to do a programmatic
21 environmental assessment on guided dall sheep hunting
22 in the vicinity of the Dalton Highway. So that part of
23 their application is going to be processed separately.

24
25 CHAIR REAKOFF: I'm going to -- I'm
26 going to stop you right there.

27
28 MS. JULIANUS: And.....

29
30 CHAIR REAKOFF: Erin.....

31
32 MS. JULIANUS: Yep.

33
34 CHAIR REAKOFF:so I'm going to
35 stop you right there. This Council just produced a
36 sheep management plan that addresses commercial uses
37 and various uses within 20 miles of the Dalton Highway.
38 This plan is going to be disseminated to all land
39 management agencies, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, National
40 Park Service, BLM. I think that you need to look at
41 that plan seriously in regards to the commercial
42 services that are competing heavily with high impact
43 resident hunter use within 20 miles of the Dalton
44 Highway. So I -- you're going to have to add that into
45 your analysis for issuance of setting sheep --
46 basically the numbers of sheep that are -- have been
47 allocated are far more than the available ram base, the
48 adult ram base by survey. And so this is a -- as I've
49 been stating before this -- there has to be a serious
50

0326

1 reconsideration of how many sheep permits or any sheep
2 permits are issued even associated to the closure area
3 because there's -- you have to read the management
4 plan.

5

6 Were you on the call this whole time
7 and you heard the management plan discussion?

8

9 MS. JULIANUS: Yep, uh-huh.

10

11 CHAIR REAKOFF: And so you.....

12

13 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah, I was. Yep.

14

15 CHAIR REAKOFF:you will be
16 getting -- you will be getting the management plan
17 imminently. OSM is going to be sending it out to all
18 of the various land managers, Federal land managers and
19 so that's -- this whole guide allocation of all these
20 -- if you start going through all these guides and all
21 these clients allocations, it's more than the adult ram
22 base period. There's no consideration for subsistence
23 or any other user base. So I feel that the Bureau of
24 Land Management needs to look seriously at that -- at
25 that issue.

26

27 So that's -- I'm just inserting that
28 into your discussion and for the Council's becoming
29 aware of what -- looking at what we're look -- at these
30 allocations.

31

32 We also have a significant decline in
33 the moose population and we have missing cohorts. And
34 so when you look at the yearling bull components we're
35 having missing cohorts so I'd be cautionary on
36 continuing to allocate high numbers of moose on the BLM
37 lands also. But it's not as critical as the sheep
38 population.

39

40 So go -- continue. I just wanted to
41 stop you there so -- make comments while you're on that
42 subject. Go ahead.

43

44 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, thank
45 you. Yeah, and I was -- I know that you did mention
46 the -- you know, the management plan last fall and I
47 was curious how the timing of typing of that was going
48 to work out, you know, especially considering that we
49 were, you know, planning on doing this environmental

50

0327

1 assessment. So I think that -- I was happy to hear
2 that there's a draft available so I look forward to
3 looking through it for sure.

4

5 The only other thing that I did want to
6 highlight from the report was that summary document on
7 the 2022 dall sheep survey. So we -- this is the third
8 -- 2022 was the second year that the BLM has or the
9 Park Service rather has done transect surveys on BLM
10 managed land on behalf of BLM. So this is done under
11 an interagency agreement. So the distance estimation,
12 transect surveys were conducted on BLM managed lands in
13 the vicinity of the Dalton Highway to estimate sheep
14 abundance, population composition and this area of
15 course includes 1A, 1B, minimum count survey areas that
16 are regularly surveyed by the Alaska Department of Fish
17 and Game. Yeah, I just included the -- the summary is
18 pretty abridged, I just have the, you know, total sheep
19 and then the lamb to ewe-like ratio reported for both
20 the total survey area and then 1A, 1B in the summary.

21

22 CHAIR REAKOFF: I have.....

23

24 MS. JULIANUS: And -- yeah, I don't
25 have anything.....

26

27 CHAIR REAKOFF:I have a comment.

28

29 MS. JULIANUS:to highlight for
30 that.

31

32 CHAIR REAKOFF: Erin. Erin, I have a
33 comment on the presentation of data. If you look at
34 how all other data's presented, ewe -- lambs, neonate
35 lambs and ewe-likes are not typically combined because
36 neonate lambs as you'll see in the -- in this
37 management plan are not recruited, we actually have
38 declining ewe-like numbers showing that lambs are not
39 being actual recruited and we're having adult losses.
40 So these -- this data does not -- in 2022 we do not
41 have an increase in sheep population, we have an
42 increase of lamb production, but they're unrecruited,
43 we have a hard winter this year again.

44

45 Have you been up the Dalton Highway
46 lately?

47

48 MS. JULIANUS: I'm sorry, I didn't
49 catch that.

50

0328

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Have you been up the
2 Dalton Highway lately, there's a lot of snow in the
3 Brooks Range, we have rain on snow. So when you read
4 the management plan it's laying out that there's
5 distance, weather analysis need to be taken into
6 consideration. These lamb increases do not mean these
7 sheep -- lambs are recruited until they're one year of
8 age. So when you present data to this Council in the
9 future have lamb -- ewe to lamb ratios, but then give
10 -- give ewe-likes. And so ewe-likes actually show what
11 your recruited numbers are actually trending, if that's
12 actually your real number of ram to ewe ratio. You got
13 to read the management plan and so I won't explain it
14 all to you. Read the management plan and we need to
15 break these out into a little bit different
16 presentation.

17
18 No fault of yours, just telling you the
19 way this Council is going to want to be able to look at
20 this data in the future. So I do appreciate these
21 numbers and these ratios. I do appreciate that. I'm
22 just saying -- I'm just discussing how it's presented
23 to the Council.

24
25 MS. JULIANUS: Uh-huh. Yeah.

26
27 CHAIR REAKOFF: So anything else there.

28
29 MS. JULIANUS: Nope, I don't -- I don't
30 think so. Yeah, I just wanted to, you know, also say
31 that I've been really -- I was really gratefully for
32 Will Deacy and then, you know, both happy to see him,
33 you know, move on and get a job that sounds like it's
34 pretty cool, but yeah, he was -- he's been pretty
35 helpful for me and I wish him well. And yeah, BLM is
36 really grateful to the Park Service for continuing this
37 work and, you know, doing a lot of -- it's a lot of
38 work, it's a big survey so we're grateful for that.

39 So yeah, I think that that's all I
40 have. You know, we can certainly take any questions, I
41 can or you can, you know, ask Tim or Jeff directly I
42 think.

43
44 CHAIR REAKOFF: So does Tim or Jeff
45 have any comments to the Council.

46
47 MR. LaMAR: Mr. Chair, this is Tim
48 LaMar. I don't have -- I don't have anything specific
49 beyond what Erin has talked about. We are close to
50

0329

1 moving forward with the Central Yukon Resource
2 Management Plan, we're actively working on it, we're
3 trying to get some green lights on some proposed
4 approaches that we're in the final stages of packaging
5 to get the green light on. So hopefully we'll be
6 moving forward shortly on the Resource Management Plan.
7 So I'll just interject that.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you. This
12 Council took action on a letter that was being
13 submitted to the Western Interior Bering Sea Resource
14 Management Plan regarding the -- who's got one of the
15 letters, I gave mine away.

16

17 Did you have one there, Jenny, the BLM
18 letter? Oh, here it is.

19

20 So this letter actually applies to the
21 -- to the Central Yukon Management Plan regarding the
22 ANCSA 17D-1 withdrawals. And so I read this into the
23 record.

24

25 You heard me read this into the record,
26 Erin?

27

28 MS. JULIANUS: I did, yes.

29

30 CHAIR REAKOFF: And so were you on the
31 call at all, Tim, while I was -- while we were
32 discussing this issue?

33

34 MR. LaMAR: No, I -- well, I came on I
35 think right after you finished reading it, but I have
36 seen the letter if it's the draft that was sent out,
37 I'm aware of its contents. And that is one of the
38 issues we're addressing with the -- with the Central
39 Yukon RMP. And it's actually one of the things we're
40 working on right -- right now as far as what we're
41 going to propose for that.

42

43 CHAIR REAKOFF: So this letter we were
44 addressing specifically to the Western Alaska Bering
45 Sea Plan, but this -- these -- this issue is still
46 applicable to the Central Yukon Resource Management
47 Plan. So the justification of this letter needs to be
48 submitted to the Central Yukon Field Office for the
49 draft resource management environmental plan to address
50

0330

1 this ANCSA 17D-1 withdrawals and the need to retain
2 especially the 5150 is applicable in this discussion.

3
4 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
5 submit this language to the Central Yukon Draft
6 Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact
7 Statement regarding the ANCSA 17D-1 withdrawals to be
8 retained. And so.....

9
10 MR. VENT: I'd just like to speak on
11 this here, this plan here. Do I have to do that after
12 we.....

13
14 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, I would like to
15 move this forward before we.....

16
17 MR. VENT: Didn't we already adopt
18 this, you want.....

19
20 REPORTER: Darrell.

21
22 MR. VENT:to put it into this
23 one, right?

24
25 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, there's -- yeah,
26 this is a completely different plan. One is -- one is
27 for the Western Bering Sea, Western Alaska and the
28 other is the Central Yukon Plan. So it's a completely
29 different plan. But we need to have the primary
30 language is -- needs to be addressing the other
31 resource management plan.

32
33 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
34 submit this language to the Central Yukon Office
35 regarding their draft resource management plan, EIS
36 impact statement process.

37
38 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

39
40 CHAIR REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.

41
42 MR. VENT: Second.

43
44 CHAIR REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrell.

45
46 MR. VENT: Could it also include some
47 other information in there. You know, we -- when this
48 came about we as a tribe, you know, we introduced areas
49 of critical environmental concerns and was rejected.

50

0331

1 And we wanted to know what the reason was, but we
2 didn't get no response back to why these were rejected.
3 So, you know, the communication with them was hard. I
4 mean, they didn't want to respond to any of this
5 information that we asked. So how do we, you know,
6 work with them when they put a plan in and they don't
7 want any -- the tribe, you know, we're in the central
8 Yukon area, we're one of the designated tribes.

9
10 CHAIR REAKOFF: We could add a
11 paragraph regarding the AC -- referred to as ACEC, the
12 review of the ACEC, there's areas of critical
13 environment concern, that the previous comments
14 regarding areas -- there was a whole bunch of -- I
15 submitted ACEC specifically to certain sheep corridor
16 movement areas and so a lot of those were just tossed
17 aside. So we could add a paragraph regarding the ACEC
18 review again in this -- in this letter.

19
20 MR. VENT: Yeah.

21
22 CHAIR REAKOFF: Do you want to add that
23 paragraph?

24
25 MR. VENT: Yeah.

26
27 CHAIR REAKOFF: And so we'll make -- I
28 work with Nissa on slight adjustments to this specific
29 letter compared to the previous -- this -- the draft
30 letter that we have here. So that'll be an addition --
31 additional paragraph to this letter that's in -- on
32 motion on the table.

33
34 Any further discussion. Do you have
35 any comments, Tim or Tommy.

36
37 MR. KRISKA: Yes, just the way Darrell
38 said it.

39
40 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So for
41 affirmation of the ACEC process. Do you have any
42 comments, Tim.

43
44 MR. GERVAIS: No, I don't.

45
46 CHAIR REAKOFF: So -- okay. Any
47 comments, Jenny.

48
49 MS. PELKOLA: No.

50

0332

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: So no more comments.
2 So call for question.

3
4 MR. VENT: Call for question.

5
6 CHAIR REAKOFF: The question's called.
7 Those in favor of submitting the letter regarding the
8 ANCSA 17D withdrawals and the review of the ACECs that
9 were previously submitted and commented on in the first
10 iteration of the Central Yukon Field Office Resource
11 Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
12 signify by saying aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 (No opposing votes)

17
18 CHAIR REAKOFF: So I -- so you see our
19 actions, Tim LaMar, that we still have concerns about
20 the 17D withdrawals and we still have concerns about
21 the ACEC process. So this Council's not going to be
22 meeting before -- more than likely before -- what's the
23 timeline are we looking at on this Central Yukon Draft
24 Resource Management Plan and EIS approximately?

25
26 MR. LaMAR: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I can
27 speak to that.

28
29 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go.....

30
31 MR. LaMAR: I can speak to that a
32 little bit as far as what -- as far as what's next. We
33 anticipate getting the proposed RMP final EIS out this
34 summer, probably August. And at that -- at that point
35 since we had a six month public comment period on the
36 draft there won't be a public comment period on the
37 final. We do intend to reach out for G to G
38 consultation with the tribe and kind of share with them
39 what we're proposing in the final plan. I'll say some
40 of the -- I'll mention that some of the items you've
41 been talking about here, the D-1 withdrawals as well as
42 the ACECs, those have been issues we've been spending a
43 lot of time focusing on in moving from the draft to the
44 final. And so those will be topics of conversation in
45 any subsequent G to G meetings and meet -- discussions
46 with our cooperating agencies which a lot of the tribes
47 involved are cooperating agencies and then there's also
48 -- the State of Alaska is also a cooperating agency.
49 So the plan is to have a record of decision on it, a
50

0333

1 final decision, by the end of the calendar year of
2 2023. So those are kind of some of the broad time
3 frames associated with that.

4

5 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. That's what we
6 wanted to know. So if we submit this letter it's not
7 going to be accepted because it's a comment.

8

9 MR. LaMAR: I -- no, I would encourage
10 you to go ahead and send the letter.

11

12 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So this is to
13 the Federal Subsistence Management Board, Secretary
14 Haaland's off -- Secretary of Interior's office which
15 would cover the regional office of the Bureau of Land
16 Management. And who is the -- who is the current
17 Regional Director for the Bureau of Land Management for
18 my information, please?

19

20 MR. LaMAR: That would -- that would be
21 Steve Cohn, C-O-H-N.

22

23 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. All right.
24 Thank you. Any further comments on the BLM's plan or
25 correction, presentation.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIR REAKOFF: Hearing none.....

30

31 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, this is Tim. I had
32 a question.

33

34 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead, Tim.

35

36 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Thank you for your presentation. I was curious, we had
38 just listened to some -- a presentation by Fish and
39 Wildlife Service regarding their funding being
40 flatlined for a long time and them operating under --
41 basically in an underfunded state right now. Is that a
42 similar situation at the BLM or how -- how's your
43 funding relative to your needs?

44

45 MR. LaMAR: This is Tim LaMar again. I
46 guess at the broader scale Jeff Byersdorf might be
47 better equipped to speak to that issue, but in general
48 our funding has been relatively flat the last couple of
49 years. We are getting -- you know, as far as our base

50

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1 funding goes we have been getting funding for specific
2 projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure law and
3 other -- and the other bills that the administration
4 has passed. So in some respects or contexts for
5 specific types of projects and activities our funding
6 is increasing, but as far as our base funding of our
7 base projects go it's kind of staying flat at the
8 moment.

9

10 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

11

12 MR. BYERSDORF: And through the Chair

13 to.....

14

15 MR. GERVAIS: All right. Thank you.

16

17 MR. BYERSDORF:member Tim.

18

19 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yes. Go ahead, Jeff.

20

21 MR. BYERSDORF: Yeah. Thank you.

22 Thank you, Chair. Tim captured it pretty well, you
23 know, specifically the Bipartisan Infrastructure law
24 and Inflation Reduction Act. We're seeing some more
25 funding coming our way that's project specific. We are
26 able to utilize some of that funding for temporary
27 hiring processes so that's been beneficial. And so
28 seeing additional funding in regards to our fuels
29 projects, prescribed fire projects, throughout State of
30 Alaska, but as far as our base funding, member Gervais,
31 I would -- I would concur with Tim that that's pretty
32 flat, it hasn't really changed much and I don't expect
33 it will.

34

35 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. That -- yeah,
36 that's not really keeping up with this inflation rate
37 though would you say, Jeff?

38

39 MR. BYERSDORF: I -- I'd say we're a
40 little bit behind the power curve.

41

42 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Okay. Thank
43 you. Any other questions, Tim, Tim Gervais.

44

45 MR. GERVAIS: No, that's it, Jack.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Okay. Thanks so

50

0335

1 much, Central Yukon, I appreciate that presentation and
2 I appreciate your handout here to review again when I
3 get -- I'm going to go back over it again and look at
4 it a little closer. And I'll be working with you,
5 Erin, on this -- are you going to fly this sheep survey
6 this fall or is it you're going to recontract that with
7 the Park Service?

8

9 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah, so this is -- this
10 is Erin. Yeah, I don't the plans for sure. Right now
11 they're kind of -- they're kind of shaping up right
12 now. I don't know if I'll be -- I'll be flying the
13 survey this summer or not. I kind of think not, but
14 subject to change.

15

16 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Just -- so I'll
17 be getting ahold of you later on about some of these
18 issues.

19

20 Okay. Thanks so much.

21

22 MS. JULIANUS: Okay.

23

24 CHAIR REAKOFF: So.....

25

26 MS. JULIANUS: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIR REAKOFF:we're going to
29 move down to Alaska Department of Fish and -- oh, you
30 know, we actually missed in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
31 we didn't get Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko. So that should
32 be on this list.

33

34 Are you still there, Jeremy.

35

36 MR. HAVENER: Can you hear me, Mr.

37

38 Chair?

39

40 CHAIR REAKOFF: I can hear somebody. A

41

42 MR. HAVENER: How about that, can you

43

44 hear me now?

45

46 CHAIR REAKOFF: I can hear you now. Go

47

48 MR. HAVENER: Hey, Jack, Council
49 members. Appreciate you taking the time to have me on

50

0336

1 here. I apologize, I've been a little bit busy with
2 homelife, we just had our second child in February and
3 then we've also been coordinating a winter moose hunt
4 in the Huslia and Hughes area.

5

6

CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

7

8

MR. HAVENER: But I don't -- I don't
9 have too much to update on. I'll just start with the
10 winter moose hunt decisions. It's something I've been
11 spending quite a bit of time consulting with all the
12 stakeholders. And what we've decided is in game
13 management Unit 24C and D inside the controlled use
14 area we are -- we're going to be holding an April 10
15 through 15 antlered bull moose hunt with a quota of 10
16 antler moose. And getting ready to head to Huslia
17 actually to issue permits out. So that's what I've
18 been working on here today. And then we're going to
19 try to get up to Hughes on Friday and hopefully we can
20 talk to folks and, you know, cover things with the land
21 status and make sure everybody's aware of where the
22 Federal land is at and hopefully that hunt will go
23 good. And it sounds like it's -- you know, it's much
24 needed for residents to get some additional meat for
25 the winter.

26

27

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The Refuge Manager also has delegated
authority to, you know, open winter moose hunts and
game management units 21B and 21D and we've also made
decisions on those. In 21B and I know -- I don't think
Mr. Honea's on here right now, but we've spoken with
Ruby Tribal Council, Tanana Tribal Council and just
kind of talking with them about the -- our concerns
with the moose population in the Nowitna National
Wildlife Refuge. It's something we've noticed for a
number -- you know, a couple years now with cow numbers
in particular declining. And, you know, we -- we're --
we are not going to be holding a moose hunt, winter
moose hunt, in that area at this time. And that's
something, you know, it's -- the tribal councils have
always been opposed to. So we -- it was good getting
there, getting in person at these tribal council
meetings and discussing this information with them.
And, you know, with that being said on the current
moose population we are looking at for this November
trend count surveys. We're going to try to get in
there and do a more thorough survey with a GSPE or a
geospacial population estimate.

0337

1 In 21D we've -- you know, we have three
2 areas that we look at and two of those areas, one is
3 inside the controlled use area or the Koyukuk
4 controlled use area and then the remainder, those areas
5 we didn't feel the biology was where we wanted it to be
6 to hold a moose hunt. And we -- honestly we don't have
7 much interest in having moose hunts in those areas.

8
9 The third area, south of the Yukon we
10 -- we've been working with Alaska Department of Fish
11 and Game and moose population in that area is doing
12 really well and we defer our Federal hunt and the State
13 of Alaska opens a March 1 through 15 antlerless moose
14 hunt and that took place this year. And I honestly
15 haven't heard if -- how many people have been out moose
16 hunting and utilized that.

17
18 But in a nutshell that's what we've had
19 going on here the last couple months working on winter
20 moose hunt decisions and yeah, I -- I'm getting ready
21 to go issue out permits tomorrow. So I apologize, it's
22 been busy here today and again I appreciate the time to
23 get on here and give a quick update.

24
25 CHAIR REAKOFF: Now actually we -- I
26 dropped the ball when we wrote the agenda, I missed
27 putting Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko on the agenda. And so
28 I was like oh, gee, I better back up. And I knew you
29 were satelliting around that phone burping babies or
30 whatever you may be doing in the house there. So glad
31 to hear you on the phone there and you're doing a great
32 job, Jeremy. Appreciate all the work Koyukuk's doing.

33
34
35 So thank you.

36
37 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, and actually one
38 thing -- one thing I forgot to mention, Jack.

39
40 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go ahead.

41
42 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, I -- we did have a
43 -- I guess a pretty significant change here in our
44 office. We actually just hired a new Refuge Manager
45 and that Refuge Manager David Zabriskie. He's been
46 here for a couple.....

47
48 REPORTER: Hang on.

49
50

0338

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Sorry, Jeremy. Our
2 phone system cut out here momentarily. You were just
3 letting us know your -- you have a new Refuge Manager,
4 David Dabriskie.

5
6 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, that's correct.
7 It's David Zabriskie and he's been in Galena now for I
8 want to say two years. And prior to that he was out in
9 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge. So we're excited to
10 have him as our Refuge Manager.

11
12 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. I'm glad to hear
13 that. Brings cohesion to the multi complexed Refuge
14 there. Look forward to working with him and I'm trying
15 to get you more regional funding for working with
16 Innoko a bit more. So we had Brian Glaspell here this
17 afternoon so working on that one. I want to see good
18 coverage of the Refuges, it's kind of -- I've got a
19 burr about that for some reason.

20
21 So thanks so much, Jeremy, and I'll let
22 you get back to homelife there. And good luck with
23 issuing those permits.

24
25 So Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

26
27 MR. HAVENER: Thank you very much.

28
29 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
30 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, is there any
31 Department members on the phone.

32
33 MR. GERVAIS: Jack this is Tim.

34
35 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, Tim, go ahead.

36
37 MR. GERVAIS: Can -- is Jeremy still
38 online, I had a question for it.

39
40 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, okay. Another
41 question, Jeremy.

42
43 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, I'm still here,
44 Tim.

45
46 MR. GERVAIS: Hi, Jeremy. Good
47 afternoon. Thanks for your report. I had a question.
48 Now as we got a better understanding of the
49 underfunding with Fish and Wildlife Service and your
50

0339

1 Alaskan operations or I guess it's a national deal,
2 does -- would it be of any benefit if the -- if the
3 WIRAC put in a recommendation on our (indiscernible -
4 distortion) recorder through a dedicated letter to Fish
5 and Wildlife. It seems in my experience the Fish and
6 Wildlife Service when they're bringing in these new
7 Refuge Managers, okay, theirs just came in from
8 Selawik, that's a good deal, but, you know, it seems
9 like for Galena or Innoko they put in Refuge Managers
10 from various parts of the country. And I was wondering
11 if you guys are -- feel like your manpower, you're
12 understaffed, would it be of use if they did cut more
13 promotional -- promotional stuff in State so that we
14 didn't have a big learning curve for managers coming in
15 from outside if we're already in a manpower crunch as
16 it is?

17
18 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, I -- through the
19 Chair, Mr. Gervais. I think a letter, you know, would
20 be good just to kind of give us an idea on things that
21 folks in that area have concerns about, makes it
22 official and that way we can see it and, you know, I'd
23 definitely get that to our Refuge Manager so he sees
24 it.

25
26 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, or other Council
27 members, do you guys have -- do you guys have an
28 opinion on this if they're having trouble being
29 understaffed, do you see some value in them promoting
30 within in state for promotional opportunities as they
31 occur in Alaska so we have -- we don't have a big
32 learning curve from pulling in Refuge Managers from
33 Missouri or Florida or where -- whatever they may be.
34 It just seems like -- seems like it would help get
35 continuity out better if they could -- if they could
36 hire through their Alaska personnel already.

37
38 CHAIR REAKOFF: I -- you know, I've
39 spoke to this.....

40
41 MR. HAVENER: Or promote.

42
43 CHAIR REAKOFF:issue for.....

44
45 MR. GERVAIS: Promote through their
46 Alaska personnel that are -- that have experience in
47 the State.

48
49 CHAIR REAKOFF: So, Tim, yeah, I've
50

0340

1 spoke to this issue quite some -- quite a bit over the
2 years. It gets a little bit frustrating to get a
3 person shipped in from another.....

4
5 MR. GERVAIS: I think we lost -- I
6 think we lost the audio on the Anchorage group again.

7
8 CHAIR REAKOFF: Can you hear me at all,
9 Tim, can you hear me.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIR REAKOFF: Some -- do other people
14 on the phone hear me.

15
16 MR. HAVENER: Hey, Jack, this is
17 Jeremy, I can -- I can hear you.

18
19 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, Tim -- I'm not
20 sure what's going on with his phone. I'll speak to his
21 question though. I've spoken about this various --
22 this issue he's identified that having new Refuge
23 Managers or high Staff come up from the U.S. and they
24 have a big learning curve. And if they intend to stay
25 that's okay, I'm not bad with that, but the reality is
26 there can be -- you train somebody up and then they
27 leave right away. And so that's -- that can be a real
28 issue. I do feel that Staff should be -- Refuge
29 Managers should be looked at for moving up the chain
30 from other portions of the regions, it was referred to
31 as region seven, the Alaska region for these Refuges
32 would be a fairly high priority and so I would be -- I
33 do think that, you know, telegraphing that to the
34 regional office is -- would be -- would be a point, we
35 could put that into our annual report. I think we've
36 kind of beat up the regional office lately so I'm not
37 sure that they're going to want to hear from WIRAC
38 again for a while, but I do feel that that is an
39 ongoing issue with all the various agencies is
40 maintaining cohesion in the least amount of Alaska
41 training the better, but not sure if we want to address
42 that in this annual report or in our next annual report
43 this fall.

44
45 Are you still hearing me, Tim, can you
46 hear me at all.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

0341

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: I think his phone died.
2 Are you there, Tommy.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIR REAKOFF: Hello. And you can
7 still hear me, Jeremy.

8
9 MR. HAVENER: I can hear you.

10
11 CHAIR REAKOFF: I don't know what's
12 going on with Tim there, he was there asking questions
13 and.....

14
15 Tommy, are you there.

16
17 MR. KRISKA: Yeah.

18
19 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

20
21 MR. KRISKA: I'm here.

22
23 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, good. At least
24 we got quorum. I think Tim's phone died or something.
25 So that is a point, we could put that on the agenda for
26 next annual report and that is a point about
27 maintaining cohesion with hiring Staff within Alaska
28 versus outside.....

29
30 MR. VENT: A place.

31
32 CHAIR REAKOFF:a placeholder. So
33 we're going to -- so I was calling for the Alaska
34 Department of Fish and Game. Do we have any Department
35 of Fish and Game people on the -- on this call.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIR REAKOFF: No. Office of
40 Subsistence Management. Brent, are you going to give
41 us an update.....

42
43 MR. VICKERS: I.....

44
45 CHAIR REAKOFF:OSM update.

46
47 MR. VICKERS:I am. Sorry, I was
48 writing down your last request to put that agenda item
49 for your next Council meeting.

50

0342

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Placemaker for that.

2

3 MR. VICKERS: Yeah, it's a placemaker.
4 It diverted my attention for a second.

5

6 Mr. Chair, members of the Council,
7 again on behalf of Office of Subsistence Management I
8 want to thank you all for your exceptional work on
9 behalf of your communities and user groups. We value
10 your expertise and contribution of your knowledge and
11 experience to the regulatory process.

12

13 Last fall we held our first in person
14 Regional Advisory Council meeting since the beginning
15 of the covid 19 pandemic three years ago. All 10
16 Councils were able to meet as scheduled in rural and
17 hub communities across the State. It's been a
18 tremendous honor to work with all of you, our Council
19 volunteers, OSM Staff and our multi agency colleagues
20 in subsistence to accomplish our goals of informed
21 subsistence management and the implementation of title
22 VIII. We plan to repeat this success for the winter
23 2023 Council meetings. We are so happy to work with
24 you all face to face again. For myself it's a huge
25 pleasure because for the past three years I've just
26 been hearing voices. So it's really -- we're sad not
27 to make it to Aniak, that would have been my first trip
28 down the Kuskokwim, but I'm really happy to meet with
29 you guys. So thank you.

30

31 Real ID and travel to Council meetings.
32 Over the past few years we have reminded Council
33 members about the changes in requirements for U.S.
34 travelers who must be Real ID compliant to board
35 domestic flights and access certain Federal facilities.
36 Beginning May 7, 2025 every air traveler will need to
37 present a Real ID compliant driver's license or other
38 acceptable form of identification, for example a
39 passport, to fly within the United States. This is
40 applicable even when you fly on small, commercial Bush
41 carriers. Please note that all Council members will
42 need to make sure they have the required Real ID for
43 travel to the fall, 2025 Council meetings. You can
44 find more information on Real ID requirements at the
45 State of Alaska's Division of Motor Vehicles website.

46

47 The Federal Subsistence Board recently
48 held the fisheries regulatory public meeting in
49 Anchorage the week of January 31st, 2023. This was the

50

0343

1 Board's second in person meeting and first regulatory
2 meeting since the covid 19 pandemic. The Board had a
3 packed agenda addressing fishery proposals and closure
4 reviews, deferred wildlife proposals and agenda items
5 touching on important subsistence and regulatory issues
6 across the State. We all listen to you, the Councils,
7 through your participating representatives at meetings.
8 The Board is always better informed by your experience.

9

10 As for changes in the staffing at
11 Office of Subsistence Management there's not much new
12 information to report since the last time we met. OSM
13 had advertised for a cartographer position. We have
14 applications and we hope that during the fall meeting
15 we will be able to announce the hire of this new and
16 important team member.

17

18 While there have been no new additions,
19 there has been one very large subtraction. The great
20 Tom Kron retired in early February after more than 22
21 years of service with the program. Tom has been an OSM
22 institution and his generosity and wealth of knowledge
23 will be greatly missed.

24

25 I will be happy to answer any
26 questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council members.

27

28 CHAIR REAKOFF: My main question is how
29 do I get ahold of Tom because I couldn't attend that
30 meeting and so I -- I need to say goodbye or something.
31 I would like to state for the record that Tom Kron -- I
32 first met Tom Kron when the -- when we were taking --
33 the program was taking over fisheries after the Katie
34 John decision. So WIRAC sent me down to -- down to
35 the State office in Fair -- in Anchorage to talk about
36 in-season management and what was going to happen. And
37 Tom was the in-season Manager for the Yukon at that
38 time and he goes well, what -- what are you going to
39 do. I says well, if you maintain populations of salmon
40 where we have -- have enough for harvest we're good. I
41 says this is only going to affect the State management
42 if we have not enough fish then we might have to have
43 these 804 priorities. Oh, well, okay. Well, then he
44 was good with that. And I listened to the -- it was
45 actually a preseason meeting with all their Staff and I
46 had no idea that the Department Staff gets into these
47 -- almost rolls up their sleeves and gets in knock
48 down, chewing out, they express their position. But
49 when it comes down it all -- they're all together. So

50

0344

1 that was an enlightening little experience for me.

2

3

4 Tom was a great guy, he was like a --
5 well, sort of part of the institution of OSM. I'm sad
6 to see that he's going and I would like to send a
7 letter to him from the Regional Advisory Council for
8 all of his service to this program and it -- and it --
9 has attended a lot of the meetings.

9

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So I would somebody like to make a
motion to send a letter of appreciation to Tom Kron or
a card or something from this Council.

MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.

MR. VENT: Second.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrell.
Did you come back on the phone there, Tim or -- Tim.
And are you still there, Tommy.

MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I'm back -- I'm
back on.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. And so moved and
seconded to send a letter of appreciation to Tom Kron
and any further discussion.

MS. PELKOLA: Question.

CHAIR REAKOFF: The question's called.
Those in favor of sending that letter of appreciation
signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Tommy.

(No comments)

CHAIR REAKOFF: So he was there a
minute ago.

MR. VENT: He got knocked off again.

CHAIR REAKOFF: So -- okay. So any
questions or comments on OSM's discussion. Did you

0345

1 hear most of the OSM discussion, Tim?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIR REAKOFF: Are you still there,

6 Tim.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIR REAKOFF: If you can hear me, we
11 can't hear you. So anybody else hearing me on the
12 phone. Radio check.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, I can hear you now,

17

18 Jack.

19

20 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

21

22 MR. GERVAIS: It's been -- seems like
23 it's been breaking in and out, but I can hear you right
24 now.

25

26 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. I'm sorry about
27 that. I'm not sure what's going on. So did you hear
28 most of the OSM presentation, sort of an overview of
29 what's going on.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIR REAKOFF: I don't think Tim's
34 picking up most of what we're saying here for some
35 reason. So we're at -- that was the OSM presentation.
36 We're at future meeting dates. So we have to, this is
37 an action item, confirm the fall, 2023 meeting date and
38 location. So we -- did we pick a date there, it's --
39 what is this.....

40

41 MS. PILCHER: So the date and.....

42

43 CHAIR REAKOFF:WIRAC. Oh, I see
44 what it is.

45

46 MR. VENT: Yeah.

47

48 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go ahead, Nissa.

49

50 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, sorry. For the

0346

1 record Nissa Pilcher. So the date that you guys chose
2 was October 11th and 12th and the location was
3 Fairbanks. And just as a heads up AFN is scheduled
4 currently October 19th and 21st. So that wouldn't
5 overlap this time.

6
7 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. I'm good with
8 that meeting date and place. Is that good for you,
9 Jenny.

10
11 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh. Where is that
12 meeting?

13
14 CHAIR REAKOFF: It's here.

15
16 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, okay.

17
18 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, so we're colored
19 in there. So that's good with me. And what you, Tim
20 or Tommy, are -- did you get back, Tim.

21
22 MR. GERVAIS: I'm back. Yeah, I got
23 Koyukuk Nowitna Refuge presentation and then it cut out
24 at the end with Jeremy. And then I heard about putting
25 in the Tom Kron letter, but I didn't hear what -- are
26 you guys suggesting a date for the fall meeting right
27 now or.....

28
29 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, we're talking
30 about the fall meeting. And right now we had already
31 selected the 11th and 12th in Fairbanks, WIRAC meeting
32 in Fairbanks, 11th and 12th. Is that okay with you.

33
34 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, those dates are --
35 work good for me.

36
37 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Tommy, are you
38 back, did you get back.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIR REAKOFF: His phone might have
43 died or something. Okay. That will confirm that date.
44 Selection of the winter, 2024 meeting date and location
45 -- oh, you got a comment.

46
47 Nissa, go ahead.

48
49 MS. PILCHER: Yep, this one might take
50

0347

1 a little bit. So in the winter of 2024 OSM is entering
2 into the planning stages to host an all Council meeting
3 during the winter, 2024 meeting cycle. Jack mentioned
4 an all Council meeting earlier where he was Cochair.
5 So we haven't not -- we haven't done that since 2016.
6 So we are anticipating this meeting be held over the
7 course of one week in March where all 10 Regional
8 Advisory Councils will meet together in a joint
9 session. Additionally each Council would meet
10 individually to conduct their own individual Council
11 business. OSM is hoping to conduct breakout sessions
12 on a wide range of topics related to Council membership
13 and interests. For example some information sessions
14 that were offered last time were on cross cultural --
15 cross cultural communication, customary and traditional
16 use determinations and the section 808 prioritization
17 process, Council member roles and responsibilities and
18 then there were panel discussions on such things tribal
19 consultation, holistic management, different Federal
20 subsistence programs, challenges and outreach. One
21 thing we were discussing was having North Pacific
22 Fisheries Management Council informational session
23 since a lot of Councils seem to really want to Ms.
24 Stram or Dr. Stram to come to their meetings, that kind
25 of a thing.

26
27 So what we're asking is you to
28 basically block out a week, some Councils blocked out
29 two weeks, like first choice, second choice. It would
30 be like five days. One thing that your Council has in
31 common with the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
32 Council is you have a hard time traveling to Monday
33 meetings because of lack of travel in.....

34
35 MR. VICKERS: Sunday.

36
37 MS. PILCHER: Yep, on Sunday. So.....

38
39 MR. VICKERS: Uh-huh.

40
41 MS. PILCHER:Brooke and -- the
42 Council Coordinator for the Eastern Interior and I have
43 been trying to ask the other Council Coordinators to
44 request if Council members are okay with meeting over
45 the weekend to kind of avoid that or, you know, shift
46 it. So far only Eastern Interior's really taken that
47 up as you can see from their block, but.....

48
49 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

50

0348

1 MS. PILCHER:if you want to
2 express where you'd be interested in holding it, be
3 aware the first weekend in March is the Iditarod in
4 Anchorage, the start.....

5
6 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh.

7
8 MS. PILCHER:so that might be
9 busy or fun depending on how you look at it.

10
11 MS. PELKOLA: What's going on on that
12 date?

13
14 MS. PILCHER: The Iditarod, the start.

15
16 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, okay.

17
18 MS. PILCHER: But, yeah. And I also
19 can't guarantee that what you choose will be what ends
20 up getting selected because it's -- it's not like the
21 other meetings where you say when you're going to meet
22 and we make it happen kind of a thing.

23
24 MS. PELKOLA: Okay.

25
26 CHAIR REAKOFF: How did WIRAC get or
27 EIRAC get outside of the window, they're down for March
28 1 when the window opens on the 4th. They're EIRAC.

29
30 MS. PILCHER: Yeah.

31
32 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, they're EIRAC. Oh,
33 who would have thought.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIR REAKOFF: So I would -- I would --
38 I like their going over the weekend thing, you know, I
39 would -- because I -- if I -- I'm going to fly down
40 there that's going to be a -- I can't fly on the
41 weekend. So my carrier -- Wright won't go in there,
42 that's a flag stop to Coldfoot. So if we could -- we
43 could go from March 8 through -- it's a five day period
44 so it's through the -- or four -- is it four -- one,
45 two -- it's a five day period. EIRAC's a little short
46 here. One -- so we'd go through the 5th. So 8th
47 through -- correction, through the 12th or something
48 like that. Is that okay?

49
50

0349

1 MS. PILCHER: Uh-huh.

2

3

CHAIR REAKOFF: It's over a weekend,
4 March 8th through the 12th, five day period that
5 they're wanting us to attend. And so does that sound
6 good to you, Darrell?

7

8

9 MR. VENT: Yeah, just wondering, you
10 know, are they having that all -- all Board meeting
again, is that what's going on?

11

12

CHAIR REAKOFF: That's what's.....

13

14

15

MR. VENT: And when is that date set
for?

16

17

18

19

20

CHAIR REAKOFF: That's what we're
setting, that's what we're talking about. There's no
set date, they're trying to get 10 Councils to agree to
something.

21

22

MR. VENT: Okay.

23

24

(Laughter)

25

26

MR. VENT: That's going to be tough.

27

28

(Laughter)

29

30

31

CHAIR REAKOFF: That's -- yeah. And
that's like herding cats. That's a big.....

32

33

34

MR. VENT: Yeah, because we have to
travel Tuesday or Friday. That's the only.....

35

36

CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah.

37

38

39

40

MR. VENT:you know, because --
well, actually Monday would be a fly out date from the
village. But.....

41

42

43

CHAIR REAKOFF: So like the 8th to the
12th, something like that.....

44

45

MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh.

46

47

48

49

CHAIR REAKOFF:would be an over
weekend time. I'm agreeing with EIRAC about that
because.....

50

50

0350

1 MR. VENT: Then the all conference is
2 going to be after the 12th or.....

3
4 CHAIR REAKOFF: No, it would be --
5 they're going to pick some time so the whole -- they'll
6 be breakouts, they'll be some -- was it two days of the
7 combined RACs. There's two days of combined RACs.

8
9 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

10
11 CHAIR REAKOFF: Five RACs here, five
12 RACs here.

13
14 MR. VENT: Yeah.

15
16 CHAIR REAKOFF: And Molly Chythlook and
17 I were up there in the -- we had like various
18 dignitaries showing up and talking to us and.....

19
20 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

21
22 CHAIR REAKOFF:political people
23 that we're not supposed to talk to under the Hatch Act
24 or anything. So that was kind of a -- that's a -- it's
25 a really good meeting because it actually -- a lot of
26 ideas float around the table and stuff.

27
28 MR. VENT: That's true. I know Nome
29 area had some good representatives and Southeast.

30
31 CHAIR REAKOFF: So but that's -- that
32 would be my preferred date, 8th through the 12th for
33 that one.

34
35 MR. VENT: Maybe we'll get a little
36 more information on the Central Yukon plan from the --
37 if they have anything on the breakouts.

38
39 CHAIR REAKOFF: No, that'll be --
40 that's going to be done by.....

41
42 MR. VENT: Okay.

43
44 CHAIR REAKOFF:they're talking
45 about being finished with the central plan by the end
46 of this year is what they're talking about.

47
48 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

49
50

0351

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: So and, Tim, is that --
2 are those dates good for you for an all RAC meeting,
3 March 8th through the 12th?

4
5 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, that's fine.

6
7 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. And, Tommy, did
8 you come back?

9
10 MR. KRISKA: Oh, yeah. Yep.

11
12 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. There you are.
13 So 8th through the 12th. As long as we got you there
14 we also.....

15
16 MR. KRISKA: Yeah.

17
18 CHAIR REAKOFF:we also are still
19 on for the WIRAC meeting in Fairbanks on October 11 and
20 12, is that okay with you, Tommy?

21
22 MR. KRISKA: Oh, yeah.

23
24 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So we're good.
25 So then that'll be the selection for the winter, 2024 --
26 fall, 2024 meeting date and location. Do any Council
27 members have a -- that would be on the calendar here.
28 We don't -- so.....

29
30 MS. PELKOLA: I don't see that.

31
32 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, we're not down
33 here, we're going to select.....

34
35 MS. PELKOLA: Right.

36
37 CHAIR REAKOFF:we're going to
38 select a two day meeting somewhere in October here.

39
40 MS. PILCHER: Just as a note if you
41 could not meet at the same time Eastern Interior is.
42 Not -- you're more than welcome to.....

43
44 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah.

45
46 MS. PILCHER:but it just gets
47 difficult with certain Staff.....

48
49 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

50

0352

1 MS. PILCHER:attending both.

2

3 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah. So this -- like
4 October 16, 17 time frame.

5

6 MR. VENT: Is that when -- what are
7 October 8th and 9th?

8

9 CHAIR REAKOFF: When is AFN? This --
10 you know, this kind of a plan needs to have like TCC
11 meetings, AFN, there should be an overlay over the top
12 of this map that blocks out because we will not have
13 participation if certain things happen. So we don't --
14 we're not exactly sure about AFN.

15

16 MS. PILCHER: I believe it's generally
17 the third week.

18

19 MR. VENT: Yep, because when you go in
20 the March meeting we have that March 11th and 12th
21 that'll be right there.....

22

23 MS. PELKOLA: TCC.

24

25 MR. VENT:TCC convention.

26

27 CHAIR REAKOFF: Really.

28

29 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

30

31 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, well.....

32

33 MR. VENT: Yeah, there's something on
34 March 10th and I think on the 8th they have a.....

35

36 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, then we want to --
37 we want to avoid that.

38

39 MS. PILCHER: I think -- now that I
40 think about it that's why Eastern Interior went so
41 early is because Charlie was -- Charlie Wright was
42 there and he reminded us.....

43

44 MR. VENT: Yeah, uh-huh.

45

46 MS. PILCHER:when that -- those
47 dates were.

48

49 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

50

0353

1 MS. PILCHER: And I just didn't retain
2 them.

3
4 CHAIR REAKOFF: So they open the window
5 -- can they do that, can we go along with EIRAC and
6 open the window on the 1st of March?

7
8 MS. PILCHER: It's your ask.

9
10 CHAIR REAKOFF: So yeah, we do not want
11 to get over -- cross-threaded with TCC or AFN or any of
12 that stuff. So maybe we'll stay with EIRAC for this
13 all RAC meeting of the 1st of March through the --
14 they're actually -- it should go through the 5th.....

15
16 MS. PILCHER: Right.

17
18 CHAIR REAKOFF:I don't -- their
19 window -- they just -- they're putting down a four day
20 meeting and everybody else has got five. So it would
21 be the 1st through the 5th, 5th of March to avoid the
22 TCC aspect. And I don't -- I don't think we'll get
23 into carnivals, that's another problem.

24
25 MR. VENT: Yeah, that's -- that's going
26 to be later on. That's.....

27
28 MS. PELKOLA: Later March.

29
30 MR. VENT: Yeah. I think 11th through
31 the or about the 15th through the 17th is the Fairbanks
32 -- they have the big dog race up there.

33
34 CHAIR REAKOFF: So then into this fall
35 meeting, we don't want to get overlapped with AFN.

36
37 MR. VENT: That's like the third week
38 or second week.

39
40 CHAIR REAKOFF: So EIRAC is slated for
41 the 8th and 9th. I don't really -- but October 2 and 3
42 is okay for me. You know, our moose season goes
43 through the 1st of October, but hopefully we'll have a
44 moose before that.

45
46 MR. VENT: Or like they usually
47 schedule around the 20th to 22nd I think or AFN.

48
49 CHAIR REAKOFF: 20th.....

50

0354

1 MR. VENT: 19th or 21st, somewhere in
2 that area.

3
4 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right. So we could --
5 19th through the 21st, AFN?

6
7 MR. VENT: Yeah, around that time frame
8 because it has to do with how they fly in there I
9 guess. That's what I'm looking at.

10
11 MS. PELKOLA: 19th is a Saturday.

12
13 MR. VENT: Well, yeah.

14
15 MS. PELKOLA: Are we.....

16
17 MR. VENT: That's on -- that was just
18 last year though.

19
20 MS. PELKOLA: Oh.

21
22 MR. VENT: So it was probably a.....

23
24 CHAIR REAKOFF: So either the 2nd or
25 3rd, we don't want to overlap with EIRAC, of October.

26
27 MS. PELKOLA: When is -- theirs if the
28 8th and 9th?

29
30 CHAIR REAKOFF: 8th and 9th.

31
32 MS. PELKOLA: Okay.

33
34 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

35
36 CHAIR REAKOFF: So we don't want to get
37 overlapped because we got to share Staff with them.

38
39 MS. PELKOLA: Well, how about the 10th
40 and 11th so the Staff can travel and get home?

41
42 CHAIR REAKOFF: So they're in Tanana,
43 that's where EIRAC's going.....

44
45 MS. PELKOLA: Oh.

46
47 CHAIR REAKOFF:is to Tanana. And
48 so.....

49
50

0355

1 MS. PELKOLA: Oh.

2

3 MR. VENT: Well, they're going to be in
4 Arctic Village in 2023. That's.....

5

6 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

7

8 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh.

9

10 MR. VENT: Okay.

11

12 CHAIR REAKOFF: So that's what we got
13 to decide is where we're going to meet.

14

15 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, can I interrupt.

16

17 CHAIR REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

18

19 MR. GERVAIS: AFN is the 19th through
20 21st.

21

22 CHAIR REAKOFF: 19th through the 21st
23 over the weekend. So we could -- we could.....

24

25 MS. PILCHER: The -- so that's -- those
26 dates are for 2023. I don't believe AFN's released the
27 date for 2024.

28

29 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, yeah, we're in the
30 fall of 2024 calendar.

31

32 MR. VENT: Okay.

33

34 MS. PILCHER: If it falls under their
35 normal -- what they normally do it would be that week
36 of October 15th so probably October 17th, 18th and
37 19th, that's the.....

38

39 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah.

40

41 MS. PILCHER:third week of
42 October.

43

44 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

45

46 MS. PILCHER: But I can't promise
47 that's when it's going to happen.

48

49 MR. VENT: October 2nd and 3rd, Jack.

50

0356

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, either 2nd and
2 3rd.....

3
4 MR. VENT: Or 9th and 10th. Or 9th
5 EIRAC's going to be happening.

6
7 CHAIR REAKOFF: EIRAC, we don't want to
8 overlap with them.

9
10 MR. VENT: Okay.

11
12 CHAIR REAKOFF: So we could meet in the
13 -- in Aniak again which was -- which was kind of a big
14 deal. And hopefully.....

15
16 MR. VENT: Yeah. Ravn don't involved
17 so much.

18
19 CHAIR REAKOFF:hopefully Dan
20 Gillikin has a space in his -- in his.....

21
22 MR. VENT: Oh, yeah, maybe he'd be
23 ready for us by then.

24
25 CHAIR REAKOFF:because we're --
26 we do not like the gym. We don't -- we don't -- ask
27 Nathan there about going to that. The acoustics in
28 that gymnasium, the hall is like really bad.

29
30 MR. VENT: Oh.

31
32 CHAIR REAKOFF: So but we could try for
33 Aniak again, but O -- how would OSM feel about that
34 one.

35
36 MR. VENT: They'd have some time to
37 think about it.

38
39 CHAIR REAKOFF: Or we could think about
40 Galena.

41
42 MR. VENT: Or McGrath.

43
44 CHAIR REAKOFF: Or McGrath. We have
45 met in McGrath. We went to McGrath.....

46
47 MR. VENT: A number of years ago.

48
49 CHAIR REAKOFF:pretty -- well, we
50

0357

1 were down there was it like two or three years ago or
2 something like that.

3

4 MR. VENT: Uh-huh. Got to get
5 recruitments from Aniak or McGrath. So.....

6

7 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah, I wanted to go to
8 Aniak because we haven't been down there for a long
9 time and we used to have meetings there and we actually
10 got quite a bit of participation. We met in Holy Cross
11 too one time and had -- practically had the whole
12 community out there.

13

14 MR. VENT: Oh.

15

16 CHAIR REAKOFF: So but I do think that
17 we should try again for Aniak. This puts us out a
18 ways. It's a bad weather time and so if we have to
19 pick up a charter like we did here, if we had to go
20 Nulato or especially those like Ruby and stuff on those
21 hills in the fall is socked in.

22

23 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

24

25 CHAIR REAKOFF: So that's a serious con
26 -- oh, one time Nathan had this airplane coming and he
27 didn't show up and they said somebody's got to get on
28 this plane because the weather's socking in. So I got
29 on the plane and it was Nathan's seat and he was stuck
30 there for two days. Was it two days?

31

32 REPORTER: No, I got out that evening.

33

34 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, you got out that
35 evening.

36

37 REPORTER: Finally.

38

39 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, your mom said it
40 was two days, but.....

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. VENT: I was stuck -- I was stuck
45 in Galena for I don't know how many days that one year.

46

47 CHAIR REAKOFF: Ruby -- Ruby and the
48 hills do not want fall meetings on the hills.....

49

50

0358

1 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

2

3

CHAIR REAKOFF:along the Yukon,
4 bad place. So Galena is a lot easier to get into.
5 Aniak is instrument approach and so that's okay. But
6 it could be challenging if we had to pick up members
7 from Ruby or Nulato or someplace like that.

8

9

And, Tommy, you're there.

10

11

MR. KRISKA: Yeah.

12

13

CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah. So what do you --
14 what do you think about doing a meeting around the
15 first part of -- like the 2nd and 3rd of October in
16 Aniak. You think you can get out of Nulato those.....

17

18

MR. KRISKA: Yeah, that'll work.

19

20

21

CHAIR REAKOFF:around that time
of year?

22

23

MR. KRISKA: That'll work.

24

25

CHAIR REAKOFF: Hello.

26

27

MR. GERVAIS: In 2024, Jack, or.....

28

29

CHAIR REAKOFF: 2024, fall meeting.
30 They were talking about maybe Aniak or Galena, one of
31 those communities. Aniak is more -- we should try and
32 go back down there again. And so this charter worked
33 pretty well, Would have worked great except -- so OSM
34 learned something with this -- with that meeting on the
35 carrier aspect.

36

37

So what do you think about going to
38 Aniak on the 2nd and 3rd, Tommy, are you busy that time
39 of year?

40

41

MS. PELKOLA: Why don't we put this off
42 until the next meeting, Staff?

43

44

MS. PILCHER: That doesn't -- I forget
45 the exact specifications, but there's a reason that we
46 started asking you a year and a half out. That being
47 said just because you say this is where you want it at
48 this meeting, doesn't mean that you can't revisit
49 that.....

50

0359

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Work on final.....

2

3 MS. PILCHER:at every meeting up
4 until that meeting.

5

6 CHAIR REAKOFF: So we'll maybe just put
7 this down as preliminary October 2 and 3 in Aniak.

8

9 What do you think about meeting that
10 time of year though, Tommy, can you attend a meeting
11 around the 2nd and 3rd of October?

12

13 MR. KRISKA: That'll work.

14

15 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Tim.

16

17 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I can make that
18 work.

19

20 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. So put that down
21 as a preliminary and -- for those dates and then we re --
22 we'll confirm these as we get closer to that meeting.

23

24 So that covers the -- Nissa.

25

26 MS. PILCHER: That is an action item.

27

28 CHAIR REAKOFF: So okay. And so we're
29 going to -- the Chair will entertain a motion to
30 confirm our fall meeting in Fairbanks on the 11th and
31 12th of October, a preliminary all RAC meeting in --
32 which I assume is in Anchorage.....

33

34 MS. PILCHER: Correct.

35

36 CHAIR REAKOFF:on March 8th.....

37

38 MS. PILCHER: 1st.

39

40 CHAIR REAKOFF:oh, correction,
41 1st through the 5th and then a preliminary meeting in
42 Aniak on the 2nd and 3rd of October of 2024. So do we
43 have a motion to that effect.

44

45 MR. VENT: So moved.

46

47 CHAIR REAKOFF: Darrell motions,
48 Jenny.....

49

50

0360

1 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

2

3 CHAIR REAKOFF:second. Any
4 further discussion.

5

6 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

7

8 CHAIR REAKOFF: The question's called.
9 Those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIR REAKOFF: Tommy. Are you there,
14 Tommy.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 (No opposing votes)

19

20 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. Well, he's in
21 and out, phone problems probably.

22

23 Closing comments.

24

25 MS. PILCHER: We haven't really.....

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIR REAKOFF: I'll give the guys on
30 the phone the last -- the first closing comments
31 because they've been hanging on that phone all day and
32 I know how tough that is.

33

34 So, Tim, you want to have a closing
35 comment.

36

37 MR. GERVAIS: Sure. Thank you, Mr.
38 Chair. Yeah, the -- no salmon fishing on the Yukon and
39 potentially no salmon fishing on the Koyukuk is just --
40 or Kuskokwim is a real tragedy. And I know we're all
41 trying to make it turn around and stuff like that
42 though we really -- it's whatever, collective units of
43 managers and RACs and users and we really failed to
44 maintain fishing opportunity. A fellow called from
45 Ruby and was telling me when he was getting ready to
46 marry a lady from Ruby, his father-in-law told him that
47 there's abundant moose and there'll always be salmon
48 and all the reasons why he should marry into that
49 family and this -- and that community of Ruby, but now
50

0361

1 we're at this unimaginable situation where there is no
2 salmon available to harvest. So I just encourage
3 everyone to stay diligent and try to -- try to get the
4 salmon back. It's really -- it's really crushing us
5 culturally and nutrition wise and not -- not okay at
6 all. And I hope we can get better cooperation from
7 State and Federal authorities to help us get this
8 situation resolved.

9
10 Second item is we've got -- now people
11 in our region are really relying on moose for protein
12 and with these big snow years and high rates of winter
13 kill they have to -- they really pay attention to how
14 our -- how our moose are faring and hopefully won't
15 crash that population. Because right now that's what
16 everybody's eating is moose instead of salmon. So
17 hopefully we can maintain harvestable surplus on moose
18 and that could be important and necessary subsistence
19 item that's available.

20
21 Still not -- still not in approval of
22 this Secretary of Indian Affairs taking over the OSM
23 office. I mean, I'm not -- I'm not a follower of
24 bureaucracy, but just from being a general person you
25 got to see how poorly Bureau of Indian Affairs if run
26 as a agency relative to other government agencies and I
27 don't -- I still -- if we get pushed over under that
28 Secretary they could be subject to -- depending who the
29 Secretarial appointment is on a new -- on a different
30 Presidential administration and they may not -- they
31 may not do a good job of the -- we've got existing
32 structures and regulations and framework already set up
33 with OSM in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
34 everybody's been focused on working within that
35 framework. And if we have things that don't work with
36 that existing framework we should make the adjustment
37 without changing over the whole -- the whole management
38 to the Secretary of Indian Affairs.

39
40 And I -- I'm sorry we had so many
41 breaks and cut offs on the -- the phone and I would be
42 better incentivized to get to the meetings in person so
43 we can have uninterrupted conversation and
44 communication. And thank you to all for putting up
45 with through the meeting being out of -- offline or
46 broken communications from time to time during the
47 meeting. I don't want to have that happen again.

48
49 CHAIR REAKOFF: I really appreciate you
50

0362

1 being on the call though, Tim, I -- you're an important
2 part of this Council's process. I understand your
3 situation, that's totally exempt. And so I -- yeah,
4 the phone is always a challenge, it's always you're at
5 a huge disadvantage. And so when I've been on the
6 phone I always consider myself at about 10 percent
7 effectiveness for the meeting. I can't see the screen.
8 I would like OSM to eventually go to more of a Team or
9 Zoom or something where we can see the documents in
10 real time. And over 10 years ago at the Federal
11 Subsistence Board meeting I spoke to this issue, I says
12 we're moving forward, we need to start moving ahead
13 with the more digital participation especially for
14 members like Tim who can't see the screen. If I got a
15 Zoom meeting I can be looking at the screen. I can
16 mute in and out, it works pretty well. Most places are
17 getting better internet, most people are on a cell
18 phone as it is listening to this call.

19

20 So this -- OSM -- you should put down
21 that down as an annual -- make a note there, Brent,
22 about that one.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIR REAKOFF: But they need to get
27 more -- would that work better for you, Nathan, as a
28 court recorder if we had -- working off of Zoom or a
29 Team platform?

30

31 REPORTER: Doesn't matter to me.

32

33 CHAIR REAKOFF: Doesn't matter to you.
34 All right. So.....

35

36 Got a comment.

37

38 MR. VICKERS: I'll just note it's not
39 just an OSM thing, it's -- we have logistics going up
40 the chain, the Federal -- you know, and what we're able
41 to do for the public and how we're able to use Teams
42 and stuff like that. So it's.....

43

44 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

45

46 MR. VICKERS:I -- I'll say that
47 as soon as we have the capacity I think everyone would
48 really be able to move in that direction.

49

50

0363

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: I participated as a --
2 in the Chair's SRC meeting with the National Park
3 Service and we're on a Team meeting and I have a Team
4 app in my phone, I just put my phone on the table, I
5 participate, I can see the screen, I can see the room.
6 There's some -- NPS is doing it. It's something a
7 glitch in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife apparently.

8
9 MR. VICKERS: Well, we -- it's for
10 public meetings that have to go through the FACA and
11 everything, that's where the.....

12
13 CHAIR REAKOFF: Oh, that's right.

14
15 MR. VICKERS:that's the
16 bureaucracy. We -- I mean, we use Teams every day for
17 our own stuff. But.....

18
19 CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay.

20
21 MR. VICKERS:the problem is that
22 getting -- our -- you know, I'm not involved in it, but
23 that's what's stopping us from being able to.....

24
25 CHAIR REAKOFF: Board of Game is on
26 YouTube. Maybe they could do YouTube.

27
28 MR. VICKERS: That's Board of Game,
29 yeah. I can't speak for them. But I'm just -- the
30 main point of this is that yes, we would like to --
31 we're going to continue trying to work because that --
32 the hybrid environment is where things are going and as
33 soon as I think we get word that we're able to do these
34 public meetings in a.....

35
36 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah.

37
38 MR. VICKERS:hybrid environment
39 we'll go. But I'm making note of it that the people
40 demand it.

41
42 CHAIR REAKOFF: Yeah. I'm sure there's
43 many Council members hat are stuck in the situation
44 that Tim or myself last fall was in, can't attend the
45 meeting, but if you could have the ability to see the
46 screens and so forth that would make it -- maybe my
47 effectiveness would move up to 25 or 30 percent instead
48 of 10. It would move up a little bit.

49
50

0364

1 So thanks so much, Tim. You got final
2 comments, Tommy, did you come back to your phone.

3
4 MR. KRISKA: I've got to do my comment.
5 Yes. Darrell was finally waking up. Yeah, I too was
6 worried about the people wanting to fish this summer
7 and I think it's a dumb idea, I don't think that anyone
8 should fish even though we've been suffering from no
9 fish at all. But to help the fish get back in the
10 river unless there's some sort of miracle that whoever
11 does allow some fish this summer, maybe then, but not
12 while it is the way it is.

13
14 And the moose situation's -- you know,
15 we're trying to -- we do a lot of predator control
16 ourselves just because we watch in our area to make
17 sure there's a lot of moose there just in case. And I
18 see here that Fish and Game they -- they like that.
19 And the only thing I don't like about it is once that
20 -- we spend a lot of money, me and those boys, doing
21 predator control in that area and then they come and
22 allow more permits -- draw permits in that area which,
23 you know, that they should consider how much we do, 40
24 or 50 per year, probably eight or 10 grizzlies. That's
25 a lot and we're managing that whole area ourselves,
26 that whole Koyukuk River, down below Kaltag, that whole
27 area we -- we put a lot of (indiscernible -
28 distortion). I hope that they consider that, you know,
29 don't just -- just because the moose population is up
30 put more numbers on it, cow permits anyway.

31 And then, you know, we're up into dire
32 straits with our food. And seem like the Feds or the
33 State, all they do is take, take, take and never give
34 back. I don't know, I mean, they pay you to do
35 paperwork on paper, but not visiting, go out there and
36 do this stuff. And we're -- right now we're physically
37 doing this stuff for predator control and then paying
38 for it without our fish. And on the other hand it's
39 all money, money for the commercial fishing and all
40 that kind of stuff and we get nothing. I don't like to
41 talk like that and everybody should know, and it's --
42 if they don't want us to start talking like that maybe
43 they should be reasonable in their decisions and like
44 on area M and the bycatch and all that. We're people
45 too. And the lord -- the lord gave us that stuff, they
46 didn't.

47
48 And I'm just going to leave it at that
49 and thank you so much for putting up with me and my
50

0365

1 phones. It's hard to have a good phone out in the
2 village, you get cut off, dropped calls and it just
3 happens.

4
5 So anyway you guys have a great evening
6 and thanks so much for allowing me to be in your
7 meeting.

8
9 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, we.....

10
11 MR. KRISKA: Thank you.

12
13 CHAIR REAKOFF:really appreciate
14 you being on the phone, Tommy. And it's too bad we
15 didn't get there in time to catch you and abduct you
16 back down here to Anchorage for this meeting. But do
17 appreciate you being on the phone for this whole entire
18 meeting and -- for most of the meeting at least. We
19 needed your votes, we needed your comments, you make
20 excellent comments and I'm in full agreement with Tim
21 and yourself about this moose cannot take all the
22 additional pressure off of the salmon reductions. And
23 like Sydney Huntington said at the last meeting he
24 attended at the WIRAC, he says either you have to
25 control this grizzlies, these, brown bears, they're
26 going to control your lives. They will eat all the
27 moose, then they will eat all the black bears and
28 they're going to control your lives. And so I commend
29 yourself and the various -- your boys are in there
30 taking care of some of those predators.

31
32 There's -- it's a -- I told Glenn Stout
33 years ago that Tommy Kriska, I forget how many wolves
34 you'd gotten, but I calculated that it was 1,100 moose
35 savings. I says you got to quit complaining about
36 these winter subsistence hunts because they get -- you
37 have to give back, they've spent all this money to
38 catch all these -- all these wolves, you have to give
39 some moose back. And they don't hear you, it's just
40 like that went right over his head. And I was like --
41 I was surprised. There's got to be some give and take
42 there. I feel that sport hunters on the Koyukuk that
43 come there, they should pull into Koyukuk, they should
44 pull into Galena and buy wolves from -- find out who's
45 got -- who's been trapping these wolves around here and
46 pull in there and buy -- cough up 500 bucks and not try
47 and buy one for 50 bucks, these cheapskates. I
48 consider them -- I consider these carpetbaggers that
49 pull into the country and want all this game for
50

0366

1 nothing when the local people have been bearing the
2 brunt of predator harvest. It's part of our -- part of
3 our equation, we take moose and caribou and stuff over
4 here, we take some bears and wolves over here. And
5 this bal -- that's the balance of nature. And so I
6 feel that these -- some of these guys that want to come
7 and go hunting in the country they should find these
8 wolf trappers and these guys that are out doing stuff.

9
10 So I commend you for doing that, Tommy.
11 So, Darrell, you want to.....

12
13 MR. KRISKA: Oh, yeah.

14
15 CHAIR REAKOFF:have a final --
16 oh, we'll let -- we'll let Jenny go, our elder here,
17 let's.....

18
19 MS. PELKOLA: Let Darrell go.

20
21 CHAIR REAKOFF: Let Darrell go. Okay.

22
23 MR. VENT: Okay. I'll try not to be
24 long-winded like my buddy here. I just said -- yeah, I
25 was just talking to him on my phone here and he said he
26 got a crack in his phone. And I said well, I hope your
27 head is not hurting too hard and your significant other
28 is not mad at you or something like that. So he was
29 trying to make a joke on her by.....

30
31 But anyway, you know, I, you know, have
32 been in a lot of meetings and about 60 percent of my
33 meetings probably end up on this phone or my schedule.
34 You know, so these are becoming pretty important to
35 what we -- what -- you know, how we utilize things. I
36 can sit there and I'd be on a Zoom meeting.....

37
38 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

39
40 MR. VENT:I can attend two
41 meetings at once because I have one on here and one
42 right here, you know, but that's.....

43
44 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Still on this
45 phone.

46
47 MR. VENT: Oh, he's still on the phone.
48 Okay. Anyway I'm -- you know, I'm happy that we're
49 getting a winter hunt there. We had a couple of
50

0367

1 potlatches one this fall where we utilized a lot of our
2 resources there to, you know, celebrate someone's life.
3 And when you do that it takes a lot of effort. It
4 doesn't -- you know, you got two days of potlatch and
5 then you have the giveaway on the third day. And that
6 takes a lot of resources to do that.

7

8 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

9

10 MR. VENT: So, you know, we had one
11 this fall and then we had another one in December. So
12 and they were pretty well attended so we had a lot of
13 people from all over that we had to feed.

14

15 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

16

17 MR. VENT: And when you do that you
18 tend to, you know, dig up whatever you have in your
19 freezers and stuff. And that's something that you have
20 to replace. So I'm happy that, you know, Jeremy
21 allowed that to happen. I know he's going to be
22 working on his drumset this weekend so I -- you know, I
23 know how busy he is. And plus making all them kids,
24 you know, that's a lot of work too. So.....

25

26 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

27

28 MR. VENT:yeah. Yeah, just tell
29 him, you know, keep up that drumset so he could pay for
30 the kids, he'll be all right. I'm just -- no, I'm
31 kidding.

32

33 But anyway we -- this BLM thing is --
34 issue it's really concerning to our area especially
35 when it comes to our subsistence, you know, it's a hard
36 thing to look at when you have people that really
37 depend on it out there in the villages. I mean, you
38 know, you look at a village and you see about 80
39 percent is relying on this subsistence use which we
40 call cultural and traditional out there.

41

42 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

43

44 MR. VENT: But the thing that bothers
45 me is that once it goes away these young kids that sits
46 in that, you know, village, where as we used to sit in
47 the fish camp or we used to be out in the trapping
48 cabin or we'd be out, you know, in the hunting. That's
49 a -- that's the way of living that we live compared to
50

0368

1 what these kids have to understand, you know, hey, this
2 is -- this is something that's not there no more. You
3 can't cut this fish.....

4

5 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

6

7 MR. VENT:you don't know anything
8 about this fish, you don't even know what -- you know,
9 how we used to set up the fish tables, the fish racks,
10 everything.

11

12 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

13

14 MR. VENT: Smokehouses, you know it
15 took a lot of work. And you had summer camp out there.
16 Like I said, you know, we're nomadic people, we used to
17 live -- you know, in the summer we move to camp, in the
18 fall we moved into the camp, in the winter we moved in
19 another camp. That was just a way of life. And, you
20 know, I knew that because we used to fall out and we
21 used to spring out and we had summer camp. So I was,
22 you know, busy all the time. It wasn't just sitting in
23 the village. Now it's a whole lot different because we
24 have a village, we're learning how to intermingle. And
25 I just -- I'm just worried about how our people are
26 going to rely on something that's not going to be
27 there. That's why I was speaking about caribou or if
28 they had bison or any kind of other added that was in
29 there because trying to balance everything like Tommy's
30 talking about takes a lot of effort because, you know,
31 the grizzly weren't there before, back in the '70s,
32 '80s, all we had was shotgun and .22. We didn't carry
33 a rifle. Now when we're stepping out the door you have
34 to carry your rifle now because predation really
35 changed. Our people used to take care of everything
36 back then, you know, it wasn't this drastic, there
37 weren't a lot of, you know, kills. They only took what
38 they need.....

39

40 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

41

42 MR. VENT: That's how we manage. You
43 know, people always say okay, you know, just -- you
44 know, if this person got that and they all share in the
45 village. Now it's, you know, the whole State of Alaska
46 is being users in the areas and they're utilizing
47 things, but like you said they're not returning, you
48 know, like for predation.

49

50

0369

1 CHAIR REAKOFF: Sure.

2

3

4 MR. VENT: And so it's an issue, I've
5 been discussing that before. I said, you know, I wish
6 they would have provided when they were doing these big
7 game hunts for our subsistence hunts, they had a little
8 tax or something just to provide for people like Tommy
9 and them to, you know, go utilize that. Now, you know,
10 giving back, you know, a little bit of moose would have
11 been good, but they don't do that either. So, you
12 know, it's just they like to take, but they don't give
13 very much up.

13

14 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

15

16

17 MR. VENT: And, you know, it's kind of
18 worrisome that we have to put up with all this mining
19 and everything that's going to try to happen up in the
20 upper Koyukuk River. I've been preparing, you know,
21 going to different meetings and finding out more
22 information just to get involved with this area because
23 if it's going to affect our lives I want to make sure
24 that, you know, we're prepared for it.

24

25 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

26

27

28 MR. VENT: That's why, you know, I'm --
29 you know, I'm always kind of busy running to different
30 meetings, that's mainly what I do now. Well, when I
31 was a young kid my grandpa told me, you know, what do
32 you want to do when you grow up. I said well, I'd
33 like, you know, to be like him because he was always
34 running all over to different meetings, he was in
35 Juneau, you know, Anchorage, and he'd come home and
36 he'd tell me all these stories so I -- you know, I said
37 I want to be like you and he said well, you got to be a
38 white person to travel around to all these meetings. I
39 said well, I want to white then so he made me part
40 white.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43

44 MR. VENT: But that's as far as I got.
45 He said yeah, we'll laugh about it later. And he was
46 laughing about it, I didn't understand him, but that's
47 how it happened.

47

48

49

50

CHAIR REAKOFF: Hmmmm.

0370

1 MR. VENT: Yeah. But, you know, he
2 asked me what I wanted to be and I was about 11 or 12.
3 So.....

4
5 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

6
7 MR. VENT:and then they gave me a
8 Native name. So everything that, you know, goes along
9 with Native ways.

10
11 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

12
13 MR. VENT: And now I'm here sitting at
14 the table with you guys, learning -- you know, learning
15 the process. I'm glad to be here sitting with you, you
16 have a lot of information that I could utilize. I
17 mean, you know, you've been around Pollock and late Ray
18 Collins, you know, I was fortunate enough to meet him.
19 Jenny here, you know, she's been at a lot of meetings.
20 And I'm just glad I'm here to sit with you guys on all
21 these meetings.

22
23 CHAIR REAKOFF: Well, when you came and
24 talked before the Western Interior Council in Galena I
25 decided should give you a -- try to get you to get on
26 the Council. You like to speak up and talk and so I --
27 I'm happy you're on the Council, Darrell.

28
29 MR. VENT: Yeah. So.....

30
31 CHAIR REAKOFF: Somehow you got kicked
32 off and I'm not exactly sure why you got kicked off
33 before.

34
35 MR. VENT: I had a feeling why I got
36 kicked off now, but I just don't want to explain it on
37 here.

38
39 CHAIR REAKOFF: Right.

40
41 MR. VENT: It's just that the thing
42 that, you know, I learned how to speak was my -- like
43 my friend, Tommy. He'd sit there and he could speak
44 for, you know, a long time. And I said man, I want to
45 be like that Tommy. So.....

46
47 CHAIR REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

48
49 MR. VENT:yeah, it's a good
50

0371

1 speaker that.....

2

3

CHAIR REAKOFF: Thank you.

4

5

Thanks for attending the meeting,

6

Darrell.

7

8

Jenny.

9

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MS. PELKOLA: I'm short-winded. But I just want to echo whatever Tommy and Tim and Darrell says. I always advocate for more women on the Board and I'll keep on doing that. And I've asked a couple of women already to see if they'd be interested and they are. It's sad that we don't have our full Board here and I know there's reasons why we don't have -- the members are not here, but when the -- we don't have the full Board we have to work twice as hard, the ones that are there. We have to keep on our toes, it's frustrating sometimes for me. And I know we have a full agenda that we have to go through and trying to keep up and I can understand Pollock, I really appreciate his leadership, I've learned a lot from him, I've learned a lot from Jack, learned a lot from Ray, how to speak, you know. And so I really appreciate that, I appreciate your leadership and I want to thank all the Staff that's here, they work hard too. But I think in working together we can accomplish things. And sometimes it takes going over and over and over and over, but I just hope we don't ever give up on things.

And that's just my short little -- it's good to be here in Anchorage, but I think we were -- our minds were in Aniak. We had to switch gears, but that -- it worked out and I just want to thank Nissa for -- you know, for everything.

Thank you to Staff.

CHAIR REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny. So yeah, I do appreciate this meeting started to go sideways when Ravn turned around and went back to Anchorage. It was like I immediately decided we're on an airplane that could go direct from Nulato to Anchorage, that we were going -- if we went to Aniak we would have lost one day. Where would we be in our agenda, we'd only be halfway through this pink paper here.

0372

1 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

2

3

4 CHAIR REAKOFF: And we cannot stuff two
5 days' agenda into a one day meeting. So I highly
6 commend OSM, Nissa, OSM, for stepping up. I knew they
7 could do it. I've seen them -- my travel get
8 (indiscernible - distortion) when the weather got bad.
9 I know that they could morph this meeting into the --
10 what we had here and I really appreciate finding I --
11 and I just assessed this is the time of year, there's
12 no tourists here, the aurora season's over. Anchorage,
13 is open, it's an open plate, there's -- you could get a
14 hotel room anywhere around here, probably for half
15 price with the government rates or you should have or
16 better. So I do appreciate the OSM Staff coming up
17 with this -- remorphing this meeting. And so I think
18 we got a lot of good things happened at this meeting.
19 We had people on the phone and so I -- that's a tough
20 deal, but we did accomplish what we needed to have
21 done, we got through the agenda and I do feel that we
22 need to move forward.

22

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Office of Budgets and whoever's making
these decisions about these villages right now have
poor cell service, but it's in the very near future
where this -- all this low orbit satellites are going
to be around, there's going to be huge bandwidth around
in the next couple years. It's got to be an issue with
trying to get -- for people who can't travel to be able
to be online and participate with a device.

I do feel that I have grave concerns
for the management of the salmon resource. North
Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the State of
Alaska should have done something and they did --
they're doing nothing to help these salmon runs. It's
a bathymetric issue, these trawl nets are allowed to go
right to the bottom of the Bering Sea and drag all over
the place, killing all the crabs and wiping out our
chinook salmon and coho salmon that are compressed
where the cold waters are. It's not rocket science,
it's like they need to have some -- think out their box
and get away from these commercial fisheries dictating
how these fisheries are going to be prosecuted. I used
to commercial salmon fish. I know for a fact that the
Commissioner's office could pull that same fleet of
drift net fleet inside the North Alaska Peninsula, away
from those passages and allow those salmon to move from
the Gulf into the Bering Sea without impedance.

0373

1 They're targeting sockeye, they're going to be in the
2 north Pacific -- north Alaska Peninsula. That's part
3 of their area, their area goes up to Cape Menshikof
4 right by Bristol Bay. So they get -- that's all they
5 need to do. So there's nobody thinking outside the
6 box. North Pacific let's the fleet drag the bottom of
7 the ocean, nobody wants to think outside the box
8 because the fleet -- we might insult the fleet or we
9 might insult the Commissioner's office. We don't care
10 -- I'll flat out tell, I just laid a spade, hey, this
11 is the way it is. So I'm not real super happy about
12 the salmon management. Doing nothing is not helping
13 these salmon.

14
15 So I'm concerned about that, I'm
16 concerned about the shift to the large game animals,
17 I'm concerned about the large big animals, the bears
18 going after our -- after some of our food right off our
19 plate. They have to eat too and they're shifting to
20 our -- to the moose resources and caribou resources.
21 The predation increases when the salmon decline. Bears
22 and wolves.

23
24 So I'm looking forward to our next
25 meeting. And I think that the sheep management plan is
26 a positive thing for this Council, addressing some of
27 the issues.

28
29 I'm looking forward to this Ungulate
30 Management and talking to managers to readjust their
31 thinking about how caribou should be managed and how
32 dall sheep should be managed. I look forward to that
33 meeting and intend to write some additional stuff
34 before I get there which is a couple weeks from now,
35 two or three weeks.

36
37 So any final comments.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIR REAKOFF: The Chair will
42 entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

43
44 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

45
46 MR. VENT: Second.

47
48 CHAIR REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny,
49 seconded by Darrell. Those in favor of adjournment
50

0374

1 signify by saying aye.

2

3

IN UNISON: Aye.

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5

(No opposing votes)

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CHAIR REAKOFF: Okay. The meeting is
adjourned. Safe travels home and.....

9

10

MR. KRISKA: Meeting's adjourned?

11

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CHAIR REAKOFF: Meetings adjourned.

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14

(Off record)

15

16

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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