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EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Pike's Waterfront Lodge
Fairbanks, Alaska
March 2, 2023
9:02 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sue Entsminger, Chair
Andrew Bassich
Eva Burk
Linda Evans
Charlie Jagow
Amanda Pope
Donald Woodruff
Robert Wright

Regional Council Coordinator, Brooke McDavid

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 3/2/2023)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning, everyone. Just a few announcements. We will start the meeting off with nonagenda items and any public comment on nonagenda items and Staff had wanted to come up and speak for a second. So and then we'll do -- make sure everybody -- who's here, we'll just do a quick roll call. We can do that.

MS. MCDAVID: Do you want our new Secretary to do it or.....

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Linda, can you.....

MR. WOODRUFF: Or Don.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or Don. Sorry, Don.

MR. WOODRUFF: Good morning, everyone. Welcome. I'm going to do roll call and start at the top of our Advisory Committee list.

Sue Entsminger.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.

MR. WOODRUFF: Eva Burk.

MS. BURK: Here.

MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

Linda Evans.

MS. EVANS: Here.

MR. WOODRUFF: Amanda Pope.

MS. POPE: Here.

MR. WOODRUFF: William Glanz.

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: Bill, are you online.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. Andrew Bassich.

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9 MR. BASSICH: Here.

10

11 MR. WOODRUFF: Robert Wright.

12

13 MR. WRIGHT: Here.

14

15 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

16

17 Charlie Jagow.

18

19 MR. JAGOW: Present.

20

21 (Teleconference interference -
22 participants not muted).

23

24 MR. WOODRUFF: And I'm here. So we
25 have all present but Bill Glanz. It's a quorum.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
28 Donald.

29

30 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Madame
31 Chair, members of the Council. I just wanted to
32 address a protocol thing very quickly.

33

34 (Phone rings)

35

36 MS. WESSELS: That's one of the things
37 of the protocol.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MS. WESSELS: You should -- you should
42 charge \$5 everyone who has their phone going off during
43 the meeting.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, or the
46 Chair kidnapped.

47

48 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, we.....

49

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:
2 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech) going to the
3 children's thing, but.....

4
5 MS. WESSELS: This way you can have a
6 community fund for the Council, you know, celebration
7 of birthdays and things like that.

8
9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)
10 are on me tonight.

11
12 MS. WESSELS: So when -- and it's for
13 the benefit of the Council members especially we have
14 some new Council members and also for the benefit of
15 the public.

16
17 Well, first of all that everybody needs
18 to know, the members of the Council or the public, that
19 when they want to talk they cannot just chime in, they
20 cannot start talking. They need to first address the
21 Chair. They need to say, Madame Chair, and attract the
22 Chair's attention. And if it's somebody acting in
23 Chair Entsminger's place then, you know, if it's a male
24 of course, you know, you say Mr. Chair. And when the
25 Chair acknowledges and gives you the floor that's the
26 only time when somebody can speak. And no matter if
27 it's a Council member or a member of the public.

28
29 The other thing is when there is a
30 motion on the floor or when Council discusses such
31 things as elections, even there is no motion on the
32 floor, that's totally just Council business. And only
33 Council members can speak at that time. And it's
34 especially important like when you're going to discuss
35 proposals and make motions on the proposals, there are
36 periods of times when public comments are allowed, but
37 when there's a motion on the floor, public or anybody
38 else outside of the Council cannot just jump in and
39 start talking. And even if they want to talk they
40 should not be talking and that time because that's the
41 time for the Council to have discussion and not, you
42 know, for anybody else to influence the Council
43 discussion or decision.

44
45 So that's all I had this morning.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

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1 Did you have something, Brooke.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Good morning, everyone.
4 Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator. I just wanted to
5 remind everyone if you would like to give a public
6 comment on nonagenda items or on an agenda item today
7 if you would please fill out a blue card at the back of
8 the room and bring it up here, you can put it in this
9 basket, and that'll just help us call on folks when we
10 get to that time.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
15 Brooke. Yeah, the blue cards are in the back so if you
16 want to testify then that's -- and hand it to Brooke.

17

18 First thing on the agenda is any public
19 comments on nonagenda items, things that are not on the
20 agenda.

21

22 MR. URBAN: Hello, Madame Chair Sue.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I
25 recognize that voice. Is that Bruce Urban.

26

27 MR. URBAN: Yes, ma'am.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. URBAN: Okay. Thank you, Madame
32 Chair Sue, and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
33 Council members for giving Brooke and I the chance to
34 share some information about the UAF Fresh Eyes On Ice
35 Project. So my name is Bruce, I'm an upper Tanana
36 Dena'ina from North Bay and a resident of Tok. We
37 would like to share quickly about the Fresh Eyes on Ice
38 Project. The Fresh Eyes on Ice Project is asking for
39 public participation from Alaskans and this would
40 include people going out to get pictures of rivers,
41 lakes and streams around their community and submitting
42 either online through the Fresh Eyes on Ice website or
43 you could also download the Globe App on your phone and
44 take photos using the land cover tool. And I actually
45 -- honestly I used that yesterday and it was pretty
46 cool. So the Fresh Eyes on Ice team would be able to
47 provide some training for the Globe App if anyone is
48 interested. You could also submit your photo with the
49 location and date at the Fresh Eyes on Ice Facebook
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1 page and you could also join the Facebook page too if
2 you want.

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One of the awesome things about this project is that the photos are sent to the National Weather Service, Alaska Pacific River Forecast Center to help support with flood forecasting. And I just wanted to check real quick to see if Burt Woods is online.

(No comments)

MR. URBAN: Okay. If she's not she had some scheduling conflict and couldn't make it today, but that's the end of this short presentation and I'd like to thank Madame Chair Sue and the Eastern Interior RAC members for this opportunity to share about the UAF Fresh Eyes on Ice Project and reach out to Brook McDavid if you're interested in looking at our flyer.

So thanks again.

MS. MCDAVID: Hi, Bruce, thank you. This is Brooke McDavid. I just wanted to let you know we do have copies of your flyer here in the room, they're on the back table for members of the public and I did just pass out a copy to Council members.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Bruce.

MR. URBAN: I do appreciate it.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Thank you, Bruce. Anyone have any questions.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madame Chair, I've got a question.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It -- this is only for the Council, I'm really sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Pardon me.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's for the Council members.

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1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Oh.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm
4 sorry.

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay. Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You can fill
9 out a blue card.

10

11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sure.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Eva or
14 Charlie, do you have anything.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The next
19 nonagenda item is Mark Richards.

20

21 MR. WRIGHT: Good morning. Not at this
22 time.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm
25 sorry.

26

27 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah,
30 Charlie, did you have something.

31

32 MR. WRIGHT: No, Madame Chair, I just
33 wanted to tell you that we didn't have nothing this
34 morning.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
37 Thank you.

38

39 Mark Richards.

40

41 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

42

43 MR. RICHARDS: Good morning, Madame
44 Chair, members of the Council. Thank you for the
45 opportunity to comment. For the record my name is Mark
46 Richards and these are going to be my personal
47 comments. I just wanted to go over a little bit
48 briefly over our processes of fish and wildlife
49 management after the recent decision by the Board of
50

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1 Fish on proposal 140. I'm also Vice Chair of the
2 Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee. That was
3 our proposal, Gail and Virgil worked very hard to get
4 support for that proposal and I know we were all very
5 disappointed at the outcome.

6
7 So what I want to talk about is a brief
8 overview on the process and how we might be able to
9 change things. So during our Constitutional Convention
10 in the winter of 1955 to '56 the Resources Committee,
11 Convention Resources Committee brought up Dr. Ira
12 Gabrielson. He was a foremost biologist and manager in
13 the lower 48, he had helped several Canadian
14 providences and several states organize their fish and
15 wildlife boards and commissions. So they wanted to
16 interview Dr. Gabrielson and find out what can we do in
17 Alaska to make sure we manage our wildlife correctly.
18 And one of his best and most examples of how we could
19 best manage was to form a wildlife and commission a
20 board that was nonpartisan in nature. And he explained
21 how people think that if you had a nonpartisan board
22 everybody would disagree all the time, but actually he
23 explained how in states where that was set up that way
24 it worked best. And unfortunately our Legislature
25 after we became a State did not form our boards and
26 commissions that way. So what we have here is we're
27 managing on a pendulum swing depending on who the
28 Governor is and who the Governor wants to stack on the
29 Board of Fish and the Board of Game. And so what's
30 happened over time is that commercial interests have
31 dominated our wildlife political decisions and that's
32 where we are and that's how -- the result of 140 came
33 and we'll see it on the Board of Game side too.

34
35 Now on the Federal side which you guys
36 represent, you know, like many of you here I lived off
37 the land and rivers for a long time and that's what got
38 me involved in the processes. And I applaud you for
39 getting on this Council and trying to help with this,
40 but we also have problems with the Federal side.
41 Recently I was at the meeting to discuss the Unit 4
42 deer closure request from the Southeast RAC. And there
43 was really no biological reason to close deer hunting
44 down on the ABC Islands, but, you know, some Federally-
45 qualified users felt that competition from non-
46 Federally-qualified users was just too much and they
47 wanted -- they basically wanted to stop other people
48 from hunting, you know, non-Federally-qualified users
49 from hunting. So what happened at the end of that
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1 meeting was the Director of the U.S. Forest Service
2 explained why he was opposing the proposal, he
3 explained in detail why it didn't meet with ANILCA
4 requirements and that they were not legally able to
5 restrict non-Federally-qualified users. So after his
6 comments most of the other Directors got up, you know,
7 said the same thing except for Director Chen from the
8 BIA. And BIA voted in favor of the proposal knowing
9 that it was not legal under ANILCA, he still voted for
10 it. Now my problems with the Federal Subsistence Board
11 relate to the requirements in ANILCA that doesn't allow
12 the Federal Subsistence Board to differentiate between
13 resident and nonresident hunters. And so that has been
14 a huge problem, you know, when I've gone to these
15 meetings and talked to our Native brothers and sisters
16 too who have like myself moved away from their village
17 or their area for whatever reasons, maybe to be closer
18 to family, maybe it's to get a job and they can't come
19 back home to hunt any longer because they are non-
20 Federally-qualified users like I am now after moving to
21 Fairbanks.

22

23 So what I want to express to this Board
24 and I think Katya went into yesterday into what you are
25 allowed to do as members of this Board and what you are
26 not allowed to do. But the problem I see is really
27 with the Boards of Fish and Game and our State
28 management. And unless we all get together, not as
29 Council members, but as individuals and go to Juneau
30 and start lobbying Legislators harder to reform our
31 Board of Fish and Board of Game nothing's going to
32 change. And we can't keep managing on a pendulum
33 system depending on who the Governor is and who the
34 Governor appoints to these Boards. We need to lessen
35 the influence of commercial interests on both the Board
36 of Game and the Board of Fish and that's not going to
37 happen unless we convince Legislators that we need to
38 reform both Boards and look at what Dr. Ira Gabrielson
39 said in 1955/'56 about a bipartisan board and how it
40 works better.

41

42 So that's really all I have for you
43 guys, but I'm looking for help, you know, not just --
44 this isn't a resident hunters Alaska thing or Fairbanks
45 Fish and Game Advisory Committee thing, it's a
46 Statewide thing, we are losing, we are losing because
47 of commercial interests that are dominating the
48 decision and unless we lessen that influence nothing's
49 going to change.

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1 So that's all I have, Madame Chair.

2

3

4 Thank you for the opportunity to
5 comment and again thank you all for being here and for
6 your service on the Council.

6

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8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,

8

9

10 Mark.

10

11

12 MR. WOODRUFF: Question.

11

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions.

12

13

14 Go ahead, Don.

13

14

15 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. Mark, I
16 appreciate your testimony. One thing that we maybe
17 aren't considering is that whether it be the trawl
18 industry or the outside interest, the Governor is
19 soliciting money for his reelection, what -- whoever it
20 might be. And I think that the -- that's a
21 predominance in power that the people on the ground,
22 you and me and the people in the audience and
23 subsistence fishermen and hunters, have no way to
24 counteract, because we can't donate funds like the
25 trawl industry or outside interest does. So what --
26 what's the approach to that?

26

27

28 MR. RICHARDS: It -- it's going to take
29 widespread involvement by ordinary Alaskans really to
30 form some kind of a coalition to get to Juneau and try
31 to convince Legislators that we need change. You know,
32 we all know that article VIII of our State Constitution
33 is unique, totally unique in natural resources. At our
34 Constitutional Convention in that winter of 1955/56
35 explained that our resources are supposed to be held in
36 a public trust doctrine for the residents of Alaska.

36

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been
39 brought to my attention that we should not be
40 discussing lobbying here on the record, it's part
41 of.....

41

42

43 MR. RICHARDS: Okay.

43

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:our.....

45

46

47 MR. RICHARDS: Thank you, I understand.

47

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So -- yeah.

49

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1 MR. RICHARDS: But as nonCouncil
2 members, that's what I'm here to tell you, Katya
3 explained that yesterday, but as nonCouncil, as
4 ordinary Alaskans we still need to get together and
5 start to work on convincing Legislators that we need
6 change. If that.....

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
9 Mark.

10
11 MR. RICHARDS: I'll leave with that
12 too.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

15
16 MR. RICHARDS: Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I did
19 hear a voice on nonagenda items on the -- online. Is
20 there anyone else on a nonagenda item.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Anyone
25 else in the room on a nonagenda item, public comments

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
30 Thank you very much. So the next thing on the agenda
31 and we were going to bring is the -- that wildlife
32 closure. This is just information only, this will come
33 up at our fall meeting. And it's 25A closed to sheep
34 hunting by non-qualified subsistence users the Arctic
35 Sheep Management Area. And we were going to bring in
36 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge report first and
37 then go into it. So then we'll have public comment.

38
39 MR. HAWKALUK: Yeah, good morning,
40 Madame Chair, members of the Council. For the record
41 my name's Nathan Hawkaluk, I'm the Acting Refuge
42 Manager for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And
43 with me is.....

44
45 MR. LEONARD: Good morning, Madame
46 Chair and members of the Council. My name is Paul
47 Leonard, I'm the Lead Ecologist for Arctic National
48 Wildlife Refuge.

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1 MR. HAWKALUK: And, Madame Chair,
2 members of the Council, sounds like we're going to
3 touch on a couple things here. I'd direct the
4 Council's attention to Page 109 in your booklet which
5 has the Arctic Refuge's annual report. This was
6 actually submitted as -- outside of the booklet from
7 the fall meeting, it's largely unchanged, but for the
8 most part we don't have a lot of additional
9 information. I'm going to just touch on some
10 highlights real quick and then we'll try to dovetail
11 this into the -- a conversation about the closure
12 review that's I believe on the agenda as well.

13
14 One of the things dominating a lot of
15 Arctic Refuge work right now is the oil and gas leasing
16 program on the coastal plain. I've noted in there that
17 a process continues for the supplemental EIS process
18 for that program. I'll just say there's an updated
19 timeline that's going to be different than what's in
20 your report. I have mentioned in there the record of
21 decision was hopeful to be done August of 2023, that
22 timeline has shifted back into 2024. So just wanted to
23 note out that -- note that difference.

24
25 And that's really the most important
26 thing. I'll also mention that you probably noted I was
27 the Acting Refuge Manager, we're hoping within weeks to
28 have a selection announced for a Refuge Manager moving
29 forward. So I would say by the next time this Council
30 meets in the fall you'll have a different face up here
31 talking to you.

32
33 Touch on -- and I'll have -- I'll ask
34 Paul to help me out on some of these, some of the work
35 that might be of interest to this Council that we do at
36 Arctic Refuge. One is the ongoing monitoring of the
37 Porcupine Caribou Herd. A lot of this work occurs on
38 the coastal plain and there are calving and post
39 calving habitats, but of course, you know, what happens
40 up there affects the subsistence users on the south
41 side of the range.

42
43 So, Paul, you want to give a brief
44 update on the progress there.

45
46 MR. LEONARD: Sure. Yeah, we started a
47 project a couple years ago to try to understand forage
48 distribution and quality and how that forage for
49 caribou is changing across time so the phenologies,
50

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1 spring phenology. So we started like I said a five
2 year project, we're in year three now, basically
3 collecting information about diet and trying to
4 forecast that into the future to see if those three
5 different life history periods that Nathan mentioned,
6 calving, post calving, insect relief period, if those
7 are going to be shifting the range of the herd in the
8 future.

9

10 MR. HAWKALUK: Thanks, Paul. We are
11 doing a cooperative moose research project as well. A
12 lot of the focal areas and the subsequent collars that
13 we've deployed with our partners are on the North Slope
14 again in a couple select drainages, Canning River on
15 the west side of the Refuge and the Kongakut on the
16 east side. Again this is in cooperation with a larger
17 project with other Federal and State partners.

18

19 Paul, do you have anything to mention
20 on that?

21

22 MR. LEONARD: I do, yes. Thanks. The
23 Yukon-Charley Staff spoke about this project yesterday
24 and some of their collars or their moose data, but I'd
25 call attention to Page 121. There was some interest in
26 how those cow moose have moved since we've put those
27 collars on and there's a nice picture at the top of
28 that page in the top right that shows both Yukon-
29 Charley and the moose that were collared in the Refuge
30 as well and their movements.

31

32 MR. HAWKALUK: Did you mention what
33 page that was on?

34

35 MR. LEONARD: It's Page 121.

36

37 MR. HAWKALUK: Thanks. Now real quick
38 we'll talk about dall sheep. Actually I'll start off
39 by mentioning oftentimes we hear from the Council and
40 members of the public concerns about nonlocal,
41 nonresident hunting pressure on certain species. Of
42 course a big component of that is the use by guides on
43 Refuges and other public lands. And I'd just mention
44 to the Council that we just went through an effort last
45 year to competitively fill eight vacant guide use
46 areas. Not vacant, excuse me, competitive guide use
47 areas, they all had active guides in them at the time.
48 And this Council being in the south side of the range
49 would be interested in certain areas for -- specific
50

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1 guide use areas in the middle fork of the Chandalar and
2 Wind River, the Junjik River and Smoke Creek areas,
3 these are all west of Arctic Village, and then upper
4 Coleen and middle Sheenjek to the east of Arctic
5 Village. And we did fill those with incoming guides
6 and those are going through the process of being
7 permitted. Those are five year term permits with the
8 option to have another five years consider --
9 considering the guide is still interested in retaining
10 the area and they have not had any legal or otherwise
11 -- other issues.

12
13 I did through the process of this,
14 filling these guide use areas, I went back through I
15 want to say 10 years of harvest information from our
16 guide use client use permits. And on the south side I
17 was -- I guess in short I was a little surprised to see
18 the limited amount of take by guides on average over a
19 10 year period in I want to say 25A on the south side,
20 I think seven sheep per year are taken by guided
21 clients. Of course some years are more than that, some
22 years are less than that, but that number was lower
23 than I was assuming and I think many people assume. So
24 I just wanted to get that on the record that I want to
25 say I think the dates were from 2012 through 2022, a 10
26 years period, that on average seven sheep were taken by
27 guided clients on the south side.

28
29 Staying on the topic of sheep and I
30 know we'll have a discussion about the closure here, in
31 2020 our Staff was able to do a minimum count of the
32 Arctic Village Sheep Management Area and some of those
33 details will be in the closure review. In short we
34 didn't detect any noticeable change in population,
35 nothing significant in that regard, still fairly
36 stable. Some portions of the Arctic Village Sheep
37 Management Area are low density as expected and other
38 areas still retain a fairly high density sheep number,
39 but again that's -- in a simple statement it's
40 unchanged from a population level standpoint. We do
41 have plans to survey that area and a larger area than
42 the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area in 2023. We
43 haven't had a chance or had the personnel or aircraft
44 or everything else come together since 2020 to do a
45 survey of Arctic Refuge habitats, but we hope to this
46 year and it'll include the central Brooks Range or
47 central Arctic Refuge I should say which is basically
48 from the Hulu Hulu on the west -- east to basically the
49 Arctic Village Sheep Management Area and a little bit
50

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1 beyond that on the north side as well. Hulu Hulu is
2 included in that as is the upper Okpilak I believe. So
3 hopefully we'll have another estimate.

4
5 I should mention that we'll be using a
6 different survey technique that's used by Fish and
7 Wildlife Service and I believe Park Service as well to
8 begin to better track and understand the sheep
9 populations in that area.

10
11 Paul, do you have anything else you
12 wanted to add on that topic?

13
14 MR. LEONARD: Just that this new
15 technique that we're deploying for our surveys this
16 year will help us understand -- make a little bit more
17 comparable our data with the Park Service data so we
18 can understand trends a little broader, a little more
19 easily across a broader area I should say.

20
21 Thanks. That's it.

22
23 MR. HAWKALUK: And really that
24 concludes I think what we would want to report out
25 today and certainly we can standby for any questions is
26 there are any.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
29 guys. Any questions.

30
31 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, I
32 appreciate that. I had a couple of quick questions.
33 Can you tell me what the total sheep population is
34 right now, plus or minus? I realize you haven't done a
35 survey in a while, but.....

36
37 MR. HAWKALUK: Councilman Bassich,
38 through the Chair. I cannot.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Because you made
41 reference to the guiding and that they take about seven
42 per year so my next question do you have any data on
43 the recruitment of full curl rams per year in the -- in
44 the hunting areas that the guides go into. So I guess
45 what I'm wondering is are they taking a majority of the
46 rams that are coming up that meet the requirements for
47 a legal hunt or is there additional rams left in the
48 field?

49
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1 MR. HAWKALUK: Through the Chair.
2 Again honestly we do not have those numbers, we don't
3 have good numbers on that. And I think that would be a
4 tough one to track honestly. It's a huge area, there's
5 a lot of other harvest from both, you know, area
6 residents, Alaska residents, those that go in with
7 commercial air operators, those that fly their own
8 Super Cubs in there. There's a lot of take that's not
9 going to be -- it's going to be tough to tease out
10 although the State does a nice job on their harvest
11 data there. But, you know, to compare harvest with,
12 you know, full curl rams, we wouldn't have that kind of
13 data at this time to really give good feedback on that
14 one.

15
16 MR. BASSICH: Okay. To clarify what
17 I'm looking for it would be the total amount of rams,
18 your best estimate into the future and the total amount
19 left in the field after the hunting season. So it's
20 not necessarily what the guides take, it's what the
21 overall harvest is which would to my way of thinking
22 would show the health and the resiliency of that
23 population. So that in the future if that could be
24 obtained, I don't even know if it can be, but in future
25 presentations to this Council that would be very useful
26 information for us to have to fully understand the
27 health of that -- the productivity and the health of
28 that herd and also the sustainability, long term
29 sustainability of it. And I realize that's going to
30 vary from year to year depending on hunting pressure,
31 weather winter natural kills and all that, but I think
32 that's a -- from my perspective that's a pretty
33 important dataset to have a understanding on if we're
34 going to make any decisions or recommendations here.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MR. HAWKALUK: Through the Chair.
39 Thank you and he's taking good notes over here.
40 So.....

41
42 MS. POPE: Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

45
46 MS. POPE: To what extent do you use
47 local knowledge to gather your data?

48
49 MR. HAWKALUK: Through the Chair.

50

0175

1 Little at this time honestly. I would say, you know,
2 when we talk about the specific area of Arctic Village
3 Sheep Management we have a chance to connect with the
4 community and understand things a little better and
5 through personal conversations with the hunters from
6 Arctic Village and certainly the leadership from that
7 community as well. When we get outside of the Arctic
8 Village Sheep Management Area less so. We do have some
9 communications with the community of Kaktovik who
10 oftentimes used the Hulu Hulu drainage and I think we
11 can gain some information, some insight from that
12 community for that particular part of the Refuge, but
13 we don't have anything formal set up in terms of
14 soliciting and cataloging indigenous knowledge on that
15 topic, but we do it when we're getting ready to do our
16 surveys and we have personal conversations with them
17 frequently.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: One more.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
22 questions. Andy.

23
24 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you.
25 Shifting to sheep or I'm sorry, shifting to caribou,
26 you know, we had quite a bit of talk -- discussion here
27 yesterday about the Fortymile Caribou Herd. I'm just
28 curious if you're seeing the same kinds of issues with
29 the Arctic Herd as far as females getting smaller,
30 parturition rates getting lower, any indications that
31 they're suffering some of those same problems?

32
33 MR. HAWKALUK: Yeah, through the Chair.
34 I can let some of the State comment on that, but my --
35 the information that I have is that the herd is doing
36 well.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

39
40 MR. HAWKALUK: Thanks.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
43 members, are there any other questions.

44
45 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

48
49 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

0176

1 I would like to point out to all the agencies here that
2 in our letter to the Federal Subsistence Board we
3 emphasized that if the Managers from all the different
4 agencies work together to get these sheep surveys done
5 then we'll have a whole lot more information and I
6 applaud you guys for moving forward on that.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Charlie
11 or Eva, do you have any questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They have to
16 push star, six. I.....

17

18 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.....

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I

21

22 would.....

23

24 MR. WRIGHT:this is Charlie.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go

27

28 ahead, Charlie.

29

30 MR. WRIGHT: No questions from here.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
35 Thanks. For -- the meeting in -- is scheduled for
36 Arctic Village to take up this review. So I would like
37 to see all the harvest data at that -- everything, you
38 know, that -- including that three sheep limit one and
39 for both the State -- I don't know what happened with
40 the State, I think they -- do they still have that?

41

42 MR. HAWKALUK: Are we talking the
43 registration permit or a second 595. I believe that
44 got reduced down from three any sheep to one three-
45 quarter curl or less, but I don't have the Handy Dandy
46 in front of me. I see it right there though.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just all that
49 data is important in the future when we take that up.
50 I -- it's really great to understand all of it, what's
going on.

51

52 MR. HAWKALUK: Thank you.

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

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0177

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
2 you. Any other questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
7 Thank you very much. So now is -- this is -- this is
8 on our plate because it's informational, if we wanted
9 to have any other type of proposals because the
10 proposal call is up and so there's -- it's just
11 informational, we'll be taking this up in the fall.
12 And we are scheduled to go to Arctic Village so as long
13 as everything works we will be there. So uh-huh, yes.

14
15 So now we have blue cards for public
16 testimony on this subject.

17
18 MS. MCDAVID: Let's have Liz talk about
19 the closure review.....

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.

22
23 MS. MCDAVID:first and then do
24 public comment.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You'll have
27 to forgive me, it's a little bit different, this
28 informational part. We usually take these up and then
29 go right through them, but this is informational. So
30 the next thing would be to have that introduced. So
31 yes, uh-huh.

32
33 MS. MCDAVID: Just to clarify. So we
34 know we have a lot of folks from Arctic Village that
35 came today and welcome to you all. Thank you. We're
36 going to have Liz talk about the closure review, give
37 an overview of the information, she'll let you know
38 where to find that information in the meeting book and
39 then afterwards the Chair will open up for the public
40 comments. If you would like to give a comment about
41 the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area please just
42 write your name on one of these blue cards and bring it
43 up to me.

44
45 Thanks for those who already did that.

46
47 MR. ERICK: Madame Chair, a question.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could you
50

0178

1 direct it to Katya here, please.

2

3

MR. ERICK: Oh, okay.

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Yeah,
uh-huh. Procedural?

7

8

9

10

11

12

MR. ERICK: It's just the -- you have
all the agencies having to report here and can we
comply with those reports, you know. I mean, not in
writing, but this is the testimony that they're.....

13

14

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I.....

15

16

17

MR. ERICK:presenting. And just
like the caribou from the Refuge people, you know.....

18

19

20

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So can I get
some information from Staff here to -- what is the
protocol.

21

22

23

MR. ERICK:the sound under
the.....

24

25

26

MS. WESSELS: Can you come to the mic,
you know, maybe introduce yourself first.

27

28

29

30

31

32

MR. ERICK: Yes. Thank you, Madame
Chair, my name's Ernest Erick and I'm also a judge for
all the ICWA, for the children of the Athabascans, you
know. And I'm here on behalf of what's the best
interest for everybody.

33

34

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And one of the things that -- caribou.
Caribou up in 10.02 lands and through our area is kind
of being disturbed by aircrafts, by the smell, by the
sound of the road and transportation up there. You
have the oil field on the western side that disturb a
lot of caribou. So the population kind of spread a
little bit into the Gwich'in areas like in Venetie.
And the feeding, when they want to eat in a certain
area, there's all five different species of food that's
available for them. So migration into the winter and
also into the summer, they have to get to certain
plants to eat. Like the North Slope, they have to dig
into the grounds and the roots come down and grows.
They only not eat on top, they eat the roots into the
ground.

0179

1 So that's the kind of remark that I had
2 under the professional elders and also the leaders like
3 me and the hunters like me. So we live in these -- our
4 environment there and it's one of the beautiful areas
5 that we need to continue to protect. And there's
6 already a 10.02 -- there's already a North Slope oil
7 industry. So mainly the road that leads up to the
8 Dalton Highway and also the Dempster Highway, we don't
9 know what a border between us, but we don't know how it
10 got there. But caribou lives on both areas. So it's
11 very interesting, you know, that Native people as
12 myself being a biologist natural, didn't went to
13 school, but all the value came from my 107 year old
14 grandmother and my grandfather. And there's a lot had
15 older -- older elders living with us.

16

17 So that's the kind of remark that I
18 have for the caribou. And but I'll speak later on
19 again. But I'm happy that you have some ears towards
20 protecting the food chain where I live because we don't
21 have a lot of nonNatives up in that country besides the
22 biologists. And we've been looking at the data that
23 was reported to us, but that's just on a computer and
24 putting a collar on a fish or either a collar on the
25 moose or caribou. So that was my point of view,
26 Ma'am.....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

29

30 MR. ERICK:and I'm glad you're
31 here to listen on behalf of the Gwich'in people.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Ernest,
34 what the -- you had a question and we just wanted to
35 answer it for protocol. You wanted to ask the Staff a
36 question, is that what.....

37

38 MR. ERICK: I just want to.....

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

41

42 MR. ERICK:present myself, that's
43 what I'm doing. Yes, ma'am.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
46 this.....

47

48 MS. WESSELS: Just call it nonagenda
49 item.

50

0180

1 MR. ERICK: It's not an agenda item,
2 but.....

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.

5
6 MR. ERICK: Yeah.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Got it.

9
10 MR. ERICK: Okay.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry.

13
14 MR. ERICK: All right. Thank you.

15 But.....
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

18
19 MR. ERICK:I just want to let the
20 people that's serving us, that understand that collar
21 -- putting a collar on there and you're looking on a
22 computer, it's not the only thing. You have to walk
23 the land just like me and my brothers and my sisters.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
28 was relaxed rules for nonagenda items. Okay. And
29 thank you very much. Any questions.

30
31 MR. ERICK: But matter of fact it's in
32 writing, it's a proposal, it's SEIS, part of that.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
37 Ernest.

38
39 MR. ERICK: Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Liz.

42
43 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Madame
44 Chair and members of the Council. Bear with me for
45 just a second, I need to find my notes here. And I am
46 going to start with the.....

47
48 Okay. Sorry. Good morning, Madame
49 Chair and members of the Council. I'm Liz Williams, an
50

0181

1 Anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
2 Management and I'm going to start out with just an
3 overview of the closure review process. When the
4 Federal program took over management from the State
5 program there were a lot of things carried over from
6 the State including some closures. And several years
7 ago OSM decided we really need to review these closures
8 so that we look at what was closed and why and do we
9 need to keep it closed or whatever. So we just need to
10 address it with current information. So every two
11 years we do that. And this year one of the closures
12 that I'm reviewing is the Arctic Village Sheep
13 Management Area. It's the area that's closed to non-
14 Federally-qualified subsistence users.

15
16 And so with that I'll just start. When
17 we have a closure review we don't -- this time first of
18 all the closure reviews, we're telling them to you now
19 because the wildlife proposal season is open. So we
20 don't want to tell you about these things to think
21 about now and then the proposal opening time be over.
22 So this is the time to think about wildlife proposals
23 that you might want to submit and that period is open
24 from now through April 12th.

25
26 For the closure reviews when you do
27 deal with them in the next meeting you either decide to
28 retain it, to rescind it or to modify it. Anything
29 else that you want to change like changing a harvest
30 season or a harvest limit or to delegate authority to
31 in-season Managers would be what you would do now in a
32 proposal. So I hope that makes sense, it's a little
33 bit of the bureaucracy that we must deal with.

34
35 And so like I said the proposal period
36 for wildlife proposals on Federal public lands is open
37 now through April 12th. And Brooke can help you with
38 that or you can submit a proposal online.

39
40 So with that I will get back into the
41 specific closure review that I'm reviewing today and
42 it's WCR 24-21 and it's the Arctic Village Sheep
43 Management Area. And the closure is a review of the
44 closure of dall sheep hunting to non-Federally-
45 qualified users in the Arctic Village Sheep Management
46 Area in Unit 25A which is open only to rural residents
47 of Arctic Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Kaktovik and
48 Chalkyitsik. And all of these communities have a
49 customary and traditional use determination for dall
50

1 sheep in Unit 25A. And I apologize this review begins
2 on Page 35 of your meeting books and the map for this
3 proposal is on Page 37. And I want everybody to keep
4 in mind that the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area
5 is a discrete portion of Unit 25A, it's not all of 25A.

6
7 So as many members of this Council well
8 know this issue has been around since the beginning of
9 the Federal program and even before and I'm just going
10 to do a quick review of the regulatory history because
11 one of the first actions of the Federal Subsistence
12 Board in 1991 was to establish the Arctic Village Sheep
13 Management Area. And when it was originally
14 established it did not include Cane and Red Sheep Creek
15 drainages, but that was added in 1991 or actually 1995.
16 In 2007 this closure for the Cane and Red Sheep Creek
17 drainages was temporarily open to harvest by non-
18 Federally-qualified subsistence users. In 2012 the
19 closure of the entire AVSMA and Red and Sheep Creek
20 drainages to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users
21 was reestablished. So in 2020 there was a proposal to
22 open Cane and Red Sheep Creek to non-Federally-
23 qualified subsistence users and the Board voted that
24 down.

25
26 So we can only close things to non-
27 Federally-qualified subsistence users under certain
28 conditions. It has to be for the conservation of
29 healthy populations of fish and wildlife to continue
30 the subsistence uses of these populations or pursuant
31 to other applicable law which might be public safety or
32 something like that. So when the original closure was
33 established the Federal record shows that it was closed
34 in response to concerns by residents of Arctic Village
35 who felt that non-Federally-qualified hunters
36 interfered with sheep hunting by local residents and to
37 address concerns about sheep population health. There
38 are thousands of pages of testimony and local knowledge
39 about the biology and the cultural significance of dall
40 sheep in Cane and Red Sheep Creek Management Area. You
41 could write a really compelling book and a lot of the
42 people in this room today are some of the people who
43 have really provided some very intimate details about
44 the cultural relationship with sheep and I appreciate
45 hearing from them again today.

46
47 When we talk about sheep populations
48 local people and agencies have always had different
49 perspectives on the numbers of dall sheep, especially
50

0183

1 Cane and Red Sheep Creek. I'm not a biologist, but I
2 know the biologists do the best they can, they look
3 around at places from the airplane and they extrapolate
4 a number I think, and they can correct me I'm sure,
5 based on what they've seen in certain units. Local
6 people are looking at the area where they harvest all
7 the time and they know it intimately. They -- I've
8 read in the testimony they can tell the number of sheep
9 by the number of sheep tracks going up and down trails.
10 There are all sorts of things that I don't know, but
11 they have told us. It seems like when we look at the
12 population information from sheep that we -- they're
13 delicate animals, we're sort of getting to a new normal
14 with low numbers being almost average because of
15 climate change and rain on snow events that we hear
16 about all across the State.

17
18 And we do know though like we just
19 heard that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in
20 conjunction with other agencies do conduct surveys.
21 Harvest data is difficult. We don't have a lot of
22 information right now through Federal permit data
23 between 19 -- because the area's been closed to non-
24 Federally-qualified subsistence users from 1995 through
25 2020 there have been 43 permits issued, 20 have been
26 hunted and 12 have reported harvest or 12 sheep have
27 been reported harvested. Some of those permits are
28 from Arctic Village and Fort Yukon. Some Managers
29 complained that local harvest reports are not always
30 clear or not turned in. So there's a couple aspects
31 about data and harvest reporting.

32
33 In 2019 residents of Arctic Village
34 said that they agreed not to harvest dall sheep because
35 they observed very few sheep. And this is at the 2019
36 Eastern Interior RAC meeting. And they talked about
37 their hunting chief as to when it is and is not
38 appropriate to hunt. And they said that he had told
39 them not to hunt lately in 2019 because he didn't see
40 any sheep.

41
42 So OSM's preliminary conclusion at this
43 time when you start to think about this is to maintain
44 the status quo and to keep the Arctic Village Sheep
45 Management Area, especially the Cane and Red Sheep
46 Creeks, closed to non-Federally-qualified subsistence
47 users. And our justification for that is that it's
48 still necessary to continue subsistence uses of the
49 Arctic Village Sheep Management Area for Federally-
50

0184

1 qualified subsistence users especially the villages
2 that have customary and traditional use which is Arctic
3 Village and Venetie. The current status of the sheep
4 population is unclear suggesting possible conservation
5 concerns although the Refuge Managers as well as the
6 local people from Arctic Village may have different
7 opinions. The rationale for the closure has
8 consistently included user conflicts, concerns about
9 the health of the sheep population and the importance
10 of the area for the continuation of subsistence uses.
11 And when you read through the thousand pages of
12 transcripts you have -- we have sort of a biology or a
13 cultural reason to maintain these closures to non-
14 Federally-qualified subsistence users, but that
15 distinction doesn't exist in the testimony we have from
16 Arctic Village. It's not one or the other, those are
17 intertwined things.

18

19 So that's the end of my presentation.
20 And I'll repeat that our preliminary conclusion is to
21 maintain the status quo.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
24 Liz.

25

26 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Very well
29 done. Any questions.

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: Nathan has a question.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nathan had a
34 question.

35

36 MR. HAWKALUK: I've something to add,
37 but I don't know if this is the right time.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, this is
40 the Refuge.

41

42 MR. HAWKALUK: Madame Chair, members of
43 the Council. Thank you for giving me a second here. I
44 think it's important to note an important piece of this
45 is use by the community and harvest. And the closure
46 review goes through regulatory year 2020, I just want
47 to note that beginning in 2020 as we all know was the
48 pandemic and we haven't done a good job from the Refuge
49 side of getting permits out timely particularly this
50

0185

1 last year. So I want to say yes, there's some
2 questions about harvest reporting, but I want to admit
3 that we haven't done our part sometimes as an agency in
4 getting them permits on a timely manner for that. I
5 want to apologize to Robert in the back of the room,
6 that was this last year I didn't get them out. But
7 furthermore I do want to recognize that, and you'll
8 probably hear this through testimony, use has increased
9 recently. There's a younger active cohort of hunters
10 that are participating more in this hunt and harvesting
11 more recently in the past three years. So that's not
12 going to be reflected in this closure review, but I
13 think it's important to note that this -- the harvest
14 statistics here will look different in the future or
15 should look different and that's not always going to be
16 reflected, but I think it's an important thing to note.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, and throughout the
21 testimony agencies and as well as people from Arctic
22 Village have consistently discussed how to address
23 collecting community harvest data. It's an ongoing
24 issue and there are a lot cross cultural and
25 interagency just things we need to work out. So.....

26

27 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

30

31 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
32 I would like to point out to everyone that I
33 participated in the Federal Subsistence Board meeting
34 in 2020 for the Council and my personal comment was
35 that I thought that TEK was critical for management to
36 recognize and to use. And I asked the Federal
37 Subsistence Board what value they put on TEK and they
38 said 50 percent. So I think we can do better.

39

40 And the other thing that they said was
41 that subsistence is not just about bag limits, it's
42 about cultural experiences and that's a big issue and
43 it gladdened my heart to hear that.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
48 Council members have any questions.

49

50

0186

1 (No comments)

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now we have a bunch of blue cards and so we will be in Arctic Village as long as the creeks don't rise or something freeze. So just so you know and if we can probably, you know, make it maybe five minutes, we have quite a few blue cards here.

9

10 So and then do you have something that
11 you wanted to add, Brooke.

12

13

MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, I just wanted to remind folks if you would like to comment about the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area please fill out a blue card, we have several up here. And also to let you know that we have been in contact with community leadership about setting up a tribal consultation on this issue so there will be other opportunities outside of this meeting to sit down together and talk directly with representatives from the Federal Subsistence Board, but we really appreciate you being here today and addressing the entire Council.

24

25

Thank you.

26

27

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The first one is Ernie Peter.

29

30

Welcome.

31

32

MR. PETER: Hello. My name is Ernie Peter, I'm originally from Arctic Village (indiscernible) and I'm Arctic Village Council. I'm here for a solider for the sheep management and I'm from that area and it's been going on for so many years and I'd like a continuation for closure. In that area I have -- my parents have allotment for protection, all that I need to be protected. And also, you know, I've been living in Arctic for so many years since I was a child and it's been going on battle and I like that continuation for closure because it's our precious -- precious area and, you know, that's our life. And, you know, I don't want that to be taken away from us.

45

46

And also I represent, you know, people of Arctic Village depend on us for representing and, you know, it just -- well, I'm just new to this, you know, but I'm learning and I like this and I like going

50

0187

1 to meeting and I'm looking forward for that meeting in
2 Arctic Village because it wasn't -- you know, a lot of
3 things we disagree on and, you know, but I like to have
4 everything be -- conduct our business the right way and
5 a nicer way.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
10 Any questions.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie or
15 Eva, do you have any questions.

16
17 MR. WRIGHT: No, Madame Chair. Thank
18 you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
21 Charlie.

22
23 Ernie Erick, you're next.

24
25 MR. ERICK: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 It's an honor to be here and to listen on behalf of
27 what's happening here beside with the agency and also
28 the Federal Board management. And it's very important
29 that we continue -- I mean, we need a lot of data here,
30 we heard it and we need to continue closing the sheep
31 in Red Sheep Creek area and Cane Creek because the
32 Native Village of Venetie has always had a concern of
33 the population and also who's going in there beside the
34 Gwich'in people. And we'd like to close that the way
35 your report and also let it -- let it be like it is
36 right now. I think it'll be benefitting for all
37 people. Right now the soul pushes the last frontier is
38 very important for everybody to keep it clean and also
39 keep it protected is very important. And we need to
40 continue keeping it closed.

41
42 I honor you guys for what you've been
43 doing for the last 10 years and, but we need a little
44 more report what the commercial is doing around those
45 areas because some of the areas up there is being
46 poached from a nonmember or a commercial and we see it.
47 And we don't have no aircrafts to protect those areas,
48 but the fish and -- the Federal government has a lot of
49 funds available to do their job and they've been doing
50

0188

1 a good job for keeping that closed.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 Any questions.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
8 questions.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MR. ERICK: Well, thank you.....

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

15

16 MR. ERICK:Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: I'd just like to make a
21 quick announcement for folks on the phone. They
22 probably can't hear us because their line is muted or
23 is on hold, but if you place the teleconference on hold
24 it does beep here in the room and it is a bit
25 distracting. So if you do need to place on hold it
26 would be better to please hang up and then just call
27 back into the meeting afterwards.

28

29 Thanks.

30

31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Thought I had to
32 take a lesson in Morse Code.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is Sara
35 James.

36

37 MS. JAMES: The Board, Alan Burke and
38 Madame Chair. I don't want to be here again, I've been
39 here so many times telling my story. And today I like
40 -- let people know that English is my second language
41 so bear with me. I've been to Red Sheep Creek eight
42 times in my life, even more if I need -- if I want to
43 -- I want to do more, I even want to live there. So
44 that's how much it means to me.

45

46 I want to honor a few people because of
47 Red Sheep Creek. Back in '91 or back in -- when Prince
48 -- Prince Di died. Well, anyway we're out there when
49 they were having a big subsistence meeting. And there
50

1 was a time we were out there subsisting. And we were
2 laughing about it because they were talking about it in
3 Anchorage. I want to honor the remembrance of my
4 sister, Nena Russell. She love sheep hunting, she --
5 she gather people to go sheep hunting with her. And
6 also I want to remember my son, Mark James, who loves
7 sheep, loves sheep hunting. We love sheep so much,
8 when we have sheep meat we save it for Christmas, a
9 special time. We don't eat turkey on Thanksgiving, we
10 eat sheep. That's how much it means to me and my son.
11 I also want to remember Andrew Firmin, I cried when he
12 died. He meant a lot to me on this Board. And for
13 many years Larry's still here, Larry William was on
14 this Board. We need someone that can talk to all the
15 Board member, to get on this Board because it's been
16 (indiscernible).

17
18 Ram is really important to us. We use
19 every part of it. And it's culture related, 100
20 percent TEK. And I hope after my talk we get -- I get
21 100 percent ET -- TEK.

22
23 Climate change is big deal, it's real.
24 A few years ago there was a -- not close to Red Sheep
25 Creek, but we're known for red ink. Even time before
26 the time of Columbus. So we've got plenty of it. But
27 climate change could change it too. People don't make
28 deals or make decision on climate change, affect of
29 climate change from all the time they leave it out of
30 the Refuge, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, climate
31 change is real. A few years ago our water was red for
32 three days right behind that first mountain we call it
33 Big Mountain, it's a sacred mountain for us because
34 around the south we are surrounded with mountains, but
35 the highest point we called it Big Mountain (in
36 Native). Right behind there the red clay starts all
37 the way into Red Sheep Creek. And Red Sheep Creek is
38 the only sheep that have red streak on the back in the
39 world. So it's unique. And that time it rained so
40 much there's a chunk that fell off on that -- behind
41 that Big Mountain and went into the river. Our river
42 was red for three days. We don't know how long -- you
43 know, that's what they're famous for, Red Sheep Creek,
44 they lick that minerals to stay healthy and stay within
45 their area. So that's how much it's important.

46
47 We have Venetie, Arctic Village, Fort
48 Yukon and Kaktovik. I just feel -- I just communicated
49 with people face to face and ask them. I found out
50

0190

1 Kaktovik haven't hunt there for a while. They have
2 their sheep along the mountain, close mountain to them.
3 So which is good because we only go up there if we can
4 afford it or we can have those guys do it because it's
5 about 50 miles or more. And once we get to Red Sheep
6 Creek we have to go into miles. I did that eight times
7 and pack it out. We don't have no sport hunter like
8 that, we have (indiscernible) and what else, they get
9 into fit -- we get fit in no time, that's our life,
10 when we get into Red Sheep Creek that's a lot of work,
11 a lot of climbing, a lot of packing. And we respect
12 that, we want to take all the meat home, we even dry it
13 for a few days, you know, to take it home. And one
14 point -- I don't know if it's still in law, but they
15 don't carry subsistence food by aircraft. So we have
16 to make it a way back to the village. Sometime we
17 encounter with time and situation it takes us to get
18 back to the village. Then we have to distribute it to
19 the elders. And that's our way. And many times we
20 encounter with weather.

21

22 There's an allotment there, my sister's
23 allotment is right in the Red Sheep Creek and we -- I
24 can trace where we camp at one time for one whole year
25 -- I mean, one whole -- maybe two, three months we were
26 into the mountains when I was growing up. Two times we
27 did that. It's hard to get from -- away from the
28 village that far to get a sheep. People have to work,
29 people have to take care of their kids, mother had to
30 stay home to take care of their kids and guys have to
31 work a seasonal job. That's how we -- that's our life
32 in the village. Stuck here we got seasonal job. And
33 some of them out to go to work.

34

35 So at that time when I -- we were into
36 the mountain for 20 days, we didn't want to come back.
37 When we were coming back closer to village we could
38 smell and then when we came around the bend the light
39 was too bright, but we had to come back, the winter is
40 coming in. That's the kind of deal -- that's kind of
41 the situation we had to deal with because that's the
42 only season we can go up, that's in the last part of
43 August, first part of September, that was our only
44 time, but we had to beat the winter coming in because
45 it's -- it gets really cold and snow we have to deal
46 with. We had to do it way before that and try to get
47 all these things going. I mean, from the walking with
48 my wool socks at one time and we had to figure out
49 indian way to get back here in a few days. So we did
50

0191

1 that, my feet -- I didn't have to go to the hospital.
2 Because I grab the wrong boots from -- I just came back
3 from our -- somewhere and then we had to leave, I'm not
4 home all the time. I'm talking about TEK everywhere
5 until I'll be satisfied until it's 100 percent. So
6 that's how it is for me.

7

8 And my sister got an allotment there
9 and at the mouth of the Red Sheep Creek where they have
10 airstrip, natural airstrip that hunters go in and out.
11 I see hunter only carrying a -- you know, that Safeway
12 bag or that size that's a hindquarter it fits just
13 right in there, four of them. Because -- I mean, two
14 of them. That's edible, a bag limit and I don't see
15 any meat, but trophy, ram. So that's what we have to
16 deal with.

17

18 I'm taking too long. I want to finish
19 by saying that I'm here at this same place almost every
20 time the sheep come up. They can even -- I think they
21 have a book on me, it's all in there already and a lot
22 of times I still repeat some of the stuff because it
23 needs to be repeated because they're not listening.
24 And when -- back in bow and arrow day we honor our
25 food, we honor our food today. Sheep is -- ram takes a
26 long time to be a ram and that's sacred to us. When we
27 get sheep meat we don't bring it into the front door of
28 skin hut, they bring it in from the back door, there is
29 a back door. And that's how they honor it. So old
30 John Lake got trout we call it -- you know, it's a
31 trout (in Native). We -- they do the same thing with
32 it, you don't overharvest (in Native), it takes 40
33 years to be adult. They do the same thing with (in
34 Native) in those days and we tell these stories and our
35 people have respect for all these things that we are
36 repeatedly telling our people. The other day I was
37 talking like you kids have to be involved and
38 everywhere I say that and said I can't be there every
39 day, I'm not going to cook. I'm 79 years old. I
40 protect the caribou since -- I protect our way of life
41 since I was -- I can't even remember until today and
42 I'm going to die doing that because that's who I am.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
47 Sara. Any questions of Sara.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0192

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sara, I just
2 want to quickly share with you.....

3
4 MS. JAMES: Uh-huh.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I'm just
7 a few years younger and I've been hunting sheep for
8 nearly 50 years and I think I'm getting to the point
9 where they're going to bring the meat to me. So.....

10
11 MS. JAMES: Yeah.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I know
14 what it's like, I understand what you're saying and I
15 really appreciate your testimony.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MS. JAMES: Yes. Thank you. Anymore
20 question.

21
22 MS. POPE: I have a comment.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda.

25
26 MS. POPE: Thank you, Madame Chair. My
27 name is Amanda Pope, I'm from Circle. I had
28 participated in fighting for the caribou with the
29 community of Arctic back in 2009. And I got firsthand
30 knowledge from the elders and I met you then, Sara.
31 And I just want to thank you for continuing fight.

32
33 So thank you.

34
35 MS. JAMES: Thank you. And our area is
36 a healing place, if you guys need healing you'll get
37 healed up there like sheep did. So you'll be welcome
38 up there. And every time I go home it's just healing
39 for me. Just breathing the air, even more so in the
40 Red Sheep Creek, even more so into coastal plain.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Liz.
45 Quick announcement.

46
47 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 Sara, thank you very much for your testimony. I just
49 wanted to respond to one thing about you mentioned

50

0193

1 wanting a seat on the Council perhaps from someone from
2 your region. You guys weren't here yesterday, but the
3 application period was extended for the seats on the
4 Council. There's applications on the back table there,
5 it's a brown little booklet, but it closes very soon.
6 It's -- the applications are due on Tuesday, March 7th.
7 So that's next week on Tuesday. And we would love for
8 someone or multiple people to apply and those
9 applications will get reviewed this summer.

10

11 MS. JAMES: Yeah, I'm so happy, there's
12 quite a few that wants to do that. So there will be
13 one I'm pretty sure.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
18 Sara. Thanks again.

19

20 Pete Peter.

21

22 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, members of
23 the Council. Good morning. My name's Pete Peter and
24 I'm from Vjjhtajj, that's a rich little village named
25 Vjjhtajj or Venetie. That's how much the urban
26 environment that came to us affected -- affected us --
27 our way of life, even our village name. Vjjhtajj is
28 our village name and since the U.S. Postal, United
29 States Postal came in they even change our name to
30 Venetie. Venetie doesn't mean anything, it's a word
31 that they came up with because they can't say Vjjhtajj.
32 And that's how much, you know, encroachment came to us
33 and changed our way of life.

34

35 I serve in the Army most of my life, I
36 retired and even in the Army when I'm away and going to
37 school, my relatives sent me sheep dry meat or caribou
38 dry meat. Even though you're home -- you're homesick
39 so much when you eat those food it gets your stomach
40 warm and that makes you even not being home -- homesick
41 anymore. That's how much the food affect our body.
42 And I experience that being away so far, away from my
43 village and in the Army, away from my family so many
44 months at a time. It keeps you intact with your
45 culture.

46

47 And the significant of (in Native).
48 And (in Native) is sheep and it's been the name (in
49 Native) for thousands of years. And the significant of
50

1 it today is we depend on it more and more because of
2 our climate change, it's affecting our salmon. Right
3 now on the Yukon where you -- I'm sure you're aware of,
4 we're struggling with that. Our caribou at the Arctic
5 Wildlife Refuge, you know, we're protecting that with
6 everything we have for our children and their future
7 because our tribe is getting larger, it's not getting
8 smaller. Our tribe is getting larger and our people
9 depend on that food off the land.

10

11 It's very important that the Board
12 realize that our food shortage is getting -- it's
13 really reality because climate change is also affecting
14 our traditional lakes, the permafrost is melting so our
15 lakes are like you're pulling the plug on it, it
16 disappears. And that's where our fish that we depend
17 on and that's -- if we're shortage of caribou or we're
18 shortage of sheep or it's hard to get to it because of
19 our snowstorm, the way the snowstorm -- even the snow
20 today is different than almost 20 years ago because
21 back in the day it was powdery and we could move easier
22 in the snow, but today it's got ice in it and it's hard
23 to travel, even the animals are having a hard time.
24 And therefore we depend more on the -- if we go back to
25 our fish, even that is disappearing.

26

27 So it's very important that the Board
28 realize that it's the food on the table, it's been like
29 that for thousands of years. And, you know, I care
30 about my children, our tribe, even nonNative people
31 that depend on the food. It's very important that we
32 secure our food because of the climate change is real
33 and I'm from Vjjhtajj/Venetie and I support the closure
34 to continue. And we need to understand our health
35 because when we live off the land it's very important
36 as I see it, I cook for Denali Center at the hospital.
37 It started with just entertainment and then it became a
38 traditional food and when elders come from the village
39 and they go to the hospital they can't -- they don't
40 live that long because of the institutionalized food,
41 urban food, they can't eat that. I know this since
42 almost like 12 years I've been doing that every month.
43 And we notice, the Staff also notice is the elders they
44 begin to even get healthy with our food, that's
45 traditional food. It's actually medicine for our
46 people and that is -- I urge the Board to continue the
47 closure for our people and their subsistence.

48

49 Thank you very much.

50

0195

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Whoops, I hit
2 the wrong button. Sorry. Thank you. Any questions.

3

4

Andy.

5

6

7 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I
8 really appreciate your testimony and especially your
9 discussions on the food and how important that is to
10 you. There's a lot of -- been a lot of research done
11 on that and it -- the scientific aspect of it agrees
12 with you 100 percent that people that grow up on a
13 certain type of food need that type of food to be
14 healthy. And so I really want to thank you for
15 bringing that up because that's often overlooked by
16 people. We are what we eat.

16

17

MR. PETER: Thank you.

18

19

MR. BASSICH: I'll leave it at that.

20

21

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

22

Anyone else.

23

24

(No comments)

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just wanted
to add one thing. A very close neighbor friend of mine
was Eskimo and she died in '93 at 91, Edith Smith. And
they allowed me to bring wild game in and they actually
cooked it for her. And I thought that was really
awesome for them to do that. So I just wanted to say
that Eddie really appreciated that. And my canned
salmon, she says I don't even have to heat it up, I can
just get it and eat it she said. So I really -- it's
pretty neat that that -- they would do that, I hope
they still do.

37

38

MR. PETER: Thank you.

39

40

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

41

42

MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is

43

Charlie.

44

45

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,

46

Charlie.

47

48

49

MR. WRIGHT: I wish I was in the room
with the people there, it's really good to hear the

50

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1 people from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge area,
2 those up there that rely on this food. Like Andy said
3 it's so important to our health and our well being to
4 eat our local foods. It's just really great to hear
5 and know people are in the room standing up and
6 talking. That's what needs to happen and that's what
7 that -- this is the process so it's really good and I
8 encourage more people to show up and talk and stand for
9 their food because of climate change especially and the
10 flexible regulatory bodies and all the changes
11 happening, it's so important for people to come and
12 stand up and talk for themselves and push for their
13 food security. Things are getting rougher and it's
14 going to get tougher going into the future. So it's
15 really good to hear people talking, coming in and
16 standing up and talking.

17

18 Thank you for all showing up. I wish I
19 could be in the room with you. I'm not feeling very
20 well, that's why I'm not there. I just appreciate you
21 all.

22

23 Thank you very much, Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
26 Charlie. I just want to tell the members and the
27 public that may not know, we have two members that are
28 very sick and they're online and Charlie Wright from
29 Tanana is one and then Eva Burk is from Circle?

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: Fairbanks.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fair -- she
34 lives in Fairbanks but she -- her.....

35

36 MS. MCDAVID: Nenana.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nenana. She
39 represents Nenana. So yeah, unfortunate that they
40 can't be here with us. But at least they're allowed to
41 participate like this. Yeah.

42

43 Andy.

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, I.....

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair.

48

49 MR. BASSICH:one thing that I --

50

0197

1 I kind of sound like a broken record at every meeting,
2 but it's something I believe to be very true and it's
3 one of the most fundamental aspects of subsistence
4 living that I've learned because I live that way too
5 even though I'm not Native, this is the way I live.
6 And that is that to live a subsistence lifestyle you
7 must have consistent, reliable access to your
8 resources. When that chain is broken it totally
9 disrupts the way you live subsistence and how well you
10 can live subsistence. And I know that's why you're
11 here, you depend on the sheep, you depend on the other
12 animals, you depend on your fish. And when any one of
13 those goes away it creates a lot of hardship, it
14 creates unhealthy conditions for you and it disrupts
15 the entire life cycle of living that lifestyle.

16

17 So I just wanted to bring that up and
18 put that on the record during this testimony.

19

20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And
23 then I think I heard Eva.

24

25 MS BURK: You did. I had a question
26 about like you could -- living, you know, learning
27 about this Red -- the Red Sheep, for -- we've heard
28 about it multiple times for years now and I'm wondering
29 is there a way to place this area like permanently or
30 for more than one cycle to where it's not always coming
31 -- people wanting to see if it can be opened up for
32 people that aren't Federally-qualified users. Is there
33 a permanent process for that?

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be
36 a question of Staff and, Eva, I had one more blue card,
37 do you want to have it now?

38

39 MS. BURK: No, no. No, thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So let's take
42 care of that when we deliberate.

43

44 All right. Next would be Tanya
45 Garnett.

46

47 MS. GARNETT: Hi, my name is Tanya
48 Garnett. I'm (in Native), I'm from Arctic Village and
49 I represent the Arctic Village and Native Village of
50

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1 Venetie tribal government. I work for both Arctic
2 Village Council and the Native Village. We -- I'm here
3 to represent them, we're here to support to continue
4 the closure to the Arctic Village Sheep Management
5 Area. This is -- it's a really important issue and I
6 really appreciate Eva's question because that's been on
7 my mind as well.

8
9 My mom, my late mom, had -- has land up
10 there and so now it's going to belong to me and my
11 brothers as well and we have to continue to face this
12 issue every other year. And though Red Sheep Creek is
13 part of our ancestral lands, our ancestral hunting
14 lands. And we've been going there since -- for
15 thousands and thousands of years, use -- we use or
16 traditional knowledge, our TEK, to manage our hunting.
17 And it tell -- it let's us know when to take, how much
18 to take, what to take. And this is science that has
19 passed down through our TEK for -- from thousands and
20 thousands of years of experience.

21
22 And when our men go up there -- Arctic
23 Village is known for people, our community, that we're
24 happy, we're humble, we celebrate things a lot and
25 people like to go up there for good times. And of
26 course you guys are all welcome to come up there, I'm
27 part of helping you guys to coordinate the meeting.
28 And we'll show you like our people and our community.
29 And we're known for that and the reason why is because
30 we're still able to practice all of our traditional
31 activities, our traditional hunting or -- we're still
32 able to learn from the elders and they pass it down.
33 And when those guys go up to Red Sheep Creek and go
34 hunting it's kind of like a rite of passage, it's just
35 they give -- they have so much pride when they're up
36 there and when they're -- we -- when they -- when
37 they're successful and they come home and they -- and
38 they provide for the community, the elders and the food
39 is medicine. The food is medicine for all of our
40 people especially our elders.

41
42 And for us this is part of our cultural
43 identity. And this is like so many people in this
44 world don't have that. And we do, we know who we are,
45 we're Gwich'in and we're -- we've lived on that land
46 even before any of the borders were placed there, any
47 of the different land management areas, you know, and
48 this -- and we've managed it and our resources have
49 lasted us this long. So that's proof that our
50

0199

1 traditional knowledge is done in the right way. And by
2 -- so like why I wouldn't want any of this taken from
3 us because when -- in a leadership role for our people,
4 Gwich'in people, I look to the hunters a lot because
5 the hunters are the ones, our men, our hunters are the
6 ones that are going out there. They go out on the land
7 every day. They have the knowledge that I don't have,
8 I can do the paperwork, I can speak and, you know,
9 represent them and I can, you know, cut meat when they
10 bring it home and I can do this and that, but they're
11 the ones out on the land every day. They get that
12 experience, they get that connection. And so I look to
13 them. And the -- they know who they are, you know, and
14 it's just -- they're just awesome and I just wouldn't
15 want that to stop.

16

17 So I'm just here to say that, you know,
18 that you guys are welcome to Arctic Village. I'll be
19 connecting I think with Brooke, we've been emailing
20 kind of.....

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah.

23

24 MS. GARNETT:and you guys will
25 have a good time. And you guys -- this is just a
26 handful of us. And sometimes we come in here because
27 we're trying to protect our -- this is our life, you
28 know, our life, our -- and we come in here and you hear
29 people talk strong and it's because they're passionate,
30 they're not mad, they're passionate. So you'll go up
31 there and you'll hear them and all of our people, they
32 like to share, they like to welcome visitors and you're
33 just welcome.

34

35 Thank you for allowing us some time to
36 speak here.

37

38 (In Native)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank
41 you. I wanted to let you know that three of us at
42 least here were in Arctic Village at our last meeting
43 in 2006 I think it was. Yeah.

44

45 MS. GARNETT: Uh-huh.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we
48 saw.....

49

50

0200

1 MS. GARNETT: Good.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:your
4 hospitality.....

5

6 MS. GARNETT: Yeah.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and we
9 would love to come back. So any other Council members,
10 anything.

11

12 Linda.

13

14 MS. EVANS: Yeah. This is Linda Evans
15 and I'm from Rampart area. I was just wondering since
16 we have you here we're talking about how things are
17 changing with the climate change and all that. And I
18 notice in our area the lack of birds and the lack of
19 berries and I was wondering if you see that in your
20 area also?

21

22 MS. GARNETT: So we were talking
23 yesterday and with a couple of the elders and they were
24 saying that some of the birds that used to go up there
25 don't -- no longer go up there. And then there was
26 this one bird, I think was it dill?

27

28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Dill, yeah.

29

30 MS. GARNETT: Dill that doesn't come up
31 there anymore ever since the Valdez spill, that they
32 don't come up there no longer, and that was ever since
33 the Valdez spill.

34

35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Dill and
36 (indiscernible).....

37

38 MS. GARNETT: That they don't come up
39 no longer and that was ever since the Valdez spill But
40 so I would refer that question to our Second Chief
41 Robert Sam. He would know more.

42

43 And then the berries, it's hit and
44 miss, but we've had good berries, but I don't think
45 this past year berries were not good. It's just
46 different year to year.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
49 Should I invite him up to answer or.....

50

0201

1 MS. EVANS: Yeah, we can do that.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: I would let him and fill
4 out a blue card.

5

6 MS. GARNETT: He's a little shy.

7

8 MR. SAM: Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
11 related to Edward?

12

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Son? No.

16

17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Nephew.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nephew.

20 Okay. Well, you got to tell Edward hello.....

21

22 MR. SAM: Thank.....

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:from
25 Madame Chair as he calls me.

26

27 MR. SAM: Yeah, thank you guys for
28 having us. And we were supposed to be in my community
29 hall today having this discussion in my community. But
30 we are here because of some changes. But as you see
31 the guys behind me they have been representatives for
32 my people for many years, you know, Sara's been on the
33 fight for our National Wildlife Refuge 10.02 area.
34 Ernest and everybody has always spoke on behalf of our
35 meals. Right now today, yesterday, this week we had
36 three of our proteins on our plates that are at risk
37 of, you know, being taken away. Sadly, you know, the
38 fisheries didn't pass, no fishing rod for none of the
39 subsistence indigenous people, but we're affected right
40 there.

41

42 But seems like we're always at these
43 gatherings to talk about food and that's why we're here
44 is we want to be able to continue to practice our
45 traditional way of life. Up there in the Red Sheep
46 area is traditionally -- it's a lot of tradition, a lot
47 of history of our people up there, my grandmother's
48 grandma is buried up there at the headwater of Women
49 Creek which is across from Red Sheep.

50

0202

1 But I could go on. I just wanted to
2 say thank you guys, I know you guys have a tough
3 decision to make and, you know, choices to make. I
4 know not all of you, but I see some of you on TV and
5 I've heard some names, you know, thank you, Donald, for
6 bringing up the TEK, you know, Jagow, Andy, I got to
7 know you guys on National Geographic. No, that's
8 awesome, but we all live off the land and live that
9 style, you know, and we have to be a Swiss army knife
10 and make multiple decisions, you know, But when it
11 comes to our meals making a decision of what kind of
12 protein we want to put on there for our families and
13 it's that threat yeah, we're going to say something.

14
15 This intertwines with the 10.02 area
16 sheep. I'm glad Nathan clarified that, you know, the
17 harvest tags were not presented until a couple weeks
18 after August 9th of the opening. So anyways, you know,
19 we have sheep hunters north of us above our region on
20 the other side of the continental divide which is also
21 happening in early August and which the migration of
22 the Porcupine Caribou Herd is supposed to be coming up
23 through the Hulu Hulu and down into the northeast from
24 basically the Sheenjok and we haven't had that happen
25 since the opening of hunters up on the north side of
26 the continental divide. He said seven a year, I think
27 we seen a picture with 13 rams being posted the other
28 year. That's 13 planes that have to fly up and over.
29 So they're diverting them, you know, our other source
30 of food down into the Wind River drainages and then
31 they're coming in a little later. But anyways we're
32 always talking on behalf of our stomach.

33
34 And like I say thank you all for
35 representing your tributaries and let's make decisions
36 for our stomachs.

37
38 MS. GARNETT: Yeah, due to climate
39 change has there been a difference in birds and
40 berries?

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
43 doing that.

44
45 MR. SAM: Yes, let's say last year
46 there was a lack of berries, the other year -- the year
47 before is like me and my family went out and picked up
48 five gallons in a matter of two hours. Last year was,
49 you know, merely got a couple gallons in days of
50

0203

1 scavenging. But yeah, but I don't know why. But it's
2 like the rabbit, maybe like the Arctic hare, there's a
3 cycle they come around, they go and I don't know, I'm
4 not the berry god so.....

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. SAM: No. No, you see sudden
9 changes in certain things, certain animals throughout
10 time and I'm pretty sure some of us that are down in
11 lynx country you can observe -- there's going to be a
12 good portion due to lynx due to their food. So and
13 then the other question was?

14

15 MS. GARNETT: Any difference in the
16 birds that come up sort of like lack of or.....

17

18 MR. SAM: No, I haven't seen a magpie
19 since '95 and El Nino brought them up here when the
20 warm weather started. I trapped one right outside
21 Ernie's house where I used to have my little -- my
22 fort, by a tree squirrel house. No, I caught a magpie
23 back in '95 and yeah, that was when El Nino first
24 started and yeah, right away I knew it was a southeast
25 bird because I look at all the animals that are in
26 Alaska and the -- yeah, that was not normal. But no,
27 as of recent I haven't seen changes in birds.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
30 you. Any other questions.

31

32 MR. SAM: I feel special, I didn't even
33 have to hand this in to anybody.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you
38 very much.

39

40 MR. SAM: Well, I'm just going to
41 finish off and say, you know, right now we are supposed
42 to be in a different, you know, meeting, but yeah,
43 thank you for hearing us. I waited until my people
44 have spoke so I can actually, you know, come in here
45 and say thank you. And like I say we're running around
46 here for our food security, you know, this way of --
47 the world is going right now, you're having water
48 shortages, having everything we -- where we live, we're
49 there for a reason. Your camp is a good spot for a
50

0204

1 caribou crossing, moose, a good source of fish.

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Use to.

4

5 MR. SAM: We all -- yeah, we used to.
6 We still do, we just have to change some things. You
7 know, all of our communities, Rampart, Arctic Village,
8 Venetie, Fort Yukon, Circle, they all sit in a certain
9 area because back in the day, the nomadic days, that's
10 where the good gathering of food was out. So that's
11 why we are here.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

14

15 MR. SAM: And that's all I have to say
16 and I'm going to.....

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

19

20 MR. SAM:any questions.

21

22 MS. POPE: Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda.

25

26 MS. POPE: Hello, everyone. My name is
27 Amanda Pope for the record. I thank you all for being
28 here and testifying on behalf of the closure. I see in
29 the Federal regs that it states that it -- the hunting
30 -- I'll just read what it says. It says hunting dall
31 sheep within the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area
32 is restricted to residents of the Arctic Village -- of
33 Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, Kaktovik and
34 Venetie. My question is I guess -- I guess it's not
35 really a question, it's more of a comment. My family's
36 from that area, I'm originally from Fort Yukon and I
37 got family from Old Crow, got family in Arctic, all
38 over the flats. Why -- I guess my concern is people
39 who are not living in those area, are we also
40 restricted if we don't live in those communities?
41 Yeah.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be
44 hard for him to answer.

45

46 MS. EVANS: No. No, I mean, I'm
47 just.....

48

49 MR. SAM: Yeah, because I wasn't there

50

0205

1 when they made that.

2

3 MS. EVANS:I'm just not.....

4

5 MR. SAM: No, no, I understand.

6

7 MS. EVANS:I'm not putting the
8 question to you.....

9

10 MR. SAM: I understand the question.

11

12 MS. EVANS:it's more of a
13 question to the Board I guess.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can do
16 that -- we can do that when we deliberate.....

17

18 MS. EVANS: Uh-huh.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:we're
21 just doing public testimony now. But that's good
22 questions to talk about whenever we go to the next
23 subject which is.....

24

25 MS. EVANS:

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:we talk
28 about it.

29

30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'd just like the
31 question that that guy back there had about, you know,
32 coming over here and then not qualified to go out and
33 do his subsistence. That's.....

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

36

37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE:yeah, that's
38 very hurtful because we.....

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thank you
41 for your time.

42

43 MR. SAM: All right.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you
46 very much.

47

48 MR. SAM: Thank you.

49

50

0206

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's take a
2 short break, it -- I will say five, but it always turns
3 out to 10. And we need to -- unless you guys want to
4 finish this up right now.

5
6 MR. ERICK: Yes, to answer your
7 question -- I can answer that Tanya Garnett. I'm
8 Ernest Erick. To answer your question, ma'am, you
9 know, the Native people within the State of Alaska and
10 all the biologists they're there to protect the animal,
11 but.....

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Excuse me.
14 Could you calm down, we haven't really recessed right
15 now.

16
17 MR. ERICK: Anyway to answer your
18 question the population you're not receiving. I mean,
19 we're doing our part to protect the wildlife within the
20 State of Alaska. There's a very other side of the
21 Yukon River that's very clean, the northern part, the
22 northern atmosphere. But when -- after the fall all
23 the little ducks and everything, the wildlife, goes
24 south. It comes back in the springtime, it has a
25 problem. Either bird flu or disturbment on their
26 habitat area down in lower 48 or how far the birds are
27 going. Yes, we have a problem. That little snipe
28 suddenly is declining because of where it -- where it
29 is coming from down in the lower 48. And it really
30 hurts me that when we're trying to have a better
31 habitat in those areas to feed our animals. It's very
32 important for the nutrition for our people. But when
33 -- this is like a slop bucket, when you pour it out
34 there on the land, out there in the lower 48 where
35 you're disturbing the water and the lakes and all the
36 refinery, smoke coming out of it, our birds that we eat
37 migrate down to the south, how far south it goes. So
38 when it migrates up to the north it carries a lot of
39 stuff. And here in Alaska it's just a birth -- it's a
40 birthplace where they lay eggs. The Gwich'in people
41 don't harvest eggs, they let it go in the springtime so
42 we'll have more of that population. But when that
43 population increase here it goes down south, those
44 350,000 acres that we supposed to protect under
45 wildlife and also Refuge is being disturbed from man or
46 equipment or spilling things on the ground. That's why
47 you don't receive your ducks, birds. The geese
48 population is just increase the last few years.

49
50

0207

1 So that's my question to you, you know,
2 that the lower 48 is not doing their part to keep these
3 animals and keep these birds lively. But when they're
4 singing, running back to Alaska they have a good hearth
5 because they know that atmosphere, the economic ways up
6 there is very important for them to keep. It's just
7 like they're cleaning out their system out again by
8 eating those grass -- grass roots, by eating the
9 tundra, the caribou. If we spoil this it ain't going
10 to live any longer. So my word to the biologist, my
11 word to the engineer, go to those habitat down in lower
12 48, start cleaning those manmade lakes.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I just
17 want to help the Council members out. We have before
18 us this closure review and we were given a -- the OSM's
19 conclusion to retain the status and then there was
20 other things discussed and what to do. I probably need
21 a little direction from our support here. There is a
22 call for proposals and that comes after these last --
23 the other things that we got to do first and when we go
24 into that that is the time that there would be a
25 proposal made that's different than what's on the
26 wildlife review. Does that make sense?

27

28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I just
31 wanted to help the new members out so they understand
32 and if you have any questions let me know. Yeah.
33 Okay.

34

35 We will take a short break and then
36 come back and finish up on the Arctic Village Wildlife
37 Ref or Sheep Management Area and then it's -- we have a
38 bison thing that we got to take up, it's a time
39 certain.

40

41 Thank you. Ten minutes.

42

43 (Off record)

44

45 (On record)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:meeting
48 back to order. There's been a lot of questions going
49 on and I'm going to ask Brooke to get some answers to
50

0208

1 leadership for the people of Arctic Village so they can
2 understand if there's anyone left.

3

4 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 And I'll just ask if anyone from OSM leadership or
6 other agency Staff could comment on if there is a
7 process to pursue a more permanent closure for Arctic
8 Village Sheep Management Area.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair,
13 members of the Council. Katya Wessels for the record.
14 I will try to answer to the best of my ability. So the
15 Arctic Valley Sheep Management Area currently is
16 protected to the highest degree possible under the
17 Federal subsistence management regulations. The matter
18 reads that it's closed, this area's closed to non-
19 Federally-qualified subsistence users. And these
20 closures are currently being reviewed every four years.
21 It's not every two years, it's every four years then
22 they will come before your Council. But, you know, I
23 understand that people from the community is
24 frustrated, that they need to testify or they feel they
25 need to testify every time it comes up. But it's their
26 right to come and testify at, you know, anytime this
27 closure is reviewed. They don't have to come, they
28 also can call in on the phone to testify if they want
29 to. There is also we have a lot of history from the
30 previous testimonies, we have all the transcripts, all
31 the recordings, so this knowledge is there, this
32 knowledge is included in the analysis, this knowledge
33 is presented to the Board. The Board has a very good
34 knowledge of how important this area to the local
35 people and we will keep apprising the new members of
36 the Board on this. That -- and there also needs to be
37 an understanding even though this area is closed,
38 anyone can put a proposal in at anytime there is an
39 open period for the wildlife proposals, any member of
40 the public, any organization, any -- anybody, State of
41 Alaska can put a proposal in to open the area. And
42 then there will be a proposal in front of you again
43 about the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area. And
44 there's no way to prevent these people from putting the
45 proposals in, that's a right that any citizen has a
46 right to do that.

47

48 So that's kind of an answer that I can
49 give you at this point. If there's anybody else from
50

0209

1 OSM that wants to add anything you're welcome to, but
2 that is my reply to the question if it can be
3 permanently protected under the Federal subsistence
4 regulations already as permanently protected as
5 possible.

6
7 MR. VICKERS: Hello, Katya or hello,
8 members of the Board. This is Brent Vickers, I'm the
9 OSM Anthropology Division Supervisor. If I may be able
10 to add to what Katya said?

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Absolutely.
13 Go ahead.

14
15 MR. VICKERS: Thank you very much. I
16 appreciate everything I've been able to listen to today
17 and it's great testimony so thank you. Just to add to
18 what Katya said, she's right about everything. The
19 closure reviews are -- was not a decision by OSM, this
20 isn't just the sort of thing we said hey, let's do
21 this. This is actually a direction from the Board.
22 The Board made this policy that we review all Federal
23 closures on Federal lands every four years. So this is
24 a process that is basically under -- under law by the
25 Board or policy by the Board, we can't deviate from it.

26
27
28 I do not know of any way to make this
29 -- this or any closure on Federal lands for reasons of
30 subsistence to be a permanent closure like they may
31 have on some of the National Park Lands and that's
32 under Nat -- or Natural Parks and Preserves and I'm
33 sorry, I don't know the -- I often don't know the
34 difference in the regulations, but they have their own
35 system that's under National Parks, a nationwide thing
36 where they may have no take from certain areas. But as
37 far as the Subsistence Board is concerned there is not
38 a way that I know of and if there's anything we will
39 get back to you, but -- on that, but it -- all the
40 closures under the Board have to be reviewed every four
41 years just like we're doing right now.

42
43 So if -- I hope that helps to answer
44 some questions in addition to what Katya had said and
45 please let me know if you have additional questions.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would just
48 like to add, Linda, I was wrong, what I said about a
49 proposal. It -- this is a -- the most restrictive that
50

0210

1 can happen on that land, correct, so and it's a
2 closure. Any -- the only other thing if it was totally
3 closed period, right, to everyone.

4

5 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I
8 was wrong when I spoke to you earlier. I just wanted
9 to clarify that. Do you -- hope you -- if you have any
10 questions go ahead and ask them.

11

12 MS. EVANS: The -- in order to protect
13 this area for the people of Arctic Village, Venetie,
14 Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, do they put in a proposal to
15 have the closure, I mean, to just keep it as a closure,
16 what -- I mean, what's the purpose of reviewing the
17 thing every four years because sometime somebody might
18 put in a proposal to open it up or.....

19

20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted).

22

23 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

24

25 MR. VICKERS: Hello, this.....

26

27 MS. WESSELS: Through the -- through
28 the Chair. The.....

29

30 MR. VICKERS: I'm sorry, Katya. Sorry.

31

32 MS. WESSELS:the purpose of
33 reviewing the closure every four years is because all
34 the closures are reviewed every four years in case the
35 situation, the circumstances changed. It might not
36 change in the situation with the Arctic Village Sheep
37 Management Area, but it can change somewhere else with
38 some other closures. And some closures need to be
39 lifted. And your Council even lifted some closures in
40 other area of your region. And the -- that's the
41 highest level of protection like Sue said besides
42 closing it to everyone, but I'm sure people in the
43 communities of Arctic Village and Venetie and
44 Chalkyitsik don't want that area to be closed to them
45 because that's their traditional and sacred land. So
46 they -- they would not want to put a proposal in to
47 close it completely to everyone I would think. You
48 know, but of course anybody is free to put in any
49 proposal they want, you know, and then it will be up to
50

0211

1 the program to validate the proposal if it's within the
2 scope of the program.

3

4

5 And I also wanted to add something
6 about the public testimony. You know, one of the main
7 reasons for the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
8 Council existence is actually to provide a platform for
9 public to testimony. Any of your meeting the public is
10 welcome and encouraged to attend and testify. So we
11 are actually very happy that Arctic Village people and
12 the other tribal people are here testifying because we
13 want to hear from the public, they want to hear their
14 opinion, we want to know what's happening on the
15 ground, why is it important to them or maybe things had
16 changed. That's -- that's how we gather the
17 information. It's not just you, the Council members,
18 who provide us with information, it's also the public
19 to provide the information for us to make the informed
20 decision for -- I mean, for the Board, the Federal
21 Subsistence Board, to make the informed decision in the
22 end. So you as a Council serve as a very important
23 platform for the people of the region to provide this
24 testimony. So I know that it might be tiring sometimes
25 to some people to come to every meeting, but if they
26 want to come the opportunity is there, either in person
27 or via teleconference.

27

28

Thank you.

29

30

31

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that
helpful.

32

33

34

MS. EVANS: I have one more question.

35

36

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
Linda.

37

38

39

40

41

42

MS. EVANS: Now the process for this
that we're reviewing this closure, say our Council says
we'll just stay with it as it is and then our
recommendation go to the Board, right?

43

44

45

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The Federal
Subsistence Board.

46

47

48

49

50

MS. EVANS: The Federal Subsistence
Board and when will they next and when will they look
at that.

0212

1 MS. MCDAVID: Sue, I can respond.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next --

4 Brooke or Katya.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Yes. Linda, so today the
7 presentation of the analysis and the testimony, this is
8 just a preliminary. This is sort of food for thought
9 for you Council, because it will come as official
10 review of the closure in front of you in the fall.
11 This fall when you meet and when we hopefully go to
12 Arctic Village, that's when it will come in front of
13 the Council for making their recommendation to the
14 Federal Subsistence Board. Then after the fall meeting
15 your official recommendation will be written down, it
16 will be included in the final analysis that go to the
17 Federal Subsistence Board and then the Board will meet
18 in April of 2024 to make their determination on this
19 closure. So there is more time.

20

21 Right now it's just like this is coming
22 up because we want the Council to think about it
23 because not in the situation maybe with the Arctic
24 Village Sheep Management Area, but in the situation
25 with other closures, the Council might want to put in a
26 proposal. And that's an opportunity right now to put
27 in a proposal because that's the only opportunity you
28 will have now for the next two years to put in a
29 proposal. So and there -- in other regions there are
30 other closures coming in front of the Councils and in
31 some situations Council will listen to that preliminary
32 information in the closure and they think we can change
33 the regulation to make it better and they put a
34 proposal in. And that's when in the fall they're going
35 to look at the closure that they have and also at that
36 proposal that they put in.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I want to
39 help Linda because of what you asked me earlier. This
40 is the strictest that can happen for that area because
41 it's not a National Park. In National Parks that were
42 created in 1980 in ANILCA, there is places where their
43 -- the only people that can hunt is subsistence. And
44 that doesn't occur on Fish and Wildlife Service, all
45 the other lands, it's just the Park Land. So that's
46 where my mind got a little mixed up when I was talking
47 to you. I just wanted to help you to understand. So
48 this is the -- if we made a proposal right now it would
49 be lifting something, it would make it easier, not

50

0213

1 harder. Okay.

2

3

4 MS. WESSELS: Yes. And I also want to
5 add that the Council needs to remember that the Board
6 when you provide your official recommendations to the
7 Board in the fall the Board will consider and give a
8 deference to Council recommendations. There's only
9 three, you know, situations when the Board might
10 consider not to follow Council recommendations and
11 they're all spelled out in ANILCA so I'm not going to
12 repeat it. But, you know, most of the time the Board
13 follows the Council recommendations unless there's some
14 -- you know, some of those other items that are spelled
15 out in ANILCA are -- come into play. But I don't think
16 that's the case in this situation here.

16

17

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And just
being on this Council so long I think at this
particular meeting having this as information in front
of proposals got a little confusing. And I think it's
really hard for the people in Arctic Village to say why
are we doing this twice this year. So I just want to
tell you in -- this -- we're in the same boat, we're
doing this twice this year so it's a little confusing
because we're not supposed to vote on it until after we
come up there and talk to you guys. So I just wanted
to kind of clarify that for all of us.

So if there's any other questions it's
-- this is the time.

MS. EVANS: Okay. So the final
decision on this particular -- the final decision on
this particular thing will be in 2024?

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Correct.

MS. WESSELS: Yeah, by the Board.

MS. EVANS: At the Board meeting.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: By the Board.

MS. WESSELS: Yes.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we will
take it up at our fall meeting.....

MS. EVANS: Uh-huh.

0214

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and
2 that's when we make our recommendation. Right now
3 we're just listening to what's going on. So it's --
4 does that -- it's just information and a chance to
5 write a proposal which would relax, not make it more
6 difficult. Does that -- is that helpful?

7
8 MS. EVANS: I think so, yes.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
11 Yeah.

12
13 MS. EVANS: And I think I understand
14 the process now. I'm just wondering if there's another
15 process that's going to interfere with this one where
16 it might bring it up and.....

17
18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is it.

21
22 MS. EVANS: Okay. All right.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

25 Thank you.

26
27 MS. EVANS: So the final decision on
28 this thing won't be until January or.....

29
30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: April.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: April I guess
33 it is.

34
35 MS. EVANS:April of 2024?

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: By the Board,
38 yes.

39
40 MS. EVANS: Okay. Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I do feel
43 sorry for the people to have to listen to it so many
44 times.

45
46 Okay. We have a time certain on the --
47 the bison. And that would be the wood bison with Tom
48 Seaton and Luke Rogers.

49
50

0215

1 MR. SEATON: Hello, I'm Tom Seaton,
2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and with the Wood
3 Bison Project. And thank you for giving me some time
4 on your busy agenda. I've got a Powerpoint
5 presentation if you can pull that up, it's got some
6 maps and things in it.

7
8 So I've reported to you folks several
9 times before. And I'm here today just to tell you more
10 about what we've got going on. We've got a wood bison
11 meeting currently going on over at La Quinta Hotel just
12 down the road here for the Yukon Flats area. I see
13 this first slide coming in.

14
15 But first this -- this is an important
16 photo here. You see these bison on the ice. This is a
17 -- that calf is probably the first wild bred, wild born
18 wood bison in Alaska or all of the United States in the
19 last hundred years. And so that's a pretty special
20 photo and that's -- that's in the Lower Innoko/Yukon
21 Rivers Herd that was established in 2015. That herd is
22 about 150 animals as of late November. When we did our
23 survey last year it was 150 minimum count.

24
25 There is a planning team for that herd
26 and it's -- that site specific planning team is made up
27 of the Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the Federal
28 Regional Advisory Councils, local communities,
29 representatives of all these groups, tribes,
30 corporations, the agencies, conservation groups and
31 urban centers specific to this focus area. And that --
32 this group has decided that even though we have about
33 150 animals we want more growth before they start
34 harvest.

35
36 Now one of the reasons why I want to
37 talk to you today is that this herd is established and
38 stable and now we're looking for -- to put our eggs in
39 more than one basket as it were, so look for other
40 places to establish more populations.

41
42 So if you can go to the next slide,
43 please.

44
45 So our current efforts are scoping
46 meetings in several or in three main areas. And we --
47 we're working in the Yukon Flats, the upper Tanana
48 drainage which is essentially from Tok to the Canadian
49 border, the Yukon territory border there and the lower
50

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1 Tanana drainage which is from Fairbanks to Tanana
2 Village essentially. Those are three places of good
3 habitat in the interior of Alaska that bison might
4 succeed and so we're spending a lot of time talking to
5 people about the idea of that.

6
7 Go to the next slide, please.

8
9 And so we've got some short term goals
10 with our current efforts and the number 1 thing is just
11 to listen to what people want and discover issues that
12 might be difficult to overcome just to kind of get all
13 the issues on the table and then look for local
14 support. We don't want to start a bison population or
15 try to restore wood bison in a place where there isn't
16 local support. So that's our short term goals.

17
18 The long term goals are to look for a
19 regulatory framework to deal with the issues that
20 people bring up and then come to some consensus on
21 those issues and then create a management plan a lot
22 like the Innoko group did with all interest groups and
23 then submit that plan to the Board of Game and the
24 Federal Subsistence Board. That's part of the process
25 outlined in the nonessential experimental population
26 rule that's written under the Endangered Species Act
27 for this -- for this herd. These animals are
28 threatened right now.

29
30 So if you'd go to the next slide,
31 please.

32
33 So this is a flow chart, you can't see
34 what it is. But in the top in orange there -- this is
35 kind of the flow chart that we're following with the
36 Wood Bison Project. In orange it's essentially, you
37 know, is this a good place for wood bison. And that
38 can come from local observations, local requests, even
39 requests from the Governor, GIS analysis, just trying
40 to figure out where the best habitats are. And we also
41 have done, you know, habitat analysis in several places
42 on the ground.

43
44 And then the next one, the kind of
45 light green is to engage the public. And that's really
46 where we're at with the lower Tanana, upper Tanana,
47 Yukon Flats. We can do that without reaching
48 education which we've got a K through 12 school
49 curriculum, we've been working with that. We spend a
50

0217

1 lot of times meeting with organizations and
2 communities. And then we're doing the -- essentially
3 the first assembly of the site specific planning team
4 so getting representatives again from all the
5 corporations, tribes, the agencies and everybody
6 together.

7

8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted).

10

11 MR. SEATON: That's what we've been
12 doing in the last two months for all these three areas.

13

14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted).

16

17 MR. SEATON: Now the next step in kind
18 of purple there is essentially is there support for
19 wood bison restoration in these areas and that has to
20 come from all these different interest groups. If
21 there is we can move on to the step in blue there of
22 site specific planning. And Innoko like I said has
23 been through this whole system and they can -- that
24 site specific planning can specifically address harvest
25 strategy and, you know, where would we release animals,
26 all that, that little yellow diamond below that is
27 about going through the approval process of the Federal
28 Subsistence Board and the Board of Game.

29

30 Below that in red is to prepare for
31 release. Once the Board of Game and the Federal
32 Subsistence Board are like yeah, this -- this sounds
33 good, we can go for a release. The dotted line there
34 along the bottom is we actually we release bison. Once
35 we get past that releasing bison stage then there's
36 monitoring of the bison in the wild.....

37

38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted).

40

41 MR. SEATON:and continued
42 communication with communities, potentially some
43 harvest. That lower right yellow diamond is a.....

44

45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted).

47

48 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, Tom.

49

50

0218

1 MR. SEATON: Yeah.

2

3

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MS. MCDAVID: If someone on the line has an open mic please mute your phone, star, six or use the mute button. We're getting a lot of feedback in the room and it's hard to hear the presenter, shuffling of paper, typing.

Thank you.

MR. SEATON: Thanks. On the bottom right that yellow diamond there is are more bison desired, you know, in starting more herds in the area or more animals added to a particular herd. Then we kind of come back around to the management planning system and work our way around. So that's the general scheme of how it works.

Next slide, please.

So this is the focus area that's being discussed right now in green over at La Quinta Hotel over the last two days and today where we've invited all the -- the representatives from all the villages there and agencies and everything as I spoke of before, but this gives you an idea of where the other bison herds are in the State right now too. So the far left and the far right in red are wood bison populations and the one on the far right over is the Aishihik Herd in Yukon territory. The ones in black are the plains bison herds that we've had in the State for almost a century now, about 94 years. And then like I said the green area is the focus are.

So if we go to the next slide, please.

This is the focus area for the upper Tanana. We had this meeting about three weeks ago in Tok. And had all -- you know, all local communities there. It is the same sort of maps with all the different herds, but just to give you an idea of where that area is.

And then go to the next slide, please.

So this is the lower Tanana area that we've discussed, you know, everything from Fairbanks down to Tanana Village. There's also a lot of good habitat in there and there's a lot of villages and a

0219

1 lot of different folks there.

2

3 Next slide, please.

4

5 So we're getting into land ownership
6 now for each of these areas. So this is focused in now
7 on the Yukon Flats area and the landownership. You can
8 see the kind of reddish brown areas are the tribal
9 lands, private lands and then the darker green areas
10 around that are -- is the Refuge lands, the Yukon Flats
11 Refuge and then the blue is State lands, the yellow is
12 BLM lands. And so you can see that that area has a lot
13 of Federal land.

14

15 Go to the next slide, please.

16

17 And so this is the representation of
18 land status as far as, you know, the Board of Game and
19 the Federal Subsistence Board is concerned, but it's 70
20 percent Federal in the Yukon Flats area.

21

22 Next slide.

23

24 So this is the upper Tanana. The pink
25 is Park Service Lands, that didn't show up in the last
26 one. The dark green is the Refuge lands for the Tetlin
27 Refuge, then again the reddish brown is tribal lands or
28 private lands. And then the blue is State lands.

29

30 And then go to the next slide, please.

31

32 You can see that's about 60 percent
33 Federal in that focus area.

34

35 Next slide.

36

37 So this is the lower Tanana and again
38 blue is State land. You can see there's lots of State
39 land in there. That kind of green outlined area is the
40 Minto Flats State Game Refuge, kind of in the right
41 center.

42

43 And go to the next slide, please.

44

45 You see predominantly in this area it's
46 about three-quarters State land.

47

48 And so next slide, please.

49

50

0220

1 So I have some requests today and since
2 we request that Regional Advisory Councils attend these
3 wood bison meetings we would like for you guys to
4 appoint a representative if you're willing and
5 interested to attend these meetings. Another thing is
6 if you're willing to do something like a resolution of
7 support to guide the Wood Bison Project to continue
8 these discussions.

9

10 And that's the end of my presentation.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,

13

14 Tom.

15

16 MR. SEATON: Yeah.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any

19

20 questions.

21

22 Don.

23

24 MR. WOODRUFF: Thanks. I'm curious

25

26 what are the implications of putting wood bison on

27

28 Refuges or Monuments for future harvest?

29

30 MR. SEATON: That's a good question.

31

32 Right now the Wood Bison Restoration Project is guided

33

34 by the 10J rule, the nonessential experimental

35

36 population rule which gives deference to the State of

37

38 Alaska to lead. In that rule it's written that the

39

40 State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game is the

41

42 lead agency for working on the Restoration Project.

43

44 And it talks about getting input for harvest plans or

45

46 plans to put animals on the landscape from all these

47

48 entities that I discussed earlier. As far as -- so

49

50 harvest is allowed on all lands under that 10J rule.

0221

1 MR. SEATON: Absolutely, yeah. And
2 that's one of the things when we get into these
3 meetings and a lot of brainstorming sessions about what
4 are the issues that you could see, you know. And of
5 course there's always discussion about, you know, what
6 sort of interaction is there between bison and other
7 species, that comes up quite a bit. That is a good one
8 because we've got so much experience with almost 94
9 years now of bison being in Alaska in our -- four of
10 the herds. So there's a lot of evidence there that
11 there isn't a problem with interaction with other
12 species. And the fact that bison have evolved in North
13 America with all the other species that are there.

14
15 Another one that comes up of course is
16 harvest allocation which you guys deal with all the
17 time. And how we're going to do that with, you know,
18 local and nonlocal harvest and the State and Federal
19 system and all that sort of stuff, it gets debated a
20 lot. That's another big issue that comes up.

21
22 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.

23
24 MR. WRIGHT: Hello, Madame Chair. This
25 is Charlie.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
28 Charlie.

29
30 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, I got a question.
31 What's the intention of putting wood bison in in all
32 these areas. Just a straight out answer of is it for
33 selling hunts or for food security?

34
35 MR. SEATON: The number 1 reason is to
36 restore wood bison themselves, for their ecological fit
37 into the system. The second reason is to help people
38 through harvest.

39
40 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

41
42 MR. SEATON: Uh-huh.

43
44 MS. POPE: I have a comment.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
47 Amanda.

48
49 MS. POPE: Yes, thank you, Madame
50

1 Chair. I just passed out my notes from the first day
2 of the Yukon Flats Wood Bison Workshop. I had passed
3 it out to the Council members and I believe Charlie and
4 Eva has one too. So I just kind of wanted to give my
5 update on it. I had attended the meeting on behalf of
6 my community of Circle and also on behalf of EIRAC and
7 for the area. And the areas that they spoke of putting
8 it, the best places that they saw for the Yukon Flats
9 were -- I just had it highlighted here, let's see. Can
10 you elaborate on what communities you were looking on
11 -- looking at in the Yukon Flats and I guess the whole
12 process of how a planning management meeting or they've
13 -- a management plan can form because you kind of --
14 you had told us during the first day and the only day
15 that I attended the Wood Bison Workshop for the Yukon
16 Flats and I just kind of wanted to ask if you can
17 elaborate and tell everyone here? But I wrote it down
18 in my notes for the whole Council. So please I ask you
19 to do that just since you're here. So.....

20

21 MR. SEATON: Sure.

22

23 MS. POPE:appreciate that.

24

25 MR. SEATON: Yeah, absolutely. So
26 where bison would go is dependent somewhat on their
27 habitat requirements and what they really need is
28 meadows, grass and sedge meadows. And there's a lot of
29 that in the Yukon Flats. There's a long history of
30 bison in the Yukon Flats. There's a fairly rich oral
31 history that was collected in the 1990s of people
32 recounting the last bison that were killed around 1915
33 and previous populations to that. And there's also
34 been habitat studies in the Yukon Flats. The -- right
35 now when you look at the habitat the largest expanses
36 of meadows that would be good for bison habitat are
37 around Beaver and around Chalkyitsik, but there is
38 other good areas for a bison habitat. And through
39 these planning team meetings we get information from
40 local people and we share information of our habitat
41 studies to try to come to some kind of consensus of
42 where people would like bison to go. So it is somewhat
43 the effort of the planning team to help decide where
44 bison would go. And again part of that includes where
45 is the most support. So for example if there was lots
46 of support in Circle versus Beaver, you know, versus
47 Fort Yukon, just wherever there's the most support is
48 likely where -- that would play a lot into where bison
49 could be released.

50

0223

1 MS. POPE: Okay. Thank you for your
2 time in answering that.

3
4 MR. SEATON: Yeah.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
7 members, any other questions.

8
9 Linda.

10
11 MS. EVANS: This is Linda Evans. I was
12 wondering about the size of the herd, I mean, they look
13 like they're pretty big animals?

14
15 MR. SEATON: Yeah, the individuals can
16 be large. The cows -- adult bison cows are about the
17 size of an adult bull moose and the adult bull bison
18 are pushing 2,000 pounds which is several hundred
19 pounds bigger than an adult bull moose. So that's just
20 the individuals. Are you talking about the population
21 overall, like what we have in the wild in the Innoko is
22 about 150 hours and then in captivity both at UAF here
23 and at the Wildlife Conservation Center south of
24 Anchorage we've got about 10 here and 35 there. So
25 we've got some animals in captivity that could be
26 eligible for release. That's all of the wood bison
27 that are alive in Alaska right now is -- what does that
28 amount to, that's like 190 or something like that.
29 Also Canada has a conservation herd that they used to
30 provide animals for release in other places. That's
31 where we get our stock from. And they're willing to
32 give us -- we have an agreement with them where they're
33 willing to give us their surplus every other year at
34 least until 2028, but we can make more agreements after
35 that if we want. And that usually amounts to about 40
36 animals a year. So that's kind of what's available.
37 Is that what the question was?

38
39 MS. EVANS: No, I was just thinking
40 about my -- I was thinking about like if you put a herd
41 where you say there's good habitat.....

42
43 MR. SEATON: Uh-huh.

44
45 MS. EVANS:for them around
46 Beaver, how many animals is that?

47
48 MR. SEATON: That's a good question.
49 So a very modest density of wood bison would be
50

0224

1 something like one bison per square mile or something
2 like that. And so it would -- you would have to
3 decide, you know, how much country that would -- you'd
4 want it to use. I think all of the Yukon Flats -- like
5 that black area there is something like 6,000 square
6 miles or something like that. So if you -- and some
7 time -- it would take a very long time, 50 years or a
8 hundred years or something like that, to have bison
9 occupy all of that black line. But if you did, you
10 know, that's thousands of bison essentially if you go
11 that -- I mean, currently there's something like 3,000
12 moose in that -- in that line right now. And so just
13 to give you a comparative concept.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda and
16 then Amanda.

17
18 MS. EVANS: I have one more question.
19 So the bison and our natural animals would be competing
20 for the same feeding areas?

21
22 MR. SEATON: The bison and moose and
23 caribou all occupy different niches. And so moose for
24 example really are mostly interested in browsing, you
25 know, so willow, birch, aspen, all kinds of, you know,
26 woody plants that are within their reach. So from a
27 foot above the ground to say nine feet above the
28 ground, that's kind of their window of foraging and
29 most of their food comes from that. They do
30 occasionally eat, you know, eleusine which is known as
31 like goose grass or bear grass, you know, at the
32 water's edge and things like that, but they most often
33 eat -- depend on kind of brush and browse for their
34 food. That's separated from bison in that bison really
35 focus on meadow plants so they specifically eat grass
36 and sedge is the predominant part of their diet. And
37 that is mostly unused right now in most of interior
38 Alaska since bison have left. So there's a -- and
39 these animals have all evolved together, so caribou,
40 moose, bison and even animals farther south like elk
41 and deer and things like that have all evolved together
42 and so they have a way of partitioning what they eat
43 and what they do to be different from each other and
44 not the same.

45
46 MS. EVANS: Then my last question. Do
47 they -- do you have information on how the bison died
48 off or if they have the same habitat and stuff as the
49 moose and caribou?
50

0225

1 MR. SEATON: That's a good question.
2 Nobody knows for sure. The oral history tells us that
3 the last ones were shot when modern firearms were on
4 the scene. But the oral history also tells us that
5 there was much larger populations previous to that and
6 we don't know exactly why -- why they went away. We
7 think humans played a part in it, but it may also be
8 somewhat habitat change. So if you think about Alaska
9 and this is way back like 10,000 years ago, the end of
10 the Pleistocene, it was mostly a grassland. And trees
11 have invaded over the last 10,000 years. So the amount
12 of grass -- and bison were very predominant then. And
13 so over time interior Alaska has changed from a
14 grassland to a forest land. And now the places that
15 are grassland are limited mostly to wetlands and Alpine
16 areas and burns and that makes bison habitat less
17 frequent and less common on the landscape. And so it's
18 possible, it's theorized, that perhaps as that change
19 happened and bison groups got more isolated, that they
20 were more easily wiped out and either through weather
21 events or through human hunting or that sort of thing.
22 But no one really knows for sure.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda.
25 Thanks, Linda.

26
27 MS. POPE: Yes, thank you, Madame
28 Chair. This is Amanda Pope for the record. From what
29 I got on the day that I attended the meeting, these
30 areas that you're looking at and you're hoping to work
31 with the locals and the partnering agencies to make a
32 management committee together and the areas that you're
33 looking at all depends on those people on that
34 management committee to figure out what area works best
35 together and to figure out how many animals that they
36 would like to start out with. And that number can
37 rise, but I remember hearing that folks in these areas
38 that you're looking at can take up to as small as 15
39 bison and up to 100, it just depends on the area and
40 the amount of folks who want to be involved.

41
42 So I just kind of wanted to say that
43 for the record and hope that would help your question,
44 Linda, about what sort of or what's the number of bison
45 that they would like to introduce.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: Want a motion?
50

0226

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
2 Anything from Charlie or Eva?

3
4 MS. BURK: Hi, Madame Chair, this is
5 Eva Burk.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
8 Eva.

9
10 MS. BURK: They're doing -- well,
11 they're doing a lot of work in the Yukon Flats region
12 so I would say just know that these guys pack a lot of
13 information in a lot of reports that they're happy to
14 share with us. They've been doing a good job of
15 working and communicating with the community. So it's
16 -- I think we have -- may have a responsibility too to
17 read up and try to learn I suppose and that I'd be
18 interested in having some where -- like Mr. Vickers did
19 the references that we can get to review and I've got
20 these -- I've got Tom's email stuff, but it would be
21 nice to have that list of stuff for all the other
22 Council members here.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
27 Charlie, if I may.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Charlie,
30 go ahead.

31
32 MR. WRIGHT: I really like the idea of
33 being on your wood bison (indiscernible -
34 distortion).....

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie, you
37 broke up.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wonder if
42 he's on a cell phone. You might have to call back in
43 if you can hear me. We lost you.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: He was saying he wanted
46 to be one of your volunteers.

47
48 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah.

49
50

0227

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, is it
2 -- and.....

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Ken had already filled
5 it.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, he
8 wanted -- he was volunteering himself is what we heard.
9 So we'll remember that. I'm sure he's going to come
10 back on.

11
12 Okay. I just wanted to let the Council
13 know they had a three day meeting in Tok and I'm 34
14 miles away, but I ended up not going because of
15 pressure from our work and my husband's doing an order
16 that he's far, far behind. He's doing a life size
17 eagle sculpture for a client and it's just -- it's
18 gotten -- completely since October monopolated our
19 life. So I wasn't able to go, but I did try to call in
20 twice to listen and I didn't -- I wasn't able to get
21 in.....

22
23 MR. SEATON: Uh-huh.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:either
26 Zoom or the phone.

27
28 MR. SEATON: Uh-huh.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I had
31 mentioned that to you or the other guy there.

32
33 MR. SEATON: Probably Luke.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Luke, yeah.

36
37 MR. SEATON: Yeah.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I
40 did.....

41
42 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
45 ahead, Charlie.

46
47 MR. WRIGHT: Sorry to interrupt you.
48 Thank you. I got cut off somehow. I was just saying
49 that I'd love to be part of the planning team. I tried
50

0228

1 to make it to a different meeting sometime ago when
2 they were having it over -- here in Fairbanks and it
3 conflicted with other meetings. That's the only
4 problem I have with being part of the planning team.
5 So I'd like to be on the list and if I could show up
6 I'd sure like to go.

7

8 MR. SEATON: Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thanks,
11 Charlie. Okay. So we -- I just wanted to let the
12 Council also know that I kept in contact by texting
13 people and they were telling me and Suzanne McCarthy
14 was there for the Subsistence Resource Commission and
15 they were keeping me abreast of what was going on. And
16 a lot of the things was the introduction part that
17 we've had on the wood bison on the other project. So I
18 had to chose what was -- I had to do there. But at any
19 rate.....

20

21 Andy.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
24 I'd like to make a motion that the Eastern Interior
25 Regional Advisory Council would like to recommend to
26 the Federal Subsistence Board full support for the
27 bison reintroduction into the Eastern Interior RAC's
28 region.

29

30 MS. POPE: I'll second that. This is
31 Amanda Pope.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: And just speaking to the
36 motion, you know, a lot of -- there's been a lot of
37 discussions at many of our meetings over the past few
38 years about food security. There's been a lot of
39 discussion about climate change, a lot of the
40 predictors of climate change is saying we're going to
41 lose some of our forest, some of our habitats, that it
42 will be turning into grasslands which falls right into
43 place for bison reintroduction and productivity
44 hopefully well into the future. So therefore I think
45 it's prudent upon the Federal Subsistence Board to
46 fully support these programs to help with food security
47 and also with the biological advantages of having
48 another species on the ranges within the Eastern
49 Interior Regional Committee's recommended boundaries.

50

0229

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
4 discussion on the motion.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
9 ask Staff, a letter's sufficient for support or.....

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: It could be in your
12 annual report or we could write a letter, but.....

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I think
15 you were asking for support so I guess a letter would
16 be good?

17

18 MR. SEATON: Yeah, a letter would be
19 just fine. Yeah.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: And, Madame Chair, I'll
24 amend the motion to include a letter to the Federal
25 Subsistence Board in support.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The.....

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Do you need a second?

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just need
32 approval of that.

33

34 MS. POPE: This is Amanda Pope, I
35 approve that amendment to that proposal.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: Or second to the
40 amendment. She.....

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Second to the
43 -- yeah, to the motion.

44

45 MS. POPE: I'll second to that motion.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. As
48 amended yeah, or as spoke just to add that.

49

50

0230

1 Does everyone understand the motion?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, just
6 restate it, please.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. All right. So the
9 motion is that the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
10 Council would like to recommend full support for the
11 Bison Reintroduction Program into the Eastern Interior
12 Regional Advisory Council's region. And that a letter
13 of support be written and given to the council and also
14 the Bison Program showing our full support for this
15 reintroduction.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Amanda
18 agreed so is there any other discussion.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
23 Hearing none, I'll ask for unanimous consent. Is there
24 anyone opposed.

25

26 (No opposing votes)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
29 Hearing none, that passes. Now.....

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Are you interested in
32 that?

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I could
35 probably -- we need three people I'm told. So Andy's
36 trying to figure out who is willing to do it. So we
37 need one the Yukon Flats, one from upper Tanana and one
38 from lower Tanana.

39

40 Linda.

41

42 MS. EVANS: I will.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You need to
45 turn your mic on, Linda. I know it's hard to remember.

46

47 MS. EVANS: I'd be willing to be one of
48 the members.

49

50

0231

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Do you want a motion for
4 names?

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
7 have how many people now, Charlie is willing, Linda is
8 willing. I don't know the regions they're representing
9 and I was asked for the upper Tanana and I'm willing.

10

11 I hope I don't have a project like I
12 had this time. Is.....

13

14 MR. BASSICH: It's more procedural at
15 this point, the way I see it. How do you want to
16 handle these representatives being appointed, do you
17 want motions for that or do you want to just ask for a
18 hand raise?

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: Well, I have a point of
21 clarification perhaps for Tom with the Department. Is
22 the Council able to have more than one representative
23 for the different subregions in case there's multiple
24 folks interested. I -- I'm not sure what your
25 restrictions are on that.

26

27 Thanks.

28

29 MR. SEATON: Sure we're just requesting
30 a presence from the RAC at the different meetings to
31 get perspectives from the RAC.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 I'd like to make a motion that the Eastern Interior
37 Regional Advisory Committee or Council provide for
38 representation at the planning process of the bison
39 introduction plan and that a position for the Yukon
40 Flats be provided for, a position for representation of
41 the Upper Tanana be provided for and a position for the
42 lower Tanana regions which have been identified in the
43 presentation that was given us, that those
44 representatives could be appointed or -- by the Chair
45 or be volunteers of the Eastern Regional Advisory
46 Council.

47

48 Madame Chair.

49

50

0232

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been
4 moved and seconded to represent three regions on a --
5 I'm sorry.

6

7 MR. BASSICH: Can I speak it? Speaking
8 to that motion I've heard Charlie Wright has expressed
9 interest which might work for the lower Tanana region;
10 Sue Entsminger has also indicated interest which would
11 be the upper Tanana and we've had two persons
12 interested in the Yukon Flats region, one, Linda Evans,
13 the second Amanda Pope.

14

15 Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda.

18

19 MS. POPE: Yes, Madame Chair, this is
20 Amanda Pope for the record. If Linda Evans wanted to
21 represent Yukon Flats I'd be happy with that. I mean,
22 on behalf of EIRAC. I'm sure I will be there anyways.
23 So.....

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
28 sounds great.

29

30 MS. EVANS: Uh-huh.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Bases covered?

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we
35 have our basis covered, yes.

36

37 All right. Any other discussion.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
42 Hearing none, I'm calling for unanimous consent.
43 Anyone opposed.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
48 motion passes. Yes, and thank you guys for the thank
49 yous. I'm a little slow at the draw.

50

0233

1 MS. POPE: I have a comment.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
4 Amanda.

5

6 MS. POPE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 Amanda Pope here. I would like to see if Tom would be
8 interested in bringing back some pamphlet information
9 from the oral documentation over the years and a lot of
10 the extra stuff that I had seen there was a lot of
11 great information about the history of what you guys
12 have been doing up until now. So.....

13

14 MR. SEATON: You bet. Yeah, I'll go
15 back there now and get the handouts that we have
16 available there and bring some over here and leave them
17 somewhere where they can be distributed and I'll make
18 sure to include the -- some of the oral history and
19 other information.

20

21 MS. POPE: I appreciate that. Thank
22 you, Tom.

23

24 MR. SEATON: You're welcome.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
27 again. Okay. We have a time certain proposed changes
28 to the Federal rule for the Park Service at 1:30. So
29 1:30 good for back from lunch. The next thing on the
30 agenda was this call for wildlife proposals.....

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Right.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and then
35 it was Board of Game. And then it was the -- so do you
36 guys want to try to get back in an hour and 15 and try
37 to do that or.....

38

39 MR. BASSICH: No, let's do -- go right
40 into it.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: To the
43 proposed rule. Okay. It's been suggested we just go
44 right into the proposed rule at 1:30 and then the next
45 things on the agenda and it will start following what
46 we have here maybe more in order at wildlife call for
47 proposals.

48

49 Okay. Back at 1:30.

50

0234

1 Thank you.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It just
8 turned 1:30. We'll call the meeting back to order.
9 Let's see, Brooke is still in the room. So okay. The
10 next thing on the agenda is the Park Service proposed
11 rule and we have a person from the Park Service here
12 that's going to take up that topic.

13

14 MR. PAYOR: Thank you. Thank you very
15 much and thank you for inviting me to address the
16 Council today. My name is David Payor I am the
17 Regional Wildlife Biologist for the National Park
18 Service based out of the Anchorage regional office.
19 And I'm the Natural Resources Program Lead in our
20 Division for the -- for the National Park Service
21 Alaska region. I've been involved with the rule for --
22 one version or another for a number of years now. And
23 so today I'll be talking about the current proposed
24 revised wildlife regulation that was published in the
25 Federal Register on January 9th, just about two months
26 ago and is currently open for comment.

27

28 And I'll make a few general statements.
29 I know that some of my colleagues addressed this
30 Council in September I believe it was or early October,
31 excuse me, the 5th and 6th of October on this issue and
32 I'm also aware that we've been out into the communities
33 through our Subsistence Resource Commissions, most
34 recently Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
35 to answer questions about this proposed rule and to get
36 feedback. I do have colleagues in the audience that
37 may be able to help answer questions if I can't and
38 also on the phone and we'll be taking notes on any
39 comments or questions that are provided here and
40 providing information about how you can submit comments
41 on this rule by the comment deadline which is currently
42 the 10th of March.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: Dave, before you continue
45 I just wanted to let Council know that a copy of the
46 proposed rule is in your meeting books on Page 95. I
47 also have copies of the SRC comments and some personal
48 comments from our Chair that I'll pass out to you all
49 to consider while this is.....

50

0235

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted).

3
4 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Was that you,
7 Charlie?

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Apparently
12 not. So.....

13
14 MR. PAYOR: Okay.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:go
17 ahead.

18
19 MR. PAYOR: Okay. Thank you.

20
21 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, Madame.

22
23 MR. PAYOR: I'm sorry.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
26 Charlie, you are cutting in and out. Go ahead.

27
28 MR. WRIGHT: Oh, I just wanted to let
29 you know that was me.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
32 right. Thanks, Charlie.

33
34 MR. WRIGHT: I did realize my mute was
35 off. My apologies.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, no,
38 problem. You've very much excused. Okay.

39
40 MR. PAYOR: Okay. Yeah, thank you very
41 much. And I guess we have two Council members on the
42 phone as well as -- okay. Attendance, okay. Great.
43 Thank you.

44
45 All right. So as you probably know and
46 as you can see in your meeting books there's currently
47 a proposed revision to the -- to the Alaska hunting and
48 trapping in National Preserves that has been published
49 in the Federal Register. And a little bit of history
50

0236

1 on that. Last year, just about one year ago on
2 February 17th, 2022, the Assistant Secretary for Fish,
3 Wildlife and Parks directed the National Park Service
4 to initiate a rulemaking process to reconsider factual,
5 legal and policy conclusions in the 2020 Alaska hunting
6 and trapping rule. So there was a rule that was
7 approved in 2020 and that rule had basically revised or
8 repealed a 2015 rule on hunting and trapping in
9 National Preserves. So there's a bit of back and forth
10 history here as I know you're well aware.

11

12 The rule in 20 -- the 2020 that we
13 currently operate under for hunting and trapping on
14 National Preserves and this is just National Preserve
15 lands we're talking about now, and when I say hunting
16 I'm referring to what the Federal government calls
17 sport hunting as opposed to Federally-qualified
18 subsistence hunting on Preserves. Nothing in this
19 proposed rule would speak to subsistence as it is
20 defined by the Federal government under rural priority
21 rules. So the 2020 rule authorized.....

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could I
24 interrupt you just a minute.

25

26 MR. PAYOR: Yes, you may.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald just
29 raised his hand and.....

30

31 MR. PAYOR: I'm sorry.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:he
34 wanted to.....

35

36 MR. WOODRUFF: I've got a question. If
37 you're going to proceed with the sport aspect could you
38 define that word for me?

39

40 MR. PAYOR: Sport. It's simply all
41 hunting other than Federally-qualified -- other than
42 Federally-qualified subsistence hunting. So the --
43 there's a rural priority as you know under Federal
44 subsistence rules on Federal lands. So any hunting
45 that is not captured under that Federal subsistence
46 definition would be captured under that other category
47 which is referred to as sport hunting. And that
48 language comes from the Alaska National Interest Lands
49 Conservation Act. So there's a history there although
50

0237

1 it wasn't well defined in that Act, that's where that
2 language comes from. And I know that it's been
3 somewhat -- the use of that term has been controversial
4 and I acknowledge that, but it's in statute. So and I
5 just use it to make that distinction.

6
7 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

8
9 MR. PAYOR: You're welcome. Yeah,
10 thank you for the question. And please do feel free, I
11 don't -- I'm not going to lecture here, I'm more
12 interested in your feedback and your questions.

13
14 But just for a little bit of
15 background. The current rule authorized several sport
16 hunting practices that would include and that -- this
17 would be as authorized under State regulations on
18 National Preserves such as hunting black bears with
19 artificial light at den sites, hunting black and brown
20 bears over bait, hunting and trapping wolves and
21 coyotes during the denning season and shooting caribou
22 while swimming. So the -- when the Assistant Secretary
23 of Fish, Wildlife and Parks directed NPS to initiate
24 that rulemaking process to reconsider this, the options
25 provided were to rescind the 2020 rule and reinstate
26 the original 2015 hunting restrictions. And as you may
27 be aware last year during spring and summer there was
28 some engagement with Alaska Native tribes and ANCSA
29 corporations and the predominant input that we received
30 at that time and this was early in the drafting of this
31 proposed rule that's now been published was a concern
32 that Federal subsistence users had that there was
33 competition with nonlocal sport hunters if the 2020
34 rule remained in place. So that's just something that
35 we had heard. I did want to reiterate that the
36 proposed rule does not affect Federal subsistence, it
37 would only restrict the sport hunting and trapping in
38 National Preserves.

39
40 So the National Park Service is
41 pursuing this proposed rule due to legal and policy
42 concerns regarding -- including regarding bear baiting
43 implications for public safety. And I know we'll have
44 some discussion about that and I welcome it. Bears --
45 we feel that bears that may become habituated to non-
46 natural foods and that the use of bait could pose a
47 potential safety hazard to the visiting public.

48
49 The National Park Service is required
50

0238

1 and is motivated to engage in formal consultation with
2 tribes and Alaska Native corporations throughout the
3 rulemaking process and in an government to government
4 fashion. We've also had -- we just had consultation
5 with the State, Fish and Game, over this. And like I
6 said we are accepting public comment and the -- I hope
7 it's clear in your meeting booklets how to submit your
8 comment letters either individually or as a -- and/or
9 as a Council. So if we need to clarify that I'd be
10 glad to do so.

11

12 I think I'll pause there and take any
13 questions or comments and I could provide any further
14 clarification.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Yeah, I have
17 a question. When these proposed rules are adopted does
18 the -- what are the provisions or what are the
19 authorities that a superintendent would have to either
20 modify those or adapt to some other situation. Is
21 there a process in place or does the superintendent
22 have the ability to grant a certain privilege or a
23 certain type of hunting within that Preserve or Park or
24 Refuge?

25

26 MR. PAYOR: Unless that was written
27 into the rule I think the answer to that would be no,
28 that this would become law as it were and there isn't
29 that discretionary ability. Now that discretion --
30 that said that discretionary ability can be written
31 into a rule which we had in the 2020 rule where it
32 states that the superintendent could supersede a State
33 allowed hunting practice if there was a concern on the
34 part of the Park. And so that could be applied as well
35 as far as -- to my knowledge.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, just to follow-up
38 and give you my line of thinking. You know, many of
39 the Parks and Preserves are in areas where there is
40 very little visitation and so there's seldom an issue
41 with public safety for the most part because nobody
42 really goes there very often. And there is -- but
43 those areas are really important to subsistence hunting
44 and fishing for the very few residents that live within
45 that region. I guess Alaska is very unique in that
46 sense in that we do have people living within Parks and
47 Preserves, we do have people living within the boundary
48 areas of those, population bases are extremely small.
49 So that's why I'm asking these question because I think
50

0239

1 it would be appropriate if there was some provision
2 given to a superintendent to be able to work with a
3 local community or a local individual for long term
4 subsistence practice to be able to continue within the
5 Preserve given that these rules may be adopted and may
6 not allow that anymore.

7

8 That's my line of thinking and that's
9 my recommendation.

10

11 MR. PAYOR: Yeah, I appreciate that.
12 And I don't mean to state the obvious, but just as a
13 reminder that nothing that I've mentioned here would
14 affect Federally-qualified subsistence. And I realize
15 that subsistence users are not always -- you know,
16 people that are Federally-qualified are not -- are not
17 always conducting activities under Federal subsistence,
18 but may be operating under State rules. And so but I
19 did want to just mention that this -- nothing that's
20 stated here would affect Federally-qualified and
21 allowed uses.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess what I'm
24 getting at primarily probably is it's very common
25 practice for people who live a subsistence lifestyle to
26 use bear baiting in the springtime and if this proposed
27 rule eliminates that method of taking black bear then
28 that would definitely infringe upon traditional hunting
29 practices for subsistence people.

30

31 MR. PAYOR: Yeah, thank you for that.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I like to let
34 all the Council members go first, but I'm a bear baiter
35 so I have a lot to contribute, but I want to give all
36 of you a chance to -- if you have any questions. I do
37 think that's pretty brief, what you gave, and I like
38 that, but in this case there's a lot of things that
39 happened. I was on a working group for the Wrangell-
40 St. Elias Subsistence Commission and so we spent two
41 hours going through, you know, it starts on Page 101,
42 the definitions and then all of the things -- all of
43 the points that it's in here. And you were just
44 provided that -- it says draft on it, Barbara, I don't
45 think it should say draft, right, because we adopted
46 it. Do we have the wrong one?

47

48 BARBARA: No. No, I just wanted
49 you.....

50

0240

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I --
2 okay.

3
4 BARBARA:(indiscernible - away
5 from microphone) one final set of eyes.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
8 everybody has a copy of that. That's what came out of
9 the Subsistence Resource Commission, both a two hour
10 working group and then a -- I don't know, we must have
11 spent an hour on it at the meeting because the working
12 group did a lot of the work prior to the meeting so
13 it's really helpful. And we did have public comment
14 from a gentleman who is a.....

15
16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Excuse me.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:grandson
19 to Robert Marshall, a long time Native person from the
20 area who has since passed and he's got a lot of -- he
21 was involved in the SRC for many, many years. So
22 whenever -- if you guys have any questions now is the
23 time to ask questions and then I would like to try to
24 give as much information that came out of the meeting.
25 Does anyone have some questions now.

26
27 Amanda.

28
29 MS. POPE: I.....

30
31 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.

32
33 MS. POPE: Oh.

34
35 MR. WRIGHT: Go ahead, I'll wait my
36 turn.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Well,
39 Amanda, then Charlie.

40
41 MS. POPE: Sorry, Charlie.

42
43 MR. WRIGHT: No problem.

44
45 MS. POPE: So my name is Amanda Pope
46 for the record. Thank you, Madame Chair and Charlie.
47 This proposed rule originally came from a president
48 that was in office at the time and according to
49 presidential -- presidential I guess, what is that
50

0241

1 called, authority, yeah, where they delegate what they
2 want done for a specific topic. So I had done research
3 about it and it originally came from there which is
4 against Alaska's constitution and ANILCA. The details
5 in this proposed rule would affect subsistence people
6 whether they live in Fairbanks or in the village
7 outside of the Park or Preserve, that infringes their
8 opportunity to practice their subsistence activities
9 with their family members on those lands.

10

11 And in my opinion this proposed rule is
12 actually null and void because even if it is passed the
13 State still has jurisdiction over the waterways up to
14 the high water mark which people can do bear baiting on
15 those lands. And if you allow that, if you allow this
16 proposed rule to go through you'll have more bears on
17 the beaches which is where the people come through,
18 which is where the floaters come through. I've spent a
19 lot of time within the Yukon-Charley Preserve and a lot
20 of folks encounter yes, predator animals, wolves,
21 bears, but if you make this -- if this rule passes it
22 will put those people in harm because people will have
23 to do the bear baiting on the beaches which is the
24 State land.

25

26 If this doesn't go through which I
27 really hope it doesn't personally it would allow people
28 to stretch out. Not much people use the Federal lands
29 to bear bait, there's only a handful. So if this rule
30 does not go through then it'll be -- it'll help not
31 only subsistence users but Alaskans in general. And
32 people who practice these -- practice these proposed
33 items on this proposal it will give them the option to
34 be safer to where they would be away from the river
35 where the floaters go through, it would give them a
36 buffer between each bait station.

37

38 The Park Service will have an idea of
39 where those are at and now there's a decent application
40 process for that within the Park Service. It gives the
41 Park Service a better idea of what's happening if this
42 doesn't pass. And it just benefits a lot of people if
43 this proposed rule just goes away.

44

45 That's my opinion.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. PAYOR: Yeah, thank you for your

50

0242

1 comments.

2

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I certainly
5 appreciate your comments, Amanda. Because some -- that
6 is one of the things that came up at the SRC, trying to
7 relate bear baiting to public safety. The one
8 gentleman came forward and said by bear baiting you're
9 actually getting people to harvest bears and bring less
10 public safety problems and also it's very important to
11 remember that bears eat moose and caribou calves and
12 whatever and he described it very eloquently and I'm
13 not really good at it as Clinton was, how, you know,
14 that is a food source for people and it's also, you
15 know, helps for public safety and for the animals'
16 welfare for future -- for hunting in the future for
17 subsistence hunters.

17

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So as I'm going to continue on.
Charlie, you're next.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
I guess people are raised in different ways, look at
these things in different -- totally different manner.
I think differently, I never hunt with a bait, I always
hunt like a man should hunt and go out there and look
and walk and put in the time. I think that bear
baiting is a -- it brings public safety in a different
way. It habituates the animal to people, it brings
bears to dumps, it attracts bears to people, causes
danger. They just start -- they start flocking to the
people. I've been part of bear baiting along the Haul
Road, you pull over to take a break in one of the
little side roads there and resting spots and you walk
off in the bushes to use the bathroom and you run into
an unmarked bear bait station, they're not putting up
signs. This -- this is a -- it's all up and down the
Tanana River, there's more bears along the river, it's
hard to find one to eat. There's a lot of this going
on different places and I think some of us think
differently. I feel the same way Amanda does, that I'd
like to see it go away.

And that's just my two cents on the
whole matter.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

0243

1 MS. BURK: This is Eva, can I add
2 something?

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
5 ahead, Eva.

6
7 MS. BURK: Charlie's absolutely right.
8 When -- we have people that have been living along the
9 Tanana River out there since the '80s never really
10 settled in the village, but instead stayed at their
11 homestead out there. And I know people personally, one
12 of our area's State Biologist's brother that actually
13 practices bear baiting along the Tanana River. And
14 we've seen a big decline in our black bear population
15 along the Tanana River specifically from around Nenana
16 to like by Manley. And my children and I were up by
17 Rock Creek which is just a little bit upriver of
18 Kantishna and also Kantishna where it comes it comes
19 into the Tanana. And we were fishing -- going pike
20 fishing and there's a little beach there, we always
21 wait for the water to go down so we can have a picnic
22 on that little sandbar beach. And I was sitting there
23 and as soon as we started cooking the hot dog I could
24 -- I could kind of -- I knew something was back there
25 and it started getting more aggressive and more close
26 and so I had to take my kids and get out of there.

27
28 And then the next day we came back in
29 there and sure enough somebody had already strung up
30 that poor black bear. So somebody was baiting him
31 right where we were fishing and we didn't know, there
32 was no -- there was no marked -- like Charlie said
33 there's no marked station, but also just how quickly
34 they pounced on that bear. You know, there's not a lot
35 of people out there living a subsistence life anymore
36 because there's no fish in that river. So now we have
37 an influx of I call -- I don't know what to call them,
38 but they're definitely not from the area, but they
39 bought land or have a camp or a cabin out there, they
40 might have moved up. I know this particular person,
41 he's from Montana that does this practice, but that's
42 -- so that's what we're seeing on the summer now is not
43 our own people, the other people practicing these --
44 pract -- these subsistence hunting and baiting that's
45 not traditional to our area and it's having an impact
46 on our population. And also ruining our fishing spot
47 if you think about it.

48
49 So that's all.
50

0244

1 Thank you.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
4 Eva. I would like to respond to that. I think the
5 areas are different. I've been bear baiting for 10
6 years and I am a registered guide in Alaska and it is
7 an income for me. I've got too old to do the sheep
8 hunting and I was doing that for a while. I mean,
9 there are some guides that give good guides a bad name
10 and I'd like to think that I'm part of the good guides.
11 And I -- it's a nice income for us now. My husband
12 teases people yeah, we used to go to the animals and
13 now we get the animals to come to us. So and respect,
14 we are not seeing -- I'm allowed to put 10 bear baits
15 out and a resident's only allowed to put two. And
16 there -- and we're probably over a 20 mile radius or
17 maybe 30. And yeah, actually it's probably 50, but I'm
18 on the road system and I can get out. And we have to
19 be a quarter mile from any trail or road and we also
20 have to be a mile from any building, even an old cabin
21 that's not in use. So and we have not seen conflicts.

22

23

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I'm sure around areas where there's a
lot of people something could happen, but at the SRC
meeting we talked about this and we felt that the State
of Alaska, if there's any problem areas, they can be
closed. And we have to have every bait station marked
and the bears tear a lot of stuff down so we're using
plyboard to put up and keep it marked. And we marked
it ahead of so the people can see it. And, you know,
where I'm at we don't have a problem and we certainly
don't have a decrease in bears, especially black bears.
It's just amazing how many black bears keep coming back
and keep coming back. My husband said it's like
squirrels, you go out shoot 500 squirrels in three
summers and you stop doing it and they all move in.
And it -- these bears tend to move in.

So I imagine every place is a little
different and I believe that it's really important to,
you know, allow managers to do what they have to do and
it's -- to me it's real important that like Amanda that
the State had management of game and when there's a
problem area you can go to the Board of Game and make a
regulation. But if this goes through and it's totally
eliminated on all Preserve lands then there's no ever
opportunity to, you know, do anything, it's gone. And
I feel like that's a really important thing that I

0245

1 wouldn't want to see left or gone and not the
2 opportunity to work through the pol -- the management
3 policies with the State. So that was in the SRC's
4 comments on this page so if it's okay I'd just like to
5 address each one as we go through.

6
7 Amanda.

8
9 MS. POPE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
10 Yes, all areas are different and I'm not in your guys'
11 area, Charlie and Eva and I -- I believe what you're
12 saying is happening. Alaska law for bear baiting as
13 Sue had mentioned, you have to have it marked and if
14 you don't you get fined or lose your license or
15 whatnot. You have to be legal. So if those people
16 don't have it marked then there needs to be something
17 happen there with the Fish and Wildlife.

18
19 But I guess the reason I'm not for this
20 is because the whole rule came about in the wrong way
21 and it should have been proposed as a proposal like we
22 all have to do. The bear baiting thing about sudden
23 baiting in general, some -- so as far as I know the
24 Unit 25D has the highest black bear density in Alaska.
25 And Mark, his head is up an down. He's the newly
26 appointed member of the ADF&G for the biologists in the
27 area. So there's not much people out there bear
28 baiting. And we have really low moose numbers in the
29 interior -- well, in my -- in my area I guess, not much
30 caribou, not much rabbits, not much grouse, a lot of
31 beaver, you can eat that to a certain extent. So
32 there's not much availability around. And the bears
33 tend to stay away from the road system, away from the
34 waterways. So even getting a bear on a bait area is
35 really beneficial to the people of Alaska and the
36 subsistence users because it provides that opportunity
37 for a harvest. I personally have not harvested a moose
38 in three years, I look forward to harvesting a bear
39 this summer somewhere. I haven't been able -- I
40 haven't been able to hunt the Fortymile Herd in two,
41 three years. And that's pretty sad, I mean, there's
42 not much opportunities for people in my area. And
43 having this will infringe on a lot of folks' ability to
44 practice those traditional activities.

45
46 So I guess that's all I had.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

0246

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just wanted
2 to remind people there's -- Chairing the meeting and
3 trying to get your points out is hard so I appreciate
4 you allowing me to do so. I wanted to make the point
5 under what the -- we did at the SRC comments. Baiting
6 bears only takes place in the spring before most of the
7 tourists ever arrive. And so it's gone in the fall,
8 doesn't happen in the fall and it's not happening all
9 summer. And then I told you about all the
10 restrictions. And the thing about.....

11

12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted).

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:
16habituating the bears, it doesn't really happen
17 because they're more tuned into wild game kills than
18 they are what we're using, dog food and grease or
19 whatever, that's what we use, it works well. And once
20 that -- once it runs out during the time that you have
21 it out there, a couple days, they quit coming. They --
22 they're done, there's nothing to protect anyway. But
23 and then the other thing is grizzly bears are really,
24 really extremely wary and sensitive to human noise and
25 they split. You can just see one coming down a trail,
26 they're not even near the bait and my husband and I
27 were walking and I go oh, no, a couple hundred yards
28 there, and it split and never came back ever after
29 that, after smelling us and seeing us.

30

31 So these are just points I like to
32 bring out. And that isn't all that's in this proposed
33 rule. There's trapping, they want to eliminate you
34 being able to shoot while you're -- you can only have
35 an animal in a trap and we took that up at the SRC
36 meeting where if an -- my son had a wolf escape and he
37 needed to shoot the animal as it escaped so under this
38 rule that wouldn't even be allowed. So those points.

39

40 Andy, you're next and then Charlie
41 Jagow.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I think
44 there's been a lot of really good points made. One of
45 the points I'd like to clarify, this proposed rule is a
46 national rule, is that correct, it applies to all Parks
47 or is it strictly Alaska?

48

49 MR. PAYOR: It's Alaska.

50

0247

1 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I -- I think
2 that's.....

3
4 MR. PAYOR: Alaska Preserves, Preserve
5 lands, yeah.

6
7 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, okay. Thank you.
8 I think -- well, I'll just -- I guess I'll just close
9 for now. My thoughts on this is that, you know, we are
10 very different in Alaska, we live differently, we live
11 the lands differently and -- and under the Federal
12 program which is supposed to protect subsistence
13 activities, traditional subsistence activities, I --
14 that's where I'm having a problem with some of this.
15 It seems like there's a disconnect that some people
16 just don't realize that.....

17
18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted).

20
21 MR. BASSICH:these are -- these
22 are long term traditional.....

23
24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted).

26
27 MR. BASSICH:subsistence
28 practices. And I guess I don't have too much more to
29 say about it, I'm not really in favor of it.....

30
31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted).

33
34 MR. BASSICH:mainly because of
35 the bear baiting aspect of it. If that was taken out
36 some of the things I can live with.....

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

40
41 MR. BASSICH:I understand, but
42 quite frankly with food security issues the way it is,
43 with fish disappearing, you may not have been here.....

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

47
48 MR. BASSICH: Do you want to.....

49
50

0248

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're hearing
2 some talking and we need to get your phone on mute.

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Obviously maybe you
5 weren't here in earlier deliberations during --
6 yesterday and this morning, but food security is a big
7 issue for a lot of people. We're losing -- we've lost
8 a lot of our salmon opportunities, that's been a huge
9 loss to us, caribou are not doing well and a lot of the
10 eastern interior region moose are not doing very well.
11 So bears are the go to food. In fact I can tell you
12 that's all I've pretty much eaten for the last year is
13 bear meat. So it's a pretty important resource and in
14 springtime it's a great opportunity because bears are
15 -- as Sue said it's done pretty early in the season,
16 bears are usually very good eating when they come out
17 of hibernation, their hides are in very good shape at
18 that point in time too many times. So, you know,
19 there's not much wasted on it. So it's a pretty
20 important food source. So I would -- I would strongly
21 recommend that those people that are deliberating on
22 what to put into this proposed rule take that into
23 account because it is such an important resource to
24 many people.

25
26 I think in regards to what Charlie and
27 Eva have talked about I -- I agree, I understand where
28 they're coming from. But in my -- I -- I think I'm
29 probably a little more in Sue's camp. I think the
30 overall importance of some of these things being
31 allowed is much more important than an individual area
32 or whatever. We can work on safety issues, we can work
33 on permitting, techniques, all those kinds of things
34 can come after the fact, but if -- like Sue said if you
35 don't have the ability to do it initially then it's a
36 moot point. And that's part of what we deal with here
37 in this body all the time is adapting regulations or
38 procedures or education to specific areas when a
39 problem is brought to our attention. So that -- that's
40 kind of what we do here as a body oftentimes. And I
41 think we can continue to do that if there are areas
42 where there are some issues that need to be addressed.
43 But the most critical aspect is that that opportunity
44 is still afforded subsistence users.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MR. PAYOR: Yeah. Thank you.....

49
50

0249

1 MR. BASSICH: Appreciate it.

2

3 MR. PAYOR:for that very much.

4

5 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, I'd like to start the
6 question. Here on Page 97 there's a paragraph that
7 says the N -- NPSA received approximately 211,780
8 pieces of correspondence with a total of 489,101
9 signatures during the public comment period of 2020
10 ruling. Do you know how many of those were
11 nonresidents?

12

13 MR. PAYOR: No, I don't have that data.
14 I -- I suspect -- I mean, that's a large number so
15 obviously the majority of them would be.....

16

17 MR. JAGOW: Okay.

18

19 MR. PAYOR:would be nonresidents
20 I suspect. Yeah.

21

22 MR. JAGOW: That would be.....

23

24 MR. PAYOR: Thank you.

25

26 MR. JAGOW:pretty valuable to
27 know.

28

29 MR. PAYOR: Okay.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
32 what we deal with all the time when these kind of
33 things come up. We're -- we're outnumbered horribly,
34 probably 99 percent. And I hope our -- over the years
35 of dealing with the Park and the Federal government
36 I've heard oh, but you're -- you're weighted, you know,
37 you're weighted, these multiple signatures aren't as
38 important to the -- what you're hearing so I -- I hope
39 that's true. I hope it's true.

40

41 MR. BASSICH: Can I ask a quick
42 procedural question?

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Before
45 you do that I just want to ask him, now we in the SRC,
46 we -- we had a working group and then we spent a lot of
47 time on it and we come up with a letter of all the
48 things, is that what we -- you want from us?

49

50

0250

1 MR. BASSICH: That's part of it.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy,

4 continue.....

5

6 MR. PAYOR: I'm sorry.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:with the

9 question.

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess the
12 question that I'd like clarified, it kind of builds on
13 what Sue's asking is -- is who is making this decision,
14 is this decision going to Washington, D.C. or is it
15 somewhat Statewide within the National Park Service
16 organization, who -- who's making the decisions on how
17 to modify or amend this or who's going to approve this,
18 whatever the final copy or the final draft rule would
19 be, who's making those decisions?

20

21 MR. PAYOR: Yeah, that -- those
22 decisions are made within the Department of the
23 Interior so there is certainly an involvement of
24 Washington, D.C., but ultimately, you know, our
25 Regional Director would be responsible for signing off
26 on that. And that's where, you know, we are.

27

28 You had asked about what -- what is
29 desired in terms of input. I think that we are
30 capturing your comments now, but I would expect that
31 that -- I would hope that you would submit a letter, a
32 comment letter from the Council and certainly
33 individual comments are welcomed as well. I know
34 you're -- you know, you're pros at submitting comments
35 on -- on these kind of proposals and that's -- you
36 know, that's what would be most effective. And -- and
37 as you know what's most helpful in the process is to
38 provide justification as you're -- as you're doing here
39 and it's very compelling what -- what I'm hearing here.
40 Believe me, I -- I hear you. To provide justification
41 and alternatives and reasons behind, simply stating
42 that you're opposed to something is -- is not as help --
43 not nearly as helpful as stating why you're opposed
44 and what alternative -- what data or observations
45 because you have a wealth of observations that you've
46 described here, would help support an alternative
47 outcome.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I'd

50

0251

1 like to ask Staff, I'm really concerned here as Amanda
2 put it. Here we are with a big agenda and here's
3 something that's really, really very important. And I
4 think we could spend another hour or two on this
5 subject alone and agree and disagree on certain things,
6 but more likely I'm hoping that we can agree on a lot
7 of things because we didn't even spend a lot of time
8 talking about -- and this is something that bothers me
9 about the proposed rule and how the NPS presented it to
10 us at the meeting, we -- they didn't talk about the
11 discussion on changing the definition of trapping and
12 that's the use of the firearm. So what I'm -- what I'm
13 getting at is I feel like we needed a working group
14 ahead of time and then we needed to have a whole bunch
15 of information that was worked on. And when's this
16 deadline again?

17
18 MS. MCDAVID: Next Thursday.

19
20 MR. PAYOR: Currently it's March 10th.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, the
23 10th.

24
25 MR. PAYOR: It was a 60 day comment
26 period, yeah.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is it too
29 late for us to have a working group and then just get
30 all these comments down and put it on paper so we can
31 send a letter from the RAC, I -- does that have more
32 power than what you're writing down and we have to
33 trust you?

34
35 MR. PAYOR: Yes.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know,
38 people don't trust.....

39
40 MR. PAYOR: What.....

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:the
43 government.

44
45 MR. PAYOR: Yeah, I don't -- I'm not
46 sure which question I'm answering here, but -- but yes,
47 a letter from the Council would be -- would be helpful,
48 yes.

49
50

0252

1 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
2 Charlie.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
5 Charlie.

6
7 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, I -- I just wanted
8 to make another comment. You know, I -- I feel for
9 everybody that -- that does things in different ways
10 and I'm concerned and I just wanted to state that
11 Denali SRC was not for this. They were concerned that
12 it's not natural. The SRC was -- is opposed to feeding
13 bears and it's not a traditional activity. And the SRC
14 is -- was concerned about subsistence users alone
15 stumbling upon bait stations, that this can promise
16 their safety. But it's -- it's -- people of different
17 places feel different and I'm not trying to say nothing
18 against the way people do things in their area or
19 anything, it's just my concern. So I think getting
20 together to talk about this sometime soon or having a
21 Zoom or something would be something that we should do
22 and to listen to all sides and try to come up with the
23 best possible thing going forward.

24
25 Thank you, Madame Chair.

26
27 That's all I got.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. Thank
30 you for that, Charlie. And I think that -- maybe to me
31 that is why I was thinking and asking the questions
32 about the authority of the superintendent. It seems to
33 me that regional differences have different practices
34 and therefore -- and that also applies within Parks and
35 Preserves. Denali is a very different Park or Preserve
36 than Yukon-Charley is as far as the type of people that
37 use it and the uses that take place within those areas.
38 And so giving the authority to a superintendent to work
39 with the local people that use those resources within
40 that Preserve or that Park would be a very valuable
41 tool in -- in continuing to be able to allow for
42 traditional practices in those particular areas.
43 Alaska's a very big place and as Charlie has pointed
44 out we do things very differently. Even though we're
45 all in the eastern region, the eastern region is a huge
46 region.

47
48 So that might be a solution to help
49 with that, if it was written into this proposed rule
50

0253

1 that a superintendent would have the ability to -- to
2 work with local entities on some of these specific
3 things such as bear baiting or other things that might
4 be in there, trapping, whatever. I think that's
5 actually a -- you know, a pretty reasonable request.

6
7 MR. PAYOR: Yeah, thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a
10 question from me then. And -- and then the -- instead
11 of the proposed rule, I mean, you're confusing me.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: Well, I'm saying, you
14 know, with -- at this point in time it's -- this is
15 what's being presented to us, but obviously there is
16 time for us to make comment and for them to modify this
17 document and make amendments to it or changes to it.
18 And so what I'm asking for is that the -- this be
19 amended to allow superintendents to have that authority
20 to work locally within the communities that are using
21 that Park, Preserve, Refuge, what -- whatever it may
22 be.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, does
25 that mean that this is going to come before us again or
26 does this proposed rule at the end of this comment
27 period, the comments go in, you take it up and then
28 it's over?

29
30 MR. PAYOR: The -- as it -- as it
31 currently stands this proposed rule is subject to
32 amendment and -- and if it -- if it was to be signed or
33 put into law it could -- it could be amended to reduce
34 any -- any restrictions that are -- that -- that are
35 written into it, but it could not become more
36 restrictive than it currently is. So that -- that's
37 where we're at. So what you're suggesting I -- I would
38 think would be within the realm of -- of possibility.
39 Do -- do you follow what I'm saying?

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I still want
42 my question answered.

43
44 MR. PAYOR: Sure.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Once -- once
47 it's amended and it goes before Congress.....

48
49 MR. PAYOR: Uh-huh.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and it's
2 voted on it's done, that's the last step, right, and
3 that last step is right after -- we don't see it again
4 before the last step; is that correct?

5
6 MR. PAYOR: There is -- once -- once it
7 is -- there is a 30 day period once it appears in the
8 -- in a Federal Register as a final, there is a 30
9 period to.....

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

12
13 MR. PAYOR:to register exceptions
14 or -- or, you know, if you don't agree with it. And --
15 and so there is a grievance process there.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda.

18
19 MR. PAYOR: Thank you.

20
21 MS. POPE: Yes, thank you, Madame
22 Chair. I really am flabbergasted about why this
23 proposed rule is being brought up again. It's really
24 not legal and it should have went through the -- the
25 whole process like we have to put in proposals either
26 as a Board or individually. It -- it didn't allow more
27 time for people to comment, it just kind of got sprung
28 on us, be like hey, yeah, you got this to comment on
29 and then like we're going to vote on it and then you
30 won't have a say.

31
32 As for what -- what he was asking about
33 amending it, in ANILCA, already in -- in the law and
34 the Alaska State Constitution. This goes against both
35 of them. And when Obama was in office he made a ruling
36 saying that the superintendents had discretionary
37 authority to help the locals either with a process for
38 a permit application or what -- like one of these
39 actions on this proposed rule. It already stands that
40 the superintendents already have the discretionary
41 authority to make rulings in their area. But in my
42 case personally it has not been like that. The
43 superintendents drug their feet in both of my cases for
44 two years now, the last one was two years. When in
45 reality they had the option to do it right away with
46 the laws that are in place without asking for further
47 information. It's kind of ridiculous that
48 superintendents abuse in quotations, their authority
49 already. I just personally think that this proposed
50

0255

1 rule should not be in place because it -- it affects
2 everybody in the whole State of Alaska, either
3 Federally-qualified or not.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I'm --
8 I'm still concerned that we -- you know, this -- this
9 is a big subject and it's -- this is the third time it
10 came before us, 2015, 2020, now again. And it's like a
11 back and forth thing, it's like a teeter totter and I
12 just feel like -- I mean, I spent some time also
13 talking to Grant Hildebrandt who's also presented this
14 rule to the SRC and we had a lot of engagement and
15 unanimous support to -- on our comments. So I really
16 appreciate your comments, Amanda, and -- and I just
17 still maintain the State should have management and --
18 and just completely eliminating things and -- and
19 taking this -- all of this justification for -- that --
20 that's been written up here, it -- it's -- it's a big
21 deal for a lot of people and it might not be in certain
22 areas, but it's really a big deal in certain areas.
23 And -- and it's -- and bear baiting isn't allowed in
24 all areas, it's -- so there's all this regulations
25 that's already -- you know, that the State maintains
26 and there's -- if there's a safety issue they address
27 the safety issue. So by just get -- eliminating
28 everything is just not the way to go. And I -- I still
29 want to see if we can do a working group and do more
30 from this group, but it -- if we're in a time frame and
31 we can't I'm pretty bummed out about it.

32

33 Amanda.

34

35 MS. POPE: Yes, thank you, Madame
36 Chair. Is it possible if the Park Service is willing
37 to work with the State of Alaska and its people who
38 live in the State instead of listening to people who
39 just sign a paper from another State. Is it possible
40 if you guys can get rid of this rule and -- and just do
41 a proposal for each of these actions like how we do
42 proposals?

43

44 MR. PAYOR: It -- that is certainly
45 possible, yes. I mean, if that's -- that should be an
46 idea that -- that you would put forward in -- in a --
47 in a letter to address this -- this particular proposed
48 rule.

49

50

0256

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hold on.

2

3 MR. PAYOR: Yeah.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda.

6

7 MS. POPE: I just wanted to say that
8 I'm in support of the Council if they would be willing
9 -- willing to do that just so not only us, but the
10 whole State and its people have the opportunity to
11 attend more meetings on this subject in each topic
12 individually.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF: So I -- I've been
17 living in Yukon-Charley and trapping and hunting,
18 fishing for 40 years. And I use a -- a wooden canoe.
19 And it's not uncommon for me to get blown off the river
20 and on the bank. And so I have to sort of echo what
21 Amanda said about bait stations that will end up on the
22 beach because I'm stuck, the best thing I can do is
23 keep my boat off the rocks and bail it out for the two
24 or three hours until the weather settles down. And
25 that's just a concrete example of being forced to deal
26 with this bait -- baiting on the beach. And I can
27 guarantee you that there's a pile of people from Germany
28 and other countries that are going to be really
29 offended when they see these bait stations on the beach
30 because that's their interaction with game is on the
31 beach because they -- frankly they're pretty petrified
32 to go off the -- off the open beach country. I mean,
33 they'll walk up the trail to a public use cabin, but
34 they might not go to the outhouse.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. PAYOR: Thank you, Don.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, that's
41 an example where a regulation can be made so far off
42 the river if bear baiting was allowed, you know. So
43 yeah, we're you going to address that for us?

44

45 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair, I just
46 wanted to address sort of the next steps for the
47 Council and how you might like to proceed with
48 providing comments on this. If you do want to sit --
49 submit a letter from the RAC it would be important that
50

0257

1 we agree or that you all agree as a Council what
2 comments you want to put forward in a unified voice, if
3 you want to say -- explicitly state that there are
4 different concerns in different regions we can of
5 course lay that out. But the letter would need to be
6 submitted by the deadline which is next Friday. And so
7 we'll -- we'll need to be clear on the record what
8 comments we would want in that letter or if you all
9 want to try to set up a Zoom call next week to do a
10 working group we can try to talk about this more,
11 but.....

12

13 MS. WESSELS: No.

14

15 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Katya says no so
16 perhaps she can follow-up on that.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
19 Katya Wessels. So the only way you can have a working
20 group is if you like stop having the meeting now, break
21 for an hour and the working group will convene,
22 discuss, agree and bring it back to the Council and the
23 Council votes to -- to either submit a letter or not
24 submit it. Yeah, because you have to approve it as a
25 Council whatever the working group is, you know,
26 proposing. So as an alternate thing, you know, you can
27 just agree that everybody's comments be put in the
28 letter. Whatever's been said on the record, you know,
29 that it is included in the letter. And this way you
30 can make sure that, you know, everybody's voice on the
31 Council is heard. And then we can show that there is
32 regional differences and -- and we can have all these
33 various proposals that were made by different Council
34 members like allowing the superintendent to have, you
35 know, authority to allow certain practices or maybe get
36 rid of the proposed rule altogether and have more
37 discussions specifically with the Alaska users,
38 subsistence and, you know, rural subsistence users and
39 the other users but within the State of Alaska.
40 Everything that was said here because right now the
41 comments are open for anyone in the United States to
42 comment on this proposed rule, but the proposed rule is
43 only applicable to the State of Alaska. So yeah, and
44 you can articulate more comments right now if you want
45 to and then you can vote to have a letter or -- and
46 also all of you can submit your individual comments
47 too, but I just think that if you submit comments as
48 the Council, even if you don't have a consensus on your
49 position that still would be more meaningful to the
50

0258

1 decision makers, have that all in writing and perhaps
2 we even can ask Nathan to give us that part of the tape
3 so we can write a better, you know, summary. And I
4 wrote some notes, I didn't capture everything, but I
5 wrote some notes.

6

7

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

8

9

10 up on what Katya said. We -- we can definitely do
11 that, just highlight all the different comments that
12 were made today. If there are certain things that the
13 Council feels like you are in consensus on as opposed
14 to providing them as a list of individual comments, it
15 might come off as a stronger unified voice if you did
16 want to under consensus put forward certain aspects of
17 this like if you are concerned about how this process
18 is taking place and the application of a unified
19 Statewide thing, if you all feel the same about that,
20 you know, that could definitely be presented on behalf
21 of the Council. And then some of the differing
22 individual views could also be included as individual
23 comments on that letter.

24

25

26

But just a suggestion, something to
think about. Thanks.

27

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Go ahead, Andy.

41

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MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
I'd like to make a motion that the Eastern Interior
Regional Advisory Council formulate a letter consisting
of all the comments made in these deliberations today
and any additional written comments that were made by
the SRCs that would capture all of the viewpoints of
the Council. That this letter would be put together
before the deadline and submitted to -- to the National
Park Service for consideration.

0259

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
2 indicating what you think those two points this letter
3 presumes to.....

4
5 MR. BASSICH: Stand -- just stand.
6 Okay.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be
9 better.

10
11 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Go ahead.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, you two
14 go ahead.

15
16 MR. BASSICH: All right. So let me --
17 let me start the motion again. I withdraw the original
18 motion, let me try and restate the motion. The motion
19 is that the Eastern -- excuse me, the Eastern Interior
20 Regional Advisory Council shall provide a letter to the
21 National Park Service in regards to the proposed rule
22 changes and that the contents of this letter will
23 include or may include all comments presented verbally
24 in our discussions, any written comments or documents
25 from SRCs.

26
27 And I think that pretty much covers it.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And my two
30 points.

31
32 MR. BASSICH: Oh, and I'm sorry. Well,
33 okay. And there's also a document from the Chair with
34 comments on it that this may be included and that the
35 letter shall be a collaborative -- collaboration
36 amongst volunteers working with our Coordinator to
37 construct the letter and get it out by the deadline.

38
39 Go ahead, Amanda.

40
41 MS. POPE: This is Amanda Pope. I
42 would like to also second that, but I'd also add that
43 the National Park Service -- amend to add the National
44 Park Service had done this proposed rule illegally
45 against the State of Alaska constitution and ANILCA and
46 also to offer that the National Park Service would do
47 individually proposals for each topic the way everybody
48 else does proposals.

49
50

0260

1 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I think what
2 I've heard is a motion and a second and the additional
3 comments by the seconder could be items or topics
4 included in the letter.

5
6 Madame Chair.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That sounds
9 good to me as long as our Staff is happy. Whoops. I
10 didn't have my mic on. Any other discussion, Charlie
11 and Eva or anyone here.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie and
16 Eva, I'm making sure that you heard the motion.

17
18 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, we heard the
19 motion. No further comments at this time.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
24 Thanks, Charlie. Council members, any other comments
25 or questions or discussion.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
30 Hearing none, do you want to do a roll call? Let's do
31 a roll call vote.

32
33 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. I will try to
34 restate the motion for the record. The motion was for
35 the Eastern Interior RAC to submit a letter consisting --
36 submit a letter to the National Park Service providing
37 comments on the proposed rule and that the comments in
38 that letter will be ones that were provided verbally
39 and in written format at this meeting.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: And Sue's additional
42 ones?

43
44 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, which is also
45 provided, yep. Okay. All right.

46
47 MS. WESSELS: Do you want to read them
48 for the record.

49
50

0261

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Excuse me.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Do you want to read them
4 into the record, the Council's.....

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Well, that's what
7 we're.....

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: All Council members
10 received a copy of the comments, they were passed out
11 to the Council from Chair Entsminger.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did Charlie --
14 did Charlie get it?

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Yes. And Charlie and Eva
17 also received a copy.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
20 right.

21

22 MS. POPE: And would that include the
23 suggestion to the National Park Service to do proposals
24 the right way?

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, you -- you -- you
27 stated that on the record.

28

29 MS. POPE: Okay.

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: Yes. The comment.....

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everything
34 verbal.

35

36 MS. MCDAVID:all the comments
37 that people provided will go into the letter and we'll
38 have a list of everything that was said.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We've put a
41 lot of work on you.

42

43 MS. MCDAVID: So.....

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We appreciate
46 it.

47

48 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.

49

50

0262

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: Are you ready for the

4 roll call?

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Roger.

7

8 MR. WOODRUFF: All right. Let's start

9 at the top of the list.

10

11 Sue Entsminger.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

14

15 MR. WOODRUFF: Eva Burk, are you there?

16

17 MS. BURK: Yes.

18

19 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

20

21 Linda Evans.

22

23 MS. EVANS: No.

24

25 MR. WOODRUFF: Amanda Pope.

26

27 MS. POPE: Yes.

28

29 MR. WOODRUFF: William Glanz, are you

30 out there?

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MR. WOODRUFF: Andrew Bassich.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

37

38 MR. WOODRUFF: Robert Wright.

39

40 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

41

42 MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie Jagow.

43

44 MR. JAGOW: Yes.

45

46 MR. WOODRUFF: I vote yes. It's eight

47 to one.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Time to move

50

0263

1 on. Let's see now. We have.....

2

3 MR. PAYOR: Okay. Thank -- thank you
4 for the opportunity and I -- I hope it was helpful.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. PAYOR: Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Our brains
11 get a little muddled at times. Thank you.

12

13 All right. Next thing on the agenda is
14 the wildlife.....

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF: Thanks again for your
17 presentation.

18

19 MR. PAYOR: Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:wildlife
22 -- call for wildlife proposals, Federal wildlife
23 proposals.

24

25 MR. PLANK: Hello, Madame Chair,
26 members of the Council. For the record my name is Tom
27 Plank, I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Office of
28 Subsistence Management. And now is the call for the
29 wildlife proposals and the Council's opportunity to
30 submit proposals to change Federal subsistence wildlife
31 harvest regulations. An informational flyer on how to
32 submit a proposal to change Federal subsistence
33 regulations can be found on Page 92 of your meeting
34 books.

35

36 Proposals need to include the
37 regulation you wish to change, the specific lang --
38 sorry, the specific changes you're proposing, an
39 explanation of why the regulation change should be made
40 and any additional information that may help in
41 evaluating the proposed change. The window to submit
42 proposals opened February 27th and closes April 12th.
43 The Council can vote to submit a proposal during this
44 meeting and your Council Coordinator will then
45 officially submit it. Also the opportunity for
46 Councils to submit proposals is available during this
47 entire meeting and if a Council member thinks of a
48 proposal later or in response to another agenda item
49 they are welcome to suggest submitting a proposal then.

50

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1 Of course anyone can submit a proposal as an individual
2 before the submission window closes.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 I'm happy to answer any questions about
7 the proposal process and will stand by while the
8 Council discusses possible proposals to submit.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
11 questions.

12

13 MS. POPE: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda.

16

17 MS. POPE: Yes, Madame Chair. This is
18 Amanda Pope for the record. In the Federal regulation
19 book in Unit 25D west, that portion lying west of a
20 line extending from the Unit 25D boundary on Preacher
21 Creek, then downstream along Preacher Creek, First
22 Creek and lower mouth of Birch Creek to the Yukon -- to
23 the Yukon River, then downstream along the north bank
24 of the Yukon River including islands to the confluence
25 of the Hadweenzic River, then upstream along the west
26 bank of the Hadweenzic River to the confluence of Forty
27 and One Half Mile Creek, and then upstream along Forth
28 and One Half Mile Creek to Nel -- Nelson on -- on the
29 Unit 25D boundary. This permit -- this portion are
30 permitted to Beaver, Bridge Creek and Susan's Village.
31 And then it says for residents of 25D west who do not
32 live in one of those three comm -- villages, permits
33 will be available by contacting the Yukon Flats
34 National Wildlife Refuge in Fairbanks which is a tier
35 two permit draw I believe. And that tier two permit is
36 available, but for -- well, those people who don't live
37 in those three villages are still Federally-qualified.
38 Although they may not hunt that area unless they apply
39 for a different permit that is the same as the State's.
40 So they have to be in the same pot to apply for a
41 permit for that area when they're already Fed -- when
42 they are already Federally-qualified. And they do hunt
43 that area, there's a lot of folks in Fort Yukon that
44 hunt the area, from Circle.

45

46 I think -- I'm asking the Council if
47 they would be willing to do a proposal to add all of
48 the Yukon Flats communities in that regulation?

49

50

0265

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And.....

2

3 MS. POPE: Sorry. And -- and this
4 regulation is in the Federal subsistence regulation
5 book on Page 129.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Regarding
8 moose?

9

10 MS. POPE: Yes, regarding moose.

11

12 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Amanda. This
13 is Brooke, Madame Chair. I just wanted to make sure
14 that we're interpreting the regulation correctly. We
15 might need help from Wildlife Staff. When I'm reading
16 it it looks like all residents of Unit 25D west are
17 Federally-qualified, it's just depending on where you
18 can get your permit from. It looks like permits can be
19 picked up in those three villages that you listed, but
20 other residents of the region can get the same permit
21 from the Refuge.

22

23 MS. POPE: Yes, they can get a permit,
24 but they have to compete against the State hunters.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because it's
27 a tier tow?

28

29 MS. POPE: Yes, because it's a tier
30 two. And -- and that's from what I know.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A tier two is
33 a State regulation so.....

34

35 MS. POPE: I was told differently.
36 Maybe Mark can clarify that.

37

38 MR. NELSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 My name is Mark Nelson, I'm a Wildlife Biologist with
40 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. In 25D west
41 there are two permits, there's the Federal permit which
42 is valid on Federal land and is available to all
43 residents of 25D west as it says in -- in the regs
44 there on Page 129. Under the State system there's a
45 separate permit that is a tier two. Those are --
46 that's through like an application period, it's a tier
47 two process through the State. There is preference
48 given to folks who have a history in that area, but in
49 that area those permits are only good on either private
50

0266

1 land or State land.

2

3 So does that help clarify the two
4 separate permits for that area?

5

6 MS. POPE: Yes, it -- so I'm talking
7 about the other communities around the Yukon Flats
8 National Wildlife Refuge. And who.....

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You might --
11 might want to clarify.

12

13 MS. POPE: Yeah.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can I ask you
16 this question, Amanda.

17

18 MS. POPE: Go ahead.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: On the first --
21 where it says customary and traditional use
22 determination for moose and you go down to 25D west, is
23 that what you're -- you're talking about 25D west,
24 right?

25

26 MS. POPE: Yes.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then it's
29 residents of 25D west are the people that qualify.

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: It's not just these
32 three.....

33

34 MS. POPE: How about -- how about 25D
35 east?

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So.....

38

39 MS. POPE: And this?

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:so then
42 it goes into 25D remainder. So all residents of 25
43 qualify for 25D remainder. It -- am I correct here?
44 Yeah.

45

46 MS. POPE: And what permit is that, is
47 that the Federally-qualified one or is that a part of
48 the tier two?

49

50

0267

1 MR. NELSON: This is Mark Nelson again.
2 In 25D east or the remainder of 25, that is -- that's a
3 State.....

4
5 MS. POPE: Right.

6
7 MR. NELSON:harvest ticket hunt
8 and anybody's eligible for that.

9
10 MS. POPE: Okay. So what if I'm from a
11 -- I'm from Circle which I am I get a Federally-
12 qualified permit to hunt 25D west. I was told I wasn't
13 eligible to do that unless I got a tier two permit. So
14 that's wrong?

15
16 MR. NELSON: Yeah. No, those are two
17 separate permits. You can hold both at the same
18 time.....

19
20 MS. POPE: Uh-huh.

21
22 MR. NELSON:and the way it would
23 work is if you go out and you're on private land or
24 tribal land or anything like that, that's
25 considered.....

26
27 MS. POPE: Right.

28
29 MR. NELSON:private or State
30 land.....

31
32 MS. POPE: Yes.

33
34 MR. NELSON:you would use a tier
35 two permit and then when you step onto the Refuge you
36 would use the Federal permit, the FM2505.

37
38 MS. POPE: Okay. Well, I'm going to
39 have to go back to that person and.....

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Ring their bell.

42
43 MS. POPE: Yeah, ring their bell.
44 Thank you for the clarification, Mark.

45
46 MR. NELSON: You're welcome.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's nice
49 you're engaged, Amanda, that's fine.
50

0268

1 MS. POPE: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: It helps. So.....

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It helps
6 everybody to try to understand things.

7

8 Okay. This is the Federal call for
9 wildlife proposals. Does any Council member have a
10 proposal.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 Looking in the Federal wildlife book on Page 143 under
18 marten for units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25. I would like
19 to propose that the marten trapping be amended so that
20 it goes from November 1st to March 15th.

21

22 That's my motion, Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. He
25 said proposed -- this is a motion.....

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:for us
30 to put forth a Federal wildlife proposal, Page 143,
31 units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25 to add -- to delete
32 February 28 and add March 15.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Correct.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
37 second.

38

39 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's a
42 second. Donald.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 Speaking to the motion, the reason I want to do this is
46 two-fold. One, it then brings the alignment of marten
47 to the same trapping periods as lynx. Most trappers
48 are trapping both at -- simultaneously. So this will
49 allow trappers to continue to trap marten for an
50

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1 additional 15 days while the lynx season is open. The
2 second reason why I'm doing this is that climate change
3 is shifting the climate patterns and is quite
4 noticeable now that it's staying warmer in the fall,
5 but it's staying cooler into the springs. I've talked
6 with a number of different furriers and a number of
7 people that live in various parts of these units and
8 all have stated that fur is still prime and it is quite
9 usable March 15th for marten. So there's no problems
10 with wanton waste or harvesting an animal that's not a
11 usable animal, a quality animal.

12

13 And those are the main reasons why I
14 want to make this change, it's basically to bring some
15 alignment and make the ability for trappers to get out
16 there and continue to trap. Additionally with food
17 costs going up and everything I think the opportunity
18 for another 15 days to trap a few marten is a very good
19 economical activity for those people who live in rural
20 areas. And the final note is that during the season of
21 March, late February, March, that's generally when
22 trapping trails and conditions are most conducive to
23 being out on the land. Oftentimes early in November
24 and the month of November it's almost impossible to get
25 out on the land if we don't have the proper snowfalls.
26 So it's a very -- it can be a very opportunistic time
27 frame for trappers to finish up their trapping season
28 and be successful.

29

30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31

32 That's all I had for justification.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
35 discussion. Don and Amanda.

36

37 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
38 I trapped for marten for four decades in 25 and it
39 wasn't uncommon for me to get a few marten in March,
40 whether it be in the '70s or '80s before there was any
41 kind of enforcement, it was just that the ecology
42 showed us that the fur was still prime and we had very
43 few lynx then so that was it. And Park Service has
44 come to me recently and asked me on the trapline all my
45 marten traps pulled at the end of February, the last
46 day of February whether it was the 28th or if it was a
47 -- you know. Anyway once there was a BLM Ranger, Park
48 Service Ranger, Fish and Game Ranger, they're all on
49 snowmachines. And I said yeah, I think all of my
50

0270

1 marten traps are pulled, but there could be some
2 squirrels in some of them.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
7 discussion. Amanda.

8

9 MS. POPE: I just had a question, maybe
10 for the ADF&G Biologist. When does marten have their
11 babies, is it in the spring?

12

13 MR. NELSON: Summer.

14

15 MS. POPE: Summer.

16

17 MR. NELSON: Summer. It's delayed
18 implantation.

19

20 MS. POPE: Okay. Okay. That's all I
21 had. Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The answer is
24 being answered by Council members.

25

26 MS. POPE: Yeah.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:members.
29 Summer.

30

31 MS. POPE: He's a Council member.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
34 other discussion.

35

36 MR. JAGOW: May I speak?

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

39

40 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, I just wanted to
41 touch on -- it's already been noted, but in recent
42 years it has been a lot harder to get trails out in
43 November. So an extra couple of weeks certainly would
44 be very helpful for folks that rely on marten for an
45 income.

46

47 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
48 Charlie.

49

50

0271

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I didn't want to
2 cause another problem. Is this.....

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Charlie,
5 go ahead.

6
7 MR. WRIGHT: I agree with Andy.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah,
10 Charlie, you're breaking up again.

11
12 MR. WRIGHT: How about now, can you
13 hear it good?

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, good.

16
17 MR. WRIGHT: I'd just like to say I
18 agree with Andy, the falls have been warmer and springs
19 have been a little colder. You can't go out early in
20 the fall because it's too warm, ice is dangerous. But
21 I think I'm done. I support this proposal.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
26 just voting to put a proposal forward and it'll have a
27 -- I think that puts the Staff to a lot of hard work
28 because I can see parts of these. There is 15 March
29 for some of it and then there's 20 -- February 28 for
30 some of them. But are you okay with it, the way it's
31 going forward?

32
33 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
36 right. So any other discussion.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
41 just going to ask, is anyone opposed to putting the
42 proposal forward.

43
44 (No opposing votes)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none
47 the Eastern Interior is putting a proposal for marten
48 as stated.

49
50

0272

1 Any other wildlife proposals by any
2 Council members.

3
4 MS. POPE: Yes, this is Amanda.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7
8 MS. POPE: I would like to see moose
9 hunting available longer. Right now currently it's in
10 Unit 25B it says that it's open until October 7th on
11 Page 129 in the Federal subsistence booklet.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you
14 have a motion.

15
16 MS. POPE: I would like to include Unit
17 25C also to -- I'll just make a motion.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

20
21 MS. POPE: I'll -- I make a motion to
22 extend 25B and 25C Federal moose hunting period to
23 October 15.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: B and C to
26 October 15?

27
28 MS. POPE: Yes.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
31 There's a motion to extend 25B and C to October 15th
32 for the moose.

33
34 MS. POPE: The reason why is
35 because.....

36
37 MR. BASSICH: You need somebody to
38 second the motion first.

39
40 MS. POPE: Oh.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So looking
43 for a second.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: I'll second that, Madame
46 Chair.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
49 motion for -- has been seconded. Go ahead with
50

0273

1 discussion.

2

3

MS. POPE: Okay. Sorry about that.

4

5

MR. BASSICH: It's okay.

6

7

8

MS. POPE: The reason why I would like to see that go through is because we get a.....

9

10

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

11

12

13

MS. POPE:we get a high.....

14

15

16

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

17

18

MS. POPE:number of folks.....

19

20

21

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

22

23

24

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm hearing a conversation. If you could mute your phones we would appreciate it.

25

26

27

Thank you.

28

29

30

MS. POPE: We get a high hunting pressure and during the regular season and this will allow the subsistence users to hunt longer and not have to compete. It will also help the subsistence users to be able to have cooler weather since the river's breaking up later. And it'll just give extra time for subsistence users to harvest something, a moose.

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

Thank you.

38

39

40

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I just had a quick question. Would that add a new one because right now on 25B and C under moose it just says just -- I'm looking over here, open seasons. It's a little confusing, December 1 to December 20.

41

42

43

44

45

MR. WOODRUFF: I think that's right.

46

47

48

MR. BASSICH: They have a second season in the wintertime, a short season.....

49

50

0274

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2

3 MR. BASSICH:from the 2nd to the
4 19th.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So the
7 -- currently it closes on the 25th of September.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Or 28th.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm in
12 the wrong place. Sorry, guys. Okay. Got it.

13

14 Go ahead, Amanda.

15

16 MS. POPE: I was specifically looking
17 at 25B.....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

20

21 MS. POPE:where it says it's open
22 August 25th to October 7 and I wanted to extend that to
23 the 15th of October. And then 25C to -- from August
24 20th to September 30th to extend that to October 15.

25

26 MS. MCDAVID: So all portions.....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

29

30 MS. MCDAVID: So she just.....

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go
33 ahead.

34

35 MS. MCDAVID: Just to clarify for the
36 record it does say in the reg book there are different
37 season dates for different portions of Unit 25B and
38 Amanda's motion is speaking to -- to all subparts of
39 Unit 25B.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
42 that.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: Tom has a.....

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom.

47

48 MR. PLANK: So I just want to clarify
49 -- Tom Plank, OSM. I just want to clarify with -- so
50

0275

1 you're asking for an extension of the fall hunt close
2 date in all the portions of 25B and 25C; is that
3 correct?

4

5 MS. POPE: Yes, that's correct.

6

7 MR. PLANK: Awesome. Thank you.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Further comment.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah further
14 justification. I'd like to reference my comments that
15 falltime is staying warmer longer. So what we're
16 experiencing at least on -- in the region she's talking
17 about and the region I live in is if you hunt moose
18 very early in the season it's very difficult to hang
19 meat and it's a very traditional to hang meat because
20 most people don't have freezers and have to process the
21 entire animal. So generally speaking traditionally
22 what most people do is they hunt an animal, they hang
23 it in a -- in a meat locker or whatever outside and
24 they allow it to -- to age. And in recent years it's
25 becoming more difficult to do that without spoilage.
26 So extending the season and providing the opportunity
27 for Federally-qualified hunters to hunt later in the
28 season when the weather is appropriate for the type of
29 clim -- the type of processing that they do will
30 greatly help those subsistence people with the quality
31 of the meat and less waste.

32

33 MS. POPE: Is it possible to also
34 include 25D or do I need to make a different one?

35

36 MR. BASSICH: You can modify it if you
37 want.

38

39 MS. POPE: Okay. So I would like to
40 modify that pro -- what is it called.....

41

42 MR. BASSICH: 25D.

43

44 MS. POPE:to add 25D remainder.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is it -- you
47 want to help me out because I'm.....

48

49 MS. POPE: On the -- it's on the next

50

0276

1 page at the very top.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just the
4 remainder then?

5

6 MS. POPE: Yes, just the remainder.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: And as a second I'll
11 second that amendment, Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
14 you both.

15

16 MS. WESSELS: I'd like to remind the
17 Council or Madame Chair. Yeah, I -- I didn't -- I
18 didn't say it when you did it earlier, but when you
19 have amendments like that you'll have to first vote on
20 the amendment and then on the original motion as
21 amended. So you have choice to do this or you can also
22 withdraw the original motion and make a new motion and
23 then you'll have to only vote once.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know you're
26 keeping our straight.

27

28 MS. POPE: I heard that.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Withdraw the
31 second and agree. That's what I heard.

32

33 MS. POPE: I could do a whole new one.

34

35 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, well you first need
36 -- you.....

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do you
39 want to withdraw the second.

40

41 MS. WESSELS:with the permission
42 of the second.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: With the
45 permission of the Chair.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Let's just.....

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

50

0277

1 MR. BASSICH: Let's just start over.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
4 starting all over. Sorry.

5

6 MS. POPE: And thank you, Katya.

7

8 MS. WESSELS: You're welcome.

9

10 MS. POPE: This is Amanda Pope for the
11 record. I would like to do a motion for.....

12

13 MS. WESSELS: First I would like.....

14

15 MS. POPE: Oh.

16

17 MS. WESSELS:to withdraw.....

18

19 MS. POPE: Oh. I would like to
20 withdraw the first motion.....

21

22 MS. WESSELS: With the permission of
23 the second.

24

25 MS. POPE:with the permission of
26 the second.

27

28 MR. BASSICH: As the second I -- I
29 agree.

30

31 MS. POPE: Thank you. I would like to
32 do a new motion for moose in all of Unit 25B, 25C and
33 25D remainder to allow subsistence moose harvest for
34 the fall hunt to be extended to October 15. Do I hear
35 a second?

36

37 MR. BASSICH: And I second that, Madame
38 Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
41 to speak to the motion.

42

43 MS. POPE: I will reference the
44 previous comments. Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
47 discussion.

48

49 MS. EVANS: That late in the season is

50

0278

1 the moose still -- are they in their -- more fuller in
2 their rut or is it just the -- because the weather
3 change, they're not going into the rut so soon?

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy wants to
6 speak to it.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, what -- what I've
9 been noticing at least in my region, Linda, is that the
10 moose aren't moving early. And so it's becoming very
11 difficult to hunt them because they're going into rut
12 later. And by -- by allowing that additional week
13 there's a better opportunity for the rut to start to
14 take place and for moose hunting to be more successful.
15 The bulls are more active a little bit later now into
16 October as opposed to the September time frame that has
17 been the traditional or the standard time frame.

18

19 So this is in -- in -- the reason this
20 is being proposed and I'm supporting it is because
21 climate change is changing and shifting, weather's
22 staying warmer longer into the fall, that's changing
23 the habits of the moose and all the ability to hang
24 moose during the regular hunting season. So the way it
25 is right now if you get a moose during the hunting
26 season and you want to hang it, you're going to have a
27 hard time keeping it from spoiling because it's just
28 staying too warm. So we want the opportunity
29 especially for those people that live really remote
30 that don't have any refrigeration, no way to transport
31 the animal to refrigeration to be able to hunt in their
32 traditional ways and -- and not waste meat. So in my
33 view it's more about hunting opportunity to be
34 successful during a time frame when the weather is
35 conducive for hunting a larger animal like that that
36 requires very special -- taking care of the meat in a
37 very special way. That's why I'm -- I want to support
38 it.

39

40 Madame Chair.

41

42 MS. POPE: The reason I had that
43 comment was because sometimes they get moose too late,
44 the taste of the moose is different.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah,
47 it's.....

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is

50

0279

1 Charlie.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,

4 Charlie.

5

6 MR. WRIGHT: I have to agree with Andy
7 with the way the seasons have been changing. The
8 biologists also who support that are saying that the
9 calves are being born later in the season now, that
10 means that they're mating later. And -- and they're
11 not coming to a call early or into the middle of the
12 season now or towards the end of it. So I think that
13 this is a -- sometimes you run into one that stayed or
14 early, but most cases nowadays they're -- they're not
15 calling until the end of the season. So that makes it
16 real hard for a lot of us to get our -- our meat. So I
17 support.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
20 you. It is a proposal and we don't need to really
21 debate it, but.....

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Right now.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:the
26 questions are fine and the support is fine.

27

28 Amanda.

29

30 MS. POPE: Yes, Madame Chair, thank
31 you. I just had something to add. I wanted to share
32 with everybody that with the amount of people that I've
33 been speaking to who come through Circle are -- either
34 by plane or by boat or just floating from Andy's area,
35 a lot of them float hunt and I've seen a lot of meat
36 that was spoiled in the early season of the hunt in
37 fall season. And it's just -- I personally would like
38 to see all hunts pushed back at least five, six days.
39 But the people who float hunt don't take into
40 consideration that they need to keep their meat dry and
41 when they come off the -- the -- out of the field the
42 meat's bad. And I've had somebody donate rotten meat
43 to my community. And when they came back to hunt I
44 educated them about how to properly take care of meat
45 in warm weather. And the amount of -- as Charlie and
46 Andy were -- was saying with the amount of hot --
47 hotter weather in the early hunting season is pretty
48 important to consider because people still hunt those
49 early hunts. And they think it's cold, but it's really
50

0280

1 hot. And like the last couple years in my region
2 people have had a hard time keeping their meat cool.
3 They'd have to process it right away and try to get it
4 back home right away. And people who come in from
5 outside don't really know that. So I think just having
6 the support to move it farther for moose at least will
7 be beneficial for the people of the area.

8

9 So thank you.

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Sounds like hunter
12 education material.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
15 Yeah. Andy just said it sounds like hunter education
16 material. Yes.

17

18 Okay. Council members, that's just a
19 proposal, it'll come before us in the fall. So are
20 there any other wildlife proposals, Federal wildlife
21 proposals.

22

23 MS. WESSELS: We got to vote.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, we got to
26 vote. Sorry. I must be getting -- push me, Andy.

27

28 There's a motion on the floor to put
29 this proposal forward. All in -- I'll ask for
30 unanimous consent. Is there anyone opposed.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
35 the motion passes unanimous.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: I have a quick proposal.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, another
40 quick proposal. Andy.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 Another quick proposal that dovetails with the previous
44 proposal and that is I would like to make a motion that
45 the area within -- portion within Unit 25B, that
46 portion of Yukon-Charlie National Preserve drainage
47 hunting moose be September 5 through October 15th.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wasn't that

50

0281

1 in the last motion.

2

3

MR. BASSICH: So -- no.

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. She said.....

7

8

MR. BASSICH: It's 25B.

9

10

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:25B.

11

12

MR. BASSICH: It's a separate.....

13

14

MS. POPE: That was included.

15

16

17

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It was included, yeah. That was my understanding.

18

19

MR. BASSICH: Okay.

20

21

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All of 25B.

22

23

MR. BASSICH: B?

24

25

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, B.....

26

27

MR. BASSICH: Okay.

28

29

30

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:C and D remainder.

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

MR. BASSICH: Okay. The reason why I was going to do that is because that is a separate jurisdiction by Yukon Charley is my understanding and I didn't want it to fail simply because the Park Service didn't want it to happen. So that's why I made the separate motion.....

38

39

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wow.

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. BASSICH:for that area. I wanted to separate those two so that the Federal Subsistence Board would have the opportunity not to shoot down the other units. I guess they could amend it, but I -- I'm -- you know, I always have concerns about those types of things when two different entities are the ones that are going to either approve it or not approve it. So whatever -- whatever the Chair thinks should happen or maybe if I can get a little bit of --

0282

1 if it.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I
4 understand.....

5

6 MR. BASSICH:if the Federal
7 Subsistence Board is willing to amend something like
8 that if they didn't want it, I just don't want them to
9 shoot down Amanda's proposal simply because they don't
10 agree with it happening in Yukon Charley.

11

12 That's the intent of my motion, Madame
13 Chair. And if that's clear enough in this statement to
14 the Board then that's fine with me too, we don't need
15 to do the whole proposal over.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it
18 would probably come up in -- as we -- at our next
19 meeting.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
24 when you would speak to it.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

29

30 MR. BASSICH: We'll -- I withdraw that
31 motion, Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: It wasn't seconded
36 anyway.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
39 Federal wildlife proposals?

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
44 Hearing none, we'll move on to Board of Game proposals.

45

46 Andy.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 I would like to mirror the previous proposal for the

50

0283

1 Federal -- Federal proposal regarding marten trapping.
2 And ask the State to change marten trapping from
3 November 1 to March 15th.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's a
6 motion?

7

8 MR. BASSICH: That's a motion.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For a
11 proposal?

12

13 MS. MCDAVID: In the same units?

14

15 MR. BASSICH: Same units. Yeah, I'm
16 sorry. I'll just restate the motion then. The motion
17 is that in -- let's see, I got to come up with my
18 current page again.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, there's
21 -- there's the State line.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Well, it's all right,
24 they're -- they pretty much mirror.

25

26 Okay. So the motion is in units 12,
27 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25, marten trapping be open from
28 November 1st to March 15th.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There is a
31 motion on the floor is there a second.

32

33 MR. JAGOW: Second. Second.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the
36 second by Charlie Jagow.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: Okay. And speaking to
39 the motion I'm just going to reference the comments
40 that I made and the justifications that I made in the
41 previous motion regarding the Federal proposal that I
42 made. So this is just to put both of them in
43 alignment, both in the State regulation and Federal
44 regulation.

45

46 Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

49

50

0284

1 MS. POPE: When are they due, the State
2 proposals?

3
4 MS. MCDAVID: I can respond.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can't hear
7 you.

8
9 MS. MCDAVID: We had a question in the
10 room about when State Board of Game proposals are due
11 and in your supplemental materials in Tab 7 there is
12 the call for proposals for -- from Fish and Game and
13 the proposal deadline is Monday, May 1st. And just for
14 your information the Board of Game will meet in 2024
15 for the Interior and Eastern Arctic region, tentatively
16 scheduled for March 15th to 22nd.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, they didn't
21 like.....

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

24
25 MR. BASSICH:they're the same.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that one
28 time I read this trapping regulation. So.....

29
30 MR. BASSICH: Right.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
33 Any other discussion.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
38 ask for unanimous consent. Anyone opposed to the
39 proposal which parrots the same one on the Federal side
40 on the State side.

41
42 (No opposing votes)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
45 the motion passes for a proposal on the State side.

46
47 Any other ones for State Board of Game
48 proposals.

49
50

0285

1 Amanda.

2

3 MS. POPE: Sorry, I'm just trying to
4 find the right one.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is
7 State.

8

9 MS. POPE: Yeah, I know.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let
12 the record reflect that Andy and maybe Charlie are
13 going to step down to listen to that teleconference for
14 15 minutes. Do you guys want to keep going?

15

16 Amanda, do you have a proposal?

17

18 MS. POPE: I guess my concern is that
19 when the Federal subsistence moose hunt is on in 25C we
20 -- 25C and I think 20E -- well, I might have
21 misunderstood, but let me look this over for a second
22 and then I'll get back to you to clarify what I need
23 to.....

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

26

27 MS. POPE:say.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Why don't we
30 step down for 10 minutes and we'll come back.

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (On record)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and
37 understand things, but we're back in and -- well, I was
38 going to bang it, but we're done.

39

40 Okay. Amanda had one more Federal
41 proposal and I'd ask the Council is that okay we go
42 back, she now sees something that wasn't understood and
43 now understands.

44

45 So, Amanda.

46

47 MS. POPE: Yes. Hello. Thank you,
48 Madame Chair. I would like to -- do we have a quorum?

49

50

0286

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We do.

2

3 MS. POPE: Okay.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who's online,
6 is both -- is both Charlie and Eva online? I know that
7 Andy just stepped out to listen to another conference.

8

9 MS. POPE: Charlie did too I think.

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, I think he did.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Eva, are you
14 there?

15

16 MR. WRIGHT: I'm online yes, Eva and I
17 are.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
20 just have Andy Bassich missing right now so we're.....

21

22 MS. POPE: Okay.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:we're
25 good. Go ahead.

26

27 MS. POPE: Okay. This is Amanda Pope
28 for the record. Thank you, Madame Chair. I would like
29 to make a motion. In the Federal subsistence booklet
30 on Page 129 it says for moose in Unit 25D west
31 including the -- the boundaries that it states,
32 including the villages of Beaver, Birch Creek and
33 Stevens, having -- having a traditional and customary
34 use of the 25D west. I would like to make a motion to
35 add Circle and Fort Yukon to that regulation.....

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: C&T.

38

39 MS. POPE:because of
40 tradition.....

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just say C&T.

43

44 MS. POPE:C&T.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

47

48 MS. POPE: Do I have a second.

49

50

0287

1 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second that C&T.
2 Thank you.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead and
5 speak.

6
7 MS. POPE: Okay. Thank you. Do I need
8 to add more?

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just -- just
11 speak to the motion. And there's a motion on the floor
12 to add two villages as a C&T to 25.....

13
14 MS. POPE: D west.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:D west
17 for a Federal permit. So go ahead.

18
19 MR. WOODRUFF: We need.....

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, could
22 I.....

23
24 MS. MCDAVID: Just hang on.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hang on
27 again, there's a -- we want to understand what's really
28 going on here.

29
30 MS. MCDAVID: They might already have
31 C&T.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hang on,
34 everyone. They might already have it, but I -- I don't
35 know. We're just getting a point of clarification
36 here, it was our understanding at break that they
37 didn't have it, now we're finding out if they do.

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

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Somebody's
43 talking to the lord. I would appreciate you take it
44 separate with him and push star, six.

45
46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'll look in the
47 Federal Register and see, but yeah, just make the
48 proposal.

49
50

0288

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay.
2 The -- she made the motion, it was seconded, they said
3 just make the proposal, we'll sort it out later. She
4 just wants to make sure those two villages are included
5 in that C&T. Okay.

6
7 And I'm going to ask for unanimous
8 consent. Is anyone opposed to that proposal.

9
10 MS. MCDAVID: Justification.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. The --
13 she needs a justification to put a proposal in?

14
15 MS. MCDAVID: Yes.

16
17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Explanation.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I thought
20 she gave it already.

21
22 MS. POPE: Yes. So the reason why I
23 would like to add Circle and Fort Yukon to the 25D west
24 is because people do go through that area and they're
25 not able to hunt the -- one side because they may not
26 be qualified even though they're Federally-qualified.

27
28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Rural.

29
30 MS. POPE: Yeah, they're.....

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

33
34 MS. POPE:they're a rural
35 resident so I just wanted to allow that option for
36 them.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It
41 looked like they didn't have a C&T in Circle, but she
42 had -- they're just outside the boundary and they
43 should be included in a hunt that's going on. So if
44 that helps Staff.

45
46 Again I -- I will ask for unanimous
47 consent to put the proposal forward and we will see it
48 again in the fall. Anyone opposed.

49
50

0289

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

4 Hearing none, moving rapidly along.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: Who seconded that?

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald. So

9 now I'm calling on Denali National Park.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

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(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you on,
Charlie?

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. He
must -- Donald, I'm going to ask you to do it, okay?

MR. WOODRUFF: Okay.

MS. CRAVER: Good afternoon, 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 I will present to you two
individual customary and traditional use determination
analyses for Blaine and Kevin Mayo and members of their
households. These proposals are located in Tab 8 in
the supplemental form.

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted).

MS. CRAVER: The first proposal, ICTP
23-01 submitted by Blaine Mayo and members of his
household requesting individual customary and
traditional use, C&T use determination, from this point
on I'll refer to it as an individual C&T determination
from here on out, for caribou, grouse, ptarmigan in
game man -- game management Unit 13E in areas managed
by National Park Service where subsistence uses are

0290

1 allowed. Blaine Mayo and members of his household
2 currently reside in Healy and they already have C&T
3 determination for moose in GMU 13 in areas managed by
4 the National Park Service.

5

6 The second proposal, ICTP 24-01
7 submitted by Kevin Mayo and members of his household
8 request a C&T use determination for moose, caribou,
9 grouse and ptarmigan in GMU 13 in areas managed by the
10 National Park Service where subsistence uses are
11 allowed. Kevin Mayo currently resides in Healy and
12 has an individual C&T use determination for moose and
13 caribou in GMU 13 in areas managed by the National Park
14 Service.

15

16 Okay. So in order to -- for someone to
17 qualify for an individual C&T use determination they
18 need to demonstrate the following. Pre ANILCA pattern
19 of use in the Park and Preserve, must remain a
20 Federally-qualified rural resident, if they move out of
21 a resident zone community they must still reside in a
22 rural community to qualify. If they move into a
23 nonrural area they do not qualify. And finally for
24 member -- family members of the applicant to qualify
25 they must actually reside in the residence of the
26 applicant.

27

28 According to NPS regulations if a
29 person has a 13440 subsistence eligibility permit,
30 lives in the Park or lives in a resident zone
31 community, that person must also live in a community or
32 area that has C&T use determination for the desired
33 species and harvest -- of the harvest area and they
34 must be a rural resident. If a person has a 13440
35 permit and lives in a community without a C&T use
36 determination for the species they wish to hunt they
37 may submit a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board
38 for an individual C&T use determination.

39

40 Federal subsistence regulations allow
41 the Federal Subsistence Board to make individual C&T
42 use determinations in National Park and Monument areas.
43 NPS regulations include unique subsistence eligibility
44 requirements for NPS Lands. Requests for individual
45 C&T determinations are analyzed in the same way a
46 community or area request for a C&T. Subsistence
47 harvests are -- are authorized only in ANILCA additions
48 to the Denali National Park.

49

50

1 The proponents have described a history
2 of C&T use of moose, caribou, grouse and ptarmigan in
3 Denali National Park and Preserve, in part of GMU 13E
4 where subsistence uses are allowed. Blaine and Kevin
5 Mayo and their families are from Cantwell which is a
6 resident zone community of Denali National Park. In
7 2022 the Federal Subsistence Board determined that
8 Blaine Mayo and his household had substantial evidence
9 to support an issuance of individual C&T determination
10 for moose. Currently Blaine Mayo's family members are
11 unable to harvest caribou, grouse and ptarmigan because
12 they now reside in a rural community of Healy which
13 does not have a positive C&T use determination for
14 caribou, grouse and ptarmigan.

15
16 In 2010 the Federal Subsistence Board
17 determined that Kevin Mayo had substantial evidence to
18 support the issuance of an individual C&T use
19 determination for moose and caribou. However this C&T
20 request for moose and caribou to the Federal
21 Subsistence Board did not extend to his family members.
22 Currently Kevin Mayo's family members are unable to
23 harvest moose, caribou, grouse and ptarmigan because
24 now they reside in Healy which does not have a positive
25 C&T use determination for moose, caribou, grouse and
26 ptarmigan.

27
28 The community of Cantwell's located
29 near the Alaska Range at the confluence of the Parks
30 and Denali Highways which is north of Broad Pass and 28
31 miles south of Denali National Park and Preserve.
32 Within Denali National Park Cantwell subsistence users
33 harvest moose and caribou on the southwest boundary
34 just outside the designated Denali wilderness. This
35 area where subsistence hunting is permitted under the
36 Federal program is referred to local resident -- sorry,
37 local subsistence users as the Cantwell Traditional Use
38 Area.

39
40 In January, 2021 the Federal
41 Subsistence Board adopted a revised policy on
42 individual C&T use determinations to follow the
43 procedures described in the National Park Service's
44 standard operating procedures for the issuance of
45 subsistence eligibility permits and individual C&T use
46 determinations. The new policy allows for proposals to
47 be submitted on a continuous basis and also provides
48 for concurrent applications for 13440 subsistence
49 eligibility permits. The Federal Subsistence Board
50

1 makes C&T use determination based on a holistic
2 application of eight factors. In addition the Board
3 takes into consideration the reports and
4 recommendations from appropriate Subsistence Resource
5 Commissions and Regional Advisory Councils regarding
6 C&T use of subsistence resources.

7
8 A community or area's customary and
9 traditional use is generally exemplified through the
10 following eight factors. One, a long term consistent
11 pattern of use excluding interruptions beyond the
12 control of the community or area; two, a pattern of use
13 reoccurring in specific seasons for many years; three,
14 a pattern of use consisting of methods and means of
15 harvest which are characterized by efficiency and
16 economy of effort and caused condition by local
17 characteristics; four, the consistent harvest and use
18 of fish and wildlife as related to the past methods and
19 means of taking near and/or reasonably accessible for
20 the community or area; five, a means of handling,
21 preparing, preserving and storing fish or wildlife
22 which has been traditionally used by past generations
23 including consideration of alternate past practices due
24 to recent technologies and advances where appropriate;
25 six, a pattern of use which includes the handing down
26 of knowledge of fishing and hunting skills, values and
27 lore from generation to generation; seven, a pattern of
28 use in which harvest is shared or distributed within a
29 definable community of persons; and finally, a pattern
30 of use which relates to the reliance upon a wide
31 diversity of fish and wildlife resources of the area
32 and which provides substantial cultural, economic,
33 social and nutritional elements to the community or
34 area.

35
36 Since 1964 the Mayo families have
37 hunted, harvested and shared moose, caribou, grouse and
38 ptarmigan. Historically the Mayo families travel to
39 their hunting/trapping areas by foot, Coops, Weasels,
40 off road vehicles and snowmachines. Today the Mayo
41 family continues to maintain a reoccurring pattern of
42 use within the area by foot, ORVs and snowmachines.
43 For over four generations the Mayo families have hunted
44 and harvested animals by reasonable ground access in
45 areas near their residence within GMU 13E. The
46 extended family hunts moose, caribou, grouse and
47 ptarmigan together every hunting season in the Cantwell
48 Creek and Foggy Pass area. The Mayo's family camp
49 borders the new Park and is located on State land. To
50

0293

1 access the camp the Mayo family uses ORVs and walking.
2 Mostly caribou are gutted, skinned and quartered in the
3 field and then packed by foot to a designated ORV trail
4 and transported to camp.

5
6 The Mayo family uses all edible parts
7 of the moose and caribou. Much of the moose and
8 caribou meat is canned or stored in the freezer to
9 preserve it and some portions of the moose and caribou
10 are processed by drying. Usually a combination of
11 moose and caribou will feed two to three families. The
12 Mayo family uses the following methods for processing
13 meat. A vacuum sealer, smoker, meat grinder, pressure
14 cooker and sausage stuffer. Processing meat is a
15 family event.

16
17 Grouse and ptarmigan are brought back
18 to camp and cleaned and immediately consumed. The
19 breast meat is targeted for consumption and marinated
20 and grilled over campfire. The most important aspect
21 of grouse and ptarmigan hunting is that it provides an
22 opportunity to introduce hunting to the kids. This is
23 an important aspect of subsistence that is often
24 overlooked and that it introduces kids to the skill and
25 knowledge of subsistence. Kids are able to practice
26 aiming the .22 rifle and become familiar with using a
27 gun. Grouse and ptarmigan hunting is one of the
28 highlights for the kids, providing them with an immense
29 amount of pride when they are able to provide meat for
30 the family.

31
32 The Mayo family hunts are a family
33 event including several generations who participate
34 together in activities such as hunting, establishing
35 camps and processing harvested meat. Extended family
36 members always share in the harvest. It is the Mayo
37 family's tradition to share meat and equipment. If a
38 family member or friend does not get enough meat during
39 the season it is expected that the Mayo family will
40 share their harvest with that person or household. The
41 family utilizes a variety of subsistence resources such
42 as berries, moose, caribou, bear, ptarmigan, fish and
43 furbearers such as beaver, marten, fox, wolves and
44 lynx. Approximately 50 percent of the Mayo family's
45 meat comes from moose meat. Typically wildlife and
46 other subsistence foods provide meals four out of seven
47 days per week.

48
49 Okay. So the affects of the proposal.
50

0294

1 If adopted these two proposals would recognize Blaine
2 and Kevin and their families' C&T use of moose,
3 caribou, grouse and ptarmigan in GMU 13E in areas
4 managed by Denali National Park and Preserve and allow
5 the Mayo brothers to pass their traditional subsistence
6 lifestyles on to their children.

7

8 Because these C&T determinations are
9 only for two households, both of which have a history
10 of moose, caribou, grouse and ptarmigan in the area,
11 the affects on other subsistence users should be
12 minimal.

13

14 Okay. So after reviewing these
15 proposals the National Park Service conclusion is to
16 support proposals ICTP 23 and 24-1. And the Park
17 Service's justification is the proponents exhibit a
18 clear, long term, consistent use of moose, caribou,
19 grouse and ptarmigan in GMU 13 in areas managed by
20 Denali National Park and Preserve where subsistence
21 users are allowed. This pattern has been repeated for
22 many years through several generations. Method and
23 means are characterized by efficiency of economy of
24 effort and cost based on local characteristics. The
25 pattern is consistent with past methods and means of
26 harvest at or near the family's hunting camp within the
27 unit of ques -- in question. Knowledge of handling,
28 preparing and preserving and storing moose meat is
29 shared among and between generations as is the
30 knowledge of skills, values and lore associated with
31 hunting moose, caribou, grouse and ptarmigan. Moose,
32 caribou, grouse and ptarmigan are regularly shared with
33 family and community members such as elders. The
34 proponents demonstrate a pattern use that relates to
35 the reliance on a diversity of wild foods that provide
36 this family with cultural, economic, social and
37 nutritional benefits. All eight of these factors
38 associated with the C&T determination are evident.
39 Furthermore the family's pattern of use is also evident
40 -- evidenced through the Federal Subsistence Board's
41 previous determination for Blaine and -- for Blaine
42 Mayo for moose and Kevin Mayo for moose and caribou.
43 There is substantial evidence to support the issuance
44 of individual C&T determinations for moose, caribou,
45 grouse, ptarmigan within GMU 13E of Denali National
46 Park and Preserve where subsistence is allowed for the
47 proponents.

48

49 Okay. So the Denali SRC met on January

50

0295

1 11th, 2023 and they voted to support both proposals and
2 their justification was according -- so according to
3 the Denali SRC due diligence has been achieved
4 documenting Blaine and Kevin Mayo's family's preANILCA
5 history of using the Pard additions for subsistence
6 established by ANILCA. The SRC believes that the C&T
7 requests need to be expedited so as to allow for
8 subsistence customs and traditions to continue so that
9 qualified families can carry on their participation in
10 subsistence activities to future generations.

11

12 So that's the end of my presentation.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The Chair has
15 returned and thank you, Amy. Any questions.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No questions.

20 Okay. Andy.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: I'll make a motion.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I'd like to
27 make a motion that the Eastern Interior Regional
28 Advisory Council support the proposal on Page 1 under
29 Tab 8 in regards to the Mayos' request. The proposal
30 is ICTP 23-01. And this motion is to support the
31 proposals and recommend support by the Federal
32 Subsistence Board.

33

34 Madame Chair.

35

36 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's been
39 moved and -- is there a question.

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: I want to clarify if he's
42 trying to support both of them at the same time or
43 separately.

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Both of them, I'm sorry.
46 To clarify the motion this is to support both -- I'm
47 sorry. To clarify the motion this is to support both
48 of the proposals.

49

50

0296

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the
2 second concurs.

3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Second concurs.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: And speaking to the
9 motion I'm just going to reference the comments
10 provided to us by the SRC and what was read into the
11 record previous to my motion.

12
13 Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
16 Linda.

17
18 MS. EVANS: Who's included in the
19 household, members of the household?

20
21 MS. CRAVER: For both brothers their
22 households include their wives and then their children.
23 And they all reside in that household with the
24 applicant.

25
26 MS. EVANS: In Cantwell?

27
28 MS. CRAVER: The -- they now live in
29 Healy.

30
31 MS. EVANS: Healy. Healy.

32
33 MS. CRAVER: But they're both from
34 Cantwell originally. But they -- and they
35 reestablished to Healy so they could work at the
36 Usibelli coal mine.

37
38 MS. EVANS: Will the grandchildren or
39 does it stop at children?

40
41 MS. CRAVER: As long as they are in the
42 same household as the applicant they qualify. Once
43 they move out of that household, say they move next
44 door to another structure, they would have to go and
45 put in an individual C&T for themselves and that
46 household. It's just for the people that live in that
47 household.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda.

50

0297

1 MS. EVANS: Does this, I don't know,
2 set a precedent or -- no. Okay.

3
4 MS. CRAVER: No, it does not set a
5 precedent. There was.....

6
7 MS. EVANS: Didn't have to qualify,
8 right?

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If -- there's
11 been other individual C&Ts done in Wrangell and other
12 places so this is not a precedent, it's -- it's allowed
13 by the Park rule. If that helps, I -- I understand it
14 that way.

15
16 MS. EVANS: And this is just so they
17 can hunt in the.....

18
19 MS. MCDAVID: Mic.

20
21 MS. EVANS: This is just so they can
22 hunt in the park?

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Roger.

25
26 MS. CRAVER: And just to clarify for
27 Linda. This is a special process that's unique to the
28 Park Service to do these individual C&Ts.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
31 We're used to doing them so sometimes we forget. Yeah.
32 And thanks a lot, Brooke.

33
34 And, Linda, anything else.

35
36 MS. EVANS: No, I'm good.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
39 questions. Amanda.

40
41 MS. POPE: I just wanted to make a
42 statement. This is Amanda Pope for the record. Thank
43 you, Madame Chair. I was not aware that the Park
44 Service has a procedure of that choice to people who
45 live -- used to live in the area. I'm glad they do.
46 It would have been nice to know in the past, but I'm
47 glad that's available for folks.

48
49 Thank you.

50

0298

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and
2 it's really only for the Park portion.

3
4 MS. CRAVER: Yeah, uh-huh.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7
8 MS. CRAVER: And an important
9 distinction is that it has to -- you have to reside in
10 a non -- in a rural community, it cannot be a nonrural
11 community.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
14 other discussion or questions.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So.....

19
20 MR. BASSICH: Unanimous consent.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm
23 going to ask for unanimous consent is the request.
24 Anyone opposed say so now.

25
26 (No opposing votes)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
29 Hearing none, the motion passes unanimous, uh-huh.

30
31 Thank you, Amy. I'm going to have to
32 tell the Council that I do have to leave early again
33 because I've got to travel for my work. Tomorrow I've
34 got to head to Anchorage to do a show for Saturday. So
35 I'm going to be leaving around 4:30, 5:00, that's as
36 late as I can stay. And Charlie's going to try to do
37 the rest of it and if he needs help I'm sure you guys
38 will help him greatly.

39
40 So the next thing on the agenda is the
41 2021 Council charter review.

42
43 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 Sorry, too close to the mic. So I'll draw your
45 attention to Page 153 of your meeting books, that's
46 where the copy of the current Council charter is
47 located. And just for your awareness all 10 of the
48 Regional Subsistence Advisory Councils are chartered
49 under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and are

50

0299

1 required to renew your charter every two years. So the
2 last time was in 2021 and now it's time to renew it for
3 2023.

4
5 There is a lot of language in the
6 charter that can't be changed, specifically towards the
7 beginning it spells out, you know, the authority of the
8 Council and et cetera, but items that may be changed,
9 minor modifications, could be things like the name of
10 your Council, the number of seats on your Council,
11 frequency of meetings and I'll also note that some
12 Councils have added language under 12 -- number 12,
13 membership and designation to -- about having a
14 geographic balance on the Council, representation of
15 members from a -- you know, a balanced -- you know what
16 I'm saying, across the geography. Sorry. Another
17 Council -- one Council that I'm aware of has also
18 requested to add language about having a youth seat on
19 the Council. Of course any changes that you propose
20 today will have to be approved, but you're welcome to
21 discuss those changes now.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

26
27 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Madame Chair. Yes,
28 I know in past meetings we've talked about trying to
29 provide for a youth seat and -- and there was some
30 discussion in previous meetings about ages and that
31 sort of thing. But I would like to if it's necessary
32 for us to make that happen and we need to change the
33 charter then I would like to make that amendment to in
34 the membership and delegation to reflect the fact that
35 we would be what is it, nine Council members, 10
36 Council members. I'm trying to see.....

37
38 MS. MCDAVID: You have 10.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: We have 10 right now.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

43
44 MR. BASSICH: So it would be to add --
45 to have 10 members that would be voting members and
46 then a youth would be strictly -- oh, I don't know the
47 terminology.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:

50

0300

1 Developmental.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Develop --
4 development seat to allow youth to enter into the
5 process and learn the process for potentially future
6 seating on the Council, Madame Chair. So I guess if we
7 need a motion to make that happy I'm willing to make a
8 motion, if it's something that we can just -- I'm not
9 sure what the process is.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We need a
12 motion, but we're not there yet.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda.

17

18 MS. EVANS: I just request that they
19 change the name. Instead of calling it a develop --
20 youth developmental seat, call it youth advocate or
21 something along those lines.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: That can go in with the
26 motion.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So did
29 I hear a motion.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: So the motion, Madame
32 Chair, would be that the Eastern Interior RAC would
33 like to add an additional nonvoting seat to a potential
34 youth and that that seat would be named a youth
35 advocate seat on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
36 Council.

37

38 Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda.

41

42 MS. POPE: I'll second that, Madame
43 Chair. Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: And then, Madame Chair,
48 speaking to the motion I'll just reference my previous
49 comments before the motion, that we have discussed this
50

0301

1 at numerous Council meetings in the past and that it
2 would be very good to help bring youth into an aging
3 RAC.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't like
6 to admit it. Yeah.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
11 Thanks, Andy. Any other discussion.

12

13 MS. WESSELS: I think we need to beef
14 up your justification.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Andy. Refer to -- we
17 need to beef up the justification so you could refer to
18 the letter you already wrote.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Speaking to the
21 motion and justification, in previous Council meetings
22 we've talked quite a bit about the fact that it's very
23 important to have people understand the process of the
24 -- of the RAC system and that engaging youth of the
25 high -- high school or greater age is a great training
26 -- a great training opportunity, a way to get people
27 engaged in the Federal process, a way to get local
28 Federally-qualified subsistence youth into the system
29 and recognizing that there is turnover in the Federal
30 RAC system and encouraging young people to be involved
31 so that they can be involved for a long time. I know
32 for myself it takes quite a -- quite a few years to
33 really understand the process and to get good at -- at
34 working within the process. So, you know, having
35 people that are engaged for long periods of time makes
36 for a more effective representation to the Federal
37 Subsistence Board.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And we
40 -- we let -- sent a letter January 10th, it's on Page
41 26, that referred to this in reference to that letter.

42

43

44 Okay. Any other discussion.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I --
49 I'm going to ask for unanimous consent because I think
50

0302

1 we're all in favor of this. Is there anyone opposed to
2 the motion to add a seat for a young advocate.

3

4 (No opposing votes)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7 Hearing none, the motion passes.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Do we need any other
10 motion to approve this stuff or is that the.....

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, is
13 there any other things that -- oh, I'm sorry, I turned
14 it off. Are there any other things in the charter that
15 you want to add because one of the things we did
16 discuss earlier was try to be -- what was the word,
17 Katya, more -- more representation.

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Geographical
20 representation.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Geographic,
23 covering more geographical area of the region. So
24 I.....

25

26 MR. BASSICH: In our representation --
27 I'm sorry.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: In our representation on
32 the sea?

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, because
35 -- Katya, could you speak to it.

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: I have language from
38 another Council if you want me to read it.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And -- yeah.

41

42 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 Katya Wessels for the record. So some Councils added
44 this language for a desired balance geographical
45 distribution because all of your regions are pretty
46 vast, Eastern Interior in particular. And as you can
47 see there are regional differences of course. So you
48 want to have all parts of the region represented really
49 on the Council, but while it's desired because it also
50

0303

1 depends on what applications do you get in a certain
2 year. Perhaps to say oh, we want, you know, like three
3 members from the Yukon and two members, you know, from
4 Tanana or like three members from some -- whatever way
5 you want to divide your region. If you don't get
6 applications from these parts of the region you're not
7 going to get that balanced geographical distribution of
8 the members in any case. So as we heard last couple of
9 years we've been experiencing real difficulties with
10 getting applications for most of the Councils actually,
11 it's not just specifically like Eastern Interior or
12 anything. Eastern Interior has actually been doing
13 pretty well in terms of applications consider when I
14 compare it to other regions. So you can put the
15 suggestion, put that desired language, but it doesn't
16 mean that it's a guarantee. Just the same thing as
17 with the alternates, you only get alternates if you
18 have enough qualified applicants to have alternates
19 waiting in the wings.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I -- I
22 thought that was already in, but.....

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:but it
27 isn't. But go ahead, Andy.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess, you know,
30 given your statement, Katya, do we need to make an
31 official position to just ask for the entities that are
32 approving applications to try and create as much
33 diversity within the geographical range, is that
34 something that has to be done officially by us or is
35 that something that hopefully you would do on your own.
36 And I'd just like to add that, you know, I -- I've been
37 on the RAC for over 20 years and -- and my feeling is
38 we -- we seldom seem to be divided geographically as
39 far as our viewpoints. Our viewpoints, we often have
40 soft hearts for other people's woes is the way I want
41 to put it. And so I think even though geographically
42 we may be very separate and there may be some
43 differences in the way we practice our subsistence, I
44 think all Council members at least that I've
45 experienced have been very -- very good at
46 understanding and supporting other Regions' members'
47 concerns.

48

49 MS. WESSELS: I mean, you -- if you

50

0304

1 want to add this language to your charter you certainly
2 can request it. In general the InterAgency Staff
3 Committee that reviews all the Councils' requests first
4 before they go to the Board and when the InterAgency
5 Staff Committee or ISC as it's also known, they also
6 when they help with appointments they look at the
7 geographical balance. That's one of their duties
8 actually.....

9

10 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

11

12 MS. WESSELS:to look at the
13 gender balance and geographic balance. So you can make
14 these just as a statement and I will relay that to the
15 InterAgency Staff Committee when I'm forwarding your
16 request to add an additional youth advocate seat. So
17 it will be communicated to them, but they're already
18 looking at that. So you just can make a general
19 statement and that would be sufficient, but if you want
20 to make, you know, a language change in your charter
21 you can put that forward as a request too. But it's --
22 like I said it will totally depend on which
23 applications you get in your region.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
26 Keeping it -- anyone have any other things they want to
27 put in the charter.

28

29 Brooke.

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: I have a clarification
32 for process. Do we also need a motion too because we
33 have a -- we approved an amendment for an addition to
34 the charter, but do we need to also approve the rest of
35 the language, a motion for the whole charter as written
36 plus the amendment?

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
39 you.

40

41 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I'd like to
46 make a motion that the Eastern Interior Regional
47 Advisory Council approve -- sorry, approve the charter
48 as presented to us with the amendment request for an
49 additional youth seat.

50

0305

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion,
4 I'm just going to reference all the previous comments
5 that we've made prior to the motion on this topic,
6 Madame Chair.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
11 discussion on the motion.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
16 going to again ask for unanimous consent for the
17 motion. Anyone opposed.

18

19 (No opposing votes)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
22 Hearing none, the motion passes.

23

24 Next on our agenda is review and
25 approval of the annual report.

26

27 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madame Chair.
28 Please turn -- Council members, please turn to Page 103
29 of your meeting books. That was 103. Actually it
30 looks -- yeah. So on 103 that's the information about
31 the annual report, the actual draft annual report
32 starts on 105. There were eight -- nine topics that
33 came up at the fall meeting that we included
34 information on. You can -- this is the draft so we're
35 asking for an approval of this, you can make additions
36 or amendments if you want to. There were two topics
37 that I heard members suggest to be added and I could
38 read those now if you want me to. And that was concern
39 about the OSM letter that was sent to Board of Fish
40 about area M and also concern about the BLM process for
41 -- for cabin use. And it's up to you all if you want
42 to make additions or amendments.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you, Madame
47 Chair. Yes, I would like to bring up the topic of the
48 OSM letter. I would -- and in regards to our -- some
49 of our discussion I think it would be really good for
50

0306

1 OSM Staff to reach out and talk to our RAC and -- and
2 with any deliberations that they have, any discussion
3 they have and ask -- ask for any kind of a
4 recommendation that we might have as far as having
5 better collaboration in letters that affect fish and
6 game that go to Board of Fish, Board of Game or any
7 other regulatory body. So I guess what I'm asking for,
8 Madame Chair, would be that OSM maybe try and
9 collaborate a little bit more or at least send us a
10 copy of a letter prior to it being sent so that we can
11 review it in case there's something that we find either
12 inaccurate or detrimental to our region.

13

14 Madame Chair, thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that was
17 one addition. Do you have two.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Do you want to
20 talk about you.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

23

24 MR. BASSICH:handle this one.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda.

27

28 MS. POPE: Yes, thank you, Madame
29 Chair. I'm -- I'm bringing this to the Board on behalf
30 of myself as a subsistence user and not as EIRAC
31 Council member, I'd like to make that clear. And I'll
32 just give you a little background. For the last two
33 years my family and I have went back and forth with
34 BLM, Eastern Interior Region Manager and I think the
35 lady, Subsistence lady there. We applied for a BLM
36 permit application and they want to basically charge us
37 for the application process. And it's been two years
38 and we had done a appeal to it and I gave you a guys a
39 copy of that letter we sent to them. I am asking the
40 Council to see if they support a subsistence user in a
41 Federally managed area to not have to pay fees for an
42 application. I believe on the letter that I stated
43 they had said that -- they asked for proof for
44 financial papers because we stated to them that -- I
45 mean, not -- we stated to them that rural areas
46 historically people are in low income because of the --
47 the low numbers of jobs. And I guess that doesn't
48 matter the reason of their low incomes. But I just see
49 -- I see that I shouldn't have to pay for an
50

0307

1 application to be processed when their salary is being
2 paid by the taxpayers and I pay my taxes every year.
3 It just -- it's not -- it's not within ANILCA to charge
4 subsistence users and the regional superintendent does
5 have the -- what is it called.....

6
7 MR. BASSICH: Authority.

8
9 MS. POPE: Yes, thank you.
10 Discret.....

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:
13 Discretionary.

14
15 MS. POPE:discretionary authority
16 since Obama -- since his office was active. But still
17 it's been two years when this matter should have been
18 settled right away. I plan to take this case to TCC
19 also and CTG and possibly Doyon because this shouldn't
20 have been taken so long. And currently it's in appeal
21 within BLM and they are saying that we -- we haven't
22 given them any financial information because legally
23 they shouldn't ask for it.

24
25 So that's my case.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
30 Amanda, do you want to add that as a topic on our
31 annual report. That -- I know you're new to this, but
32 we have to do an annual report too the Federal Board of
33 topics of concern. So -- and so this would be a topic
34 of concern for you and Andy stated his. So, Staff, do
35 you want a motion?

36
37 MS. WESSELS: Well, if you want to add
38 the (indiscernible - away from microphone).....

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
41 we.....

42
43 MR. BASSICH: I'll make a motion.....

44
45 MS. WESSELS: And if you want just to
46 put it in your report I think that also you have to put
47 it in a motion.

48
49 MS. POPE: Can I just make a statement
50

0308

1 really quick.....

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure.

4

5

MS. POPE:Madame Chair? Thank
6 you. This is Amanda Pope. I would like to ask if it
7 -- for it to be added and for me as a EIRAC Council
8 member to be excluded from voting because of conflict
9 of interest.

10

11

So thank you.

12

13

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't even
14 know if you needed to do that. But -- okay, that's
15 fine.

16

17

MS. MCDAVID: Uh-huh.

18

19

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy's going
20 to go for the motion.

21

22

MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23 I'd like to make a motion that to include in the annual
24 report our concerns stated previously on the OSM letter
25 and the policies of the OSM when they write letters to
26 regulatory bodies. We'd like to be a little bit more
27 involved in that or at least have the opportunity to
28 review letters prior to them being sent out. And in
29 addition we would like in the annual report to ask the
30 Board and BLM in particular to address why cabin use
31 permits are being done in the way they are requesting
32 monies and taking long periods of time for those
33 permits to be distributed or approved.

34

35

Madame Chair.

36

37

MS. EVANS: Second.

38

39

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda
40 seconded. Other discussion.

41

42

MR. BASSICH: I'll just speak to the
43 motion and reference the previous comments that I made
44 and also member Amanda Pope's comments made.

45

46

Madame Chair.

47

48

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

49

50

0309

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I don't
4 -- I'm sure that there's no one opposed to this so.....

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Let's vote on it and then
7 let's ask Charlie about.....

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
10 been requested to vote on it. And I'm -- again I'm
11 going to ask for unanimous consent. And anyone opposed
12 to adding these two topics to our annual report.

13

14 (No opposing votes)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
17 the motion passes.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Check with Charlie on
20 whether they have anything because they've been pretty
21 quiet.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Charlie
24 and Eva, I'm -- we're just checking on you. Are you
25 hearing everything okay?

26

27 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, we are.
28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
31 Thank you, guys.

32

33 MS. MCDAVID: You also need to approve
34 the rest of the annual report.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And we
37 also need to approve the entire thing.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I'd like to
44 make a motion -- I thought I already made that motion,
45 didn't I?

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

48

49 MS. MCDAVID: I thought he did too.

50

0310

1 MS. WESSELS: Yes, you did.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: I did.

4

5 MS. WESSELS: His.....

6

7 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, he -- he
8 included.....

9

10 MS. WESSELS:that's what I heard
11 I believe.

12

13 MS. MCDAVID:adding it to what we
14 already have.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Okay.
19 That's my understanding. So right.

20

21 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Katya.

24

25 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, since you are
26 scheduled to leave earlier I suggest that the Council
27 considers moving the agenda item of choosing the future
28 meeting dates to now so you make this decision while
29 you're still here.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: We have to finish.....

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Did we finish the vote
38 approving this, I think we did.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we did
41 it. It was unanimous consent.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
46 moving back to the back of the book for.....

47

48 MS. MCDAVID: Council members, Page
49 149. We do have three meeting dates to select and the

50

0311

1 first will be for the fall meeting. On Page 149 it's
2 currently scheduled for October 4th and 5th in Tok or
3 Fairbanks. And I believe there was interest in
4 possibly trying to go to Arctic Village again.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We pretty
7 much promised them. So yeah, can I just ask all the
8 members, everything okay with going to Arctic Village,
9 is there -- I'm sure there's no one opposed. Is there
10 anyone opposed going to Arctic?

11
12 MR. WRIGHT: I'll -- this is Charlie,
13 Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
16 ahead.

17
18 MR. WRIGHT: I have no problem with
19 going to Arctic Village.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
22 Charlie. Okay. And I -- I will say the SRC's meeting
23 the -- supposedly the 20 -- the Wrangell SRC September
24 27 and 28 prior to the meeting.

25
26 Okay. We are -- that's the only thing
27 we needed to do on that date, right.

28
29 MS. MCDAVID: That's correct. If you
30 want to confirm yeah, the dates are fine and also I
31 wanted to remind everyone if you want to consider
32 having a three day meeting in the future you can
33 request that because of time crunch that we usually
34 experience.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, like --
37 and the only reason I feel that it might be a little
38 diff -- we have new members and they're very engaged
39 and we really appreciate it and they should feel great
40 about their involvement in it. So it's something to
41 discuss.

42
43 Go ahead, Brooke.

44
45 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. So the next
46 meeting will be the -- in winter, 2024. There is a
47 calendar on Page 150. So the Council knows this next --
48 this time next year instead of having individual
49 Council meetings we are -- OSM is planning to have an
50

0312

1 all Council meeting in Anchorage that brings all 10
2 Regional Advisory Councils together to meet in a
3 variety of sessions. And at the fall meeting I believe
4 you'll be able to suggest topics or if you have topics
5 now you want to suggest you're welcome to do that, but
6 the Council would have an opportunity on their own
7 during an afternoon or partial day during that time.
8 So we are asking you to select a preferred week in the
9 month of March next year. I believe the two Councils
10 that have met thus far have chosen the first week of --
11 of March. The meeting could also possibly go over a
12 weekend if you wanted that, but you'd need to probably
13 give justification. I know sometimes travel schedules
14 might -- some people prefer that, others might not.
15 But.....

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Is that a three day
18 meeting?

19
20 MS. MCDAVID: How many days -- I'll ask
21 for clarification. How many days are we proposing for
22 the all Council meeting?

23
24 MS. WESSELS: Well, last time it was
25 five days.

26
27 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Let's have it in
28 January when it's cold and I don't care.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I -- I don't
31 think it was five days.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: It was five days.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, it was a long one,
36 I remember that.

37
38 MS. WESSELS: It was a week.

39
40 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I
43 don't.....

44
45 MS. WESSELS: I mean, it doesn't mean
46 that we.....

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald then
49 Charlie.

50

0313

1 MS. WESSELS: It doesn't mean that we
2 will have it for a week, but, you know, as many topics
3 as we might want to cover and then there will be, you
4 know, joint session.....

5

6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted).

8

9 MS. WESSELS:of all of the
10 Councils in the beginning. Last time it was for a day
11 and a half, the joint session. And then there was a
12 mixture of various, you know, lectures, seminars, round
13 tables, and also individual Council meetings and
14 there's 10 Councils. And for the Council members who
15 have not been on the Council before that was happening
16 in 2016, the all Council meeting was in Anchorage at
17 the Egan Center. And it was very uplifting experience
18 to many Council members all across the -- all Alaska
19 because they got to meet people from other regions,
20 they got to learn about the issues that were important
21 for other regions. Also some Councils managed to have
22 joint meetings together because they were in the same,
23 you know, place at the same time, so they discussed
24 cross boundary issues that they had or some issues they
25 wanted to join their efforts on. So, I mean, we might
26 be able to fit it in four days, but I'd say less than
27 four days probably would be impossible.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I.....

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wait a
34 minute. Donald was first, he raised his hand.....

35

36 MR. WOODRUFF: Right.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I'm
39 sorry, and then you. Uh-huh.

40

41 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 I attended that meeting and I thought that was a
43 wonderful experience. I learned lot that evolved my
44 participation in the Council. And so I would highly
45 recommend it. And also if we have a four day meeting
46 that means that Andy and I will be sitting around for
47 the whole weekend in Fairbanks or Anchorage or wherever
48 we end up because we can't fly again until Monday. So
49 that's a big, big deal for the OSM to, you know, feed
50

0314

1 us and put us up for the weekend.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would that be
4 two weekends because of travel?

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: We can travel on a
7 Monday.

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: It could be -- that was
10 something that came up. Because of flight schedules to
11 some of the villages especially in the interior region
12 a lot of -- some of them don't have flight service on
13 the weekends and so that's why the idea of possibly
14 starting on like a Thursday and having the meeting go
15 Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and you could return
16 -- you know, it would -- it would allow for that travel
17 schedule for some of those communities. So it's just
18 something to consider if folks from Eagle want to weigh
19 in on that.

20

21 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, and it also, you
22 know, would allow people who are working to take less
23 days off, you know, to attend that meeting. So that
24 might make it more amenable for them. So we had talked
25 at OSM and it seems like, you know, the leadership was
26 having okay having part of this meeting over the
27 weekend.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, you guys
30 need to go for a weekend like we got to go during the
31 week. Okay.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: Do you have more
34 comments?

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: Did you have more
39 comments?

40

41 MR. WOODRUFF: No.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Your mic's
44 on. Go ahead.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'd just like to
47 officially request that that happen, that the meeting
48 take place over the weekend to the extent possible,
49 whether it's ending on a Sunday or starting on a
50

0315

1 Saturday, but that would help some of us quite a bit in
2 our travel. And I guess it's pretty well set in stone
3 that March is the month for that, there's no way it's
4 going to get moved to late February or whatever.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: No, we.....

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

9

10 MS. WESSELS:we just don't have
11 enough time to prepare for a -- that's a pretty big
12 meeting so there's.....

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

15

16 MS. WESSELS:a lot of logistics
17 involved.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Under -- understood. I
20 guess the concern that I would have which is okay, but
21 March is the prime month for people who live out in the
22 Bush. That's the time of year when winter is.....

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

25

26 MR. BASSICH:is in it's prime and
27 travel is at its best and the sun's coming back and
28 we've been waiting all year for the sun to come back so
29 we can go play. So.....

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just thinking
32 about it.

33

34 MR. BASSICH:but we understand
35 what it -- what's involved in this too.

36

37 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, we can.....

38

39 MR. BASSICH: I just wanted to get in
40 on the record here.

41

42 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, we can try to have
43 it early March, you know, as possible because it's also
44 for OSM it's better because we have the Board meeting
45 in April so we need to have some degree of separation
46 between the all Council meeting and the Board meeting.
47 So the earlier in March that the all Council meeting be
48 the better it is for OSM as well.

49

50

0316

1 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
2 Charlie.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
5 Charlie.

6
7 MR. WRIGHT: Tanana Chiefs has their
8 spring convention from March 8th to March 17th. Just
9 so you know that I'll be busy those dates.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thanks,
12 Charlie. Yeah, I think is going to be difficult to
13 find the perfect time for all the people. And I'm kind
14 of like man, the last thing I want to do is sit in
15 Anchorage for five days in beautiful March. And the
16 later in March the worse it gets.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: It's going to be bad
19 weather those days.....

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah,
22 well.....

23

24 MS. WESSELS:I promise.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: I was going to suggest
27 that OSM provide Charlie Wright with a travel trailer
28 so that he may live in his trailer while he goes to
29 Board of Fish meetings, Board of Game meetings, Yukon
30 River Panel meetings, Eastern RAC meetings and TCC
31 meetings.

32

33 Thank you, Madame Chair.

34

35 MS. WESSELS: How about a motion for
36 it.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know,
39 Charlie, you're amazing. Well, Council, Charlie gave
40 his availability.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: As early as possible.

43

44 MR. WRIGHT: Council members and Madame
45 Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: I did buy a travel

50

0317

1 trailer.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: God bless
6 you. Oh, my goodness. Yeah, you -- because you need
7 it.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Hey, Charlie, how many
10 can it sleep?

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MS. MCDAVID: Katya, I have a question.

15

16 MR. WRIGHT: Six.

17

18 MS. MCDAVID: So March 1st would be the
19 Friday for -- prior, it's not on this calendar. Would
20 that be an option if they wanted to start then? That
21 would avoid Charlie's -- that would avoid Charlie's
22 conflict. Just throwing that out there.

23

24 MS. WESSELS: (Indiscernible - away
25 from the microphone) within the (indiscernible - away
26 from microphone).....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Katya, really
29 give us a close idea. Five days, three days?

30

31 MS. WESSELS: Well, like I said no less
32 than four.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No less than
35 four. So I think there's a possibility some people
36 might not be able to be there the whole time.

37

38 MS. WESSELS: Well, it is what it is.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: That's the way I feel
43 about it.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It is what it
46 is.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, show up as best you
49 can.

50

0318

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: We could start it on
6 Friday the 1st and go for -- until March.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But she --
9 there's an open window March 4th.

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: She said -- okay.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can -- we
14 can plan that weekend before?

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Potentially, yeah.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, then
19 that would be perfect.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I need a
24 motion. What do you -- what do you guys think.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: You need a motion for
27 this.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I -- I don't
30 know, do we need a motion. I don't.....

31

32 MS. MCDAVID: We didn't have a motion.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. Okay.

35

36 MS. WESSELS: Kind of the intent.....

37

38 MS. MCDAVID: In general.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: Ask everyone to.....

41

42 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, I would be
43 willing to give up my time for anytime.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's nice.
46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. WOODRUFF: That's what
49 volunteering's about.

50

0319

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
2 Amanda.

3
4 MS. POPE: Yes, Madame Chair. That
5 time works great for me. So the 1st to the four or
6 five days.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, and I'd -- I'd just
11 concur, the earliest possible date in March for me is
12 the best.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

15
16 MS. MCDAVID: So it sounded like the
17 Council would prefer to start around March 1st which is
18 a Friday, go through the weekend so flight schedules
19 can be accommodate and perhaps compress the meeting to
20 four days instead of five days if possible.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good job.

23
24 MS. MCDAVID: All right. Last one.
25 The fall meeting, next fall, fall, 2024.that will be a
26 fisheries regulatory cycle. Fisheries proposals will
27 be taken up and you'll make recommendations on them at
28 that meeting. I will draw your attention, there was
29 that deferred closure review for the Delta River if you
30 wanted to take that into consideration when choosing
31 your meeting location since you had said you wanted
32 more input from local folks on that closure review.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Suggestions.
35 Do we have any other Councils that already picked
36 dates?

37
38 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, we have two, but
39 you don't really have to worry about that since we're
40 allowed to overlap and they don't overlap so I don't
41 think it's worth -- you can choose whenever.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I -- I know
44 we're not going to go during hunting season.

45
46 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, because it's a lot
47 more extreme for hunting.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, after --
50

0320

1 like everybody. It -- let's ask Amanda, what works for
2 you because you -- you're out there and Charlie and all
3 of you guys, give us some dates.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: Can I make on quick thing

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess from my
10 perspective my only concern is if it goes too late into
11 October, there are some years when ice is running by
12 October 20th in -- in my world October 20th is my last
13 date on the Yukon River. Some years it's no problem,
14 other years it's impossible. So the earlier in October
15 the better for me. However I will -- I will be happy
16 to attend anyway I can, whether it's virtual or in
17 person.

18

19 Madame Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
22 matters.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: But if this is -- this is
25 going to be in.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fall, '24.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Fall, '24. That's
30 a ways away. No problem.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda.

35

36 MS. POPE: Yes, Madame Chair. This is
37 Amanda Pope. I guess the early -- I -- I'm kind of in
38 the same situation as Andy, I can attend online or in
39 person. So I'm able to work from home. So I have
40 internet kind of anywhere I go. So I'm either
41 available anytime.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How about in
46 person, do you have any dates.

47

48 MS. POPE: Probably the latest of -- in
49 October as possible, but I wouldn't want to be in

50

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1 conflict of anybody else's schedule.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, that's
4 nice. Very nice.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: How about the week of
7 October 8th.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I
10 was just going to suggest.

11

12 MS. POPE: Well, that works for me.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

15

16 MS. POPE: Yeah.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

19

20

21 MR. JAGOW: Can we do October 10
22 through 11?

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 10 and 11.

25

26 MR. JAGOW: Yeah. The only.....

27

28 MR. WRIGHT: 10 and 11 would work for
29 me. This is Charlie.

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: There are Council members
32 that need to travel on a Friday to get home.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: They're going to be stuck
35 here for a week anyway.

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: And I will remind Council
38 members that is a regulatory meeting so it will be --
39 it's a fuller meeting in the fall if you want to
40 consider two and a half days or three days you're --
41 you can do that.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie, was
44 there a reason.

45

46 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, I mean.....

47

48 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, this is
49 Charlie. I.....

50

0322

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
2 Charlie.

3
4 MR. WRIGHT: I'm open from October 9
5 through the weekend, until the 15th.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
8 Charlie. Charlie Jagow, did you have something.

9
10 MR. JAGOW: No. No, that's fine.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So 9,
13 10 works for everyone.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Place.

18
19 MS. EVANS: (Indiscernible -
20 simultaneous speech) proposed somewhere.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There was a --
23 what is that proposal, that closure on the river.

24
25 MS. MCDAVID: There was a closure
26 review that you all voted on last fall that you asked
27 the Federal Subsistence Board to defer because you
28 wanted more input from local people from the Delta
29 River area. So that will come up again in the next
30 cycle which will be that fall meeting if you want to
31 consider that.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
34 members.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I think I
37 would prefer the week of October 9, 10, maybe even
38 starting on October 8th if it looks like our agenda is
39 going to be very full.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: And that it would be in
44 Tanana given that we'll probably talk -- talk a lot
45 about fisheries and I know that's very important to the
46 people in the Tanana region. So I think somewhere
47 along the Yukon River who would be appropriate in
48 regard to fisheries discussions. And in regards to the
49 Delta issue, you know, I think the -- the process of
50

0323

1 either Zoom or people calling in that's become pretty
2 common so in my mind not as much of an issue on -- on
3 certain topics.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is there
8 any other way to hear from Delta, like we send them a
9 letter and say hey, we want some input?

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: We can work to do
12 outreach before the meeting and make sure they're aware
13 that this is coming before the Council.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think
16 that's important, yeah. Okay. And they can call
17 people too, members who can.....

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: Uh-huh.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does everyone
22 agree for Tanana?

23

24 MR. WOODRUFF: Sure.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It's
27 Tanana, Charlie and Eva, is what's being suggested. Do
28 you have any opposition. Starting the 8th. And darn
29 phones.

30

31 Charlie and Eva, did you hear that, I'm
32 not hearing a response.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He did tell
37 me they were feeling much better today.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Good.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But they had
42 a pretty rough night I think or just after dinner.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: I just want to.....

45

46 MR. WRIGHT: Can you hear me?

47

48 MS. MCDAVID: Oh.

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now we can
2 hear you. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, we can hear you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
7 So you're okay with those dates and place?

8
9 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
12 Thank you.

13
14 MS. MCDAVID: Just want to make sure
15 that you're okay with -- if something falls through for
16 some reason backup location of -- is Fairbanks for both
17 those meetings.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hope
20 everyone heard that. Backup for Tanana is Fairbanks.

21
22 All right. That was our last.....

23
24 MS. MCDAVID: Action.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:action
27 item. All right. Going back to the agenda.

28
29 Charlie, do you feel like you can take
30 over with the help of the Staff here and members?

31
32 MR. WRIGHT: We'll try it out unless
33 you get her done.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And,
36 members, all you got to do is just say Mr. Chair and
37 say who you are and then he can call on you. I think
38 it'll work out.

39
40 So I want to thank all of you. I
41 really appreciate all of you. I'm excited to have the
42 new members. We look forward to meeting Eva and stay
43 engaged. That -- this is you guys' future so I think
44 it's awesome that you're here.

45
46 And thank you, members and Staff, and
47 I'm going to take off.

48
49 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Sue, for your
50

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1 leadership.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
4 Don. And I've already talked to Charlie and we'll have
5 him Chair half the meeting in Arctic Village.

6

7 MR. BASSICH: Safe -- safe travels
8 home.

9

10 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you for your time,
11 Madame Chair, appreciate you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
14 Charlie.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair, this is your
17 Coordinator.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes, I hear you
20 perfectly good.

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. I just want to
23 give -- give you an update of where we are on the
24 agenda. We're still under new business which is 12 and
25 it's the letter M as in moose and it would be the
26 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update would be
27 next if -- if you want to continue down the agenda.

28

29 We do also have some folks that may be
30 having to leave for agency reports. And I believe
31 YRDFA would like to perhaps see if they could -- could
32 move up and address the Council quickly before they
33 have to catch their flight.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Did they
36 want -- did we want to do that now or what would they
37 prefer?

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, if they could
40 quickly go now I think they would prefer that.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. I think we
45 can move right into their report immediately then to
46 accommodate them.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0326

1 Go ahead YRDFA?

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MS. MCDAVID: And just for Council members, YRDFA did submit some reports that are in Tab 9 in your supplemental material and I also have another handout I'll be passing out.

MS. CANFIELD: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair. My name is Gabe Canfield, I work for Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association as the Program and Policy Coordinator. I may be joined by Catherine and Serena who are also members of YRDFA. I'd like to bring to your attention our report in the booklet which is being passed out, Tab 9. We would like to provide you with brief updates on our activities and key accomplishment since we last met in the fall.

Our Board update. The YRDFA annual meeting is set for April 17 and 18 in 2023 in Fairbanks at the Wedgewood Resort. The Board will have training on April 16, 2023 which will be closed to the public and the agenda will be posted soon. The Yukon River preseason meeting is scheduled for April 19 and 20, 2023 in Fairbanks at the Wedgewood Resort as well. This will be a two day meeting instead of our usual one day meeting. YRDFA will cover travel for one representative from each tribe to attend the preseason meeting. And this meeting will be very informative in regards to the recent Board of Fisheries meeting. The meeting will also be made available virtually. An agenda will be available by the end of March.

On our fisheries disaster update from 2020 through 2022, the second spend draft plan comments were due February 15, 2023. The estimated loss for the 2020 to 2021 Yukon commercial chinook and chum salmon due to the fishery disaster is \$5,723,606 with a proportion loss that totaled 5.3 percent. For the 2021 Yukon River subsistence estimated loss is \$28,629,992 with a proportion loss of 26.8 percent. These are just preliminary numbers that Yukon put together on the fisheries disaster, numbers that are being passed out.

Teleconferences. The 2023 in-season teleconferences will begin on June 6, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Alaska standard time.....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

0327

1 MS. CANFIELD:and 2:00 Pacific
2 daylight time in Canada. The community posters will be
3 sent to all the communities and first nations in
4 Canada.

5
6 Giving a report on the area M meeting
7 that we have with the Board of Fisheries this past
8 week. Our Board and Staff attended the Board of
9 Fish.....

10
11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted).

13
14 MS. CANFIELD:Alaska Peninsula,
15 Aleutians and Chignik fishery meeting on February 20th
16 to 26. Many of our Board members and our Staff gave
17 testimony to help support the Yukon River salmon gain
18 passage in the area and fishery. Unfortunately
19 proposal 140 has failed and any other efforts to
20 incorporate reduced fishing time in additional
21 proposals.

22
23 YRDFA is involved in a coalition with
24 other organizations from Chignik, Bristol Bay,
25 Kuskokwim, Yukon and Norton Sound. We are continuing
26 to have weekly meetings to discuss next steps on this
27 issue. Our debrief meeting is scheduled for Thursday,
28 March 2nd at 3:00 p.m. If you're interested in
29 participating on these weekly calls please provide us
30 with your name, email and organization.

31
32 Next up is symposium. We had a Yukon
33 River virtual symposium happen on February 16th and
34 17th of 2023. It was the first annual Yukon River
35 symposium hosted by YRDFA. We had six presentation
36 throughout the Yukon River watershed and three breakout
37 sessions on multiple projects ranging from the
38 traditional ecological knowledge, education, science
39 and data and salmon. Over the two days we had over 50
40 participants from throughout the Yukon River drainage
41 join us. The symposium will soon be uploaded to our
42 YouTube channel if you're interested in seeing any of
43 it. We plan to continue the Yukon River symposium,
44 including the potential of having it in person next
45 year.

46
47 Our next project is the local and
48 traditional knowledge of anadromous fish in the Yukon
49 Flats. This FRMP funded project has been completed.

50

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1 Included in the packet is the final summary sent to the
2 communities. In the project YR DFA partnered with the
3 communities of Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon and Venetie, the
4 Tanana Chief's Conference to update the Anadromous
5 Waters Catalog. We used a combination of traditional
6 knowledge and western science techniques to document
7 anadromous fish and make nomination to the Anadromous
8 Waters Catalog in the following locations. Rearing
9 juvenile chinook salmon and Drifting Snow Creeks,
10 spawning adult and rearing juvenile coho salmon in
11 (indiscernible) and Kevinjik drainage and the presence
12 of adult and juvenile round white fish in Kevinjik
13 Creek, Drifting Snow Creek and Grayling Fork Black
14 River.

15

16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted).

18

19 MS. CANFIELD: Next I'd like to update
20 you on the Elders Warnings Project. We are in our
21 final year of this project in which we are partnering
22 with three young adults from the TCC Emerging Leaders
23 Program. They have been digging through the archives
24 and conducting interviews with their elders. Some of
25 them have attended multiple recent Board of Fish
26 meetings and interviewed participants. They will be
27 creating some short videos and other projects --
28 products and will begin sharing these results later
29 this year. This project goes through March of 2024.

30

31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted).

33

34 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry to interrupt. I
35 just want to ask folks on the line to please mute your
36 phone, we're getting a lot of feedback. Sorry to
37 interrupt, Gabe.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MS. CANFIELD: No worries. This
42 upcoming year we'll focus on summarizing what we have
43 learned, producing outreach materials and giving
44 presentations about the project.

45

46 The next project that we have been
47 working on recently -- also I just wanted to mention if
48 you have any questions about any of the projects feel
49 free to interrupt me otherwise I will also take

50

1 questions at the end. I know that we have a lot of
2 projects at Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
3 and sometimes they move fast.

4

5 The local and traditional knowledge of
6 anadromous fishes and select images of the Tanana and
7 Yukon Rivers funded by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon
8 Fund is a partnership between YRDFA and the Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game with a goal of expanding
10 documentation of fish presence in life stages on a
11 section of the Yukon and Tanana Rivers. We just sent
12 out a project summary to the communities for their
13 review. During the summer of 2022 the Alaska
14 Department of Fish and Game team conducted biological
15 fieldwork via a riverboat and helicopter surveys to
16 document fish presence, rearing and spawning in the
17 locations identified through the local traditional
18 knowledge interviews. They had three trips planned
19 from Nenana to Tanana to document the different fish
20 species in the Tanana River and its tributaries in
21 early June, late July and the end of September. They
22 floated the Tanana River from Nenana to Tanana in early
23 June and traveled to Tanana to conduct field surveys by
24 boat and helicopter in July. They had planned to also
25 travel to Nenana and Manley Hot Springs for the July
26 work, but the fires in the area required them to
27 abbreviate their work. For this reason we have
28 extended the project through June 30, 2024 and we will
29 return to complete the fieldwork during the summer of
30 2023.

31

32 Nominations to the Anadromous Waters
33 Catalog were made for waterbodies supporting anadromous
34 fishes such as least cisco, broad whitefish, humpback
35 whitefish, coho salmon and/or chinook salmon. In total
36 we caught 16 species during our 2022 field season. The
37 Alaska Department of Fish and Game team will return to
38 finalize their fieldwork July 4 to -- 24 to 28 of 2023
39 and they will operate via helicopter. YRDFA Staff
40 plans to return to the communities of Manley, Nenana
41 and Tanana during the final year of the project with a
42 presentation of the preliminary results and to gather
43 feedback from the communities. The final submissions
44 will be made to the AWC and a final report will be
45 written and shared afterwards.

46

47 A couple more projects. Engaging
48 Fishers in Chinook Salmon Research. This project
49 funded by the North Pacific Research Board began in
50

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1 2023 so this is one of our newer projects. We're
2 partnering with the communities of Alakanuk and Emmonak
3 to conduct interviews about the health of chinook as
4 they enter the river. This information will inform our
5 companion project led by Dr. Katie Howard and Vanessa
6 Von Bula which is seeking to understand the drivers of
7 chinook salmon decline and they theorize that one
8 driver is what they're eating in the Bering Sea and
9 what -- and which is strongly related to their health
10 when they enter the river. We will also be working
11 with the communities of St. Mary's and Huslia
12 to monitor water temperatures, conduct carcass surveys
13 and develop a community action plan if there are heat
14 events that causes a salmon die off in the future.
15 That project will begin in the summer of 2023 and 2024.

16
17 For our In-Season Subsistence Salmon
18 Survey Program our surveyors informed us that it would
19 be easier to do their job if people could fish and
20 wanted to participate in this survey. This long
21 standing survey program that YR DFA has been putting on,
22 we have a end of a season survey that we give to our
23 surveyors and they said that some people were reluctant
24 to give any information, afraid that they would be
25 shutdown or restricted from any kind of fishing. We
26 are learning that we need to find ways to put people at
27 ease. From the updates that our surveyors provided at
28 the end of the season survey we at YR DFA are working on
29 doing updates to our survey that include and encompass
30 traditional ecological knowledge alongside our harvest
31 information.

32
33 Another new thing that comes along with
34 this survey -- this survey season is a digitalization
35 process of our survey which has previously only been
36 done in paper format. So we are partnering with the
37 Aleut Tribe of St. Paul to implement an app format of
38 our survey to help support our surveyors and allow for
39 additional information that can be included with --
40 when our surveyors interview fishers. This will allow
41 for more detailed information on fish species that
42 might be caught or seen, environmental conditions
43 including temperature, water temperature and level,
44 debris, weather are usual disturbances or factors in
45 fisher questions about what needs are being met or
46 unmet. And we will direct these more to inform our
47 fishers as well as the harvest managers of the region.
48 We'll have a training at our preseason meeting with our
49 surveyors and then do a pilot season with surveyors who
50

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1 are interested this summer.

2

3

4 Finally the Yukon River Clearinghouse
5 Project is in partnership with the Yukon River
6 InterTribal Watershed Council which is a culturally
7 responsive monitoring program that will culminate in a
8 digital clearinghouse where traditional ecological
9 knowledge and scientific materials on the Yukon River
10 will be accessible. The hiring process for the
11 Clearinghouse Project is underway and we have sent out
12 job descriptions for local hires to do water quality
13 monitoring and testing as well as training to do
14 traditional ecological knowledge interviews. These
15 have been sent out to many of the communities' tribal
16 councils along the Yukon River and that hiring process
17 will be going on soon. The training and onboarding for
18 this local hire project is being done in Galena this
19 May from May 2 to 4 of 2023.

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More information on any other YRDFA projects and programs are included in the supplemental materials and the oral report that I have here. We would be happy to answer any questions about our current reports and projects.

So thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Board, for having me.

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you very much for that report. Any questions by any Board members.

MR. BASSICH: Yes, Mr. Chair. Andy.

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Thanks for that report. That was a lot. I'm really impressed with what YRDFA is engaged in and the broad range of topics and areas. Two -- there's three things I wanted to ask about. First is there any discussion within YRDFA to try and hire and outreach specialist position, so someone who can work in the communications and outreach area of YRDFA?

MS. CANFIELD: YRDFA actually on the 28th closed the application process for our communications manager in our grants department. We are hiring for four positions that are coming from the

0332

1 funding of Lisa Murkowski's office so YRDFA's actually
2 doubling in size which is going to be exciting. We
3 haven't actually begun the interview process for that
4 yet, but hopefully soon the onboarding process will be
5 on for a couple more members to join us to do
6 communications, grants and program managing.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: Great news. Second
9 question is on your youth leadership positions, you
10 mentioned there were three or four people working in
11 that, are there any of those people that are within the
12 Eastern RAC region that might be able to be one of our
13 youth seats on this panel -- on this Board?

14
15 MS. CANFIELD: Yeah, those are actually
16 the TCC Emerging Youth Leaders that we partner with so
17 we can also reach out to them through TCC because they
18 all live in the region. And a couple of them live here
19 in Fairbanks and they travel up to Minto often
20 because.....

21
22 MR. BASSICH: And what's the age range
23 of those people?

24
25 MS. CANFIELD: They are all young
26 adults.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: Young adults.

29
30 MS. CANFIELD: Uh-huh.

31
32 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Eighteen and
33 above?

34
35 MS. CANFIELD: Uh-huh.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. And then the
38 final thing, maybe a little bit more, Mr. Chair, of a
39 commentary than a question to them, but the fisheries
40 disaster relief monies that were stated in this report
41 are fairly substantial. But I just wanted to voice
42 some concerns that I have with that and that is that in
43 my view, and this is my personal view, fisheries
44 disaster relief should go primarily to the fishers and
45 the users of that resource on the Yukon River. And
46 it's come to my attention that the process that's being
47 used is fully delegated to the State of Alaska and the
48 Commissioner. And the plan and the -- the spending
49 plan and where that money is spent basically comes from
50

0333

1 the Commissioner, goes out for public comments, but it
2 is delegated by the Commissioner. My concern is that a
3 large portion of those funds are being used for a lot
4 of research which I'm not opposed to, however I think
5 funding for research should come from other sources, it
6 should not come from the people who the disaster relief
7 was designed to protect or to mitigate for.

8

9 So I just wanted to put that on the
10 record. I'm not sure that there's much we can do about
11 it, but I think the solution to this, I'm not sure who
12 could do this, whether it's at a Federal level or
13 whether it's at a State level, but it needs to be a
14 little bit more transparent and it needs to be -- in my
15 view it needs to be set up in a way that there is more
16 equity for the users of the resource rather than the
17 entities that manage the resource.

18

19 So I just wanted to put that on the
20 record. And I think that's all I have, Mr. Chair, for
21 questions and comments.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MS. CANFIELD: Thank you.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Andy.

28 Anybody else.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hearing nothing,
33 nobody else wants to say anything. I just wanted to
34 say that I'm a YR DFA Board member and I am very proud
35 of that right now. YR DFA's just like a rocket taking
36 off, doing a lot of good things and really helped us
37 out a lot at the Board of Fish, with the area M, when
38 we were working really hard down there for a week they
39 were right in the middle of helping us. The youth
40 representatives from YR DFA did a really good job
41 testifying for area -- for proposal 140. I'm very
42 impressed with YR DFA and I really appreciate your
43 really good report.

44

45 Thank you so much.

46

47 MS. CANFIELD: Thank you.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Well, no

50

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1 other questions then I guess we'll move on. Back to
2 12M, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update with
3 Liz Williams.

4

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Mr.
6 Chair and members of the Council. I'm Liz Williams,
7 Anthropologist with OSM, but I'm speaking for the
8 Fisheries Division today. And I have just a couple of
9 brief announcements. Part one, the Fisheries Resource
10 Monitoring Program opportunity closed on October 24th
11 so that program is set up to identify and provide
12 information needed to sustain subsistence fisheries on
13 Federal public lands. And the whole point of it is to
14 get information from the Councils. And so the priority
15 information needs that you worked on an identified are
16 what the proponents submitted proposals about. So
17 they've received all those proposals, but the Technical
18 Review Committee hasn't gone over them yet, but you'll
19 be hearing about that once they go through them.

20

21 And so the other program, the Partners
22 for Fisheries Monitoring update, those proposals have
23 also been submitted and the Technical Review Committee
24 has gone through those, but I don't think they've
25 finalized their recommendations yet. So that will be
26 announced to you very soon as well.

27

28 And both of these programs are really
29 to increase Alaska Native and rural organization
30 involvement in Federal fisheries management. That's
31 always the important thing to remember is that it has
32 to be a Federal fishery.

33

34 And with that I will introduce Nicole
35 from TCC who is a partner and who's been waiting since
36 last time to give her report to you.

37

38 MS. FARNHAM: All right. Good evening,
39 members of the Council or Mr. Chair and members of the
40 Council. I'm Nicole Farnham and I am one of the
41 Fisheries Biologists at the Tanana Chief's Conference.
42 Today I'm going to give you guys a brief overview about
43 what our Tribal Resource Stewardship Program has kind
44 of done over the last year. And I will make this as
45 quick as I possibly can because I know we are ready to
46 go home.

47

48 So our mission at TCC is to protect our
49 cultural and traditional lifestyle -- oh, thank you,

50

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1 our traditional lifestyles and resources that fuel it.
2 Our goal is to help advocate for the conservation and
3 sustainability of these customary and traditional
4 practices so it may be continued and passed down from
5 generation to generation.

6
7 Next slide, please.

8
9 With that, with building our capacity
10 and all of that we have actually hired three new
11 members on our team this past year. Two -- two of them
12 are new Outreach Coordinators, Janessa Neuman and
13 Michelle Quillan and -- oh, their names are on the
14 slides. Thank you. And then our newest Fishery
15 Biologist, Brian Lepping who will be leading our sonar
16 study which I'll talk about here briefly in a moment.

17
18 TCC -- next slide, please.

19
20 TCC has Henshaw Creek and the humpback
21 whitefish study that we are -- well, we'll be starting
22 the humpback whitefish study soon this fall. We've
23 been continuing the Henshaw weir and then we are taking
24 over the Gisasa weir from the Fish and Wildlife
25 Service. And we are hopefully going to be starting our
26 sonar feasibility study as well this summer. And I'll
27 be briefly talking about each of those.

28
29 Next slide, please.

30
31 So this is the humpback whitefish
32 study. This fall we will be starting a new project in
33 the upper Koyukuk River. The goal of this project is
34 to gain a better understanding of humpback whitefish
35 populations within the region including identifying
36 critical habitats, changes in use or abundance and
37 describing population compositions such as age, sex and
38 size. We have a handout available that provides an
39 overview of the project along with the contact
40 information. And I think I gave that to Brooke.
41 Awesome. So Brooke will make sure you guys all get
42 that.

43
44 TCC and ADF&G will be comanaging this
45 project. ADF&G will be leading the traditional
46 knowledge interviews and TCC will be leading the
47 biological fieldwork and sampling activities. As part
48 of the project we plan to engage with the Allakaket and
49 the Alatna Tribal Councils. We would also like to hire
50

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1 several local research assistants as well as contract
2 fisher people to collect samples from their -- from
3 their catch. Biological fieldwork and sampling will
4 occur this fall during the months of September and
5 October. And interviews will occur throughout this
6 year and next year. The project should wrap up at the
7 end of 2024 with a report available in the summer of
8 2025.

9

10 Next slide, please.

11

12 This is our sonar feasibility study.
13 TCC passed a resolution calling for a new sonar project
14 to be installed and operated in the middle portion of
15 the Yukon River. The purpose of this sonar project is
16 to provide an additional dataset located in the middle
17 portion of the Yukon River that can help managers and
18 researchers to understand and manage the Yukon River
19 salmon stocks. Our new Biologist, Brian Lepping, will
20 be leading the sonar feasibility study this coming
21 summer. We will be conducting visits to potential
22 sonar sites and creating bathymetric profiles of river
23 cross-sections at these sites to determine if one or
24 more sites are suitable for sonar technology. We will
25 also be collaborating with the tribal councils and the
26 fisher people in the region to learn more about the
27 river, potential sonar sites, local fishing activities,
28 project logistics and much more.

29

30 Next slide, please.

31

32 So brief overview of the Henshaw weir.
33 So in 2021 the weir got damaged due to severe flooding
34 and it was left in the water over winter. So during
35 the summer of 2022 we worked on pulling the weir out
36 and figuring out what needed to be repaired. We do
37 plan to install the weir this year. We have most of
38 the repairs completed.

39

40 So, yeah. Next slide, please.

41

42 The next is the Gisasa River weir
43 project. So between last year, 2022, and this year,
44 2023, TCC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did a
45 comanaging of the project. In 2022 TCC learned how to
46 manage the project by working with the U.S. and
47 Wildlife Service while assisting with preseason
48 preparations, logistics and weir installation. TCC has
49 taken a role in managing this project in 2023,
50

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1 including doing the data analysis, report writing for
2 the seasons of the 2022 as well as preseason logistics
3 which we will hopefully be starting in the next few
4 weeks with U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

5

6 Starting in 2024 and beyond we will be
7 hopefully taking over the project completely. We have
8 just submitted a grant proposal to the FRMP last week.
9 If funded TCC will manage this project starting in 2024
10 through 2027. If funded TCC will work with the Louden
11 Tribal Council in the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge
12 in Galena to discuss collaborations and partnerships
13 for comanaging this project starting in 2024.

14

15 Just kind of a brief -- next slide,
16 please.

17

18 Just a brief overview of what our --
19 we're still in the process of doing the data analysis
20 for the salmon counts in 2022 at Gisasa. So these are
21 just kind of the rough numbers of the total fish that
22 were counted and then what we sampled broken down into
23 how many females versus males we sampled and unknowns.
24 So we counted a total of 503 chinook salmon and 3,300
25 chum salmon and sampled 42 chinook salmon and sampled
26 294 chum salmon.

27

28 Next slide, please.

29

30 We want to say thanks to the U.S. Fish
31 and Wildlife Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
32 Office of Subsistence Management for providing funding
33 support for our Partners Program Biologist and for the
34 FRMP projects and to the Allakaket and Alatna Tribal
35 Councils, Louden Tribal Council, Office of Subsistence
36 Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in
37 Fairbanks, the Kanuti and Yukon Flats National Wildlife
38 Refuge and ADF&G.

39

40 And with that I will take any
41 questions.

42

43 MR. WOODRUFF: Mr. Chairman, this is
44 Don Woodruff, I have a question.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go right ahead.

47

48 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 On your broad whitefish study does that include

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1 spawning locations or spawning areas in your habitat
2 survey?

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MS. FARNHAM: Through the Chair. That is -- to my understanding that's what we're planning on doing, but I can get you that full answer, I'm not actually the lead on that project. So I'm happy to get the answer from Brian McKenna and pass it on to Brooke and she can pass it to you if you'd like.

MR. WOODRUFF: And I might pass on to you that Randy Brown with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the ultimate guy with whitefish. So if you have questions, he's the guy.

MS. FARNHAM: We've had many conversations with Randy, he's.....

MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

MS. FARNHAM:wonderful. Thank you.

MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

MS. MCDAVID: I'll -- if it's okay I'll also respond to Don. Before I left the Department of Fish and Game I was helping write this proposal and Randy was involved in that. And the reason that these two locations were selected for sampling is because they are very important spawning habitats.

MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair. Andy.

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Your slide that showed the mid Yukon River sonar, it looked like you were going to deploy a different type of sonar, something from a boat as opposed to shore or was that just a graphic that was maybe misrepresenting. So are you developing a new sonar technique for the middle section sonar site because currently it's either Didson or what is it, Inrad or whatever they call it, the longer beam. Sorry, my brain fart there on the name of it. So I'm just curious is this a new sonar technology that you're going to try and use mid river, do you know?

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1 MS. FARNHAM: Through the Chair.
2 That's actually a really good question. And hopefully
3 not, hopefully we'll be doing similar to what's being
4 done in Emmonak and up in.....

5
6 MR. BASSICH: Eagle.

7
8 MS. FARNHAM:Eagle.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

11
12 MS. FARNHAM: This picture -- I didn't actually
13 put this particular slide together so I apologize
14 for.....

15
16 MR. McKENNA: Mr. Chair.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes, Brian.

19
20 MR. McKENNA: Mr. Chair, this is Brian
21 McKenna. I can answer that question.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Go ahead,
24 Brian.

25
26 MR. McKENNA: Yeah, Andy, thanks for
27 the question. We're not planning on trying a brand new
28 type of sonar. That graphic there is showing the type
29 of methodology we're going to use this summer during
30 the feasibility work that we're going to be doing to
31 determine river cross-section bathymetry. So basically
32 figuring out what the slope or gradient of the -- of
33 the substrate or river bed looks like to see if that
34 gets and our air sonar technology will work in those
35 locations.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: Thank you for that
38 clarification. That -- I -- I was a part of doing that
39 at Eagle, working with ADF&G. So I was just thrown by
40 the picture, but I fully understand your process and --
41 and look forward to hopefully you guys finding a really
42 suitable site for that, I think it's a really valuable
43 project.

44
45 And then your second to the last slide,
46 before the acknowledgements, if you could pull that one
47 up. Yeah, that -- before that one. There you go. The
48 Gisasa weir, I realize that maybe that project wasn't
49 fully in place or maybe wasn't functioning 100 percent,
50

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1 but three male -- three females, 29 males, that's a
2 horrible ratio. And I just want to point that out, I
3 -- I don't expect an answer from you. We don't even
4 know what's going on in a lot of cases with the salmon,
5 but I just wanted to point out that that's an
6 abominable relationship between males and females in
7 regards to quality of escapement. So anyway I hope
8 that improves into the future and what few come up
9 there we need better quality of escapement there.

10

11 That's all I have. Thank you.

12

13 Thank you for your presentation, you
14 guys are doing a lot of great work.

15

16 MS. FARNHAM: Thank you.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you very
19 much, Nicole. Did -- was there any questions for
20 anyone, questions for Nicole or Liz from the Council
21 members.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: If not, we really
26 appreciate you and your time today for your wonderful
27 presentations and we're going to move on. Is there
28 anything more from Liz like on regulatory cycle update.
29 Is Liz still around?

30

31 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
32 members of the Council. This is -- it's not very much.
33 We recently concluded the fisheries regulatory cycle.
34 The Board took action on all the fisheries proposals
35 and closure reviews as you well know at their January
36 fisheries regulatory meeting. And the new regulations
37 should be published in the Federal Register in late
38 spring or early summer. And we'll begin our next
39 fisheries regulatory cycle during your winter, 2024
40 meeting and we'll provide the Council with a draft or
41 list of the closure reviews. And if there are any for
42 your region we will solicit proposals to change the
43 Federal fish regs and shellfish regs.

44

45 And that is the regulatory cycle
46 update.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Liz.
49 Any questions on that regulatory cycle update, Council

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1 members, anybody else in the room.

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(No comments)

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ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hearing none, I really appreciate you Liz and Nicole for your time. And due to time we're going to move on down the list. I guess we're at 13, additional reports.

Brooke, can you help me, did we do North Pacific Fisheries Management Council yesterday?

MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair, yes, we did. We did report A, B. And for your information report C from ADF&G Subsistence Division. They have said that they'll pass on their report today due to time. So that would bring us to D, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Yukon River Salmon update.

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. If Holly's ready for that or Gerald we can go ahead with that report.

Thank you.

MS. CARROLL: Thanks very much, Mr. Chair and the Board. I'm here with Deena Jallen, the Alaska Summer Season Manager for Fish and Game and also due to time I wanted to offer standing down on this report if you wanted to move on to other items. We have given you a printed, two page summary of the fishery, we've also provided a summary of our ichthyophonous study and our chinook tagging. If you would still like the Yukon report I can probably give you a condensed one.

I'm getting a thumbs up, Mr. Chair, from Andy Bassich. Was that a thumbs up on the report.....

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So.....

MS. CARROLL:or standing down?

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

MR. BASSICH: Give us -- give us the report.

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1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So we'll leave it
2 up to the Council members. I -- you can see them
3 better than I can. Are they agreeing to let you pass
4 or do they want a report?

5
6 MR. BASSICH: Report.

7
8 MS. CARROLL: Andy wants a report, Mr.
9 Chair.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: All right. Well,
12 that's what we'll have then.

13
14 MS. MCDAVID: And, Charlie, we do have
15 someone bringing Holly's report to slip under your
16 door.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you so
19 much.

20
21 MS. CARROLL: Oh, wow. I didn't
22 realize you were in the building.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MS. CARROLL: I can feel your presence,
27 Mr. Chair.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you.

30
31 MS. CARROLL: Okay. So the -- the
32 short and the sweet is I'll give you some brief
33 numbers. For the chinook forecast for this coming year
34 -- all our forecasts are preliminary, they're still
35 going to be vetted at various meetings and with
36 stakeholders at JTC and the Yukon River Panel, but
37 unfortunately our chinook salmon forecast is for a very
38 poor run that's far too small to fish on and is
39 unexpected to meet drainage wide or Canadian origin
40 escapement goals. So that's pretty sad news.

41
42 The -- the summer chum is a slightly
43 more positive situation. The point estimate for the
44 summer chum is about 560,000, but unfortunately even
45 though that forecast range is pretty broad because one
46 of the parent years of the four year olds that will be
47 returning was 2019 and that was a year we had
48 incredibly warm Yukon water. We're -- we're pretty
49 unsure what's going to happen to the survival of those
50

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1 four year olds and so we're taking a pretty cautious
2 approach and we're expecting that we may need to have
3 closures through most of the season for that summer
4 chum run.

5
6 Similarly the fall chum run is also
7 forecast to be below a fishable size. The point
8 estimate is about 250,000. While the upper end of that
9 forecast could present more fish, we'll know a lot more
10 about that after we see how the summer chum run
11 materializes. But we do have the same kind of concerns
12 about survival of the -- the four year olds and the
13 returns of those.

14
15 So in short based on those forecasts
16 fishermen can expect a similar management to last year
17 with salmon fishing closed for most of the river and
18 likely for most of the season.

19
20 Because the coho run is projected to be
21 below average there still could be some opportunity to
22 fish on those. It won't be a pink salmon year, but we
23 are going to try to offer as much harvest of other
24 salmon, so sockeye, pinks, coho if they become
25 available, and we would try to do that through
26 selective gear if possible. If we do see some chum
27 runs materialize that have a harvestable surplus we'd
28 be looking at using likely selective gear again.

29
30 What we are going to try to do is
31 provide as much nonsalmon opportunity as we can just
32 like last year so four inch gear and, you know, we are
33 going to put out some news releases about slight
34 changes that occurred at the Board of Fish, Fish and
35 Game will do that and you'll see that soon. But
36 basically that's kind of the fishery in a nutshell.
37 And it -- it's really sad to deliver this news as
38 fishery biologists and managers, you know, we feel
39 really helpless about the loss of culture and food
40 harvesting that is occurring throughout the drainage.
41 And so, you know, one thing that we've sort of dove
42 into is the one thing we can do which is try to really
43 collaborate, really all hands on deck and do really
44 good research on what is causing these declines. And
45 so to that end we've got the ichthyophonous study again,
46 you got a flyer about it. We also are going to do --
47 Fish and Game is going to do a tagging study on chinook
48 so that would be live tagging on those fish. So even
49 if you are out there fishing with your four inch and
50

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1 you catch a chinook with a tag in it please do let us
2 know, we're not going to ask you how you caught it, but
3 we really need to know where these fish end up because
4 the study will tell us if they are dropping out or
5 dying as they migrate up the river. So it's a great
6 study to pair with that ichthyophonous study, getting a
7 handle on -- you know, the runs are poor when they're
8 coming back from the ocean, but if they are also dying
9 in the river we really need to get a handle on how many
10 fish that might be happening to and roughly where in
11 the river it might be occurring. So these are two
12 super important studies.

13

14 And I guess the other thing I would say
15 is we're going to engage with stakeholders as much as
16 possible so upcoming meetings include the Yukon River
17 Panel, the YRDFA preseason meeting, but also at the
18 Fish and Wildlife Service we will be conducting tribal
19 consultations, government to government consultations.
20 We'll offer those in May. We -- we do them as
21 teleconferences by district, but any tribal government
22 can request a one on one consultation with us.

23

24 So I guess with that I would conclude
25 and see if Deena Jallen wanted to just add anything and
26 then we could stand by for any discussion or questions
27 you have.

28

29 MS. JALLEN: Yeah, a little bit in
30 addition. Just for the tagging study I just really
31 want to reiterate how important it will be if anyone
32 does see a king salmon with a tag, either if it was
33 incidental in your four inch mesh while you're going
34 for nonsalmon or if you happen to see one that may be
35 expired and is on a gravel bar or in a pile of
36 driftwood, like all those tags getting back is going to
37 be really important to help with that project and all
38 of the tags that get returned, there's going to be
39 different incentives and drawings and prizes and
40 whatnot for those tags that get returned. So any tag
41 that you see we definitely want to hear about and
42 they'll be more flyers and more outreach about that.

43

44 We'll be sending out the outlook flyer
45 to all the households in May with our preliminary
46 management action or management strategy for the
47 season. We'll also be giving updated harvest of
48 nonsalmon species, we know that that's been a concern
49 lately that folks are harvesting nonsalmon more

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1 heavily. We saw a reduction of nonsalmon harvest in
2 2021 and then in 2022 that number was coming back up
3 closer to average harvest of nonsalmon. And so it will
4 be interesting to see going forward if folks are
5 starting to put even more pressure on nonsalmon species
6 as we go forward. But it's definitely something that
7 we're -- we keep track of through our post season
8 subsistence salmon harvest survey and we can share that
9 information in a variety of ways.

10

11 But yeah, we look forward to seeing the
12 folks -- seeing folks at Yukon River Panel and YRDFA
13 preseason and then of course the YRDFA teleconference
14 is all season. And we'll be back in Emmonak this
15 summer, in the Emmonak office in the lower Yukon, yeah.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Well, thank you
18 very much, Holly and Deena. Always good to hear your
19 voices, good to see you whenever we get a chance.
20 Pretty dismal as -- as it's been for the last few
21 years, but hopefully we'll see some light soon somehow
22 somehow.

23

24 Any questions from the Council members.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chairman. Andy.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

29

30 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 I guess this is actually for both of you. You know,
32 we're looking at studying for ichthyophonous, we're
33 looking at all kinds of climatic aspects that might be
34 affecting king salmon. I'm wondering if there's any
35 plans to do any studies on the affects of four inch
36 mesh being used now on chinooks since that will be
37 something that will be your biggest human impact to
38 salmon. And I think it's really important that you arm
39 yourself with some information on the catchability of
40 chinook salmon, whether they be jacks or older fish
41 with the use of four inch gear because I just want to
42 relate I've used a lot of four inch gear, I've done a
43 lot of testing in my area. I realize that different
44 sections of the river are very different in what their
45 catchability is, but I do know that if it's fished
46 improperly it can be devastating on chinook salmon as a
47 bycatch tool. And so I would strongly recommend that
48 the Department -- both Departments, do some preliminary
49 studies to understand those potential impacts. And I
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1 do applaud that you're trying to encourage people to
2 use that and that nonsalmon species is hopefully what
3 we're targeting, but as we all know unless people are
4 really educated about what opportunities they're given
5 and how to use it, sometimes they misuse it
6 unintentionally and sometimes intentionally. And so
7 the Department definitely needs to understand the
8 implications of human harvest with four inch gear since
9 that's probably what we're going to be restricted to
10 for a number of years.

11

12 That's the comment I had. I don't
13 necessarily need a response, if you want to fine, but I
14 just wanted to put that out there because I think
15 that's really, really important.

16

17 Thank you Madame or Mr. Chair.

18

19 MS. CARROLL: Mr. Chair, I can't help
20 myself, I -- I'm going to have to respond. So we don't
21 have per se a study planned at this time, but I -- I
22 hear every one of your comments and one thing I will
23 say is that we have really good subsistence harvest
24 data, test fishery data on four inch. And the other
25 thing is that -- Deena can speak more to it, but there
26 were some Board of Fish slight changes in -- in gear
27 regulations that could be implemented this summer that
28 will help us as managers kind of better control how
29 that -- that four inch is used. We are going to be
30 allowed to require it as a set net for instance, no
31 longer allowing it to be drifted. It's already limited
32 to 60 feet, but yes, I -- I absolutely understand what
33 your concerns, but as far as like the studies that are
34 occurring right now I think we've got our hands full
35 with just implementing these two. And I think that's a
36 great idea for a future study.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair, if I may. I
39 guess what I think is probably the most prudent thing
40 to do that's not going to cost a lot of money and
41 create a lot of additional work for the Department
42 though is outreach. We need outreach, we need the
43 Department when you have these preseason meetings and
44 these meetings with fishermen, to very, very
45 meticulously describe what works, what -- what not to
46 do, where to do things and where not to do things and
47 to impress upon them to try and limit their harvest of
48 chinook salmon in every way possible. And I know most
49 people are onboard with that, but I really do think
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1 it's incumbent upon people hearing that from the two
2 Departments.

3

4

Thank you.

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6

MS. JALLEN: Through the Chair, if I
7 just may add. I think it's -- we're not necessarily
8 going to be able to tell everybody everywhere in the
9 river how to fish because conditions are so different.
10 I mean, local folks on the ground are going to know how
11 to fish to avoid salmon. So it's also going to be
12 really important to impress upon folks how poor the
13 chinook salmon run is and how dire the need is for
14 conservation. So if anyone in this room can help to
15 kind of spread that message and help get people onboard
16 with the need to conserve these species and the need to
17 fish in a very a conscientious manner, that's also
18 going to be really important to help relay to folks.

19

20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted).

22

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MR. WOODRUFF: Mr. Chairman, I have a
comment.

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ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Please go ahead.

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MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. It wasn't
this year, but last year I fished a three and a half
inch mesh 20 feet long and I intercepted about 10
chinook and they were five pounders. So my philosophy
was fish close to shore and you're going to miss any
big fish. And it worked very well. Mostly jacks, I
think I got two females.

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MS. JALLEN: Through the Chair. We did
also have an additional regulatory action we can put in
by emergency order that can require those 60 foot, four
inch or smaller mesh nets to be operated no more than a
hundred feet for ordinary -- from ordinary high water
marks. So depending on how long your bank is between
ordinary high water mark to the water's edge, that can
mean that your net is right up on shore and you can't
get more than 60 feet offshore in some places. So we
may also be having that restriction in place this year --
this season as well. Just to recognize that.....

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(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted).

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1 MS. JALLEN:being shore based.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted).

5

6 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Anymore
7 questions for these ladies.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair. Andy.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Yeah, thank you
14 for that, Deena. I guess I just want to point out the
15 practicality. I doubt very few people carry a tape
16 measure out there and law enforcement is basically
17 nonexistent on the Yukon River during fishing seasons
18 for the most part. So although these things are great
19 recommendations there's really not a backup plan to
20 enforce it, the funding isn't there, it's just not
21 happening. So that's why I really, really strongly
22 support any kind of outreach and education on that.
23 And I think it has to be something that communities
24 police themselves.

25

26 So thank you though. I -- I really
27 appreciate the efforts of you managers, I know you both
28 are really dedicated and doing your best and it's a
29 really, really tough situation we're in.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 That's all I have, Mr. Chair, thank
34 you.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: All right. Thank
37 you, Andy. Anymore questions for Holly and Deena.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hearing none, we
42 really appreciate you ladies for your report today.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MS. JALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. We'll be
49 moving on down. I think we covered Wrangell-St. Elias

50

0349

1 already, didn't we?

2

3 DR. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

6

7 DR. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
8 Cellarius. I'm the Cultural Anthropologist and
9 Subsistence Coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias. And I
10 believe we have Dave.....

11

12 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

13

14 DR. CELLARIUS:Sarafin on the
15 line to give a fisheries update. And then I didn't get
16 a chance to give my update because we focused on
17 caribou with Wrangell-St. Elias during the wildlife
18 session so I just want to give you -- just say a couple
19 things, but we'll let Dave go first.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: All right. Thank
22 you. Go ahead then.

23

24 MS. MCDAVID: It's Tab 10.

25

26 MR. SARAFIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
27 this is Dave Sarafin, the Fisheries Management
28 Biologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
29 Preserve. So I've provided a report for you, it's I
30 think labeled Tab 10 in the supplemental materials.
31 And I'll try to be very brief and I'm just going to
32 skim through the summary of key updates and you could
33 always look through more details in the report that
34 follows.

35

36 So the first thing I was very happy to
37 get the Tanada Creek weir back in operation last season
38 at Batzulnetas. And it actually documented, you know,
39 the preliminary minimal count, we still have some
40 pending additional video review to do, but 29,350
41 sockeye salmon which is well above the historic count
42 average of 17,520 through over 20 years of weir
43 operation.

44

45 And we started -- let's see, two Copper
46 River salmon research projects began looking at
47 genetics. And the 20 -- as far as the run strength for
48 2022 Copper River salmon, it began weak as it has in
49 the past few years, but then increased in strength as
50

0350

1 the season progressed. Harvest opportunities continued
2 throughout the season and it appears the sustainable
3 escapement goals were met.

4
5 Miles Lake sonar provided a season
6 total passage estimate of 785,509 salmon which is 27
7 percent above the management objective that the State
8 of Alaska sets.

9
10 Upper Copper River Federal subsistence
11 fishery permits issued were 177 Chitina Subdistrict,
12 297 to the Glennallen Subdistrict and two for the
13 vicinity of Batzulnetas.

14
15 And historical Federal harvest in the
16 upper Copper River are included in tables 1 through 4.
17 The 2022 season harvest was below average for sockeye
18 salmon and near average for chinook.

19
20 The new subsistence fishery in the
21 lower Copper River near Cordova, that was open from
22 June 1 through September 30th. Sixty-nine permits were
23 issued and total reported harvest for the season is at
24 111 sockeye salmon and three chinook salmon.

25
26 For the 2023 upcoming run or season the
27 Department of Fish and Game has forecast a total of
28 1.646 or 1,646,000 wild sockeye salmon so I left out a
29 key word there. The total run forecast including the
30 hatchery contribution is 1,695,000 for the total. So
31 for the wild stock anyway it's 14 percent below the 10
32 year average. They forecast 53,000 chinook salmon
33 which is 15 percent above the 10 year average.

34
35 And that pretty much concludes my
36 update and I'm open for any questions you may have.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MR. SARAFIN: I'm not hearing any, are
41 we still on the call.

42
43 MS. MCDAVID: We're still here.

44
45 MR. SARAFIN: Okay.

46
47 MS. MCDAVID: This is Brooke McDavid,
48 Council Coordinator. I'm not seeing any questions here
49 in the room. I'm not sure if Mr. Chair is still with
50

0351

1 us. We've been having a little bit of phone issues
2 throughout the meeting.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. I'm back
5 again. I keep dropping.

6
7 MS. MCDAVID: Thanks, Mr. Chair.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Anymore
10 questions.....

11
12 MS. MCDAVID: I think we're concluded
13 with.....

14
15 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any more
16 questions.

17
18 MS. MCDAVID:questions in the
19 room.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Did the
22 lady from Wrangell-St. Elias still have some more
23 reporting to do like she said.

24
25 DR. CELLARIUS: I do, Mr. Chair, just
26 really briefly. Kyle focused his wildlife report on
27 caribou because that was the issue that you had
28 immediately in front of you. I just wanted to let you
29 know he's hoping to do a moose survey this coming fall
30 and then over the next four years we also have some
31 sheep surveys planned. And like Yukon-Charley
32 mentioned in addition to the sheep surveys we're
33 planning to do sheep hunter interviews.

34
35 And then my report has some information
36 about the Federal subsistence harvest permits that we
37 issue, all of my contact information is on that. So
38 I'll let you ask if there's any questions. We're
39 wrapping a TEK project on how snow -- changing snow and
40 ice conditions has changed winter subsistence access
41 and I'm hoping to have copies of a report for you at
42 the next meeting. And then the next two we're going to
43 be doing community harvest surveys in Mentasta and
44 Chitina. Any anything else people can get ahold of me,
45 my contact information is on the report.

46
47 So that concludes what I had to say,
48 Mr. Chair.

49
50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you so
4 much. Any questions, Council members.

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: Mr. Chairman, this is
7 Don. I have a question.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: All right. Don,
10 go ahead.

11

12 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 Did the majority of the Ahtna folks that we often hear
14 from meet their subsistence needs this year for
15 fisheries?

16

17 DR. CELLARIUS: That's one of the
18 things that we're hoping to explore with these surveys
19 that are coming up. And I should probably not -- I
20 know that there were folks who had trouble fishing. We
21 had really high water for part of the year and the fish
22 were late. So the -- I think the harvest -- the
23 subsistence harvest was -- although, you know, the --
24 the numbers were good, the subsistence harvests were
25 somewhat low. But I'll have a better idea after the
26 week -- the next two weeks doing surveys.

27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you for that
29 report.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Any other
32 questions.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Andy.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Andy, go
37 ahead.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, just a quick
40 comment. I just wanted to thank Barbara for her years
41 of service here, she's been coming to the table for
42 many, many, many years and I know she and Sue work very
43 close together down in that area. But I just want to
44 extend my appreciation for her -- her very excellent
45 participation and reporting and all that.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 DR. CELLARIUS: Through the Chair.

50

0353

1 Thank you, Andy.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Andy
4 for that. All right.

5

6 Dave and Barbara, really appreciate
7 your excellent report, appreciate your time. If
8 there's no more questions from the Council we can move
9 on.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Looks like we're
14 at 13F, BLM travel management plan for Steese NCA and
15 White Mountains NRA. Is that Tim Hammond.

16

17 MR. HAMMOND: Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank
18 you. My name is Tim Hammond, I'm the.....

19

20 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead.

21

22 MR. HAMMOND:Field Manager for
23 the Eastern Interior Field Office with BLM. And I'll
24 keep this as brief as possible, but stay as long as
25 people want to ask questions. We've been working on
26 these travel management plans for the Steese National
27 Conservation Area and White Mountains National
28 Recreation Area since 2019. Finally completed them in
29 October of 2022. And the bottom line is there will be
30 new travel management rules in the Steese and White
31 Mountains starting May 1st. So that -- that's kind of
32 the bottom line I guess. And there is a link on the
33 back page here where you can see the entire plan and
34 dig into all the maps, but the bottom line is winter
35 rules have not really changed, the entire area is still
36 open to cross-country travel with snowmachines. We do
37 have a few proposed additional maintained routes that
38 we may put in if we get the resources, but not much
39 change for winter.

40

41 In the White Mountains in the summer
42 not much changed either. Areas that were open to
43 cross-country travel are still open to cross-country
44 travel, areas that were closed are still closed.

45

46 The Steese National Conservation Area
47 is where the majority of the changes are and most of
48 that area is either not open to summer OHP travel or is
49 limited to designated routes. And we worked closely
50

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1 with Fish and Game to specifically make decisions that
2 would facilitate hunter access for the Fortymile
3 Caribou Herd in there while still addressing the
4 resource concerns and getting rid of some of the
5 network of user created trails in particularly bad,
6 swampy areas.

7
8 So that -- that's really, you know, 10
9 cent version. I'll stop there and see if there's any
10 questions since we're so late in the day. You are
11 welcome to call the BLM office and we can set up as
12 long a conversation as you want about it. And as I
13 said there's a link on the back page to our E-planning
14 website where you can review the entire plan.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you very
17 much, Tim.

18
19 MR. WOODRUFF: Mr. Chairman, I have a
20 question.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any questions for
23 Tim.

24
25 MR. WOODRUFF: This is Don, I have a
26 question.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Don.

29
30 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 In the '90s -- in the '90s I went through the process
32 with BLM with Mrs. Woodward probably before your time.
33 And it wasn't expensive, but 200 bucks cut into my
34 trapping budget by quite a bit. And I was required to
35 submit an income affidavit and my fur receipts were
36 adequate for that. I didn't have to print out a IRS
37 return or anything like that. And that worked pretty
38 well. But I eventually decided that that wasn't the
39 process for me because the 200 bucks was cutting in
40 quite a bit into my trapping budget. So I withdrew my
41 permit. And after thinking about this whole process it
42 comes to my conclusion that perhaps there is a bit of
43 confusion with the difference between commercial and
44 subsistence. And I feel that if -- if you're running a
45 subsistence trapline and using a BLM cabin that that
46 fee should be so minimal that it doesn't make it
47 impossible for people to be on the ground.

48
49 And that's my comment.

50

0355

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. HAMMOND: Yeah.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you for
6 that comment.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair. Andy.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 I'd like to build a little bit on what Don just said.
14 You know, it's my -- my perspective that cabins out in
15 the woods only stay cabins out in the woods if they're
16 used and if they're maintained. And my experience has
17 been that most people that go out and use these cabins
18 by heating them up, by helping to provide wood that's
19 there for the next person, those are all actual
20 benefits that help reduce the cost to agencies for
21 maintaining those cabins. Sometimes people are in the
22 area and they're clearing debris away from a cabin
23 which might help with fire mitigation and all that.

24

25 So I would just like to put out there
26 in support of the discussions from Representative
27 Woodruff and Ms. Pope that I -- I personally think that
28 there should be no fees for subsistence activities or
29 subsistence use by BLM. I fully understand if there's
30 going to be a commercial use, but as we stated earlier
31 in the -- in the meeting, you know, Federal taxpayers
32 pay for it, we're -- we're -- it's the public's, so
33 you're basically having to pay yourself. And I feel
34 like if there's fees that BLM wants to charge because
35 of the administrative cost then they need to reduce
36 their administrative cost to the point where those fees
37 are negligible for them to incur upon themselves. They
38 create that own -- their own bureaucracy and then
39 they're asking subsistence users to pay for that
40 bureaucracy that they've created.

41

42 I just wanted to put those comments on
43 the record because I -- I feel very strongly that
44 people -- there aren't -- for the first place there are
45 very few people out in the country anymore, there's
46 very few young people that are out there. The older
47 people are getting to the age where they're not out
48 there anymore and we need to -- we need to make it
49 attractive for younger people to get out there, learn
50

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1 how to do that lifestyle and continue the traditions
2 that are out there on the land. And, you know, the
3 cost of living's getting tougher and tougher for
4 people.

5

6 So I just wanted to put these comments
7 on the record for the Federal Subsistence Board to hear
8 and for some of these agencies to hear and to take into
9 consideration modifying their practices and their
10 procedures for permitting for Federally-qualified rural
11 subsistence people trying to live a traditional
12 lifestyle out on the land because it is dying and we
13 are an endangered species and we do need protection.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Andy.
18 Anymore questions for Tim.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Tim, did you want
23 to respond in anyway.

24

25 MR. HAMMOND: I'm happy to. I think
26 Amanda was going to ask a question. If you want to go
27 first go ahead.

28

29 MS. POPE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, if you
30 don't mind me speaking really quick.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Amanda.

33

34 MS. POPE: All right. Thank you. I
35 just wanted to state for the record that Alaska's
36 different and no matter what agency a superintendent is
37 -- is in charge of whether it be a Preserve or a
38 Refuge. They need to take in consideration that
39 Alaska's different than any other State in the -- in
40 the country. And it -- it's not all -- all one way
41 because Alaska is different as we all know. It seems
42 like the subsistence users are always caught in this
43 gray area, in the middle of two different rulings. And
44 the laws need to be looked at with an open mind and
45 these superintendents need to think about everything in
46 general including them having the discretionary
47 authority over permits in their areas. And having that
48 option to be settled right away instead of waiting
49 years down the line.

50

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1 I'll end it right there.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair. Andy. One
6 additional comment, please.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. You
11 know, at the very beginning of this meeting I -- sorry.
12 At the very beginning of this meeting I -- I spoke to
13 this kind of indirectly. But quite frankly there are
14 so few people out on the land and a person out on the
15 land especially during the winter does almost no damage
16 to the land at all. And it's my -- it's always been my
17 perspective that the reason why we have BLM or Park
18 Service or any of these other regulatory agencies is to
19 protect those lands against large industry and
20 commercial activities because those are the activities
21 that can destroy that land or that wildlife or that
22 ecology very quickly. People living on the land can't.
23 You -- you physically cannot do it yourself.

24

25 So I guess one of the things that we
26 run into a lot is that positions change and many of the
27 people who take these higher positions come from other
28 parts of the country where they have no experience in
29 subsistence lifestyles, no -- and when I say no
30 experience, they may read a book about it or get a
31 report from one of their subordinates about it, but
32 they've never lived it, they don't understand it. And
33 the only way you can really truly understand
34 subsistence life is to live it. And I think people try
35 and do the best they can to understand it, I think some
36 people get it better than others, but when you have
37 people that are transforming from say Park Service to
38 BLM, BLM to another entity, they bring those
39 perceptions from position they came from into their new
40 one. And sometimes I think that's some of the
41 disconnect that happens. So, I mean, what I would
42 really love is for it to be mandatory for a
43 superintendent of a Park to go live in that Park for
44 three weeks or a month before they even get the job or
45 when they first get the job so that they fully
46 understand what it is they're doing there.

47

48 But I guess the main thing that I want
49 to iterate here is that subsistence users are not a

50

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1 threat to the ecosystem, to the animal populations,
2 whether it be through trapping, hunting or fishing.
3 The agencies need to protect these lands against large
4 scale industry, large scale commercialization of those
5 resources.

6
7 I'll leave it at that, but that's
8 really, really important.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Andy.
11 Go ahead, Tim, if you've got something you want to say.

12
13 MR. HAMMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
14 absolutely understand the frustration with the process,
15 I -- I truly do, I sympathize with that. We are
16 constrained by the laws Congress passes and the
17 regulations we have to follow. And I -- there's a
18 little bit of misunderstanding here. The -- there is a
19 process to waive the fees for processing a permit, but
20 that doesn't exist at my level, that authority is
21 several steps above me. And that process does require
22 some sort of financial documentation. As you said it
23 doesn't have to be tax records necessarily, but it has
24 to have some sort of financial documentation. The
25 other thing that is a hinderance here is once a
26 decision is appealed that is adjudicated by an
27 organization called the Interior Board of Land Appeals.
28 That's an administrative court and the instant that
29 appeal my authority to even negotiate on the issue is
30 taken away, it -- it's taken out of BLM jurisdiction
31 and put into IBLA jurisdiction. And I can't undo that,
32 you know, until the IBLA hands it back to me.

33
34 So those layers of bureaucracy
35 definitely get in the way and sometimes get in the way
36 of sitting down and looking someone in the face and
37 solving an issue. But there's not much we can do to
38 undo that legal structure that's there. You know, if
39 we have a conversation about the process for waiving
40 fees before that appeal is filed, sometimes there's a
41 solution and sometimes there's not. And I don't want
42 to discourage anybody from ever filing an appeal,
43 that's a right everybody has, almost every decision BLM
44 issues is subject to appeal. And, you know that that's
45 the right of a citizen to appeal that decision. But it
46 should be an informed decision and I would encourage
47 people to talk to us first and see if there's a
48 solution before filing an appeal.

49
50

0359

1 MS. POPE: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
2 Amanda.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Amanda.

5
6 MS. POPE: If you don't mind I'll just
7 say something really quick.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Amanda.

10
11 MS. POPE: Thank you, Charlie. This
12 process has to be simpler. This does not make it easy
13 for the subsistence users to be able to apply for an
14 application. And I'm not just saying this because of
15 me, I'm saying this for all of Alaska. You guys need
16 to find a way to make it easier for Alaska if you're
17 going to be dealing with Alaskans. That just comes
18 down to it. I mean, if -- if BLM has land in Alaska
19 then they should be willing to make this application
20 process simpler for them. Regarding the -- the fees.
21 There needs to be something with the application that
22 states that there will be a fee. Because a lot of
23 people don't know until they find out later.

24
25 The bureaucratic procedure is not
26 conducive for somebody who lives in the village, around
27 those areas. We basically have to become lawyers, we
28 have to educate ourselves to -- to think like a lawyer,
29 talk like a lawyer and it shouldn't be that way. BLM
30 is putting subsistence users in a situation where they
31 have to fight BLM in court. And BLM is the Federal
32 agency. How is the local subsistence person supposed
33 to fight for themselves when they're fighting the
34 biggest law -- law people in -- in the country, the
35 Feds. It doesn't make sense. And BLM needs to have a
36 better procedure for Alaska because we are different
37 than Montana per se. I mean, every State is different
38 and I think that needs to be considered.

39
40 And I'm going to switch places here and
41 talk about my personal application. I plan to make it
42 known to the other agencies that need to know about my
43 permit in general. And possibly if I have to fight in
44 court and I -- I will do so. I'm not going to stand
45 down and pay a couple thousands dollars and then pay
46 for the cabin to be fixed up in order for me to use it
47 just for an emergency. It's ridiculous.

48
49 I'll -- I'll stop there. Thanks for
50

0360

1 your time.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you,
4 Amanda. Okay. Anymore questions.

5

6 MR. HERRIGES: Mr. Chair, this is Jim
7 Herriges, I'd like to make a quick, somewhat or
8 unrelated comment if I could.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Go ahead.

11

12 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah, Jim Herriges,
13 Biologist with Eastern Interior Field Office in
14 Anchorage. I just wanted to briefly clarify something
15 in yesterday's discussion on Fortymile Caribou. Jeff
16 Gross had made a statement that pretty strongly implied
17 that there was in 2020 interagency agreement for the
18 strategy to quickly reduce the herd to 50,000. And I
19 talked with Jeff after that discussion and he agreed
20 that he could have stated this more clearly and
21 accurately. So just to clarify for the record I would
22 like to say that yes, I am the Yukon Environment
23 Biologist, we're -- we're consulted, but we both
24 recommended a more conservative approach with
25 significantly lower harvest of cows. And then ADF&G
26 did consider this input in their decision, but made the
27 decision that they made.

28

29 So that's all I had to say just real
30 quick.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you so
33 much.

34

35 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chairman. Andy.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I -- I
40 really appreciate you saying that, Jim. I think quite
41 frankly from my perspective, my personal perspective, I
42 think this is a systemic problem within the Department
43 of Fish and Game both in fisheries and wildlife to
44 assume that they have total control and they can do
45 whatever they want and they can somehow justify it with
46 whatever data they want to justify it with. And that's
47 currently we're in some issues with the fisheries right
48 now because that type of practice happens quite often.
49 So it really -- I really do appreciate that you clarify
50

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1 that, I really find it offensive when Fish and Game is
2 not forthright with us on all data collected, sometimes
3 there's omissions. And when they make statements that
4 were made to us that there has been collaboration and
5 agreement when in fact there hasn't. So I very much
6 appreciate you pointing that out to us and being very
7 forthright with us on what BLM's position is and
8 clarifying that.

9

10 So thank you very much.

11

12 MR. HERRIGES: Sure. Yeah, I don't
13 think Jeff was trying to be misleading, I think he just
14 glossed over that, yeah, didn't clar -- didn't clarify
15 it himself.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: I -- I understand that.
18 I understand that. But also after 20 years of being on
19 this panel I've seen it happen multiple times and
20 oftentimes it's in a position or in a situation where
21 it is -- it's having an impact on subsistence life for
22 people out there. And I -- I -- you know, we -- we're
23 kind of encouraged to take biologist data as truth and
24 I think for the most part we do, but omission of data
25 or omission of collaboration or misrepresentation of
26 that does not lead to a lot of faith in an agency, what
27 -- no matter what the agency is. And when -- when
28 testimony or anything is brought to any level of
29 regulatory process, whether it be our Advisory Board or
30 the Federal Subsistence Board, it needs to be accurate,
31 it needs to be honest, it needs to be forthright and it
32 needs to be complete so that people who make decisions
33 have full information to work to make those decisions
34 for the best interests of the people that they're
35 making those regulations for.

36

37 And that -- that's what I wanted to get
38 on the record. This isn't a cut on ADF&G, it's not
39 meant to be, it's more of a statement of you need all
40 the facts to make good decisions for long term.

41

42 So thank you, Mr. Chair, for letting me
43 speak because this is just something, you know, after
44 what happened at area M, boy, I'll tell you, I'm not
45 feeling real good right now about ADF&G and some of the
46 practices. And it's bringing up old wounds for me and
47 it's bringing up a lot of memories of misrepresentation
48 and deleted data and them basically forcing positions
49 on people. So I hate to speak so strongly against
50

0362

1 them, but, you know, you have to live in the bed you
2 make.

3
4 Thank you, Madame Chair or Mr. Chair.

5
6 MS. BURK: Madame Chair, can I speak?

7
8 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead and
9 speak.

10
11 MS. BURK: I'm just teasing him. I
12 just want to echo off of that. This is Eva Burk for
13 the record. I can kind of echo off that because I
14 think sometimes, you know, I'm in natural resources
15 management so there's a lot more that goes into salmon
16 management than just the biology, right. And so I
17 think it's really misleading for people to be sitting
18 in an audience and just getting the biology reports.
19 So what I have been doing in Nenana and within TCC is
20 educating people about what's driving the commercial
21 fishing, who -- where are the -- who are those markets,
22 right, what -- what is this overall impact to Alaska's
23 economy. And so, you know, then this is me -- I should
24 just clarify that I'm speaking now as a person from
25 Nenana/Minto, Minto AC, Nenana AC member.

26
27 You know we need to have a better
28 understanding of all of the drivers, because this
29 problem isn't just about climate change, it isn't just
30 about over fishing. Yeah, those are the drivers, but
31 it's also about the economy and who's in charge of
32 making those decisions. Who is getting appointed to
33 the decision making body. And I think, you know, we
34 have to be careful. Now I want to switch hats because,
35 you know, when these are political appointments and
36 they don't reflect all the users, different user groups
37 of Alaska then of course those decisions are going to
38 be bias, they're inherently biased. So I -- biased I
39 should say. So I just want to kind of say, you know,
40 biology is great, but I also think, you know, it's our
41 job as citizens.....

42
43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participants not muted).

45
46 MS. BURK:of, you know, community
47 -- if you volunteer for your community to let people
48 know when -- people didn't -- like we're talking a lot
49 about by bycatch, but they didn't even realize that
50

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1 pollock was the number 1, you know, that McDonald's
2 fish filet is 100 percent wild Alaska pollock. So, you
3 know, making those connections is helpful for people to
4 understand what's really going on. And, you know, what
5 -- what should they (indiscernible - distortion)
6 meeting because I don't think that we can just rely on
7 science and biology to tell the full story.

8

9 So I won't go on too much more, but I
10 just wanted to add that.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: All right. Thank
13 you. Okay. Anymore questions, comments.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I think we're
18 done with Tim and the BLM travel management plan
19 overview for Steve and I think we're at G now, the
20 Office of Subsistence Management with Katya Wessels.

21

22 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
23 members of the Council. I will be really brief.
24 Honestly because like look around, you know, you are so
25 dedicated. Like most of the audience is gone, but
26 you're still here attending to the Council business and
27 I would like to thank you from -- you know, on behalf
28 and OSM and on behalf of myself for all of your
29 dedication and time that you spend as volunteers
30 working on this Council and representing people of your
31 communities, all Federally-qualified subsistence users
32 and even commercial and sport users too.

33

34 So just a few little notes. Basically
35 the fall meetings were the first in person meetings we
36 had since the covid started. They all were a success.
37 We're hoping to continue all the meeting for all of the
38 10 Councils in person this winter meeting cycle.

39

40 So the other thing, I want to remind
41 the Council, we reminded you already many times, but
42 I'll say it again, the Real ID. Now they moved the
43 deadline again on the Real ID issue, but beginning May
44 7th, 2025 if you are going to be traveling by air or
45 even on the small bush planes, you need to have an ID
46 which is compliant with the Real ID requirements or
47 alternatively if you don't have the driver's license
48 which is the Real ID compliant you can use a passport,
49 you can use your military ID or some form of tribal

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1 IDs. Specifically you can find more information about
2 the Real ID requirements on.....

3

4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted).

6

7 MS. WESSELS:the State of Alaska,
8 Division of Motor Vehicles website and also on the TSA
9 list of valid IDs. And we can email to you the web
10 addresses, I'm not going to read them to you.

11

12 Again another topic is the Board
13 regulatory meeting. We just had our first in person
14 Board regulatory meeting in January since the covid
15 pandemic started and you already have the report on
16 what happened at that meeting. And you will be getting
17 a written report which we call 805(c) report which will
18 describe in detail the Board's actions and the
19 justifications for these actions that they took at the
20 January fisheries regulatory meeting.

21

22 So and the last topic is changes in OSM
23 Staffing. Since we report to you last time we really
24 didn't have any new Staff coming onboard. We currently
25 just closed the application period advertising for the
26 position of a cartographer for OSM which was vacant for
27 several years. It closed on February 24th. We hope
28 that a lot of qualified folks applied, we don't have
29 that yet.

30

31 But we had -- we didn't have any new
32 additions, but we had one subtraction. The legendary
33 Tom Kron that spent 22 years working for OSM retired
34 and he will be greatly missed.

35

36 So that's all I have. I'll be happy to
37 answer any questions an thank you so much for your
38 time. I'm so happy to see you in person again.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair. Andy.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you very
43 much for that.

44

45 MS. WESSELS: You're welcome.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any questions
48 Council members.

49

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1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Andy.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Andy, go ahead.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I -- I
6 just wanted to say thank you to Katya. I can't think
7 of a better person to be the Coordinator for OSM for
8 all of this. She's -- I've always been so impressed
9 with how dedicated she is and how efficient she is in
10 what she does. And Tom has done a great job here at
11 this meeting so I really appreciate that. And I
12 especially want to do a shout out right now, I know
13 we're going to have closing comments, but our new
14 Coordinator, Brooke, has done an amazing job of coming
15 in and seamlessly becoming our Coordinator, very
16 efficient, very good to work with. And thank you,
17 Brooke, you really excel at what you do. So I just
18 wanted to say that because oftentimes we leave meetings
19 and we forget to thank the people that make it all
20 happen and keep us on track and remind us when we're
21 kind of screwing up. And it's okay, and we all are
22 amateurs at what we do, but we're doing the best we can
23 and those guidance are really important.

24

25 And the last thing I wanted to say is
26 I'm really, really happy to see the new faces on our
27 RAC. I -- I mentioned to our Chair before she left I
28 think we -- this is one of the strongest RACs that I
29 have ever participated in in 20 years. We have really
30 good representation from around our region, we have
31 strong, educated voices and passion in what we're doing
32 and great understanding for each other. And I just
33 wanted to bring that to the RACs attention because it
34 really stood out at this meeting for me and that makes
35 me feel like I want to keep participating. You know,
36 after 20 years you start questioning yourself
37 sometimes, but boy, I think we can get a lot done here
38 with this -- with the roster that we have on this RAC.

39

40 Thank -- thank you, everybody. Thank
41 you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 I always wanted to say you've done an
44 amazing job being at a remote place taking over the
45 meeting.

46

47 That's all I have.

48

49 Thank you.

50

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1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Andy.
2 Thank you very much. We really appreciate you and your
3 wisdom also.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 Okay. With that we thank you, Katya,
8 for all you do for us. You're the best. And I guess
9 we're going to move on to closing comments.

10
11 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Charlie.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I don't know how
14 we want to start that. Yes, thank you, Katya, and.....

15
16 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair, this is
17 Brooke. I have a suggestion maybe.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Brooke,
20 please.

21
22 MS. MCDAVID: Maybe we could just start
23 here in the room and go around the table, if folks want
24 to give a closing comment or two and we could start
25 with Don if that works with you.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: That's perfect.
28 Thank you. End with me.

29
30 CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair, this is
31 Sue Entsminger. I just wanted you guys to know I've
32 been listening in for the last probably 40 minutes.
33 I'm driving and I can hear you all. And I just wanted
34 to let you know you're all doing a good job.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Sue.

39
40 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 I'm really happy to hear that you guys, you and Eva are
42 feeling better. I hope that your health improves
43 enough so that when you go home that it -- it doesn't
44 affect your family because that's important. And as
45 far as the other Council members are concerned, I
46 really appreciate everyone's input and I'm really
47 pretty amazed at Eva Burk's involvement already, she's
48 just going for it so I'm impressed.

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1 Thank you, Eva.

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And the rest of the Council members, I really appreciate all of you guys and the Staff that makes this happen and the instant response from BLM to come and talk to us, I think that's impressive.

Thank you.

And St. Elias and Yukon Charley are the ones that are here so you're going to get all the praise.

(Laughter)

MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you very much.

MS. EVANS: This is Linda Evans. I'd just like to really thank everybody for opportunity to meet with them and discuss these documents. The matters are very important and they're really sincere to our hearts and to our homes. And I think our ability to work together, you know, disagree with each other, but try to work things out so that everybody's needs are met is a pretty awesome opportunity. I feel very honored to be sitting here with people who've done this for 20 or more years, you know. It's kind of amazing to me how much knowledge they hold. You know, being an educator that I'm always looking to read stuff and learn more, you know, as I go along.

I'd like to apologize too a little bit for my opening comments when I introduced myself at the meeting yesterday, about being a second class citizen. I probably -- I was kind of upset about the area M and the proposal 140 proposal being shot down. But, you know, I think about my children, you know, I have a great-granddaughter and I have a granddaughter, they're a couple years -- a year apart I think. But I think about them and wonder what they're going to -- what are they going to know about our subsistence way of life. You know, I think it's really important for us to keep working at it so that we can -- I mean, I have lived out, I grew up on a trapline, you know, and I've lived out in a tent in 50, 80 below weather with my parents, you know, my father was a trapper. And, you know, in the summertime we fished. And that's how I learned my subsistence way of life was by doing it, you know. And I think sometimes it's hard for people to understand

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1 what we're talking about when we say subsistence way of
2 life. You know, they don't really grasp the whole
3 concept of it because they -- they -- they don't live
4 it, you know, the BLM, the people that we work with,
5 BLM, you know, they're the government agencies that we
6 work with. You know, I don't -- don't know if they
7 really know what we're talking about when we say
8 subsistence way of life.

9
10 You know, and our elders are passing
11 away, just one right after the other. To me that is --
12 you know, that's really hard to lose all that knowledge
13 that they had. You know, I really thank Tanana Chiefs
14 for what they're doing and their legacy of elders,
15 elders DVDs that they have. You know, I encourage you
16 if you get an opportunity to look at those because
17 there's -- there's a lot of good TEK there, you know,
18 when people lived a long time ago off the land.

19
20 I think if we could work closer
21 together, you know, if BLM, Fish and Game, you know, if
22 they're going to write on our behalf I think we need to
23 see what they're writing.....

24
25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted).

27
28 MS. EVANS:before they send it
29 out to make sure that it has our -- our stand that
30 we're taking for subsistence.

31
32 I'm really, really excited about the
33 hunter education and outreach and ways that we can get
34 this information out to the people who are using the
35 resources. I think that's going to be a brochure
36 that'll be -- could be a very good way for people who
37 want to use the resources too and learn about the land.
38 And I think that would be a good opportunity for them
39 if we can develop something like that. I'm very
40 excited about this youth advocate hopefully that we
41 might get to sit on this Board to encourage other young
42 people to come and, you know, sit at a Board meeting.
43 They should get in Board meeting or our Board meeting,
44 RAC Board meeting, RAC meeting and learn about the
45 issues.

46
47 You know, I -- it's hard for me to --
48 you know, I want to teach my grandkids, my kids, the
49 Native way of life, but it's hard because they're
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1 growing up in the city, you know, they don't have that
2 same -- that same desire for the Native food like we do
3 -- I do, my husband does, you know. So that -- that's
4 what I always wonder what they're going to do when they
5 get -- when they get older, you know, is there going to
6 be that subsistence way of life anymore.

7

8 I think I better stop now because I can
9 talk for probably a long time on this because it's
10 really very, very dear to my heart. And I just thank
11 you for this opportunity to meet with you and talk with
12 you and, you know, sit and discuss these issues. It's
13 really, really important.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MS. POPE: I guess it's my turn. My
18 name is Amanda Pope for the record. I -- I am very
19 proud of this Council and I'm very honored to be able
20 to attend my first meeting as a newly appointed Council
21 member. I want to thank the folks that had encouraged
22 me to apply and had helped me with the process and
23 include -- that includes the members on the Council
24 now.

25

26 I really learned a lot and I really
27 worry about the resources we have now and what may --
28 what may become of them in the future for the next
29 generations to come. I would like to encourage the
30 agencies' superintendents to reach out to the locals
31 more and possibly add them to the process of your guys'
32 agencies' management plans such as all of the
33 procedures and ways that -- that the agencies manage
34 the lands and the resources on the land should be
35 brought to the tribes and the ACs and the Federal
36 agencies before those actions are developed in my
37 opinion.

38

39 I just want to say thank you, I'm very
40 honored to be here. And I'll end at that.

41

42 Thanks.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I -- I've
45 already said a lot of what I wanted to say. I guess
46 the only other thing I'd like to respond to is that
47 some of your comments, Linda, about, you know where do
48 we go from here and all that. I think -- and your
49 concerns about the youth. I -- I think that's one of
50

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1 the driving factors for me behind the hunter ethics, I
2 think that that's a big part of it and then the other
3 responsibility that as we get older and as we become --
4 whether we're engaged in this Council or in our
5 communities, the job is to use that knowledge and
6 transfer that knowledge and trying to encourage them to
7 come out there. And I know we all know that, but
8 sometimes it's just good to hear it. People -- young
9 people are looking towards us now, you know, we -- we
10 look towards our elders and people that have the
11 experience and now they're going to start looking to
12 us. And sometimes we think of us as being 20 years old
13 again, I know I do, but when I walk out of the room I
14 kind of walk slower than I used to. But anyway that --
15 that's an important role. So you can -- even though
16 you're not on a Council or whatever the impacts are
17 always there with everyone you meet. And, you know,
18 for me personally the reason I'm here is for the youth,
19 the reason I'm here is for the future generations
20 because this life has been really rewarding for me to
21 be able to live a subsistence lifestyle in Alaska, not
22 being born to it, but learning it and valuing it and I
23 just want that opportunity for other people if they so
24 choose to try it because I think it's -- in my opinion
25 it's probably one of the most important things about
26 Alaska, that ability to go out and still do that. This
27 is probably one of the last places on the earth that
28 you can still do that. And that -- that's valuable and
29 that needs to be protected and that's what this entity,
30 this Federal entity is there to protect. And sometimes
31 maybe I'm a little bit harsh or a little bit critical,
32 but it's always meant to help improve the system so
33 that -- so that they can protect this way of life to
34 the best possible extent that they can.

35
36 So I really do appreciate the Federal
37 system and I think it's critical in this time that it
38 is strong and that it is active to help us because
39 we're in tough times right now as people living out on
40 the land.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, thank you. And I'll
45 be incredibly brief as I always am.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. JAGOW: Thank you to all the
50

0371

1 Council members for making it here and making this a
2 productive meeting. And it's great to meet face to
3 face and certainly feels a lot more productive than
4 doing a teleconference. And thank you to Staff. And
5 also thank you to all the folks from Arctic Village
6 that showed up to testify today. They came a long ways
7 on their own dime and that -- that means a lot. And I
8 hope Charlie and Eva feel better soon and the rest of
9 you have safe travels home.

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair, that concludes
12 comments from folks here in the room. We can turn it
13 over to you.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Your turn.

16

17 MS. BURK: This is -- is there comments
18 from anyone in the room? This is Eva.

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: Eva, it's your turn if
21 you want to do closing comments.

22

23 MS. BURK: I do. So I guess I'll
24 respond to Linda a little bit too. You know, being
25 somebody that grew up on the trapline and at fish camp
26 and we earned a living from, you know, selling --
27 commercial fishing and selling fur. And we watched our
28 resource rapidly decline and we moved into Nenana and
29 my dad became a carpenter. And there's not a lot of
30 education or work opportunities especially for someone
31 like me. So I had to move away and I think that is the
32 story of a lot of our people. But what I would say is
33 that when you grow up that way, connected to the lands
34 and waters that there's an emptiness inside of you when
35 you live a city life. And it's funny too because so
36 much decisions are made for us where science is done by
37 people who don't have that intimate experience with the
38 land.

39

40 And so, you know, there's a whole
41 different world view of thinking about missing -- about
42 missing that kind of life and wanting to go back home
43 and then there's a lot of heartache when you do try to
44 make it happen. I built a couple fishwheels with my
45 dad and I had this big dream in my head that we were
46 going to run those fishwheels and bring our camp back
47 to life. And we were out there doing it, me and my
48 mom, my dad, our kids, my sister, our family, and
49 that's when we realized what was going on with the
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0372

1 fish.

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4 And what we're -- what we're doing
5 because that is hard, that's heavy on the soul, it's
6 hard to see people who don't understand. And it's hard
7 when you're educated and do understand the big picture
8 and trying to explain that to people who have all the
9 decision making power. But what we're trying to do to
10 adapt is, you know, we're learning how to farm in
11 Nenana and we're also bringing up Bristol Bay reds
12 which is heartache in that, you know, bringing fish in.
13 But still working on fish it still feels good. So
14 we're trying to do the things that we can, learning
15 about plant medicine, tanning moose hides, beaver
16 trapping. Beaver are in abundance. I tell Charlie
17 that I -- what I dream and I pray of is that the good
18 beavers that are working to quote, unquote, colonize
19 northwestern Alaska that maybe just possibly they're
20 creating salmon habitat for sockeye salmon to start to
21 make they way into the waters because that's the only
22 species of salmon that's doing okay right now.

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 And so those are some of the things
that, you know, keeping ourselves (indiscernible -
distortion), but also having dreams and hopes that
maybe somehow the -- the animals and the fish and
wildlife can learn how to adapt too. And because
they're tough and resilient too and so I hope that
there is some truth in that type of prediction. And
also just know that in the science world too there's a
big call and a big push for more indigenous people and
more indigenous knowledge to be part of the science and
not like an addition like some interviews that
compliment the research, but rather, you know, deep
interviews and relationships that result in a better
research design so that we know that we're asking the
right questions and that we're spending time and money
and (indiscernible - distortion) is on answering the
right questions. For example the reports about salmon
getting smaller and fewer, that just came out a couple
of years ago. Because we knew that for a long time and
what other kind of science could we have done if you'd
been asking the right questions.

 So I don't want to talk too much
longer. Thank you all. And have patience with me as I
might stick my foot in my mouth sometime and as I learn
this process.

0373

1 So thank you very much.

2

3

4 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. This is
5 Charlie. I'd like to really thank Sue for being such a
6 great mentor to me and all of you that have been
7 hanging around here for years and years, Andy, Bill,
8 all of you that make this thing go around and work, I
9 appreciate all of you and I thank all of you Council
10 members for taking time out of your lives to work for
11 people in the future generations, to make sure our
12 resource is sustained going into the future. That's
13 what it's all about.

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Linda, I just want to tell you thank
you for showing your feelings for the future of our
salmon and our people. It just means that you care. I
thank you for that. It's nothing to be ashamed over --
ashamed of. I really appreciate your feelings, it
really means a lot to me. I just do want you to know I
do this work for our future generations and to make
sure that hopefully we can -- our kids and the
grandchildren can hopefully continue to live our way of
life. It's really important to me, I grew up and
raised my kids in that lifestyle and our family's been
doing it for generations, thousands of years. It's
most important to me.

I'd like to thank Brooke, the Staff and
everybody involved in putting this meeting together.
It's such a pleasure to work with all of you guys. I
don't know how much more I can say. You guys mean a
lot to me and going into the future. So I just want to
say I appreciate you all and I guess that's my closing
comments.

Thank you.

MR. BASSICH: Mr. Chair. Andy.

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Andy.

MR. BASSICH: If you're ready for a
motion to adjourn I'm happy to provide that.

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Please do.

MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I'd like to
make a motion that the Eastern Interior Regional
Advisory Council adjourn from this meeting.

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1 MS. EVANS: I'll second.

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3 MR. BASSICH: It's been seconded, Mr.

4 Chair.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. If we got
7 a second I'm going to ask for unanimous consent. I
8 don't think anybody's going to oppose.

9

10 (No opposing votes)

11

12 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I guess we call
13 this meeting over, done, adjourned.

14

15 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you all. Safe
16 travels.

17

18 (Off record)

19

20 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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