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EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Community Hall
Arctic Village, Alaska
October 5, 2023
8:10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Regional Council Coordinator, Brooke McDavid

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Arctic Village, Alaska - 10/5/2023)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we'll get started here. I only had one cup of coffee so it might be a little slow. Merben, I talked to you earlier and we talked at break and I didn't get a chance to come and talk to you, are you -- you go ahead and finish.

MR. CEBRIAN: I'm fine.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure. Merben is with the Refuge here and he has to leave this afternoon and we thought this would be a great time for him to introduce himself to us. And I'm also going to announce that since we started an hour earlier that we'll do the non-agenda item comments at 9:00 so people have a chance when they call in. We're going to try to cover some things that we need to work on and then what's on the agenda started at 9:00, so we thought it would be great to meet you today, at this point.

Thank you, Merben.

MR. CEBRIAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
Good morning.....

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Actually I'm going to have to interrupt again, I'm so unawake I guess. I need to do roll call and make sure who's online, but you just hang on, hang on, it'll only be a minute.

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Aren't we supposed to start with a prayer.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can do that too. You want Don to do that, go ahead, Don.

MR. WOODRUFF: Dorothy Shockley.

MS. SHOCKLEY: Here.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're going to -- wait.

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1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Aren't we going
2 to pray.
3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Oh, sorry.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I told you.
7
8 (Prayer)
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
11 Linda.
12
13 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, roll call.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Roll call.
16
17 MR. WOODRUFF: Dorothy Shockley.
18
19 REPORTER: Don, your mic.
20
21 MS. SHOCKLEY: I thought it was God
22 calling me.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 MS. SHOCKLEY: Here.
27
28 MR. WOODRUFF: So Dorothy's here.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 MR. WOODRUFF: Donald Woodruff, here.
33
34 Charlie Jagow.
35
36 MR. JAGOW: Here.
37
38 MR. WOODRUFF: Robert Wright.
39
40 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Here.
41
42 MR. WOODRUFF: Andrew Bassich.
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 MR. WOODRUFF: He's online somewhere.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We know he
49 was there.
50

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1 MR. WOODRUFF: Bill Glanz.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Amanda Pope.

6

7 MS. POPE: Here.

8

9 MR. WOODRUFF: I heard it.

10

11 Linda Evans.

12

13 MS. EVANS: Here.

14

15 MR. WOODRUFF: Eva Burke.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie, did I miss you?

20

21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: No.

22

23 MR. WOODRUFF: Susan Entsminger.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.

26

27 MR. WOODRUFF: All right.

28

29 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair. I just
30 wanted the record to reflect that obviously Eva is an
31 excused absence. We didn't really state that yesterday
32 but just to be clear.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right, I
37 think we went through our procedure. Go ahead, Merben.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you for
40 your patience.

41

42 MR. CEBRIAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 Good morning Council members. Agency folks. And
44 people from the village. I'm glad to be here. My name
45 is Merben Cebrian. I am the new Refuge Manager for
46 Arctic Refuge. I have some handouts and this is the
47 summary of the activities for this past year for the
48 Arctic Refuge. But before I do that I'd like to take
49 some time to introduce myself properly to you.

50

1 I came to Alaska in 1994 sometime as a
2 soldier. I was a Mountaineer also, Special Operator.
3 I say that because I have been up in the mountains
4 looking at sheep, I didn't realize back then how
5 important that was but, no, we did not shoot them, we
6 were just running around with them. And thinking back
7 of the Red Sheep Creek issues, I now understand how we
8 all have different perspectives of the animals around
9 us, and the folks here hold the animal a little bit
10 closer to them. And I might have had some special
11 relationships with them through the years but I can see
12 how personal it can become. And as a former
13 Mountaineer who used to run up and down these mountains
14 when I was younger. It certainly had a special meaning
15 to me.

16
17 After that I became a wildlife
18 biologist. Worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
19 Service. And then I lived in some rural communities,
20 not out in the villages here. I lived in Tok, I lived
21 in Glennallen for more than 10 years combined. And I
22 also began to appreciate life in rural communities. In
23 fact I was taken in by my Auntie Cora Demmet out of
24 Northway, her and -- she thought I was a good shot
25 because the Army trained me how to shoot well and so
26 they put me to work, I hunted for them. So in a way I
27 started to learn more about the sharing in the
28 communities so that was very important to me as well
29 for a time. I got a very small glimpse of what it was
30 to live in the village.

31
32 And now I'm back. I have been gone for
33 awhile. In the intervening years I worked for the BLM.
34 I worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I was in
35 the regional office in the Midwest. I worked in
36 Washington, D.C., as temporary chief for Fish and
37 Wildlife and Parks for the BIA. So I got to see a lot
38 of the issues in Indian land throughout the United
39 States. When I applied for this job, I think part of
40 the reason why they hired me was because I had some
41 insights into some of the issues that are pervasive in
42 some of the relationships between tribes and the
43 government and I hope I can do something to improve
44 that relationship.

45
46 Now, back to the present. Arctic
47 Refuge. This village is very important to the Arctic
48 Refuge. It is one of the staunchest allies for the
49 Refuge, the Arctic Refuge, yes, is for the north but
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1 the resources there provide a connection to the folks
2 that live in this village and we want to keep those
3 resources healthy, accessible and available for the
4 foreseeable future. And part of my job is to ensure
5 that that happens. However, one of the new rules now,
6 one of the new things that I have to follow is also to
7 provide for oil and gas leasing in the 1002 area. It's
8 a bit controversial as you guys know. That's something
9 that I have to do. And so to find a balance is very
10 critical in accomplishing that task. And part of the
11 reason why I'm here is to interface with the folks that
12 live in the village, understand their demands, their
13 needs and try and figure out a good balance between
14 that and the purposes of the Refuge, which include oil
15 and gas leasing.

16
17 So that's all I have to say.

18
19 Thank you for giving me some time.

20
21 Yes, sir.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I just want to
24 tell you something that I learned when you're working
25 on your oil and gas leasing, you think about your words
26 you just said about protecting these people's well-
27 being and their way of life, most villages are placed
28 where they're at long ago because the migrations went
29 there. So when they built the Haul Road, the Porcupine
30 Caribou Herd used to go into the Koyukuk River and feed
31 those people, and they've went in there twice since
32 1971 because of that road. They bump up against it
33 every year and they won't cross it because of the
34 traffic. So I just want you to think of that when
35 you're making -- if you make roads or make leases,
36 think of doing the best you can to not block the
37 migration routes of these caribou. That's why people
38 fight against the roads, the main reason in my mind.

39
40 I just wanted to put that in your head
41 and appreciate you.

42
43 MR. CEBRIAN: Thank you, sir. I
44 certainly will think about that a lot as well as the
45 well-being of the villages that are affected by the
46 migration of the caribou, and it does extend to Canada
47 so we have relations with folks in Canada that also
48 depend on that resource.

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1 So it's a lot to think about.

2

3

4 Now, I can go over quickly what we have
5 as a handout but if you prefer, you also have it there
6 and you can read it if you need more time to proceed
7 with your objectives for today. But briefly, we've had
8 some Staff changes. Nathan Hawkaluk, who was the
9 acting manager for the last two years, he's left, he's
10 gone on, he got a promotion and went to Georgia, he's
11 now a project manager there. I, of course, am new, new
12 to this job, not necessarily new to Alaska. We have a
13 couple of other personnel in the Refuge, Julia Fields,
14 who joined the Arctic Refuge Staff in May, she's with
15 the Visitor's Services, and Hannah (Indiscernible) who
16 also joined the Refuge Staff in June.

16

17

18 The major projects we have are oil and
19 gas leasing programs. The SEIS which is the
20 supplemental EIS is ongoing public review right now and
21 so your comments, the public's comments are welcome. We
22 are also investigating the winter access rights for
23 Kaktovik, they're requesting winter access. We've done
24 a lot of biological monitoring for migratory birds,
25 red-throated loons, snow geese, cackling geese,
26 windbreil monitoring, common eiders, and they continue
27 to monitor land birds. We have small mammal monitoring
28 at the Canning River Delta. And we have some other
29 projects with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
30 with collaring bears, grizzly bears. We are trying to
31 prioritize the study of sheep. We had some requests
32 from village members about getting some numbers,
33 population numbers for sheep so we're going to try and
34 prioritize that for the following year. We had some
35 weather problems this year so we weren't able to
36 accomplish that. But we'll make it a priority next
37 year. We have moose collars out. We have some caribou
38 collars out. And we're also doing a lot of
39 environmental education in the major cities. I would
40 like to come back herein Arctic Village. We had
41 summer camps for kids here, we didn't get funding last
42 year but we're going to try and do some funding next
43 year.

43

44

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44 I think that summarizes our activities
45 for this year, do you have any questions.

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
48 members, any questions. Linda.

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1 MS. EVANS: When you're making your
2 plans for how to work in this Refuge area, I really
3 encourage you to think about the people of the area and
4 get their input and also remember the river goes to
5 Canada all the way to the mountain tops, Alaska, and
6 what happens affects the people that live along that
7 river also. And you can't just think about the one
8 area, you have to think about how we're all connected.
9 I believe that's very important.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. CEBRIAN: Thank you. I think I
14 understand your concern and I agree that most resources
15 to not just affect one area and I will take that
16 consideration to heart for whatever projects that we
17 have.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
20 members, any other questions.

21

22 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yes.

23

24 MS. POPE: Madame Chair, this is
25 Amanda.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: First would
28 be Dorothy and then you Amanda. Go ahead Dorothy.

29

30 MS. SHOCKLEY: I have just a comment.
31 As the young lady who was speaking yesterday about the
32 spirit, the spirit of the land, the spirit of the
33 animals and the people, I would just encourage you to
34 be cognitive [sic] of that as well. So thank you, I
35 appreciate you, and, you know, just the little bit that
36 I know of you I know that, you know, you have good
37 heart and spirit of the people of this land.

38

39 MR. CEBRIAN: Thank you, also, I will
40 take that to heart.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda.

43

44 MS. POPE: Yes, Madame Chair, thank
45 you. My name is Amanda Pope for the record. I would
46 like to encourage you to include the communities that
47 you're serving and the data collection and observations
48 and surveys that you're doing in and around their
49 community. One thing I've learned is that the people
50

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1 in the communities want more of a say and more of a
2 role in what is happening in and around their
3 community. So I encourage you to reach out to them and
4 actively engage in their participation in these
5 studies.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes, thank you for that
10 comment and we will try to continue having active
11 participation of those folks affected directly by the
12 resources we're studying.

13

14 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

17

18 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. Merben, I
19 heard you say at one point there is currently a comment
20 period open for the oil and gas SEIS and just so the
21 Council's aware, if you would like to submit any of the
22 comments that you've been making as a formal comment,
23 as part of that process, we can do that, if you would
24 like that reflected in the public comments. We would
25 just need a motion from the Council and then you could
26 reference your previous comments and any other comments
27 you would want to include for that.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
32 members.

33

34 Linda.

35

36 MS. EVANS: I'd like to make a motion
37 that the EIRAC write a letter regarding this oil
38 leasing. Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You
41 have direction in your -- what?

42

43 MS. MCDAVID: You need a second.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I'll second it
48 and I'll comment.

49

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.
2 Charlie seconded it.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I just want to
5 add to that any concerns that we have we'd just like to
6 make a comment, and then we'll work on that. I think
7 -- I don't know what the process is but we'll have a
8 little time to work on that and put that together. We
9 just want to make the motion and put it on the record
10 that we're going to submit a letter to you of concern,
11 of our concerns.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Vice Chair, just a
16 point of clarification. If there are things you would
17 like to be in the letter specifically it would be good
18 to state them on the record in the public forum.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So you want me to
23 speak for everybody without talking to them.

24
25 MS. MCDAVID: No, I mean.....

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MS. MCDAVID: All right. I'm just
30 saying the Council can have a discussion.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Yeah.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is the
35 discussion that's why I asked what -- what do you want
36 in the letter -- when she made the motion we were
37 going to write a letter but we didn't say what was
38 going to be in it.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what do we
43 want in it.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Well, my concern
46 I said already, I worry about the oil leasing and the
47 roads and the traffic stopping migration. That would
48 be my part of that letter. But if anybody else has
49 anything to add at this time then they could speak up.

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'll just
4 ask the group, I think we can all agree on what Charlie
5 said. Any disagreement.

6

7 (No opposition)

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
12 Donald, and then Andy. Go ahead, Donald.

13

14 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
15 I'd like to take a minute to speak about barriers and
16 roads being barriers for movement of wildlife. And at
17 the ungulate conference in Anchorage this spring, they
18 cited an example of what a permeable barrier is and an
19 impermeable barrier is. And an impermeable barrier is
20 a road, for example, that has continuous traffic.
21 Wildlife can't cross that very well, you know. And an
22 impermeable [sic] barrier would be intermittent traffic
23 and wildlife seems to adjust to that as a crossing
24 place, you know.

25

26 So around the Tok area they have the
27 Nelchina Herd and the Fortymile Herd that crosses the
28 highway occasionally and next year they're going to
29 have ore trucks traveling that road to Fairbanks every
30 15 minutes, that makes it almost an impermeable barrier
31 for migration of wildlife. And if they do cross they
32 certainly aren't going to stop all the trucks because
33 that's a commercial operation, you know. So I think
34 that that's going to be an issue that comes up in the
35 future.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and
38 this is a motion on the floor and.....

39

40 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:we're
43 having discussion and this is just additional
44 information to put in the letter.

45

46 REPORTER: Did you want Andy to go
47 next.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And, Andy.

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1 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 My concerns that I'd like put in the letter is the
3 impacts of oil and gas on yes, animal migration, but
4 also in the impacts that affect subsistence activities,
5 for the people of Arctic Village and other people in
6 the region and that is not only is -- that's what
7 primarily what I'm concerned about is as climate change
8 happens and we don't know what the impacts of the
9 animal migrations are going to be or the populations,
10 as I mentioned earlier we're certain to see less and
11 less birds. Moose populations are declining in a lot
12 of places. As the permafrost melts, we don't know how
13 that's going to impact. And so in the letter, I'm
14 concerned about the development of hard infrastructure
15 within the Reserve, it may impact the people and the
16 animals. And I know that goes into an EIS. But I
17 think it's really important for them to work with the
18 people in that area in the development, if there is
19 development into the future.

20

21 I think that's all, thank you.

22

23 MS. MCDAVID: Andy this is Brooke. I
24 have a question for clarification if that's okay just
25 so I make sure I get the correct points. Could you
26 clarify what you mean by hard infrastructure? Do you
27 just mean like permanent buildings and development such
28 as that?

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Yes. For me would be any
33 roads constructed into the areas. Camps that are
34 established in the area for drill -- oil drilling rigs.
35 Any of the hard infrastructure that is necessary to
36 begin oil and gas leasing. There has to be materials
37 brought in, there has to be camps set up, there has to
38 be access across pristine lands and all of those things
39 have impact on wildlife and when they do they also
40 impact the people that depend on that wildlife.

41

42 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSINGER: Okay.
45 Council members, do you guys have any other concerns
46 you would put in the letter.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
2 Hearing none, I think we got it covered. So any more
3 discussion.

4
5 Linda.

6
7 MS. EVANS: One more concern I
8 have.....

9
10 REPORTER: Mic, Linda.

11
12 MS. EVANS: One more concern I have is
13 to make sure that the people that live in the area
14 affected have a part in the process. You know, like
15 they asked yesterday, they asked the elders advice
16 because they know the land. So I think that would be
17 very important.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I know you
20 already said it but please make sure you include the
21 people and everything. I think you will already but I
22 just want to put it on the record.

23
24 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes, sir.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
27 speaking to the motion, is there any other discussion.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Was that
32 Andy?

33
34 REPORTER: Yes.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, go
37 ahead.

38
39 MR. BASSICH: One quick addition.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: The addition that I would
44 have also is the impacts of the workers in the field,
45 often times those workers during their free time are
46 out in the country, sometimes hunting, and doing other
47 things, so that has to be taken into consideration as
48 well and I don't know what the policies are but I know
49 that that has been expressed as a problem in other
50

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1 areas.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I would
4 say that that's a really good one.

5

6 Okay, Council members, anything else.

7

8 MR. SAM: Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have a
11 motion on the floor, so, yeah, sorry. Actually you can
12 speak directly to Merben right here, okay. Alrighty.
13 Anything else.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I'll call for the
16 question.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor
19 say aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
24 opposed.

25

26 (No opposing votes)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, it
29 passes unanimous. Thank you.

30

31 All right. Moving back to our agenda,
32 I am told we cannot take up 34 and 35 until 9:00
33 o'clock. So Council members would you please look at
34 the crossover and statewide proposals. Do you want to
35 take them all up or do you have preferences. This is
36 up to you guys. Southcentral. I think it has to do
37 with -- okay, I don't remember. And then there was one
38 in Northwest Arctic, and then there's a statewide. Do
39 you have preference?

40

41 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Didn't we take
42 care of these earlier?

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you.....

45

46 (Pause - off mic)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
49 to just go into these agenda items, do you want to take

50

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1 them all up, is all I'm asking. The crossover and
2 statewide proposals, there's four of them.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Did you say take
5 them off or take them up right now?

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there --
8 no.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I didn't hear
11 you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm
14 sorry. I think you need hearing aides.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I think I do.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, I'm.....

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:asking
23 if you want to take them up.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. I didn't
28 hear that part.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Yeah.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah, let's just
33 do it.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're going
36 to just do it, starting with Southcentral WP24-07, and
37 that would be Tom. Tom and his computer.

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: While Tom is getting set
40 up we could ask if there's any new people online that
41 were not yesterday.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
44 going to ask are there any new people online, because
45 right now we just have two Council members, so just
46 could I get people to identify themselves that are
47 online besides Amanda and Andy.

48

49 MR. YASKA: Good morning. This is

50

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1 George Yaska. Newly hired, (indiscernible) U.S. Fish
2 and Wildlife Service. Indigenous Knowledge Liaison.
3 Thank you.

4
5 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, I would like
6 to.....

7
8 MR. MAYO: Hello. Hello.

9
10 REPORTER: Go ahead, Randy.

11
12 MR. MAYO: Hello.

13
14 REPORTER: Randy, introduce yourself.

15
16 MR. MAYO: Yes, Randy Mayo, enrolled
17 Tribal member, Stevens Village and Board President for
18 Dinyee Village Corporation for Stevens Village and also
19 former First Chief of the Tribal Government.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Good morning,
22 Randy, this is Charlie. Can you give us one minute
23 please, we're having a little difficulties here. Just
24 about 30 seconds.

25
26 (Online people still talking)

27
28 REPORTER: Okay. People, online, hang
29 on just one second -- hold on, people online could you
30 please hold, hold on a minute, the Council is getting
31 situated.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
34 There's a lot of things going on here. Dorothy brought
35 up, she would like to hear what comment Edward had. So
36 if we could just hear that comment and then -- I'm
37 hearing another.....

38
39 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Randy Mayo.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Randy Mayo
42 has a time certain that I'm being asked to allow him to
43 speak, it's hard for him to get on.

44
45 REPORTER: Sue, do you want to finish
46 the introductions because people were still rattling
47 off their introductions.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We better
50

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1 finish introductions.

2

3 REPORTER: Or what, how do you want to
4 finish that?

5

6 MS. SHOCKLEY: But I guess -- I
7 mean.....

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You have to
10 turn your mic on.

11

12 MS. SHOCKLEY:since we were.....

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Turn your mic
15 on.

16

17 MS. SHOCKLEY: Oh, sorry. Since we
18 were on ANWR and Edward asked if he could make a
19 comment, but I guess my other question is, when are we
20 going to have public comment on non-existent [sic].....

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: 9:00.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 9:00 o'clock.

25

26 MS. SHOCKLEY: 9:00, oh, okay. Okay,
27 thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
30 let's go ahead and finish introductions and then we'll
31 allow Edward to come up.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: What about Randy?

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then
36 Randy. I'm getting all these, argh, arghs.

37

38 Okay.

39

40 Let's finish introductions, please. We
41 were -- the last person was Randy?

42

43 BENJAMIN: This is Benjamin
44 (Indiscernible) team lead for resource stewardship and
45 science and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
46 Preserve.

47

48 MS. CELLARIUS: And this is Barbara
49 Cellarius. I'm the Cultural Anthropologist and

50

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1 Subsistence Coordinator at Wrangell-St. Elias.

2

3 MR. GRAHAM: Good morning. This is
4 Cory Graham, Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
5 Subsistence Management.

6

7 MS. LAVINE: Good morning. This is
8 Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator with OSM.

9

10 MR. HERRIGES: Good morning. This is
11 Jim Herriges, Wildlife Biologist, Eastern Interior
12 Field Office, Fairbanks, BLM.

13

14 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning. This is
15 Dave Sarafin, the Fisheries Biologist at Wrangell-St.
16 Elias National Park.

17

18 KYLE: Good morning. This is Kyle
19 (Indiscernible), I'm a Wildlife Biologist at Wrangell-
20 St. Elias National Park.

21

22 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is
23 Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Yukon-Charley
24 Rivers National Preserve.

25

26 MR. RINALDI: Good morning. This is
27 Todd Rinaldi. I'm the Regional Management Coordinator
28 for the Division of Wildlife Conservation out of
29 Palmer.

30

31 MR. BURCH: This is Mark Burch from the
32 Department of Fish and Game in Palmer also.

33

34 MR. FOX: Good morning. Jimmie Fox,
35 Manager at Yukon Flats Refuge.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
38 online.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sitting
43 here thinking -- you'll have to forgive me everyone,
44 but I'm thinking with all this modern technology that
45 we have, couldn't I just have a little iPad sitting in
46 front of me and all these people just pop up and I know
47 who they are, I mean we go through this and it's
48 cumbersome. So just a thought, suggestion. We could
49 all have one, oh, look all these people are online and
50

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1 then we wouldn't have to do this and have more time for
2 action items.

3

4 It looks like the sun's getting in some
5 of our eyes here.

6

7 Now, I believe it's time -- Edward,
8 it's time to come up and give your comment. The
9 Council would love to hear it.

10

11 MR. SAM: Thank you, Madame Chair and
12 the Board. Good morning. It's nice to see the sun
13 come out, it's a brand new day. One of the questions
14 that I want to ask is -- or give you a little
15 definition of radio collar. I worked with -- I forgot
16 the title but keeping track of migration of caribou.
17 They put designated communities like Arctic Village,
18 Inuvit*, Old Crow, they all have designated collar
19 where the young people could see where the migration
20 route is on the caribou on a yearly basis, it's two
21 weeks behind when they put it on the internet. The
22 reason I request two weeks putting it on the internet
23 because nowadays they put computer tracking caribou and
24 they just go there and shoot it, that's not traditional
25 way.

26

27 One of the questions I want to ask the
28 Refuge Manager when he was up here is how many radio
29 collars are put on the sheep. How many sheep that is
30 being collared for tracking. They do that on caribou
31 so they'll track everywhere they go. And it's not
32 cheap. One caribou it cost about \$30,000 just to put a
33 collar on a caribou. And I'd like to see how many
34 sheep is being collared, to keep track. So that was my
35 question, is tracking the sheep. On the flat ground
36 it's good to dart a caribou but sheep, it's pretty
37 jagged area where if you dart them and they have to run
38 maybe 50 yards, they could fall over cliffs so that was
39 my concern and question for the Refuge Manager.

40

41 I'd like an answer for that.

42

43 Thank you for your time and you all
44 have a good day.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Hey,
49 just for the purpose, go ahead and answer that, but I

50

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1 will tell you that I am very experienced -- well, not
2 very experienced, but I know so many people that do
3 this and now the Department of Fish and Game is using
4 nets, for that very reason, they're dropping nets on
5 them so they don't fall off the cliff. My son's
6 involved in helping on some of those surveys, and,
7 yeah, now they're saying, oh, well, we stressed them
8 out too much. So it's a really difficult thing on
9 darting sheep and being careful that you're not hurting
10 them. So, yeah, we'll go ahead and finish that and
11 we're going to have to be careful because of our timing
12 here, so, yeah, go ahead.

13

14 MR. CEBRIAN: Through the Chair. This
15 is Merben Cebrian for the record, Refuge Manager of
16 Arctic Refuge. We have cooperators in these various
17 projects that we have. And I would like to call on my
18 colleagues from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
19 because we do have collars on them but I don't have the
20 particular information.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

23

24 MR. NELSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
25 Again, this is Mark Nelson with the Alaska Department
26 of Fish and Game. I'm not sure there's any actually in
27 the Refuge. For a long time we have not actually
28 collared very many sheep but we are starting a couple
29 of projects. One of them is the one I kind of
30 mentioned the other day and it's over to the west of us
31 in like 24A, little bit of 25A, but on the far western
32 side by the Haul Road. And that project is cooperative
33 with the National Park Service. And a lot of -- and as
34 far as how we catch them, in a lot of the places in the
35 state for caribou we do dart them, all of the North
36 Slope herds, though, we actually use net guns and that
37 way there's no drugs in the caribou, which is what the
38 folks really wanted and kind of demanded so that's what
39 we've done. For sheep, you're absolutely right if you
40 put a dart in a sheep and you have to watch it go 100
41 yards depending which direction it goes that could be
42 very dangerous so we also net gun sheep, we do not dart
43 sheep when we catch them. That way we can wait until
44 they're in a good spot, we get the net on them and once
45 the net's on them they basically don't go anywhere, we
46 can get out, we're on them instantly and that's how we
47 deal with that. As far as how many right now, in this
48 Brooks Range project we have 45 rams collared, younger
49 rams, as part of that study, half split between kind of

50

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1 State land, the hunted area, and the Park Service land,
2 that's little to no hunted, and this next year we're
3 planning to put 60 collars on ewes to also study the
4 ewes, again, split 30/30 between hunted and basically
5 unhunted areas.

6
7 So I hope that answers the question.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
10 you. Yeah, it's really good information because it is
11 a concern. What am I missing -- oh, Dorothy, go ahead,
12 turn your mic on.

13
14 MS. SHOCKLEY: I just have a comment.
15 Years ago elders were very concerned about the tagging
16 and collaring of animals and fish and we had an elder
17 from Allakaket tell us that, you know, years ago when
18 they first -- you know he needed a job and so he got a
19 job with Fish and Game to tag the waterfowl and he told
20 them that we don't believe in catching something and
21 then letting it go, that's not our way. And he told
22 them that he would help tag the geese, or the
23 waterfowl, but he would not be part of letting them go.
24 Because the belief is when you catch something and then
25 you let it go, that's very stressful and they will just
26 leave. So, you know, you can see that today, he said
27 they tagged some beaver in the Allakaket area and they
28 left the country. He said they found them in McGrath
29 area. So, you know, that's one of the things that I
30 think about, you know, as we see the fish and the
31 animals leaving our country, you know, we've messed
32 around with them too much. I mean I appreciate the
33 information, that's good, but at the same time, you
34 know, we have to think about the stress and the spirit
35 of the animals and the fish.

36
37 So those are my comments, thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda.

40
41 MS. EVANS: Years ago I think in the
42 '70s, Fish and Game had a tagging operation in Rampart,
43 my husband ran a couple fishwheels and they were
44 tagging fish, every so often they'd tag a fish but
45 they'd tag quite a few fish, I think you could probably
46 still get the study but they stopped because they
47 realized the fish they were tagging would go up the
48 river a little ways and then they would go back down
49 the river. So they stopped that program because they
50

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1 were interfering with the fish migration up the river.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
6 expressing concerns about this and I'm not sure what we
7 could do but have all the managers consider it and deal
8 with it.

9

10 Okay. I'm being told it's 9:00 o'clock
11 I got to go into whatever, I forgot, okay public
12 comment on non-agenda items, which is kind of what
13 we've been discussing here. And I know am I too -- you
14 had a blue card, am I to do those first -- okay, some
15 people have signed up for these non-agenda items and
16 there's a Mary Beth Solomon. Okay.

17

18 MR. MAYO: Hello.

19

20 MS. SOLOMON: Okay, good morning.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mary Beth,
23 you'll have to forgive me. I am getting forgetful. I
24 think it's Alzheimers -- hang on.

25

26 Randy -- we told Randy, online,
27 Mayo.....

28

29 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:that he
32 could speak next and I apolo -- you can just sit there,
33 no worries -- okay, Randy, go ahead. My apologies.

34

35 MR. MAYO: Hello. Hello.

36

37 REPORTER: Randy, go ahead.

38

39 MR. MAYO: Hello. Can you hear me?

40

41 REPORTER: Yes.

42

43 MR. MAYO: Hello.

44

45 REPORTER: We can hear you, Randy, go
46 ahead.

47

48 MR. MAYO: Hello. Madame Chair.

49

50

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1 REPORTER: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. MAYO: Oh, okay. Am I afforded
4 testimony.

5

6 REPORTER: Yes, Randy, go ahead.

7

8 MR. MAYO: Okay. For the record, as I
9 stated earlier, my name is Randy Mayo and I'm an
10 enrolled tribal member of Stevens Village, tribal
11 citizen. Former First Chief of the Tribal Government
12 and currently Board President for Dinyee*Native
13 Corporation, the land owner within our traditional
14 lands of Western Yukon Flats. And, you know, I sat on
15 this Board years ago for Eastern Interior so I'm
16 somewhat familiar with the process and kind of the
17 background on the law that created the conservation
18 units, the whole ANILCA and the Advisory Boards, you
19 know. Also currently one of my roles in relationship
20 to Fish and Wildlife Service is serving as the Chairman
21 for the Interior Tanana Chiefs Region Migratory Bird
22 Treaty Council, Fish and Wildlife Service is the
23 managing agency for that, co-management initiative,
24 which has a little different legal -- has different
25 legal background than the EIRAC, the Advisory Board
26 here.

27

28 But I just wanted to mention in
29 listening to all sides here from the agency side to the
30 people making comments and, you know, it's very
31 stressful in these situations, the traditionally-minded
32 Native person that had grew up and learned lessons from
33 our elders and traditional tribal governance and
34 traditional user areas that other tribes recognize
35 amongst each other predating the territorial government
36 and the State of Alaska, it goes way, way back before
37 the U.S. Constitution was even created. And it's
38 pretty -- it's challenging to work within this system.
39 You know years ago when the IRA Act was extended to
40 allow during the late -- in the 1930s that the tribe
41 was pushed into another situation where the elders knew
42 that times were changing and there would be more new
43 government and more people coming into the territory,
44 this is after the Gold Rush and huge influx of people
45 into our regions that the tribe, Stevens Village,
46 petitioned Secretary of Interior to put our 2 million
47 acres of traditional use land into trust, we wanted a
48 reserve like the other reserve that Alaska had at that
49 time. So, you know, that -- that didn't happen. And
50

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1 they still made claim to our traditional lands, well
2 after, you know, up until the land claims that we
3 wanted something else. And so, you know, if you look
4 back in the history of what the Alaska tribal community
5 always wanted is desire to traditional land claims and
6 then also our hunting and tribe -- true tribal hunting
7 and fishing rights that ANCSA and ANILCA are both very,
8 very flawed and, you know, compromised laws that put
9 the tribal communities in a difficult position and
10 also working within this system is contrary to the real
11 traditional -- traditional governance, our traditional
12 spiritual world view and relationship to the land and
13 animals and there's a lot of things I'm very concerned
14 about with the managing agency and how they put
15 everything in a box and to determine C&T use, their
16 definition. But even what they rely on is the
17 anthropological world view of is their assumption of
18 how we are, who we are. Did they even, the
19 anthropologist, that wrote things down when they
20 interviewed elders assume just based on the physical
21 use of the area and wrote it down well this is what
22 these people are all about here. This is their area,
23 but they don't really go away into it on how -- in the
24 traditional times that each tribe had its own
25 recognized use area. And just recently I have been
26 talking to people from some of the different villages,
27 particularly neighboring village of Beaver were talking
28 to a couple of hunters that they -- they did raise that
29 issue that whatever happened to the traditional
30 protocol that was recognized and that we grew up with,
31 that -- you know, that it's not that way anymore.

32
33 So I just wanted to mention that at
34 this -- you know it's difficult for me to be here
35 because I understand the -- how this system operates,
36 it operates within that assumed assumption of Native
37 people and also that the agencies are following the
38 letter of the law, but one of the most insulting things
39 that I had dealt with since I started my career in
40 tribal leadership for my tribe is that -- the
41 definition of the tribal communities on the Yukon Flats
42 according to the world view of Fish and Wildlife
43 Service is that the tribes, the tribal homelands and
44 ANCSA lands that we're defined as inholders within our
45 own ancestral homelands inholders. That says a lot,
46 that puts us in a category like, okay, you're no
47 different than other landowners. Basically you're
48 homesteading the land, that is -- that is very
49 disrespectful. And just for the benefit of the agency,
50

1 and I know the system doesn't take who we really are,
2 our spiritual and cultural world view into account
3 because they have not sat in something like
4 traditionally at this time of the year and this
5 traditional times is when the creation stories are
6 supposed to start and the winter songs because
7 according to our world view that this is when the
8 creation started beginning and it's based on evolution
9 of how we came to be the way we are and the animals or
10 the way they are in our relationship to the animals so
11 for the record I'll say one -- I'll say a couple of
12 words in our dialect for the benefit of the
13 anthropologists and the agencies:

14
15 (In Native)

16
17 In the distant times and when
18 everything was in a fog and things were being created,
19 and that the stories and accounts of (In Native) and
20 (In Native) and that is the beginning, it takes four
21 days because it's a continuing story of creation, and
22 not only a story it's our account, that really defines
23 us in our world view. It's difficult to -- and I'm
24 hearing the other speakers, where they're coming from
25 and kind of put where we're coming from into English
26 words that fit into this system and this body that
27 comes out of this is very dangerous and sets bad
28 precedence in protecting our way of life and even when
29 I'm saying this I don't know if the agency people or
30 managers or anthropologists could even understand me
31 and I'm speaking -- I'm not an academic and so in the
32 Western way it's like, well, people are speaking
33 English but they're laymen, they're not academics,
34 they're not scientists, they don't use the higher
35 language of Western civilization.

36
37 So I'd like to -- I know it's a
38 difficult time to participate in these forums, we're
39 all volunteering right now, like everyone else, I'm
40 trying to make a living myself, not to mention
41 everybody in their tribal homelands and communities.
42 So I hope the Board and the agency can at least say we
43 take these words at heart but we can't do nothing
44 about it because we're following the spirit and letter
45 and intent of the law of ANILCA, which does not
46 recognize tribal traditional spirituality, cultural
47 world views that -- and also that the traditional
48 homelands of each different tribe and band in our
49 region.
50

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1 So thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Randy.

4 Thank you very much. Very respectful and I thank you
5 for your time today.

6

7 Okay, we're going to move on with our
8 public comments now and first up is Mary Beth Solomon.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just turned
11 the Chair over to Charlie.

12

13 MS. SOLOMON: Good morning.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Oh, and seeing
16 how we're running out of time we're going to try to
17 limit people to around five minutes.....

18

19 MS. SOLOMON: Okay.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT:so we can
22 get out of here today and finish up with our huge
23 agenda.

24

25 MS. SOLOMON: You wasted one minute.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

30

31 MS. SOLOMON: My name is Mary Beth
32 Solomon. I'm a Tribal Council Member at the Gwitchyaa
33 Zhee Gwichin Tribal Government, that's in Fort Yukon.
34 I've been involved with them for so many years on a lot
35 of different issues but today I'm here to talk about
36 the waterfowl and also the moose.

37

38 I grew up in Fort Yukon area, that's
39 the Yukon Flats area, and it's a flat land, there's a
40 lot of tributaries, winding rivers and lakes, and all
41 that, that when the waterfowl, meaning the ducks, the
42 crane, and all that flies right over Fort Yukon on
43 their way from down in the springtime from down there.
44 So they take that route and they come up this way.
45 Once they're down doing their thing down there, but
46 they come up this way, and they're flying right over
47 Arctic Village and all these other areas, toward the
48 ocean. So we're dependant on those waterfowls and just
49 generally everywhere even where I come from. I grew up

50

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1 hunting ducks and stuff like that along the river. A
2 lot of people would get confused from that river as
3 compared to down river. To me, down river is just one
4 stream, but up here where I'm from, Fort Yukon, there's
5 three, we have north, south and right in the middle.
6 And then on top of that you have tributaries coming in
7 so that's where our hunting grounds are at for the
8 waterfowl and also for our moose. Now what we're
9 experiencing lately for the moose is that we're in a
10 high competition with the people that fly in or they
11 come through the circle, through their river routes, so
12 our local people that subsist on the moose have to go
13 further and further. That's because we know the land,
14 but these other people have these high things that could
15 spot it and they get it right away. So we see that
16 more and more often, the influx of non-customary
17 traditional people. Sometimes we get angry with them
18 but we've tried all kind of things, survey, whatever.
19 And I think the waterfowl, too, is being affected
20 because of that too so we have to go further too. And
21 it seems like their route is changing a little bit. I
22 believe they used to fly right over Fort Yukon on this
23 side but they're flying over further down river, so we
24 have to go down that way further to go get them. So
25 that affects how we live and I'm not sure once they do
26 once they come up this way but their land is being
27 affected too. So we can't say we're not using those
28 areas.

29
30 But I just wanted to say we need to
31 encourage co-management, whether it's on Federal land
32 or whatever. We don't have too much State land in Fort
33 Yukon area but they do exist.

34
35 But when they submit a proposal to the
36 tribe, the Kanuti, they wanted us to merge our Wildlife
37 Refuge with Kanuti Wildlife Refuge and we told them,
38 no, we sent it back and we told them we want co-
39 management, it's our land, don't try to manage it from
40 far away where we have no say and we don't know who
41 they are. But that's -- the point is -- I'm glad Randy
42 said all those comments, you know, about the tribal
43 government. This is our land. Let's be part of the
44 management.

45
46 So that's my message to this group of
47 people and all over.

48
49 Thank you, very much.
50

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1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, very
2 much, Mary Beth. Next public comment on non-agenda
3 items is Amanda Pope.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: You out there
8 Amanda.

9
10 MS. POPE: Yes, I am, Mr. Chair, and
11 thank you. I'm going to switch hats. I'm talking on
12 behalf of myself in my new position for our area and
13 I'll just start here. My name is Amanda Pope. I
14 recently got hired by the Indigenous Sentinel Network
15 as the new (indiscernible) northwest Boreal Regional
16 Coordinator. I know the title is long, I'm sorry. My
17 region is in the Interior and the Northwest Boreal
18 Region of Canada reflects that name so that's why it's
19 so long.

20
21 I also help support the advancement and
22 expansion of current and potential (indiscernible -
23 cuts out) data collection programs and help build
24 (indiscernible - breaks up) throughout the Interior of
25 Alaska and Yukon (indiscernible - breaks up). I also
26 currently hold a seat on the Yukon Flats, the Eastern
27 Interior Regional Advisory Council, my local
28 corporation, which is the (Indiscernible - breaks up)
29 and my local city council board. While serving for the
30 people in my area (indiscernible - breaking up) from
31 people all over Interior Alaska. One of the most
32 common concerns I get is people want the subsistence
33 knowledge brought into the decisionmaking process of
34 both fish and wildlife, monitored and how research
35 projects are done. This made me think about how many
36 things are -- this made me think about how things are
37 managed now and how Alaska is different from other
38 state procedures, regulations and laws. I realize that
39 there is often a disconnect between the management
40 agencies and the people who live in the areas that are
41 affected. This has inspired me to work with others who
42 want to create solutions. It would be great to see the
43 rural areas in our state have the ability to work
44 alongside agency Staff who does research, data
45 gathering, analysis and decisionmaking, including to
46 help create and adopt regulation and proposals that
47 better take into consideration subsistence rights of
48 indigenous communities.

49
50

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1 I would like to see the communities
2 have a direct role in the management of their resources
3 in and around their communities. This is what is
4 motivating me as I walk into my role with ISN.

5
6 I passed out a few fliers to the Board
7 and also gave extra for the public. I encourage tribal
8 members and tribal organizations to take advantage of
9 those pamphlets, and one of the pamphlets I'm going to
10 share is about ISN and it's a short explanation of what
11 the Indigenous Sentinel Network is.

12
13 ISN is a program run by the Aleut
14 Community of St. Paul Island for over 20 years and they
15 had helped to create tribal led research, monitoring
16 and stewardship for many communities and tribal
17 entities around the state. The Indigenous Sentinel
18 Network has helped to build many different
19 collaborations across the state among tribal entities,
20 corporations, government agencies, non-profits and
21 university partners. We have helped to build tools to
22 help those who want to empower a different way to
23 manage the lands and resources. ISN has also created
24 tools for non-tribal projects. And I'll just give you
25 an example, a very important example that includes
26 management of the land. It is very relevant to EIRAC
27 so I'm going to share this tool called the fish snap
28 app and I also provided some fliers for everybody to
29 keep and participate in.

30
31 This project is a partnership with ISN,
32 which is the Indigenous Sentinel Network, the Northern
33 Latitudes Partnership, Fish and Wildlife Service and
34 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This
35 Smartphone app makes it easier to nominate essential
36 fish habitat into the anadromous water catalog. It
37 encourages Alaskans to participate in the effort to
38 gather the necessary information needed to help protect
39 our fisheries and essential fish habitat from
40 potentially harmful development. This app is very easy
41 to use. It works when you're out of cell service range
42 and can be taken with you while recreating --
43 recreating, sorry, fishing, hunting or spending time on
44 the lands and waters of Alaska. To help offset costs
45 and resources used to make nominations, this project
46 offers \$100 for every complete nomination to anybody.
47 The project team can provide trainings to individuals
48 and groups on the app and is available to answer
49 questions if or when you have them. I would like to
50

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1 offer and invite to the Board to possibly meet in the
2 near future with the Indigenous Sentinel Network and
3 key partners to see how we can address the concerns of
4 the people we all serve. As the educational requests
5 grow for the subsistence way of life, as time goes on,
6 it will be harder to address things if efforts aren't
7 taken now.

8

9 Thank you for allowing me this time to
10 speak and my email with ISN is ap as in paul, o as in
11 otter, p as in paul, e as in echo, at, the at sign, a
12 as in Alaska, l as in land, e as in echo, u, p.com if
13 anyone would like to reach out to me regarding this
14 topic. I look forward to any questions or concerns
15 that the Board members or the members of the public may
16 have.

17

18 Thank you, again.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you,
21 Amanda. Do we have any questions from the Board.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Public. Online.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, thank you
30 Amanda. Okay, next public comment sign-up is Dorothy
31 Shockley.

32

33 MS. SHOCKLEY: Good morning. I am
34 changing hats from the Eastern Interior Board to
35 citizen of Manley Hot Springs and also Board member of
36 the Village Corporation. I wanted to address the
37 bison, wood bison.

38

39 I attended the Lower Tanana River info
40 meeting last -- I think, gosh, last winter, where we
41 had people from Tanana -- well, I don't know if anybody
42 from Tanana came but -- well, maybe, we had people in
43 and out of there, Tanana, Manley, Minto and I believe,
44 yeah, Nenana, and it was mostly just information and he
45 was trying to gage -- Luke Rogers was trying to gage
46 the -- how people felt about the wood bison. Anyway,
47 my concerns, the Safari Club were there, very present.
48 They contributed, I think, 25,000 for the project and
49 if you look at that club, you know, they have I think

50

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1 like 500,000 members and, you know, their contribution
2 and expectations in regards to hunting the bison. I
3 was very concerned about that. The State intentions.
4 They have a lottery hunt in Delta that attracts around
5 40,000 applications and each, I think, I forget how
6 much they pay, so it brings in a lot of money, so --
7 and then trespass issues on village corporation lands.
8 You know they want to put them in a State Refuge or,
9 you know, in different areas but, you know, they will
10 roam wherever they want. And, you know, it was very
11 evident in Shageluk, you know, they roamed in the first
12 year, they just roamed all over the place until they
13 found their spot.

14
15 The other concern is history, we have
16 no idea why the bison disappeared and to me that's
17 really important that we know because if they can't
18 survive then, you know, what's the purpose of spending
19 all this time and money on them.

20
21 And the other concern is there's no
22 guarantee of local harvest. They cannot guarantee us
23 that.

24
25 I met with Luke last Friday and, you
26 know, he's been traveling, especially in the lower
27 Tanana area but he's made like 54 visits to villages,
28 some over and over. The Governor's directive is to put
29 them in the State Refuge close to Minto. He is trying
30 to get support from the lower Tanana, or Minto, Manley,
31 Tanana, Nenana region for that purpose. You know he
32 came to a corporation meeting last spring and as far as
33 I could tell at this time Manley does not support the
34 bison in their area.

35
36 One thing that I just cannot unhear is
37 the Chief of Manley said that the bison eat swampgrass
38 and that's what they'll taste like and I cannot unhear
39 that.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MS. SHOCKLEY: But the other thing
44 that's really important is that the Shageluk Herd is
45 not growing, they're down by 50 percent again. I mean
46 they've been there for almost 10 years, I think, and
47 they're just not growing. They keep putting, you know,
48 small calves down there but the mortality rate just
49 keeps going down so that's why they want to move them
50

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1 to -- they think that they would do better around the
2 Minto area or the State Refuge area but, you know,
3 again, there's no guarantee and I just have major
4 concerns about that.

5

6 So those are my comments.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I got one thing
11 to say. I went to the caribou conference with Don over
12 there and there I ran into some people from Canada and
13 we had a conversation about the bison and this was a
14 leader from that area, one of the areas over there.

15

16 MS. SHOCKLEY: Uh-huh.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: And they said
19 they were happy that they were taking the bison and
20 bringing them to Alaska. They said you guys can have
21 them all because they don't get to eat none of them and
22 they kill them all over their land, leave the gut
23 piles, shooting on their land.....

24

25 MS. SHOCKLEY: Uh-huh.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT:and they
28 don't get to get any. So they said we could have them
29 all. So I just wanted to say that, that it is
30 controversial. I can't speak for people in their place
31 but I just wanted to say what that person told me from
32 Canada.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yeah.

37

38 MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Brooke, go ahead.

41

42 MS. MCDAVID: I just have a quick
43 comment to Members of the Council. Luke did send me
44 the next dates for the plan -- there will be some more,
45 you know, planning meetings coming up this fall. The
46 lower Tanana one is going to be November 14th to the
47 16th, and there'll be one for Yukon Flats, November 5th
48 through November 7th. Right now we have Charlie Wright
49 representing the lower Tanana region. That's only one
50

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1 member -- we have two members representing the Yukon
2 Flats region, that's Amanda and Linda. So if the
3 Council wanted to also nominate someone else for the --
4 to work with Charlie for the lower Tanana region you
5 could do that.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
10 ask, Dorothy, do you want to represent the Council?
11 You can wear two hats.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You can wear
16 three.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, do anyway. Well,
21 I'm planning on being there but I'm not sure -- I mean
22 there is a letter from the Eastern Interior RAC, right,
23 supporting them. I mean do we want to make changes to
24 that?

25
26 MS. MCDAVID: Just to clarify. I think
27 the letter was in support of continuing planning with
28 communities to determine if they were suitable. I
29 don't think it was necessarily -- I think that was the
30 intent of the Council, but just to put that on the
31 record.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: That was the
34 intent.

35
36 MS. SHOCKLEY: Oh, okay. I probably
37 will be there anyway.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Volunteered.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you,
46 Dorothy. Okay, moving on with public comments, Sarah
47 James. I forgot to say it, non-agenda items.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

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1 MS. JAMES: Thank you, again, because I
2 tend to talk too much because I want to make myself
3 clear. But it's been really alarming to me all these
4 years how animals is being treated and I put my subject
5 as tagging. I do support tagging caribou because we
6 had a big meeting about it here, a hunter even bring in
7 a collar that choked the caribou and we kind of changed
8 the rules after.

9
10 REPORTER: Excuse me, Sarah, let me
11 move this, it's buzzing on the microphone. Go ahead,
12 sorry.

13
14 MS. JAMES: We kind of changed the rule
15 after so it helps me, where the caribou are at, but our
16 hunters and our people don't look at or as a Fish and
17 Wildlife where they're at or anything like that, we
18 look for them. We expect them. We pray for them.
19 That's how they come to us. And we used to have
20 caribou fence during the bow and arrow days and they
21 keep that area very clean, even the hunters go out
22 outside of the fence, they powder themselves down with
23 ashes to get rid of the human scent, that's -- it eats
24 it up, it doesn't give a scent. When I was growing up,
25 I go out in the -- I'm the last one in the family and I
26 got nobody to play with and they're all older than me,
27 and I go out in the woods by myself and I challenged my
28 myself how much eggs -- how many bird eggs I would find
29 and I kissed them, every one of them. If I pick a
30 grass like that and touch the eggs he don't come back
31 to that, if I don't touch the grass, I just stand it
32 and touch the eggs, they keep them, that's how strong
33 human scent is.

34
35 I see -- I went down wherever -- I went
36 over to -- everywhere they were fishing salmon when
37 they used to be healthy and everybody's out there
38 because they even call each other river rat because
39 that means we go around visiting. Well, anyway I did
40 that too and I see people throwing their debris, I
41 mean, you know, the guts, the head over the bank into
42 the back, into the water, we don't do that to animal,
43 we use every part of it. I seen that. When we talk
44 about subsistence we're talking about caribou, we want
45 to -- I mean I do, I want to use every part of it, down
46 to the hooves to the ligament, to the bone, to the
47 horn, we try to do that and bring it back to the
48 village so we won't leave anything out there. There's
49 a time where that -- during bow and arrow when they
50

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1 lived at one place, they go move, they even brush it
2 down with willow just to get rid of, and throw all the
3 bones in the lake, creek, pond, that way it doesn't
4 give out -- and it's good for fish. We don't throw
5 nothing else in the river or anywhere like that. When
6 the birds, I see there's a little number on their leg,
7 it's been touched by, waterfowl, they've been touched
8 by human and it doesn't feel right eating it.

9
10 And I see commercial fishing out there,
11 they know which one is good fish, fat fish, healthy
12 fish, poor health, they just throw that back in there,
13 you know, some of them are dead, some of them are
14 alive. And they keep the healthier one, and they sell
15 them, they still do that. And we do that too, a sport
16 -- fishing -- sportfishing, we don't allow that up at
17 Old John Lake because we got allotment all around it,
18 we make sure we get that Old John Lake, even before the
19 land claim, the whole village moved up there. We don't
20 have candy or nothing like that when we got here, we
21 barely have anything to eat to go up there to save that
22 Old John Lake, even before the land claim. Now we got
23 Old John Lake. We don't throw fish back, you know,
24 like the sports -- sportfishing do, that's not right.
25 There's one story in our culture saying that this guy,
26 no food in the village, he shot and they thought he
27 shot something but he missed a caribou but he shot the
28 -- in the springtime, he shot that velvet horn and
29 that's, you know, the only thing he got from that
30 caribou and he's still singeing it over the fire and
31 eating it and that's -- you know, that's been really,
32 you know, we laugh about it because we don't eat
33 anything that's still out there walking in the wild and
34 that's our home, and they're very clean, these animals.
35 Animals are very clean and I learned that when I was
36 growing up. And fish is like that too.

37
38 So now a lot of times fish that comes
39 up here, we're getting more and more salmon spawning up
40 this way because we got clear water and we never have
41 salmon up this way before, now they're coming in
42 because of climate change, there's more water. Climate
43 change is real.

44
45 And I don't want to talk too much so
46 that's about all I wanted to say about tagging and
47 fishing and waterfowl and how they study birds and
48 that's how they, you know, it's good they're studying
49 it but there's a lot better way to study it, safely. I
50

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1 said when that guy bring in that collar because it
2 choked that caribou, that was Isaac Ross, that's his
3 memory up there, hanging up there, he was our lead
4 dancer, and sorry we don't have, you know, people to
5 come and welcome you guys with our drum and dancing and
6 everything. At that time when we were up at Old John
7 Lake trying to claim it, in those days we hardly have
8 anything to eat but when we get visitor we welcomed
9 them so you are welcome to our village and we dance and
10 we eat, we feast. So I made some fry bread so
11 everybody would get one and I got other stuff I could
12 share too. And then I'm going to lay out those
13 pictures children did. Children, the tribe here, thank
14 God, they spend some money to bring in artist to paint
15 and I think they had it two or three times or more,
16 what got into their mind, but this village, you see it
17 in that artwork so you're welcome to come, you know, we
18 could share it. It's been back there. And -- or
19 anybody want to buy it that'll be good too, the kid
20 would get a few bucks.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 I forgot to introduce myself, my name
25 is Sarah James, I live in Arctic Village and I'm an
26 elder spokesperson for Arctic Refuge for my tribe.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: We appreciate
31 you, Sarah, thank you for your time.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I just
34 want to -- I had the privilege of staying with Sarah
35 the last two evenings and helping her do little chores,
36 that lady is a worker. She was doing fry bread until
37 10:00 o'clock last night so, yeah, and she says, oh,
38 you can help me bag it so.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you get an
43 extra one that was from me.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I sampled it, it
48 was really good.

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There was a
2 couple of samplers in the room here so. Okay. Three
3 of us. Thank you so much, you're an awesome lady.

4
5 (Pause)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One of my
8 favorite things to say is moving rapidly along.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. All right.
11 We are going to start with WP24-34 and that would be
12 Liz Williams.

13
14 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Madame and
15 Mr. Chair. I'm Liz Williams, Anthropologist, Office of
16 Subsistence Management. And I want to acknowledge
17 Randy's comments. I'm not sure if you or the audience
18 knew that he was speaking in reference to this proposal
19 and so I'll get into that and his comments in as we go
20 along.

21
22 And this proposal starts on Page 127 in
23 your book and it was submitted by this Council at the
24 request of residents of Fort Yukon and Circle. So
25 Brooke's passing out a map for me because the setting
26 for this proposal is Unit 25D West, and we need to look
27 at it in detail when we consider this proposal. And so
28 I have a lot of papers up here because people have been
29 sharing a lot of information with me and the most
30 important one is this one.

31
32 So this -- I like to start with the
33 regulatory history to give you the background of where
34 these customary and traditional use determinations come
35 from. And I want to stress more than anything else
36 that when we look at customary and traditional use we
37 are just looking at patterns of use, we are not setting
38 seasons and bag limits, we're not thinking about
39 conservation concerns, we're looking at who has used
40 moose in this area. So keep that in mind because it's
41 easy to blend the two. Tom's going to get into that
42 after we talk about the C&T but we look at it
43 separately just because we have processes, as we've
44 learned throughout this meeting, that a lot of
45 resources are disappearing, declining, and sometimes in
46 the past it seems like it maybe was just one, but now
47 it's multiple and people of the Yukon Flats, I think --
48 as Randy said, anthropologists have written, biologists
49 have written but also anthropologists write what people
50

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1 tell them, and moose is probably the central animal for
2 a lot of Yukon Flats communities is what people have
3 told me. So the moose C&T in Unit 25D West has a long
4 history. That is an area that is known to have a very,
5 very low moose population. And in the '80s before the
6 Federal program began, the Alaska Department of Fish
7 and Game divided the unit into east and west and they
8 did that because 25D West had such a low, low
9 population of moose. The records aren't exactly clear
10 but I think what they were trying to do -- it's a Tier
11 II hunt now by the way, under State regs, which means
12 there's not enough for everybody and so they narrow the
13 number of harvesters. So when you look at the map a
14 lot of the pink land -- the pink land is Federal land
15 and there is a little of Bureau of Land Management land
16 in there near Circle, but most of it is part of Yukon
17 Flats National Wildlife Refuge and there are tribal
18 lands, tribal allotments within there. So if you start
19 on the -- the map in the book, as you'll see, is not
20 very clear, but it starts on Page 130. But when we do
21 customary and traditional use determinations if there's
22 not enough of a resource to go around, we go into
23 what's called an .804 where the pool of people with
24 customary and traditional use is narrowed and we look
25 at a lot of factors, locality, direct dependence on the
26 resource and things of that nature.

27
28 So Randy has been the -- Mr. Mayo, who
29 spoke earlier this morning, has been focused on this
30 area for a long time. As he said he's from Stevens
31 Village. But when the Federal program took over in
32 1990, Stevens Village requested a request for
33 reconsideration of who had C&T in this Unit 25D West
34 and they specifically requested that Stevens Village,
35 Beaver and Birch Creek be the only villages with
36 customary and traditional use determination for Unit
37 25D West and it's been like that for more than 30
38 years. Now, what Randy was talking about and once we
39 hear it on the record, or get a document, we do look at
40 the tribal land, priv -- you know tribal jurisdictions,
41 I mean we will definitely acknowledge that but we don't
42 really know it because he's right, we don't know the
43 intricacies of tribal culture and territories and so he
44 wanted to participate to make that point. When you
45 look at the anthropological research, you learn that
46 especially Fort Yukon is a community that's a hub and
47 people from Stevens Village, Beaver and Birch Creek
48 have moved there as Ms. Solomon can probably tell us
49 there's also people that have lived there for a very
50

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1 long time, same with Circle, we all know that community
2 residence is not fluid, many people live in more than
3 one place. And so in the early anthropological
4 research people wrote that Birch Creek, Beaver and
5 Stevens Village pretty much hunt moose right around
6 their village. Fort Yukon people kind of go in a bunch
7 of different directions and some of them do go back to
8 their home village.

9

10 So what we're talking about here is the
11 people from Fort Yukon and Circle are asking to be part
12 of the hunt in Unit 25D West.

13

14 If you read the analysis, I pulled up a
15 bunch of old maps, you can -- of course, Fort Yukon and
16 Circle people have harvested moose in 25D West, I mean
17 they have allotments there, there are State Tier II
18 permits there and it's just part of their realm. But
19 because the population is so low, Mr. Mayo, of Stevens
20 Village, has consistently advocated to maintain the C&T
21 just for residents of the actual unit. So that's what
22 we're looking at here.

23

24 We received a letter from the Stevens
25 Village Tribal Council in opposition, and I can read
26 that to you in a little while, but what I'm trying to
27 say -- go ahead, what?

28

29 MS. MCDAVID: Do you want me to pass
30 this out?

31

32 MS. WILLIAMS: Sure. Just so people
33 can start reading it themselves.

34

35 So that is kind of the situation we're
36 in right now. The Refuge heard -- when the proposal
37 book came out the Refuge heard from the Chief of Birch
38 Creek, Jacqueline Balum* and Randy Mayo, and so they
39 have shared their opposition with me and that's noted
40 in the analysis.

41

42 MS. SHOCKLEY: Mr. Chair -- or who's
43 Chairing, I have a comment if you don't mind?

44

45 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead,
46 Dorothy.

47

48 MS. SHOCKLEY: Just a clarification.
49 Tribes normally don't have the land, it's the village

50

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1 corporations that have the land.

2

3 MS. WILLIAMS: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

4

5 MS. SHOCKLEY: So, you know, it's used,
6 you know, intertwined, I guess, so just a clarification
7 it's the village corporations in the white area, that's
8 their selected lands, it's not tribal lands.....

9

10 MS. WILLIAMS: Uh-huh.

11

12 MS. SHOCKLEY:it's village
13 corporation lands.

14

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you. And for the
16 rest of the people online and in the audience I'll read
17 the letter from Stevens Village Tribal Council.

18

19 The Native Village of Stevens is a
20 Federally-recognized tribal government representing
21 nearly 360 tribal citizens. Dinyee is the Stevens
22 Village Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Village
23 Corporation and is the land holder of the traditional
24 territories known as the Dinyee, which means mouth of
25 the canyon. It's the Dinyee tribe and corporation to
26 represent our tribal members in advocacy for the
27 protection of traditional territories and ways of life.
28 As a tribal government, Stevens Village is worthy of
29 due respect from Federal agencies and Federal tribal
30 governments. We submit this letter on the record in
31 opposition to WP24-34 and WP24-35 to hold Federal
32 agencies and members of the Eastern Interior Regional
33 Advisory Council accountable to Federal requirements
34 for tribal consultation and traditional tribal
35 protocols.

36

37 On March 2nd, the Eastern Interior RAC
38 supported a proposal that alters the customary and
39 traditional use permits reserved for the tribes of
40 Stevens Village, Birch Creek and Beaver Village without
41 any contact with representatives from the tribal
42 governments. WP24-34 would expand the customary and
43 traditional use determination for moose in our
44 traditional tribal territories now known as Unit 24D
45 West to include rural residents of Circle and Fort
46 Yukon. The members of the Eastern Interior RAC should
47 have known to contact each tribe before supporting a
48 proposal that would significantly shift the
49 availability of the scarce moose population. Although

50

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1 tribal governments now much advocate in State and
2 Federal managed bodies, we should still operate based
3 on traditional protocols of due respect for one
4 another. If there was a surplus of moose, a decision
5 to open the unit should be made by the tribal
6 governments via an intertribal agreement for the
7 Federal government to uphold in their management
8 decisions. The choice for the Eastern Interior RAC to
9 circumvent traditional protocols is a blatant act of
10 disrespect of our traditional ways of life and cultural
11 connection to one another. Stevens Villages urges the
12 RAC to adopt tribal consultation measures to ensure
13 tribal support for proposals affecting their
14 traditional territories. At the very least members of
15 the Eastern Interior RAC should contact their friends
16 and relatives of other tribes to gage the impact of a
17 proposal before offering their support.

18
19 The tribe does not appreciate the
20 agency's actions on this proposal. The transcript
21 illustrates confusion of the Eastern Interior RAC
22 members on the effect of the proposal. The process of
23 the Eastern Interior RAC should not be to blindly
24 support proposals without understanding the outcomes of
25 the potential actions. The Federal agency used the
26 opportunity of the confusion of the RAC to amend the
27 current regulations in WP24 and 25[sic] that currently
28 provides specific allocation of permits to the villages
29 to instead provide the Refuge Manager with discretion
30 to assign permits, in consultation with the State. The
31 proposal would take away the allocation of permits to
32 the villages while requiring State consultation,
33 instead of tribal. Further, it's not lost on the tribe
34 that this Federal action would support the State's
35 efforts to inflate moose populations in order to lift
36 Federal closures to non-Federally-qualified rural users
37 and the State Tier II hunt. The tribe does not believe
38 that the maker of this proposal understood these
39 consequences and condemns the Federal actors who failed
40 to explain the effect of their edits to the proposal.

41
42 We urge the proponent of Proposal WP24
43 and 24-35 to withdraw and urge the Federal Staff of the
44 Eastern Interior RAC to justify their actions on the
45 public record.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 First Chief David Kriska, Native
50

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1 Village of Stevens.

2

3 And, Chair Randy Mayo, Dinyee Village
4 Corporation.

5

6 So another important point to note
7 about Fort Yukon, especially, is that they do have C&T
8 for other animals in the area, like bear and I forgot
9 the other one but, you know, it's not like they haven't
10 hunted there historically and contemporarily so I kind
11 of want to open it to questions, if you want this, this
12 is another very long analysis but I'm trying to give
13 you the gist of it so that we're not lost in the weeds,
14 but I can certainly go on if you would like.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I have a
17 question. How is it that we got to this place? How is
18 it that they weren't -- why are they saying this and
19 why did this happen and how did it happen?

20

21 MS. WILLIAMS: I remember at the
22 Eastern Interior Advisory Council meeting in March,
23 there was a lot of confusion over who had C&T for moose
24 and State person actually told us that it was just the
25 three villages, I can't explain exactly why, I think we
26 have a new amazing Council member who's working for her
27 tribal government and to represent her village and her
28 people and she knows -- this is Amanda I'm talking
29 about, and Amanda you're on here so don't let me put
30 words in your mouth, but she made the proposal in an
31 effort to expand Fort Yukon's moose hunting range and,
32 you know, they're not getting their salmon and so, you
33 know, they're looking to expand their range for other
34 resources.

35

36 So that's my interpretation.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Well, I agree
39 with Randy and I agree with this letter, that we
40 overstepped. That's why we said that we need to be in
41 Arctic Village to talk about Red Sheep Creek because we
42 wanted the people to be involved, and I would like to
43 see that going forward when we have something that's
44 this big and important, to have the people of those
45 communities be involved so we don't end up at this
46 place ever again because it's bad to have a letter like
47 that written to us when we're working for our people,
48 so we need to do better.

49

50

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1 That's all I wanted to say.

2

3 MS. POPE: Mr. Chair, Amanda.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Amanda.

6

7 MS. POPE: So I'm going to talk on
8 behalf of myself, not as a Board member. I brought
9 this issue to the Yukon Flats Advisory Council and they
10 -- I got a lot of support and I didn't hear anything
11 from any of the communities where they had the chance
12 to, and I know as a representative I should be going to
13 the communities to get their feedback and I think
14 that's really important and it should be done, but the
15 reason I put this proposal in is just because
16 historically Fort Yukon and Circle folks had hunted 25D
17 West for many generations including with the three
18 communities and being that Fort Yukon is already a C&T
19 for that area for bear and I believe wolf. I think
20 it's already considered the customary and traditional
21 for that area. Because a lot of them have family from
22 that area, including Circle. And the part of 25D West
23 is just outside of Circle Corporation land, and a lot
24 of that -- those allotments down there in 25D West does
25 include Circle. So I was just trying to bring it to
26 everybody and that's why I brought it to the EIRAC
27 Board. I didn't intentionally try and overstep. I
28 didn't intentionally try and put EIRAC into a position
29 where they were called out on stuff because this is
30 just totally brought out of proportion.

31

32 I think people can all agree that -- I
33 mean this is my opinion, and I think.....

34

35 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Did we lose you
36 Amanda.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 REPORTER: Amanda, are you still there?

41

42 MS. POPE: Yes, I'm here.

43

44 REPORTER: Okay, go ahead.

45

46 MS. POPE: So I didn't mean to -- I
47 totally -- I'm not sure where you guys had heard me but
48 I was talking -- I didn't mean to overstep. I didn't
49 mean to put anybody in a situation where they have to
50

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1 fight for their subsistence rights. I am all for
2 tribal sovereignty, and I think that that needs to be
3 recognized and those communities can have the chance to
4 help me with this, with my proposal. I am talking on
5 behalf of myself, not as a Board member, and I didn't
6 mean to take away tribal sovereignty when I advocate
7 for that daily on the many boards that I sit on, and,
8 now, including my new job.

9

10 So I brought this issue to the Yukon
11 Flats Advisory Council just to get their opinion on it
12 where a lot of those communities are represented in
13 that AC and I wanted to hear what they said, hear what
14 they think about adding Circle and Fort Yukon because
15 traditionally we do have a connection, all of Yukon
16 Flats has a connection to that area, not only the
17 Eastern, the Western also. All of our ancestors came
18 from that area and we all have a connection.

19

20 This kind of blew out of proportion but
21 I think I would like to request time for my proposal
22 and I know we're not talking about my proposal yet,
23 we're on the C&T for Fort Yukon and Circle to be
24 recognized for 25D West, but I would like to offer
25 tribal consultation so those tribes can help me remake
26 or fix my proposal that will include Circle and Fort
27 Yukon without taking away any rights because I did not
28 initially want anything taken away from anybody.

29

30 So I'm asking for that time to do so
31 from the Board as a local subsistence user.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, Amanda,
34 this is Charlie.

35

36 MS. POPE: Thank you.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I just want to
39 say that I'm sure your intentions were from the heart
40 and were good intentions and I'm hoping that we can
41 step back or go backwards a little bit and try to make
42 all the users happy here and go forward in a good way.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I have
45 a question of you, Amanda, this is Sue. What do you
46 suggest now being where we're at at this moment, do you
47 have a recommendation?

48

49 MS. POPE: Well, I think Circle and

50

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1 Fort Yukon should be, in my opinion, as a local
2 subsistence user of the Yukon Flats, I think Circle and
3 Fort Yukon should be recognized because that's their
4 ancestral lands also and they're connected to that
5 area, which I think every community is connected, and
6 in reality we're all related. So it's where -- we are
7 all from that area, including my family. Both of my
8 great-grandparents on both sides of my family they are
9 originally from Fort Yukon, they're originally from the
10 Yukon Flats and they have allotments down there and
11 they can only hunt the area during the State hunt,
12 where they have to compete against everyone with the
13 Tier II, and some Federal subsistence permits have been
14 given out to two people in Circle and Fort Yukon for
15 25D West. And because for many reasons there may have
16 been a surplus of permits that weren't used and they
17 were given the option to hunt their ancestral lands,
18 which I think is great. And I think just recognizing
19 that part to include Circle and Fort Yukon people to
20 have a customary and traditional connection to that
21 area is very important but for my proposal, I would
22 like to ask the Board's help in guiding me to invite
23 the tribes, either all together or individual --
24 individually to do tribal consultations with them so
25 they can help me reword my proposal that will include
26 everybody, not exclude people who have a spiritual
27 connection to that land.

28
29 As Randy mentioned, there's people who
30 are from the communities who have a spiritual
31 connection to that land and have traditionally hunted
32 there for many years and that goes the same for Circle
33 and Fort Yukon people because there's a lot of people
34 in Circle who have that and this will just give them
35 the option to do it legally instead of competing with
36 State hunters and outlaws per se because they're
37 hunting their ancestral lands.

38
39 I just ask the Board for -- to help me
40 with my proposal to add tribal consultation with these
41 tribes, either together or separately, however they
42 want to do it.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, Amanda, are
45 you done so I can go forward? I don't want to
46 disrespect you, that's why I'm asking if you're done
47 before I talk.

48
49 MS. POPE: Yes.
50

0275

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: We're going to
2 have to follow the procedures for the proposal and then
3 when we get to the Regional Council recommendations
4 we'll talk about the situation, okay.

5
6 MS. POPE: Okay.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: The motion.

9
10 MS. POPE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So we're going to
13 move down to the agency comments on the procedure here.
14 ADF&G, you have anything you want to say.

15
16 MR. NELSON: So thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 For the record my name is Mark Nelson with the Alaska
18 Department of Fish and Game. I don't -- most of my
19 comments are actually for the next one but this seems
20 to be what's going to be talked about here so I'm just
21 going to go ahead and talk about this.

22
23 In 25D West there are the two permits
24 available that Amanda talked about, Tier II permit
25 under State regulations, that is valid on non-Federal
26 lands, State lands, private lands, things like that.
27 On Federal lands there's an FM2505 which is a Federal
28 moose permit. Between those two permits -- well, we'll
29 start with the TM940, over the last five years there's
30 been an average of about six moose harvested on that
31 permit. On the Federal side there's been an average of
32 about seven moose harvested. And I'm probably taking
33 stuff right out of your -- sorry about that Tom -- so
34 there's been about 13 moose between the two permits in
35 25D West harvested each year. On the Federal side
36 there's about -- the way the structure is now there's
37 60 permits available, over the past 8 years or so the
38 average number of permits given out were only 30 so
39 only half the permits are actually being used. Of
40 those permits 14 were actually hunted on, or reported
41 hunted on, and then like I said seven were actually
42 reported as harvested. On the State side with the
43 TM940, again, that's a much smaller area that those are
44 actually useful, we are prepared to give out up to 75
45 of those permits, we usually issue 47 and like I said
46 six bulls are harvested in those areas.

47
48 The last moose survey for this area was
49 conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The
50

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1 population was estimated to be around 600, 675
2 somewhere in there, moose. The bull/cow ratio is
3 really high. If you apply like a five percent harvest
4 rate that would still be like 35 moose and we're
5 harvesting about 13.

6
7 So that's just the only point I wanted
8 to make, is that harvest is quite a bit below the
9 harvestable surplus in this area.

10
11 Are there any questions?

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
14 question. The State hunt.....

15
16 MR. NELSON: Yeah.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:you said
19 it's a small area, but that permit is for the whole
20 unit, correct?

21
22 MR. NELSON: It is, yes, it's for the
23 -- the small area is that it's mostly Federal land.....

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

26
27 MR. NELSON:the bulk of the area
28 is Federal land.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But my
31 question.....

32
33 MR. NELSON: So like high water
34 mark.....

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:if you
37 get that permit you hunt on all of the land, Federal
38 and State.

39
40 MR. NELSON: If you're Federally-
41 qualified, yes.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

44
45 MR. NELSON: There are people living in
46 Fairbanks who can get that permit who are not
47 Federally-qualified, that's most of the people who get
48 that permit then they can only.....

49
50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
2 would have been my next question.

3
4 MR. NELSON:hunt on either tribal
5 lands or.....

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so
8 basically the six moose could be non-locals?

9
10 MR. NELSON: Yes.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because they
13 can only hunt on that State land?

14
15 MR. NELSON: Yep.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the
18 reason they can only hunt on that State land is what,
19 because they.....

20
21 MR. NELSON: The Federal closure only
22 applies to Federal land.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, it's
25 closed to non-Federally-qualified, okay, that's the
26 piece I didn't know.

27
28 MR. NELSON: Correct. Yeah.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any more

33 questions.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Council.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. Okay,
42 we'll be moving forward with Federal agencies.

43
44 MS. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair. May I ask
45 the Staff of Yukon National -- Yukon Flats to speak now
46 because they have been talking to Mr. Mayo.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Please.

49
50

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1 MS. WILLIAMS: Do we know.....

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Is Jimmie Fox online.

4

5 MR. FOX: Can you hear me, this is

6 Jimmie.

7

8 REPORTER: Yes, go ahead.

9

10 MR. FOX: Hello. Okay, you can hear

11 me.

12

13 REPORTER: Yes.

14

15 MS. MCDAVID: We got you Jimmie.

16

17 MR. FOX: Yeah, good morning. Yeah,
18 thank you, Madame Chair. For the record my name is
19 Jimmie Fox, I'm the Refuge Manager at Yukon Flats
20 National Wildlife Refuge. I'll start with just saying
21 that the current position that I hold I am in
22 communication with members of the Yukon Flats tribes,
23 members of the communities on Yukon Flats, I've been in
24 the position since 2019. Prior to that I worked for
25 the Refuge as an Assistant Refuge Manager from 2002 to
26 2007.

27

28 I think what we're hearing here this
29 morning is that this proposal is a difficult issue. It
30 doesn't align with everyone's world views, it forces us
31 to service tribal traditions and protocol mentioned by
32 Mr. Mayo and I also appreciate the proponent's
33 intention and I think Ms. Williams highlighted that
34 there is customary and traditional documentation of use
35 by residents of Fort Yukon and Circle in part of 25D
36 West. I'll just share a few observations. The
37 President of the Dinyee Corporation has pointed out to
38 me, there's a '93 letter, 1993 letter from the Native
39 Village of Stevens that requested a Federal closure to
40 non-local residents to ensure tribal members to meet
41 their subsistence needs from their traditional lands,
42 and that concern remains. I am contacted routinely
43 each fall by the Birch Creek Tribal Chief with concerns
44 of competition from hunters residing outside of 25D
45 West. I have not heard from residents of Fort Yukon
46 expressing the concern of not being able to hunt moose
47 on Federal lands and waters within 25D West. I wanted
48 to share, you know, my experience around this question,
49 and I think what's surfacing here is really the right

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1 thing, and that's to imagine what the tribes and rural
2 residents would come up with if they worked together
3 towards a shared purpose.
4

5 And like, Mr. Nelson, I think both 34
6 and 35 are kind of around issue, so when you think of
7 35 and how it would play out if this were all adopted
8 is, I don't think folks would be satisfied with the
9 Refuge Manager's annual harvest allocation decision.
10 You know, we've got at least five tribes, five village
11 corporations, regional corporation, Council of
12 Athabaskan Tribal Governments, that I would be -- or
13 the Refuge Manager would be engaging in government to
14 government consultation each year to guide the harvest
15 allocation process, each year. I think it would be
16 really difficult to satisfy everyone if the Refuge
17 Manager were just making that decision.
18

19 And also on the agenda for this Council
20 is the topic of the merger of Yukon Flats and Kanuti
21 Staff as they are downsized, fewer and fewer Staff, and
22 a larger area, would the future Refuge Manager have the
23 capacity to implement the delegation of authority each
24 year to the satisfaction of all of those affected.
25 That delegation of authority that's proposed would
26 require a public hearing every year, if the action
27 exceeded 60 days, there'd be government to government
28 consultation, invitation extended to all affected
29 tribes, ANCSA corporations, so I'm really curious if
30 these proposals should be further discussed between the
31 Council members, the tribes, possibly even deferred,
32 and, if adopted, really should the delegation of
33 authority sit with the Refuge Manager or deferred to
34 the Federal Subsistence Board.
35

36 Those are a few things on my mind.
37

38 I also wanted to say I think I heard
39 reference to Federal permits being issued to people in
40 Fort Yukon and I'm not aware of that happening. The
41 way the Federal hunt is administered is packets of
42 permits are sent to the tribal administrators, to the
43 tribes in those three communities, Beaver, Birch Creek
44 and Stevens Village and the tribes actually handle the
45 administration of the permit, issuance of the permit
46 and there's a registry, they share the registry with
47 the Fish and Wildlife Service, so I'm not aware of an
48 instance where a permit was issued to Fort Yukon. I'm
49 not saying it didn't happen, but that would be
50

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1 surprising to me.

2

3 Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. Okay.
6 Tribal entities.

7

8 MS. MAGNUSON: May I.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Oh, go ahead, I
11 should have asked if anybody had anything more to say.

12

13 MS. WILLIAMS: And this is a Yukon
14 Flats employee in the building.

15

16 MS. MAGNUSON: Good morning. For the
17 record my name is Emily Magnuson, I'm the Assistant
18 Refuge Manager with Yukon Flats. I'm new to my
19 position, just in the last six months, so this is quite
20 a lot of new information to me. I've been handling
21 some of the subsistence coordinator duties while that
22 position is vacant, part of that has been with
23 collecting hunt reports from the 2022/2023 25D West
24 hunt. I was surprised -- I just wanted to give this
25 feedback -- when Mark said that historically only 30 of
26 the 60 permits have been issued, at least based on my
27 experience looking at the data from last year I don't
28 believe that's the case and if Mark or Jimmie want to
29 correct me I'd totally welcome that, but I think it is
30 closer to the full amount of permits that's given out.
31 There are some challenges with the hunt being regis --
32 the permits being administered locally. We don't
33 necessarily get the registry with the handwritten
34 information of those individuals and permits back as
35 consistently or as quickly as we would like to keep the
36 records up to date. Our information we could give on
37 2022 may not even be complete today just because of
38 that struggle to get those paper records back and hunt
39 reports returned. So some of those numbers could use
40 clarification, even if not today, another time.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any questions.

45

46 MR. FOX: Mr. Chair.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead.

49

50

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1 MR. FOX: Mr. Chair, thank you. To
2 clarify on the permits. Between 2010 and 2023 between
3 21 and 39 Federal subsistence permits were issued
4 according to the documents that we have. So I think
5 Mr. Nelson is probably about right with the average of
6 30. There's a total of 60 permits available, 25 for
7 Beaver, 25 for Stevens, and 10 for Birch Creek, so 60
8 permits available, with the average of probably around
9 30.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. MAGNUSON: Thank you for that
14 clarification, Jimmie, I was thinking of the last two
15 years, I apologize. Thank you for that.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. Any
18 more Federal agencies.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any questions.

23

24 MS. WILLIAMS: I just want to say I
25 really appreciate both Amanda and Mr. Mayo, I see
26 really positive working, and I see the effects of
27 colonialisms in the Federal system getting in the way
28 of traditional tribal discussions that Mr. Mayo was
29 kind enough to educate me about how it used to work and
30 not that long ago and how the tribal leaders would get
31 together and say, well, you go here and you'll go here
32 or something -- I'm using my words, not his. But I do
33 think it's a good opportunity for all of us to learn.
34 On this side he's right about anthropologists, we
35 mostly know what other people wrote down, what tribal
36 people told them, and the different views of where
37 people should go and how they agree on it is something
38 really important for us to acknowledge in this analysis
39 and he's been kind enough to send me a lot of documents
40 that show where Stevens Village actually has a land use
41 plan they did in the '90s, they wrote out what is the
42 area that they consider their hunting area. And so we
43 didn't have that in time for the analysis but there's a
44 lot of information that clearly has not been analyzed.

45

46 Another -- I have two more things to
47 bring up.

48

49 One, is that I hear Amanda and

50

0282

1 sometimes I've worked with people in rural areas and
2 the village of Nikolai was very insistent that they
3 wanted their sheep hunt in what's now Denali National
4 Park documented and even though they can't necessarily
5 practice it they want it on the Federal paperwork, the
6 regulations, to show that they did it and if they want
7 to do it again they can. And I don't think Amanda is
8 saying that necessarily but I do hear her wanting Fort
9 Yukon and Circle's customary and traditional use
10 acknowledged. And so how we move from that to maybe a
11 different type of allocation, it's -- we're between
12 systems and I really -- I think that's part of what
13 motivated her request.

14
15 And the third thing is there's another
16 dimension to this proposal that I'll bring up but I
17 think Chairwoman -- Co-Chair Entsminger has something
18 to say.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Sue.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I have
23 an observation I would like to bring up and then a
24 question to the Native community. In the 22 years on
25 this Council we did not have this new thing, I think it
26 came up about 10, 12 years ago when Obama became
27 President, to have this -- now the word escapes me --
28 tribal consultation by the Federal -- or OSM, and I --
29 I question because of what I see, there's so many
30 meetings these people have to go to so if you create a
31 new one and they were working together without it, why
32 create a new one and make them think that, oh, I got my
33 voice heard and then they -- their voice -- they don't
34 -- they feel lost because this is where it breaks down
35 in my opinion, and I wanted to ask my friends and
36 neighbors, I don't see that part working because you
37 have so many other meetings to go to and you feel like,
38 okay, I went -- I talked to the tribal consultation and
39 I feel like my voice has been heard and then it gets
40 lost. In my opinion it gets lost. I'm just asking if
41 you feel the pain like I do, everyone.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Sue.
44 Any more Federal agencies, any more to say.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Tribal entities.

49
50

0283

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Anybody online,
4 on the phone.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: Mike Peter from Fort
7 Yukon might be on the phone.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Mike. Mike
10 Peter, are you on.

11

12 MR. MAYO: Hello.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes, Randy.

15

16 MR. MAYO: Hello. Mr. Chair.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes, Randy.

19

20 REPORTER: Go ahead, Randy.

21

22 MR. MAYO: If no one else is going to
23 speak would I be given a couple of minutes here to
24 respond to the discussion here for the record.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes, Randy, we'll
27 give you five minutes, of course.

28

29 REPORTER: Did you hear, Randy, go
30 ahead, he said yes.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Randy,
33 you may speak but go right ahead.

34

35 MR. MAYO: Yeah, there was just a
36 little quiet spot, I wasn't sure if everybody could
37 hear me or not. Just, again, for the record, Randy
38 Mayo. I identified myself earlier.

39

40 I think that, you know, well, when I
41 saw the proposal last summer as written, it caused
42 great concern and talked to my folks and other
43 neighboring people from a couple of other villages and
44 what not, so it was concerning. You know I just wanted
45 to real quickly just follow up on a couple of things
46 that, you know, that clarification on what was
47 mentioned by Dorothy, that the corporations are the
48 land owner and there -- and she did mention the Stevens
49 Village traditional land use plan, and then just real
50

1 quickly that the traditional land use plan came out of,
2 was a result of, as Plan B, since we didn't get our
3 traditional lands put into trust, and, you know, those
4 traditional lands -- and, of course, Stevens Village,
5 historically, has been made up traditionally of
6 different bands, different clans, you know, a lot of
7 family groups came from different areas, South Fork,
8 Koyukuk, up river from Gwichin Country and down river,
9 Tanana, Rampart, but, you know, despite people moving
10 around and settling here and there, historically
11 traditional use areas were struck up and agreed to by
12 neighboring tribes that these were use areas to avoid
13 conflict with one another. And that's how the
14 traditional land use plan, the boundaries were created
15 out of that desire to have the traditional lands put
16 into trust. And in 1991 the tribe had a Secretarial of
17 Interior election where the tribe voted to have those
18 traditional lands identified in our Secretary approved
19 tribal constitution to include those lands in our
20 constitution and it references that the Native
21 corporation lands lie within that boundary. So that's
22 just a little bit of clarification and has got that
23 information.

24
25 We are -- we, being the tribe and the
26 corporation, we will request consultation with
27 Department of Interior, and it kind of goes back to
28 what you mentioned, Mr. Chair, how did we get here.
29 And, you know, we have to work within these systems and
30 it's very difficult, it's a difficult balancing act.

31
32 And I'll just say a couple of more
33 things regarding both proposals, that, you know, I did
34 look at the last two harvest estimate surveys and I
35 need to talk with the ADF&G biologist a little more
36 because if those studies did indicate there is 600 and
37 some moose out there, and I looked at where those moose
38 were during those studies, if there are those numbers
39 of moose that they just aren't there out on the river
40 and accessible like during the hunting season in
41 September and most people may get lucky later on in the
42 Federal winter season portion of the hunt but you know
43 that -- the moose just aren't on the river. And I
44 have, you know, being -- operating in and out of the
45 Haul Road area a lot of people come through, Native,
46 non-Native, locals and non-local tribal members that
47 are accessing the Yukon to get here or there, mostly to
48 their traditional area where they come from or have
49 their allotments and so down in the western 25D West,
50

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1 again, if studies indicate there may be moose in the
2 area, that they're -- they're not out where they are
3 accessible out on the river bars or in the meadows
4 where, you know, people have a good chance at getting
5 them. I mean we don't have float planes, we don't fly
6 way back in the lakes where they may be. So I just
7 wanted to point that out.

8

9 But the other thing we're concerned
10 about also is the precedence and where the State and
11 Federal system puts us at, it's pretty uneasy for us.
12 And I'll just speak to what was alluded to earlier by
13 the agency Staff on, you know, retrieving permits, that
14 when I had served as First Chief at -- I was a board
15 member of the CATG and that had been a long running
16 issue of tribal hunters to turn in harvest tickets.
17 Mainly, you know, out of mistrust of the system and
18 what -- how that information can work for us or against
19 us. But the point being is that there is -- if you
20 travel the area of the Yukon, you know, my father is
21 from Rampart -- I have relatives sitting on this Board
22 right now and I, for the most part, used to reside at
23 my father's allotment, like he was from Rampart below
24 the Haul Road bridge but I don't go down too far, just,
25 you know, I mostly would go up river to where I'm from,
26 Stevens Village, out of respect of the traditional
27 protocol, and that also, too, that's a State unit is
28 very low population or if they're there they're not
29 accessible or on the river. It's kind of ironic that
30 at Hess Creek on the Haul Road, and, you know, people
31 from Rampart and Stevens Village have traveled that
32 road ever since that bridge was built and now all these
33 years of traveling it -- years ago there used to be
34 some moose around Livengood. And I only saw one moose
35 all those years on that highway that had got hit by a
36 semi truck and it was ironic because last hunting
37 season there was road construction at Hess Creek so I
38 stopped and the flagger -- I asked the flagger, you
39 guys seen any moose around here and the flagger told me
40 that it's ironic because maybe the only bull in that
41 whole country got hit by his boss on this way to work.

42

43 So -- and I'll just wrap it up here
44 that, I think overall this points out a lot of things
45 here, and that it will give all parties a chance to
46 revisit this issue and work towards -- work towards
47 something. And, you know, going back to what Jimmie
48 Fox said that, you know, we stand in opposition to it,
49 of course, but, you know, would urge the Board to

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1 rescind the previous motion or at a minimum, you know,
2 not defer it, to push it somewhere else, but to table
3 it and to try to come to some kind of resolve within
4 the system we have to work with.

5

6 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: You're welcome.

9 And thank you, Randy, and thank you. This is a very
10 tough situation and we'll talk more right soon here
11 when we get to Regional Council recommendations. And
12 right now we're going to -- we're still in tribal
13 entities, tribal village and others, so if there's any
14 other tribal people or entities that want to speak at
15 this time then please state so.

16

17 Go ahead.

18

19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, we have made
20 our opinion clear on this proposal with the letter and
21 feel that the opinions expressed by Mr. Mayo is exactly
22 our sentiments and believe that the pressures on this
23 unit with the lowest moose count probably in the whole
24 state is pretty high and the number of available
25 animals are already under a tremendous amount of
26 pressure and adding another group of people to that
27 pressure would not be sustainable for us. So we
28 believe that the proposals should be tabled and
29 resolved as soon as possible. We understand that a lot
30 of the numbers that are reported aren't exactly
31 accurate. I know that some of the paperwork gets s
32 tuck over here in the office for the permits that are
33 issued and a lot of the actual harvest tickets don't
34 get turned in so those numbers don't reflect
35 accurately, I think, the true number of people that are
36 hunting the area and who harvest. So we are opposed to
37 anything like the proposal.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. Any
42 more. Any more comments, tribal. Yes.

43

44 MR. PETER: Yes, Michael Peter.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

47

48 REPORTER: Go ahead, Mr. Peter.

49

50

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1 MR. PETER: Yeah, this is Michael
2 Peter, Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwichin Tribal Government, Second
3 Chief. I'd like to make a comment too on -- we're
4 starting to have this -- it seems like we're having to
5 compete with other people coming into our country now
6 also, outsiders, to where they're coming in with their
7 big boats and their inboards. And not only that but we
8 have hunters that are flying from -- flying from
9 Fairbanks to Fort Yukon and into the Brooks.

10

11 And other than that, too, I'm calling
12 to support the proposal from that was introduced by
13 Amanda Pope from Circle for the traditional area and
14 customary usage between Fort Yukon and Circle because I
15 know from me growing up and harvesting moose along the
16 Yukon River has also been harvested by myself and also
17 my family and other people that I have known. We have.
18 I'm surprised it wasn't actually in the -- in other
19 proposals of us actually harvesting moose between
20 Circle and Fort Yukon. But I'm in support of her
21 proposal.

22

23 And also with that, too, I'd like to
24 mention that I think there's -- we need to come up with
25 something else for the harvesting period too because I
26 know the days are coming later, the winter is coming
27 later and then the frost is coming in a lot later and
28 the moose are moving a lot later. I attended a meeting
29 last week and talked to some other people farther down
30 the Yukon that a lot of them haven't even got their
31 moose either so the moose -- our moose is moving a lot
32 later so I think that maybe there should be something
33 to come up with a plan for another proposal of maybe
34 extending the season maybe through the first week of
35 October. But that will come at a later date.

36

37 I'm just calling in support of Amanda
38 Pope's proposal.

39

40 And also to mention, too, that we've
41 had a lot of water here this past fall up on the Black
42 River and the Porcupine and other tributaries so a lot
43 of the moose have no place to come out to. So like
44 Randy mentioned a lot of them are back in the meadows
45 and a lot of them seem like they're coming out after
46 the water has dropped. And also, too, to mention, too,
47 that I noticed with all the water we had this last
48 spring there was actually a less number of harvesting
49 for our waterfowl. So I just want to put that out

50

0288

1 there, let people know that they were here for a short
2 period of time. There's a very short window. And not
3 a lot of people got geese. So they were here maybe a
4 day and a half, two days at the most and everything was
5 flooded up from all the water we got and also we got a
6 lot of water from the Porcupine River too. And part of
7 our village was flooded, flooded downtown and then the
8 back side of our village from the Porcupine River also
9 got flooded.

10

11 But I just thought I'd let you guys
12 know, to put that out there, of what's happening around
13 here, with everything changing with the climate and
14 everything else, and the weather so I think I finally
15 seen a good deal of frost this morning and it was like
16 maybe about 10 to 15 degrees. But like I mentioned
17 maybe we need to, for the villages along the Yukon
18 River extend the seasons for a little further date,
19 maybe through the first week of October.

20

21 But thank you for your time and thank
22 you.

23

24 Mahsee'.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Mike.
27 Anybody else. Tribal entities.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Hearing none --
32 oh.

33

34 MS. FIELDS: Jessica Fields from
35 Circle.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Oh, go ahead.

38

39 MS. FIELDS: I'm the Second Chief.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, go ahead.

42

43 REPORTER: Yes, go ahead.

44

45 MS. FIELDS: I just wanted to have a
46 comment supporting Amanda Pope's regulation with
47 revisions to include Circle and Fort Yukon in the 25D
48 West. This is our customary and traditional use areas,
49 we do even have tribal members with Native allotments

50

0289

1 in that area and also longstanding trapping and
2 traplines in that area. And I'm in agreement with Mike
3 of extending the season too. And that's my comment.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I'm sorry, I
6 heard where you're from but I didn't hear your name,
7 can you restate your name please for the record.

8

9 MS. FIELDS: Jessica Fields, I'm in
10 Circle.

11

12 MS. MCDAVID: Jessica Fields.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you,
15 Jessica. Any more tribal entities.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Then we'll
20 move on to.....

21

22 MS. POPE: Mr. Chair.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead.

25

26 MS. POPE: I just wanted to say that
27 that was Jessica Fields. She's the Second Chief of
28 Circle. I'm not sure if you hear her.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I did, thank you,
31 Amanda.

32

33 REPORTER: Yes, we got it.

34

35 MS. POPE: Thank you.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. We're
38 going to move on to Advisory Group comments if there's
39 no other tribal entities or anybody that wants to
40 speak.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So it would be
45 other Regional Councils at this time.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: If none, Fish and

50

0290

1 Game Advisory Committees.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Subsistence
6 Resource Commissions.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Summary of
11 written public comments.

12

13 MS. MCDAVID: Liz read the one letter
14 that we had received. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. We're
17 going to move on to public testimony then, and I have
18 one blue card here and it says Carrie Stevens on there.
19 So go ahead, Carrie, if you're on.

20

21 MS. STEVENS: Thank you. Can you hear
22 me okay?

23

24 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

25

26 MS. STEVENS: Can you -- you can hear
27 me?

28

29 REPORTER: Yes, we can, go ahead,
30 Carrie.

31

32 MS. STEVENS: Okay, thank you very much
33 to the Chair, Charlie Wright. To all of the RAC
34 members. I apologize that I have not been able to
35 reach out to all of you individually. My name is
36 Carrie Stevens. And I am currently at the North
37 Pacific Fisheries Management Council and we're holding
38 a class and I am missing public testimony on the
39 bycatch of chum salmon, and I think that's critical
40 because it is impossible for subsistence users to
41 effectively participate in these broken systems to
42 protect their ways of life. And I really want to thank
43 the EIRAC members for your public service navigating
44 these broken systems which produce these types of
45 proposals and intertribal conflicts. I am calling in.
46 I want to thank Brooke so much for keeping me posted
47 via text as to when to call in so I could be as present
48 as possible here at the North Pacific Fisheries
49 Management Council. Again, I want to say that this is

50

0291

1 a never ending onslaught. I didn't even sleep last
2 night. It is horrifying.

3

4 As I called in, we heard testimony from
5 multiple tribes in the Yukon Flats of the increasing
6 external pressure on all of the moose populations of
7 25D and of their ability to provide for their families.
8 I know that you are on Proposal 34 at this time but
9 Brooke advised I call in now, I also really want to
10 speak to Proposal 35.

11

12 I understand that the tribal people of
13 Circle and of Fort Yukon, Gwichin (indiscernible -
14 breaking up) do have traditional and customary use in
15 some areas of 25D. However, Proposal 35 is not the
16 answer. Proposal 35.....

17

18 REPORTER: Okay, we just got cut off so
19 let her know Brooke.

20

21 (Off record)

22

23 (On record)

24

25 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: We're coming back
26 to order now and we're going to give Carrie Stevens
27 another chance to speak and we apologize for our
28 problems we're having here. We've been having
29 technical difficulties through the whole meeting from
30 getting dropped once in awhile here. So we apologize
31 to the people online and everybody involved. We're
32 trying our best, so go ahead Carrie.

33

34 MS. STEVENS: Okay. Can you hear me
35 okay?

36

37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

38

39 MS. STEVENS: Okay. Thank you all. I
40 will just start again. My name is Carrie Stevens. I am
41 calling in and testifying to Proposal 34 and 35. I
42 really wanted to speak to Proposal 35 and I wanted to
43 thank Brooke for letting me know when it came up and
44 she said now would be the best time to speak to
45 Proposal 35.

46

47 I apologize. I'm a little agitated.
48 I'm missing the chum salmon bycatch testimony at North
49 Pacific right now.

50

0292

1 These systems are very broken, which is
2 how we ended up in this situation in the first place.
3 We know that the Department of Interior has
4 acknowledged the failure of OSM to meet the needs of
5 the subsistence users. When I saw Proposal 35 I was
6 astounded and quite upset. While Proposal 34 is put
7 forward to acknowledge the traditional and customary
8 use of the Haan and Gwichaa Gwichin in 25D West,
9 Proposal 35 is not the answer. That this was suggested
10 -- or supported by any Federal Staff without any tribal
11 consultation is very concerning. And the comments I
12 was making regarding Proposal 35 is that the OSM
13 analysis is lacking a lot of readily available
14 information, which is also extremely concerning to me.
15 So while Proposal 34 may find for the traditional and
16 customary use of Circle and Fort Yukon residents.
17 Again, I must reiterate, Proposal 35 is not the answer
18 and it is a step backwards. It goes against every
19 recommendation of the Yukon Flats Cooperative Moose
20 Management Plan and being engaged in that process for
21 well over 10 years, a concerted effort by CATG, the
22 tribal governments, the State of Alaska and the Feds, I
23 cannot believe that 35 made it to the light of day, or
24 that the OSM analysis did not include that this was a
25 highly inappropriate proposal. Removing permits from
26 tribal communities with no tribal consultation or no
27 adequate, even remotely adequate review of the impacts
28 to those communities, and recommending that this
29 proposal move forward is egregious to me.

30
31 It is egregious that the proposal would
32 be given back to full delegation of authority to the
33 Refuge Manager and furthermore that the OSM analysis
34 includes, in consultation with the State. I feel
35 that's egregious, it should be in agreement with the
36 tribal governments. C&T for Fort Yukon and Circle
37 should be more clearly defined and consider what number
38 of permits and users that would be to include. In this
39 current proposal, the Refuge Manager could give all 60
40 permits to Fort Yukon, there is nothing in there --
41 taking away all of the work of the -- decades of work
42 of the Cooperative Moose Management Plan and throwing
43 it out the window. There are a million other ways to
44 address this issue without removing permits from tribal
45 communities. And I can't imagine that Fort Yukon or
46 Circle would want permits removed from their
47 communities either. So we need to be thinking on both
48 sides of the fence there.

49
50

0293

1 I just would like to add that Technical
2 Paper 377 is never included in the analysis of Proposal
3 35. It is in Proposal 34, yet 35 has clear management
4 implications and Technical Paper 377 outlines clear
5 management goals including greater community control in
6 management. So I think it's quite egregious that that
7 is not included in the Proposal 35 analysis and that
8 there is no clear impact to the residents of 25D West
9 of what this means, Proposal 35.

10

11 So I would suggest that it be
12 rescinded, it be removed, it is inappropriate and
13 unnecessary to address any needs of Circle or Fort
14 Yukon.

15

16 I just want to say that there are other
17 omissions from the report that are very glaring to me,
18 excuse me, the OSM analysis, we revisit this every
19 year, this issue in 25D West, regarding habitat. The
20 moose browse, the study by Goldeger (ph) of U.S. Fish
21 and Wildlife Service alone is not included in the
22 habitat analysis. It's a U.S. Fish and Wildlife
23 Service report that says the moose browse in 25D -- in
24 25D West will never support an adequate moose
25 population or any larger moose population, while the
26 analysis includes fluctuations in the moose population,
27 it is well documented that a larger moose population
28 cannot be sustained in the area. Furthermore, we hear
29 over and over and over again from the tribal citizens
30 of those areas, and across the state that we know the
31 people on the land, the men and women at home that are
32 actively controlling and (indiscernible - breaking up)
33 wolves, and large animal populations do so to ensure
34 that they can feed their family with moose. In the 377
35 report that is never listed moose is the mainstay of
36 these communities, and that this impact is not
37 considered in the analysis or any alternative put
38 forward, that does not remove permits from Birch Creek,
39 Beaver or Stevens is totally inadequate. I don't see
40 why -- (indiscernible - breaking up), but, again, the
41 analysis goes directly against existing technical
42 reports -- existing Yukon Flats Cooperative Moose
43 Management Plan.

44

45 I'm sorry, I did not have time to reach
46 out to many of you RAC members, who I know very well,
47 on this proposal. I'm sorry to just put this testimony
48 here in public record. We are all very busy. We are
49 all trying to survive a fisheries crash, low moose
50

0294

1 population and I'm sorry I'm putting this on the table
2 now. I could continue but I will stop there.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you,
5 Carrie. Any questions for Carrie, Council members.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Anybody online.

10

11 (No comments)

12 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: In the room.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Thank you,
17 Carrie, very much.

18

19 MS. POPE: Mr. Chair, this is Amanda.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, go ahead,
22 Amanda.

23

24 MS. POPE: Thank you. I just wanted to
25 say that I made the proposal that said what is in
26 regulations now and then all I did was add Circle and
27 Fort Yukon, I didn't mean to take away anything from
28 the communities and I understand where you are coming
29 from Carrie, and I understand your frustration but
30 that's what we see also in our communities. I'm
31 speaking on behalf of myself, not as a Board member.

32

33 So before I made this proposal I
34 brought it to the Yukon Flats AC where two people from
35 Stevens Village are on that committee, where two people
36 from Circle, two people from Fort Yukon, one vacant
37 seat in Birch Creek and two people from Beaver, and
38 then two -- also two people from Venetie -- or just one
39 person just got on, I brought it to the Board, to get
40 the people's opinion before I even mentioned it with
41 EIRAC, to get their opinion from the people who are
42 attending the meeting, last March, so I did bring it to
43 the people. And the fact that people are saying that
44 they didn't have a chance to include their opinion, I
45 feel that -- I guess I feel frustrated as a -- as a
46 person that is on these volunteer seats to represent
47 these people, that they're not telling me what they
48 think and this kind of puts me into a bad situation
49 because this has kind of fallen on my plate and as a
50

0295

1 leader of all of Yukon Flats I feel that I'm trying to
2 do best for everyone and I don't mean to step on any
3 toes, of anybody, all I wanted to do is have what's in
4 regulation now for those people but to add two other
5 communities. Where the permits being issued, for the
6 last 10 years, roughly 10 to 12, 13 years, is only 30
7 permits are being issued to those three communities, so
8 why not include the other two communities. I mean the
9 permits are there, the opportunity is there. I'm not
10 trying to take away any permits from other communities,
11 they could have their amount they have now, that's my
12 opinion, and like I said I don't want to take anything
13 away but there's permits that are not being used and
14 given the option for those other two communities to
15 have the opportunity to hunt their traditional areas is
16 just there and the only reason I put this proposal in,
17 for the record, is to provide people from Fort Yukon
18 and Circle who hunt the area of the smaller tributary
19 which is including Birch Creek, a lot of people on --
20 in Circle and Fort Yukon have a tradition and customary
21 use purpose, reason, reasoning for that area.

22
23 And that's the only reason that I put
24 it in is just have it fair for everybody. But I didn't
25 mean to step on any toes or take anything away from the
26 other communities. But if that opportunity is there
27 then why not allow those other two communities, which
28 probably won't even be more than five people who are
29 able to hunt the area, who do hunt the area. It's not
30 saying, like the whole community of Fort Yukon and the
31 whole community of Circle is going to go to that area
32 and hunt, it'll just provide an extra opportunity for
33 those people to be able to harvest something if they
34 aren't able to harvest in their area -- in their areas
35 now.

36
37 So I'm -- this is really frustrating
38 because I did bring it to everybody and I allowed the
39 opportunity for the communities to speak and give me
40 feedback before I brought it to EIRAC to get their
41 opinion, including the public who had attended. And
42 this kind of -- this whole proposal kind of got -- it's
43 kind of frustrating because it kind of got bent out of
44 shape and I didn't mean for it to get like that and I
45 just wanted it to be fair for everybody, which is why I
46 sit on the boards that I sit on. And I'm talking for
47 the whole Yukon Flats, not just my -- my community and
48 Fort Yukon.

49
50

0296

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you,
4 Amanda.

5

6 MS. STEVENS: Thank you, Amanda.
7 Chair, may I respond briefly.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Very briefly,
10 thank you.

11

12 REPORTER: Yes, he said go ahead
13 briefly.

14

15 MS. STEVENS: Okay, thank you. You
16 know, Amanda, I appreciate that and I appreciate you
17 trying to engage in the system but they are clearly
18 broken and that is the larger problem and the tribes
19 were clearly never consulted and if your intent is what
20 you just stated, I would recommend that you revise the
21 proposal. The proposal, as it stands, Proposal 35,
22 says none of those things, and it does directly strike-
23 through and remove the permits from Beaver, Birch Creek
24 and Stevens. The current proposal that was put forward
25 strikes out those permits, does not say how many would
26 go where and puts all of that authority with the Refuge
27 Manager.

28

29 And the last thing I'll say is that we
30 all know that the permit system is not accurate in
31 numbers and we know that from multiple technical
32 reports. We know that not only 30 people are hunting
33 moose and relying on moose to feed their families from
34 those communities. And I just feel that this should
35 have been recognized and I know that was not your
36 intent, but the villages are specifically crossed out
37 and so I'd just ask Circle and Fort Yukon to consider
38 if that was them and what your real ask is because as I
39 read the proposal it is not asking for what you just
40 said.

41

42 Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity
43 to respond.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you Carrie.
46 Sue wants to say something, go ahead Sue.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I just
49 wanted to say that I really appreciate Amanda and her

50

0297

1 work and I feel like we have demonstrated the things
2 that aren't working quite well, quite well, we did
3 that. So we're right at public testimony, I'd like to
4 finish public testimony and then I would like to
5 entertain a motion to defer, to the meeting -- to our
6 next meeting because it's in front of the Federal Board
7 meeting -- and I know you have something to say, go
8 ahead.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 Mr. Chair. Katya Wessels. I just want to speak, not
14 specially about this proposal, but in general, that
15 when the analysis come to the Councils, they are called
16 draft analysis. The whole reason we're bringing them
17 to you is to improve them. They're considered final
18 when they're before the Board. So all this discussion
19 is very helpful because all the things that were
20 mentioned by everyone will be considered when the
21 analysis goes to the Board.

22

23 So the other thing, I just want to
24 remind that what we said yesterday, is, this year we're
25 trying something different. When the tribal
26 consultations will happen after the Council meetings so
27 the tribes can contribute but they also can contribute
28 during this meeting because there's a slot for them.

29

30 So this is just an overall view of
31 where we are with these proposals and analysis. And I
32 think it's a good discussion that's happening and will
33 help in the future.

34

35 So thank you.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

38

39 MS. POPE: If we're on public comment.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Amanda.

42

43 MS. POPE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
44 just wanted to say that I'm willing -- as a subsistence
45 user who put in the 35 -- or the Proposal No. 35, I'm
46 willing to go to the moose management and talk with the
47 tribal entities to redo this proposal. And I would
48 like -- after -- well, if the Board likes, I would like
49 to defer my proposal also to -- so I could have time to
50

0298

1 go to them and rewrite it to where it helps everyone,
2 if that's okay with the other communities.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Would you like to
5 make the motion, Amanda, or would you like us to?

6

7 MS. POPE: I don't want to because it
8 -- I feel like it's a conflict of interest with the two
9 -- with the Board that I sit on, with EIRAC and my
10 personal proposal.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Very
13 professional of you.

14

15 MS. POPE: But I would like the Board
16 to defer it.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, thank you.
19 Do we have any more public testimony on this matter at
20 this time.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any online.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, we're going
29 to go into Regional Council recommendations. Go ahead,
30 Sue.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I make
33 a motion to defer this proposal WP24-34 to -- and
34 include tribal consultation to our next meeting because
35 it's in front of us at the Federal Board meeting.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: But there's going
38 to be more.....

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, right
41 now -- I know Staff will beat me on the head if I do it
42 differently but I'd like it to be both.....

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:34 and
47 35. And watch, it's going to get somebody excited.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

0299

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay, I
2 am assuming that I can do that.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Uh-huh.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And if we
7 can't, we're doing it anyway.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have a job
12 to do and we're doing it anyway. I call it Murphy's
13 Law. Okay, to include both proposals.

14
15 MS. WESSELS: We can't. Sue, we can't.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Good,
18 I was waiting to get beat up.

19
20 MS. WESSELS: I'm sorry.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: We're just trying
25 to speed things up a little bit.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we can do
28 that.

29
30 MS. WESSELS: I know, but, no, we -- we
31 cannot.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, goodness.

34
35 MS. SHOCKLEY: Instead of deferring
36 this, can we just rescind it? It's not an official
37 document is it?

38
39 MS. MCDAVID: It's going to the
40 Board.....

41
42 MS. WESSELS: It's going to the Board
43 and without your recommendation the Board will decide
44 whatever they're going to decide.....

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Without
47 our.....

48
49 MS. WESSELS:you will have no
50

0300

1 say.

2

3 MS. SHOCKLEY: Ah, so can we rescind

4 it?

5

6 MS. WESSELS: No.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, we just

9 have to.....

10

11 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: But we want to

12 fix it.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I've been

15 beat over the head, so my.....

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:motion

20 only includes 34 and then we'll do the next one.

21

22 MS. WESSELS: We could do a very slim

23 presentation of the next one, it will be like really

24 quick.....

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't know

27 that we need.....

28

29 MS. WESSELS:so it won't take any

30 time as long as there's no public testimony.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Okay. The

33 public will know what we're doing if we start -- if we

34 deal with the first one and then we'll go into the

35 second one.

36

37 MS. WESSELS: Yeah.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: Just reference the

42 previous comments for the next.....

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, let's move

47 forward, that's fine.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's a

50

0301

1 motion on the floor.

2

3

MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

4

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Speaking to my motion. I believe that there's enough discussion here to discuss that we've created almost like a bag of worms. We need to get more information and we need to, especially see the people working together with this tribal consultation.

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Don.

MR. WOODRUFF: And part of this discussion is imperative that all the tribal governments get together and hash this out and send us a letter what they feel is important and what's going to satisfy a majority of their shareholders and then we can react to that by either passing this proposal or writing a new one in the next wildlife cycle, because obviously this is a pretty contentious issue. It's not like, you know, opening up a little beaver harvest, it's moose, and everybody wants one.

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any other comments from the Council.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Call for the question.

MS. MCDAVID: Do you want me to restate it.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

MS. MCDAVID: Restating the motion for the record. The motion is to defer WP24-34 until the next meeting and hold tribal consultations between now and then.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I called for the question.

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: You call the question.

0302

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I did.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Are we
4 going to do a roll call or how we going to do this.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: You could probably just
7 call for unanimous consent.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. I'll ask
10 for unanimous consent then, anyone opposed.

11

12 (No opposing votes)

13

14 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Seeing or hearing
15 none, passes.

16

17 Okay, we're moving forward, WP24-35,
18 Unit 25D West open moose hunting to all Federally-
19 qualified subsistence users, revise permit allocation.
20 Tom Plank.

21

22 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Members of the Council. And since we've kind of
24 already gone over a large portion of this one recently,
25 I am going to give you a very, very brief summary of
26 it. This is for Wildlife Proposal WP -- and for the
27 record my name is Thomas Plank, Office of Subsistence
28 Management, Wildlife Biologist, and this is for
29 Wildlife Proposal WP24-35, which starts on Page 149 in
30 your books.

31

32 And basically the effects if this
33 proposal is adopted, the regulation language for the
34 Federal public lands closure to hunting for moose in
35 Unit 25D West will be clarified to read Federally-
36 qualified subsistence users, instead of residents, of
37 Unit 25D West, which unintentionally implies that there
38 is an .804 restriction in place. If Proposal WP24-34
39 is adopted, residents of Circle and Fort Yukon would be
40 allowed to harvest moose in Unit 25D West under Federal
41 regulations. If proposals, WP24-34 and WP24-35 are
42 adopted harvest pressure on the moose population in
43 Unit 25D West would increase, although the number of
44 permits available to each community is uncertain and
45 not specified in the submitted proposal.

46

47 The OSM's preliminary conclusion was to
48 support WP24-35 with modification to delegate authority
49 to the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge Manager to

50

0303

1 set the number of permits issued and the number of
2 permits available by communities each year. However,
3 prior to these being available for bookprinting, I did
4 -- or right after these went out for print I talked
5 with Jimmie Fox and as he stated earlier, that Yukon
6 Flats does not want to do the delegation of authority
7 for this proposal. And, additionally, I got
8 information from ADF&G that they are very concer --
9 they're concerned that there may be conservation
10 concerns if the permit is increased above 60 from where
11 it's at right now.

12
13 So with that if there's any questions
14 I'm here to field any, and that's my super brief
15 version.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Tom.
18 Okay. Agency comments, ADF&G.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
21 question.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, go ahead
24 Sue.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, this is
27 to Staff, we've already been through all of this and I
28 would just be ready to entertain a motion to defer this
29 proposal also because of the same reasons of the last
30 proposal and I'm -- and here she comes, does she have a
31 club?

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MS. WESSELS: I'm going to sit behind
36 you and every time you say something wrong I can.....

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Why?

41
42 MS. WESSELS: Because that's the
43 protocol.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: First they
48 tell us we have to be quick, and now they tell us we
49 have to do all of this, so, go.

50

0304

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Okay,
2 please go ahead.

3

4 MR. NELSON: All right, thank you, Mr.
5 Chair. I'll be very quick. Mark Nelson with the Fish
6 and Game. I just want to reiterate what Tom mentioned
7 earlier and if this proposal resulted in an increase in
8 the number of permits issued there would be potentially
9 a conservation concern and that would all depend on the
10 number of permits issued, number of permits hunted and
11 ultimately the number of moose harvested, that would be
12 above what the recent history has been.

13

14 That's all I have, thank you.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you.
17 Federal agencies.

18

19 MR. FOX: Mr. Chair, this is Jimmie
20 Fox, Refuge Manager at Yukon Flats, National Wildlife
21 Refuge.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Jimmie.

24

25 MR. FOX: And my testimony on WP24-34
26 stands for WP24-35. Thank you.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, thank you.
29 Any other Federal agencies.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Tribal entities.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any Advisory
38 Group comments. Other Regional Councils.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Fish and Game
43 Advisory Committees.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Subsistence
48 Resource Commissions.

49

50

0305

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any summary of
4 written public comments.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: None.

7

8 MS. POPE: Mr. Chair, this is Amanda.

9

10 REPORTER: Amanda.

11

12 MS. POPE: Mr. Chair, this is Amanda
13 Pope.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Amanda.

16

17 MS. POPE: I just wanted to reiterate
18 that I would like to go to the Yukon Flats moose
19 management committee and ask for help to rewrite this
20 proposal on behalf of myself to bring -- on behalf of
21 myself to also ask the Board if it's possible not only
22 to do tribal consultations about this topic but to
23 allow the option for me to revise this proposal with
24 the communities and the moose management committee to
25 bring to the Board for their comments and concerns at
26 that time at the next meeting. Is that possible?

27

28 MS. MCDAVID: Amanda, this is Brooke.
29 Yes, you can bring any comments to the next meeting for
30 the RAC to consider in addition to the tribal
31 consultations, so, thank you.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Are you done
34 Amanda?

35

36 MS. POPE: Yes, sir.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. Any
39 more public testimony.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Council members.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Anybody online.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0306

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. We're
2 going to move on to Regional Council recommendations.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

5
6 MR. MAYO: Mr. Chair.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh.

9
10 MR. MAYO: Hello.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Is that Randy?

13
14 REPORTER: Yes, it's Randy.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead, Randy.

17
18 MR. MAYO: Hello. Can you hear me?

19
20 REPORTER: Randy, yes, go ahead.

21
22 MR. MAYO: Hello.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes, sir.

25
26 MR. MAYO: If you can hear me, under
27 the further testimony I'll just be real brief on both
28 proposals that in our meeting with Ann and Jimmie Fox
29 last week, that was one of our concerns was the support
30 of OSM and the early 1990s request from the Stevens
31 Village entities and also what Carrie Stevens had
32 mentioned, that none of that was taken into
33 consideration or it was overlooked and, you know, that
34 things cannot just be rubberstamped by OSM in support
35 of and it's also not fair to Board members not provided
36 that previous work and information. So the -- you
37 know, that was not a very good move by OSM to support
38 this and, you know, I pretty much will hold them
39 accountable for these proposals to get this far within
40 the system but, you know, the positive out of the
41 negative is that it will bring to light the
42 deficiencies within this system that really needs to be
43 worked on.

44
45 So, thank you.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you, Randy.
48 Any other public comment or testimony.

49
50

0307

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any more online.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Regional
8 Council recommendations. Go ahead, Sue.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If no one else
11 wants to make the motion I'll do the best I can.

12

13 MS. SHOCKLEY: The other thing I would
14 add is the.....

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead and
17 do it.

18

19 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, no, I mean.....

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

22

23 MS. SHOCKLEY: Is the dates, maybe, if
24 you can, put the dates in as far as tribal consultation
25 prior to the next meeting, which I don't know what the
26 dates are.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I'm
29 sure that we're hearing her through my mic.....

30

31 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah, you need to
32 put your mic on.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:that
35 that was Dorothy. She recommends that the dates be put
36 in for the tribal consultation. So I'd be happy if you
37 make the motion, Dorothy, go ahead.

38

39 MS. SHOCKLEY: So -- well, I don't know
40 the dates yet so.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
43 going to try it.

44

45 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I make a
48 motion to defer WCR24-3 -- wait a minute, I got it --
49 WP24-35 with some time certain -- I can't give the

50

0308

1 time, but time.....

2

3

MS. SHOCKLEY: Before March 5th.

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:before
March 5th.....

7

8

MS. SHOCKLEY: The tribal consultation.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:the
tribal consultation be done for these two proposals,
actually, but referring to this one. I don't know if I
completed my sentence. Motion to defer to the next
meeting of our and all tribal consultation be done by
March 5th.

16

17

MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

18

19

20

21

22

23

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Speaking to
the motion, I think we've got a lot on the record that
we don't need to go through a bunch more, but there's
whispering behind me, there might be something missed.

24

25

26

27

28

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: It's a request to
make sure that these consultations are in person, not
on the phone or on the internet, it means more for the
people to talk face to face. Go ahead, Don.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

MR. WOODRUFF: I just have one comment
about ramifications of these proposals, for any
proposal. If the communities involved don't stay
engaged then things can roll over them like I mentioned
here yesterday. And I respect Carrie and Amanda, their
viewpoints, and, Randy, and I think that I respect and
honor their engagement and that's what it takes to make
a system work.

38

39

Thank you.

40

41

42

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Any more
discussion.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. WOODRUFF: Question.

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. And,
again, we'll ask for unanimous consent, anybody
opposed.

(No opposing votes)

0309

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Seeing or hearing
2 none.....

3
4 MS. POPE: Mr. Chair, this is Amanda --
5 Mr. Chair, this is Amanda Pope. I would like to
6 abstain due to mine -- due to this being my proposal.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So she's
9 abstaining.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah.

12
13 REPORTER: Got it, Amanda. Amanda
14 abstained.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Well,
17 DOI's supposed to call in Brooke says, so I guess
18 that's where we're at. Are they on the phone?

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, just
23 for the purpose of all, that was at 11:30 and we got
24 passed a note that it's at noon, so that's why we're at
25 noon for this call with DOI.

26
27 REPORTER: Charlie, do you want to
28 check if they're on the phone?

29
30 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Are they on
31 there?

32
33 REPORTER: Yeah, go ahead and ask.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: DOI, are you on
36 the phone.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

41
42 MS. MCDAVID: Do we have anyone with
43 OSM Leadership that can verify if we should be
44 expecting DOI now. Thank you.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: We could.....

47
48 MS. DETWILER: Hi, this is Sue Detwiler
49 with OSM and I am just getting ready -- I was just
50

0310

1 sending a chat now to the Department to let them know
2 that you're expecting them at noon so hopefully they'll
3 be on shortly, I'm just sending a message to them right
4 now.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you.

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So I guess in
11 light of time here, if everybody wants to get up and
12 grab a bowl of soup and come back and have like a
13 working lunch I think that would work best for our time
14 constraints.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 MS. DETWILER: I heard from the
19 Department that they should have someone online in a
20 minute or so.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For the
25 record, Charlie Jagow has to leave.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thanks for
30 coming.

31

32 MR. WOODRUFF: See you Charlie.

33

34 (Pause - goodbyes)

35

36 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair, this is Sue
37 Detwiler from OSM, and I understand that we have people
38 online right now, Raina Thiele and (Indiscernible - off
39 mic).....

40

41 REPORTER: Okay, Sue. Sue, this is
42 Tina. So the Council members are kind of getting their
43 lunch, right here in the room, they're going to eat
44 while they're listening, so if you could give us about
45 three minutes or so and I'll gather everyone up.

46

47 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Tina.

48

49 REPORTER: Alrighty. Okay, you guys,

50

0311

1 get your food, three minutes.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: DOI is waiting for you on
4 the phone.

5

6 REPORTER: So three minutes, get your
7 food so we can start.

8

9 MS. WESSELS: D.C., is not used to
10 waiting.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 MR. SAM: I'd like your autograph when
15 you're done.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 REPORTER: I'm not an important person
20 here.

21

22 MS. EVANS: What did you announce.

23

24 REPORTER: DOI is going to be on the
25 phone for their report so if everybody could get their
26 lunch or whatever and then come sit back down so we can
27 listen.

28

29 MR. SAM: You're keeping everybody in
30 line, see, that's what I mean.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 (Pause)

35

36 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Back to order,
37 please.

38

39 REPORTER: Yes, go ahead.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: DOI.

42

43 REPORTER: Yes.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: DOI, you on the
46 phone.

47

48 MR. GARRIOTT: Hi, this is Wizipan
49 Garriott, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of

50

0312

1 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Please repeat
4 your name, we're having technical difficulties.

5

6 MS. THIELE: Hi, this is.....

7

8 MS. SHOCKLEY: Could he please repeat
9 his name.

10

11 REPORTER: Could you -- okay, I'm going
12 to need both of you to repeat your name a little bit
13 slower, and, go ahead.

14

15 MR. : Hi. This is Wizipan Garriott.
16 I am the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for
17 Indian Affairs.

18

19 MS. THIELE: And this is.....

20

21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Welcome.

22

23 MS. THIELE:Raina Thiele. I
24 serve as Senior Advisory for Alaska Affairs, Secretary
25 of the Interior Deb Haaland.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Welcome. Thank
28 you.

29

30 REPORTER: Go ahead.

31

32 MR. GARRIOTT: Would you like us to go
33 now?

34

35 REPORTER: Yes, go ahead.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I don't think
38 they could hear me.

39

40 MR. GARRIOTT: Okay, thanks. Hello,
41 good afternoon, my name is Wizipan Garriott. I am the
42 Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
43 here at the Department of Interior. Assistant
44 Secretary Brian Newland had originally planned on
45 attending but he got pulled away for an urgent matter
46 that he had to attend and so I'm here participating on
47 his behalf today.

48

49 Always good to connect with our folks

50

0313

1 and people from far up north. Always enjoy the
2 opportunity to visit and always learn so much every
3 time I come up there.
4

5 I wanted to kind of provide a quick
6 update on where we're at in terms of, you know, the
7 appropriation process and proposed move, you know, as
8 folks know in our fiscal year '24, budget request to
9 Congress, that we had included a transfer of the OSM
10 Office from where it currently sits to the Office of
11 the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and that was
12 included in our budget request to Congress. But as
13 everyone knows we still -- the government do not have a
14 budget, we are currently operating in a continuing
15 resolution which means that the funding authorizations
16 and funding levels from the previous fiscal year are
17 essentially carried out on a pro rata basis and so this
18 extension, this continuing resolution is for 45 days.
19 In the mark ups that were included for those bills, the
20 House Appropriations side did not include the transfer
21 of the office, but the Senate did include a transfer of
22 the office but that was to the Office of the Secretary
23 and not to the Office of the Assistant Secretary. And
24 so what happens in that process is that if there's two
25 conflicting, or two different authorizations provided,
26 you know, in different -- between the House and Senate
27 versions, those have to get worked out between the two
28 bodies. And so currently what that means is that there
29 -- for the current fiscal year -- we are in fiscal year
30 '24, that there is no move and that everything would
31 continue at the same funding levels, at the same kind
32 of funding authorizations for the foreseeable future
33 until such time that we either get another continuing
34 resolution or a full years appropriation.
35

36 I hope that that is helpful to folks as
37 we kind of take stock of where we're at moving forward
38 and also the Secretaries -- the Senior Advisory to
39 Alaska Affairs, Raina Thiele is on and, you know, we're
40 both available to answer any questions.
41

42 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: All right, the
43 Chairmanship has moved from Charlie to myself, Sue
44 Entsminger. Are there any questions.
45

46 (No comments)
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would ask,
49 is it possible to get that written in a report that you
50

0314

1 just gave us?

2

3 MR. GARRIOTT: I believe so, yes. We
4 can kind of pull that together and get it over and we
5 can follow up with that.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be
8 nice, thank you. Anybody have any questions.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just hang on
13 a second, I think we might have a question, from one of
14 the Council members.

15

16 MS. SHOCKLEY: So this is Dorothy on
17 the Board.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
20 Dorothy.

21

22 MS. SHOCKLEY: So to be clear, because
23 there isn't a budget is the reason why you haven't
24 moved out of -- or into another Department, is that
25 correct?

26

27 MR. GARRIOTT: Yeah. Yeah,
28 essentially. And so, you know, what the proposed move
29 was contingent upon authorization through the
30 appropriations process. Basically, you know, what that
31 means is, you know, is that being authorized, you know,
32 to -- to make the move so that would be funded from
33 essentially one budget line item to a different budget
34 line item and because that hasn't happened it prevents
35 us from making that move right now.

36

37 MS. SHOCKLEY: Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
40 members, you have any other questions.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I just
45 want the record to reflect, I think we have Amanda and
46 Andy online, and Charlie Wright [sic] has -- also had
47 to leave so I'm assuming we have six. Okay, go ahead.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0315

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you
2 very much. Is the other person going to speak also?

3
4 MS. THIELE: Are you speaking to us on
5 the phone or is there an internal conversation
6 happening in the room?

7
8 REPORTER: She wanted to know if you
9 wanted the other gal to talk.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, this is
12 very hard to follow and we apologize, but I have some
13 questions of the gentleman that just spoke. How do you
14 foresee this changing? This whole process is under
15 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and we're very
16 accustomed to that and you're -- how do you foresee
17 this changing?

18
19 MR. GARRIOTT: So, and Raina can
20 provide kind of some further notes, especially on the
21 engagement process, but, you know, in a number of
22 consultations and meetings that the office has had up
23 in Alaska and meeting with folks, you know, one of the
24 very clear recommendations was that, you know, people
25 wanted to see the office moved from where it currently
26 sits to the Office of the Assistant Secretary to
27 better, kind of fulfill it's mission, you know, to
28 subsistence users. And so we think and feel and why
29 the proposed move was done was so that it would be
30 closer to the Office of the Secretary, you know, gone
31 through the Office of the Assistant Secretary so that
32 subsistence users, so that the Board would have more
33 direct interaction and more direct communication with
34 the Office of the Secretary, through the Assistant
35 Secretary.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
38 Chairing the meeting I always like to make sure
39 everybody -- the Council members have their questions,
40 so is there -- because I have a couple more and.....

41
42 MS. THIELE: And this is Raina, if I
43 could just add on really briefly to.....

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who's that?

46
47 MS. THIELE: Can you.....

48
49 REPORTER: It's the other person, Ms.
50

0316

1 Thiele.

2

3

MS. THIELE:hear me?

4

5

6

REPORTER: We can, just a moment. Can she talk, Sue?

7

8

9

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go ahead, it's very cumbersome with this system we have right now. So we -- but go ahead.

10

11

12

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MS. THIELE: Yeah, I know you guys are working with a different kind of a set up there, I think there was some issues with that before I jumped on the phone so no worries at all. But I just wanted to kind of add on to what Wizi said and let folks know in terms of the operational differences, that there should not be differences in the access that OSM has to the technical expertise across the agencies, including the Fish and Wildlife Service, we're hoping that this would, in fact, enhance that access and also cut down on some of the bureaucratic process that seems to elongate and make things a little bit longer to clear, including things like the appointments.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I think there's people in Alaska that would say if we are working directly with D.C., we're way not connected, and that's a concern of mine. You know if you're not here in Alaska it just seems like there could be a disconnect so I think that's why I was trying to ask how do you see it working in a practical way?

MS. THIELE: Yeah, so the office would stay put there in Alaska kind of similar to how the Secretary Office in Alaska is situated with Sarah Taylor and other folks that are in the state of Alaska.

MR. GARRIOTT: And I should have -- and I apologize, I should have been a little bit more clear that -- thank you for that clarification of the question. You know, again, that practical, on the ground, manner, you know, the office as Raina mentioned, it would stay where it currently is. All of the Staff, you know, would have the option of transferring over so, you know, we would foresee that all -- that, you know, a good majority, if not all of the Staff would stay the same and remain. The part that would be changed and the enhancement is that back

0317

1 there on the ground would have a direct line to D.C.,
2 as opposed to going through, you know, several
3 additional steps of government.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
6 that. Any other Council members have any other
7 questions.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Madame Chair, Andy.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14 I guess maybe a little bit more clarification. I'm
15 hearing you say that nothing will really change on the
16 ground, we're pretty reliant on U.S. Fish and Wildlife
17 Service for dual management in our fisheries, also
18 involved in a number of projects on the ground for data
19 collection and such, is that going to change, will they
20 have to move over or will they be still continuing
21 those boots on the ground type efforts directly
22 involved with the resources? Is this basically an
23 administrative change and that's it, or is the
24 responsibility of data collection, co-management also
25 going to have to change?

26

27 MR. GARRIOTT: Raina, did you.....

28

29 MS. THIELE: I can.....

30

31 MR. GARRIOTT: Okay.

32

33 MS. THIELE: Yeah, I can do it. So the
34 core functions of OSM would all stay intact and some
35 folks would move over, some folks would likely,
36 depending on, I know there are folks from Fish and
37 Wildlife Service who do some work for non-OSM program
38 but as well to help out with OSM so there would be some
39 work to ensure that we have continuity in all of those
40 different activities and all of that expertise and all
41 of that work still continue to feed into the resources
42 that OSM is able to access to help drive their work.

43

44 MS. DETWILER: And, Madame Chair,
45 Raina, and Wizi, this is Sue Detwiler. I could add
46 just a point of clarification if you want on that.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Absolutely,
49 go ahead.

50

0318

1 MS. DETWILER: And so that -- the way
2 that the in-season fisheries works is through
3 delegation of authorities to the agency so even though
4 we're with -- OSM is within the Fish and Wildlife
5 Service, the in-season fisheries management works via a
6 delegation of authority from the Board to the agency
7 land managers so those -- that delegation for the Yukon
8 River fisheries and other fisheries management would
9 remain the same. So even if OSM were moved out of Fish
10 and Wildlife Service we would still be working with the
11 Board to help them with the delegation of -- delegation
12 of authority to the agency land managers. So the
13 Yukon River fisheries implementation -- in-season
14 management would remain the same regardless of where
15 OSM is located, it would still be delegated to the --
16 to Holly Carroll in the case of the Yukon River. So
17 that wouldn't change.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any follow up
22 questions.

23
24 MR. GARRIOTT: Then one additional
25 note.

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 REPORTER: Go ahead.

30
31 (Pause)

32
33 MR. GARRIOTT: Yeah, this is Wizi.
34 Yep, one thing I will also mention that reminded me, in
35 our fiscal year '24 budget request to Congress, you
36 know, we did ask for an additional 1.5 million dollars
37 for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. And,
38 you know, this would -- if I recall correctly, you
39 know, really kind of helps the capacity and
40 capabilities, I mean we also had made a \$1 million
41 request additional for a new wildlife resource
42 monitoring program that would essentially operate, you
43 know, kind of similar to the Fisheries Monitoring
44 Program, which would provide for a lot more information
45 and data for the Federal Subsistence wildlife
46 management portion of things.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
49 Any other questions.

50

0319

1 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
4 Brooke.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: I have an email.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
9 Brooke has an email.

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: I just wanted to ask,
12 Amanda Pope, if you're on the line, you had emailed me
13 some concerns earlier this spring when this had been
14 brought to your attention and I could read those now to
15 see if you wanted them addressed or you could bring
16 them up on your own, if you're on, just let me know.

17

18 MS. POPE: Hi, Brooke. For the record
19 this is Amanda Pope. And I'm a Board member for EIRAC.
20 The majority of my concerns was that it would put more
21 (indiscernible - breaks up) on the Indian Affairs, and
22 where the Indian Affairs office already has a lot to do
23 with Native allotments and -- and that whole process is
24 -- it takes a long time to go through and a lot of the
25 feedback that I've gotten from people regarding moving
26 the office is that it would -- it would put more
27 stress, I guess, on the office that already deals with
28 Native allotments, et cetera and probates.

29

30 So the other concern I had was that it
31 would put subsistence users in the category where not
32 all subsistence users are Native, per se, so I feel
33 like that would put the Alaskan subsistence users in a
34 difficult situation and I don't know if you guys have
35 thought about that or -- those were just my two
36 concerns about this topic.

37

38 Thank you, Brooke, for bringing that
39 up. I just wasn't sure if this was the right time to
40 say this because I had already reached out to the
41 representatives on behalf of myself as a subsistence
42 user so as a Board member I had wanted to share that
43 with you guys and see what you thought.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. GARRIOTT: Absolutely. And I'll
48 kind of answer those in order. You know in making the
49 decision to include this proposal in the fiscal year

50

0320

1 '24 budget request, you know, a lot of thought and
2 contemplation was put into it from, you know, various
3 groups and parties and really thinking about, you know,
4 not only the process but, you know, that basic core
5 question you asked, you know, do we have the capacity
6 and the answer, we felt, was yes, which is, you know,
7 part of why the proposed move was from an authority
8 standpoint but also from just a basic standpoint, you
9 know, contingent upon having that funding authorization
10 so that the resources for supporting that would
11 continue. Well, actually not just continue to remain
12 the same but we also asked for additional resources. I
13 think a lot of times our challenges are not -- just not
14 having the resources to have the Staff to be able to do
15 everything that's needed, and in this case because the
16 move was, you know, contingent upon, you know, having
17 not only the equal amount of resources, but additional
18 resources we felt very comfortable in being able to,
19 you know, manage it. And then that kind of relates
20 directly to this other question, you know, concern that
21 you've raised in the sense that, you know, under
22 ANILCA, you know, it's for rural subsistence users,
23 right, it's not necessarily tied to being Alaska
24 Native. There are other instances where Indian Affairs
25 serves non-Indians and there's some examples -- for
26 example we operate a powerplant that serves a lot,
27 many, actually the majority of the users are non-Indian
28 and so I would say that it's not common but it's not --
29 but it's something that we do actually do do from time
30 to time and so we felt that, you know, given our
31 expertise in certain areas and our close ties to Indian
32 Country while also, you know, having that experience in
33 serving a wide group of people, constituents, that we
34 would be able to do the job.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank
37 you.

38
39 MS. POPE: Madame Chair, this is
40 Amanda.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
43 Amanda.

44
45 MS. POPE: Madame Chair, this is Amanda
46 Pope. May I speak again.

47
48 REPORTER: Go ahead, Amanda.

49
50

0321

1 MS. POPE: I just wanted to reply back
2 to that and say thank you for the information. I was
3 just sharing some of the points that I had gotten from
4 the people of my area. So thank you for your time.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
7 you, Amanda. I share a lot of your concerns that you
8 brought up there. Yeah, I think my biggest concern it
9 being in D.C., and do we even -- I mean this is
10 informational, it's not really an action item for us.
11 We're just getting information here and I think there
12 are some concerns that some of us would have to -- boy,
13 you're just putting a whole new thing on to this
14 process and it's a lot to absorb and I appreciate you
15 bringing the report to us. But it's more informational
16 than us talking about it. You've heard some of the
17 concerns and questions and I think that's about all we
18 can do.

19
20 So any other Council members have
21 anything, comments.

22
23 MS. MCDAVID: You could write a letter.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I am told
26 by Staff that we could write a letter if we want and so
27 that requires a motion.

28
29 Council members, interested.

30
31 MS. POPE: Madame Chair, this is Amanda
32 Pope.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
35 Amanda.

36
37 MS. POPE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
38 just wanted to offer the opportunity for us to speak to
39 the tribes that we represent probably before we make a
40 letter but that's my opinion. Just because I would
41 like their point of view on this matter. It would be
42 great for them to know everything that it entails.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
47 Amanda. I'm sitting here thinking that it's really
48 hard to comment on something you have no idea how it
49 would work until it starts and then it would be too
50

0322

1 late. So this is a tough one, given my age, and the
2 way government's pretty slow, it might not happen right
3 away. But it will affect people and I think it's
4 important to be -- for our government to represent all
5 of us. So I mean that's what I would like to portray.

6
7 If the Council has no more questions or
8 wanting to write a letter.

9
10 MS. SHOCKLEY: I have one.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
13 Dorothy has a question.

14
15 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, I don't have a
16 question, but just a comment. In regards to the move,
17 I know -- I mean I've only heard good things about it
18 from people I've talked to. I know most of the tribes
19 are in favor of the move so just wanted to make that
20 point.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, and I
25 appreciate that. I really understand that but, you
26 know, in all respect and in all -- for everyone, it's
27 really hard as a non-Native sometimes because I don't
28 have an entity that I can go to, it's just the non-
29 Native doesn't have an organization that you can go to
30 so sometimes that's really hard to feel like you're
31 really being represented as well as you'd like to be
32 but we deal with that so it's just something I would
33 bring out.

34
35 MS. SHOCKLEY: This is Dorothy again.
36 We feel like that all the time as a Native person. We
37 don't have anybody to go to.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

40
41 MS. SHOCKLEY: So, yeah, it's
42 interesting to hear the reverse I guess.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Yeah.
45 Well, I appreciate that.

46
47 MS. SHOCKLEY: Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I
50

0323

1 guess we're feeling exactly the same then. And I think
2 it comes right down to just the local people that live
3 in Alaska and there's all this stuff above you that
4 you're dealing with and honestly the stuff that I care
5 about, the resource, I could have two jobs 40 hours a
6 week just to follow what's going on out there, there's
7 so much stuff going on that you really care about and
8 you just can't be involved in all of it. So that's
9 where it comes home to me pretty hard. And I think
10 it's great for Washington, D.C., to hear that, so --
11 not only myself but even my Native neighbors feel the
12 same way. So it's something that I think you guys
13 ought to hear and understand.

14
15 Maybe you can't, but just like here in
16 Arctic Village trying to have a meeting and
17 teleconference and having to use a cell phone and
18 having to use a system, it gets cut off and things
19 aren't working so good so, yeah, there's some
20 frustrations we all deal with so I would like to just
21 let you all know that we share that.

22
23 Okay, Council members anything else.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

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

29
30 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I just wanted
31 to make a comment. I echo both of your sentiments on
32 this and I think, you know, one of the things I see is
33 a little bit of divide starting to happen and I just
34 want to remind people that subsistence living is a
35 philosophy of life and it has nothing to do with what
36 kind of blood runs in your veins, it's a philosophy of
37 life, it's a way of living, it's a belief, it's not an
38 easy thing to do and all subsistence users have
39 everything in common with each other and it's about
40 working together to protect that lifestyle and that's
41 the perspective I always come into it from and I hope
42 that we can continue to foster that because I think
43 we're a lot more powerful if we all work together to
44 protect that lifestyle, that philosophy of life, that
45 spirituality that goes into being close to the land.

46
47 That's all I wanted to say, thank you.
48 I think it's important that that's reflected in the
49 record.

50

0324

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Andy.
2 Anyone else.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is
7 there any other report from DOI?

8
9 MR. GARRIOTT: I just wanted to say
10 thank you to everyone for their honesty and candidness
11 and, you know, I think one of the -- we've kind of
12 started off discussing the decision for the request to
13 Congress to make the move was so that people's voices
14 would be better heard, and to hopefully, while keeping
15 things operational on the ground, remove some of the
16 barriers that can kind of happen with layers of
17 government. So really appreciate everything that
18 everyone has said.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Dorothy.

23
24 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yes, Raina is on as
25 well, if she'd like to make a comment.

26
27 MS. THIELE: Yeah, I just wanted to say
28 thank you so much. I don't know if you guys can hear
29 me.

30
31 REPORTER: So whoever was just talking,
32 could you go ahead and repeat yourself.

33
34 MS. THIELE: Could you all hear me?

35
36 REPORTER: No, could you repeat
37 yourself, just, right now.

38
39 MS. THIELE: Yes, thank you. This is
40 Raina. I just wanted to echo what Wizi stated, which
41 is to thank all of you for allowing us to speak with
42 you all today, answer a few questions. We appreciate
43 your perspectives and look forward to keeping in touch.

44
45 Thank you so much.

46
47 REPORTER: Okay, Dorothy, go ahead, did
48 you want to say more.

49
50

0325

1 MS. SHOCKLEY: I wanted to see if she
2 had any comments.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
5 you. We're just making sure everybody was heard here.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, if
10 there isn't anything else I appreciate it.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And actually
15 the only other question I would have, what's the
16 timeframe for this to happen?

17
18 MS. SHOCKLEY: It's up to Congress.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Uh-huh. Yes.

21
22 MR. GARRIOTT: I could -- the timeframe
23 is -- yeah, we were hoping that we would have a fiscal
24 year '24 budget by, you know, October 1st, obviously
25 that did not happen, you know, and so right now, you
26 know, it's just a bit of in limbo, in the sense that we
27 have a continuing resolution for 45 days, you know,
28 which kind of keeps things status quo and if there is a
29 budget passed, you know, within -- by the end of that
30 45 day timeframe, we would then have a lot more clarity
31 in terms of whether this would happen or not happen.
32 But it's hard to look into a crystal ball and kind of
33 anticipate what's going to happen from that standpoint.
34 So, you know, we share some of your concerns and
35 frustrations in terms of not being -- having all this
36 uncertainty and clarity.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you
39 very much. Okay, well, we appreciate the report, we
40 thank you both.

41
42 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you.

43
44 MS. THIELE: Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
47 members, do you need a break or are we good to just
48 keep moving.

49
50

0326

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh?

4

5 MS. EVANS: Keep moving.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
8 we're moving. Has any -- I've got six of us here so
9 this 24-07, it might be something that we aren't that
10 concerned about, I don't know.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MS. MCDAVID: Would you like.....

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

17

18 MS. MCDAVID: Would you like a preview
19 of what it could be about and then you could decide if
20 you want to take it up.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you're
23 going to give the preview. A preview. And you know
24 how we -- a short version of a preview would be.

25

26 MS. WESSELS: If you bring it.....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh?

29

30 MS. MCDAVID: You said last time they
31 could hear a snippet and then decide.....

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

34

35 MS. WESSELS: I said a.....

36

37 MS. MCDAVID:if they wanted to
38 take it up.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: A snippet, okay.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I don't
43 need a full introduction, a snippet, and then we don't
44 have to -- because if they do the whole introduction we
45 got to go through this whole process and we don't need
46 to do that.

47

48 MR. PLANK: How about a snippet of the
49 next three.

50

0327

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be
2 fine.

3
4 MS. WESSELS: No, you.....

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's start
7 with the first one.

8
9 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madame Chair.
10 Members of the Council. For the record my name is Tom
11 Plank, Wildlife Biologist, Office of Subsistence
12 Management. And WP24-07 is for Unit 17 -- I mean --
13 sorry -- Unit 7 trapping exclusions. This is a
14 proposal that is specific to Unit 7 and 14 and the
15 reason why it's in your book for consideration is
16 because it's being presented to all Councils because
17 the results of this would affect all Federally-
18 qualified subsistence users trapping under Federal
19 regulations.

20
21 MS. SHOCKLEY: And how will that.....

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we'll
24 just have to be careful on the introduction. This is a
25 snippet so -- and I had the same question I know you're
26 going to.....

27
28 MS. SHOCKLEY: I guess.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How does that
31 affect trappers.

32
33 MS. SHOCKLEY: How does it affect the
34 State, the whole.....

35
36 REPORTER: Dorothy, your mic.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You got to
39 turn your mic on.

40
41 REPORTER: Yep, turn the mic on please.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don't be
44 afraid.....

45
46 MS. SHOCKLEY: So you say it will
47 affect all trappers, I mean it doesn't even say what
48 it's all about, but.....

49
50

0328

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: See he.....

2

3 MS. SHOCKLEY:statewide it would
4 affect everybody, and how is that?

5

6 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Council Member
7 Shockley. My recommendation would be to turn to Page
8 253, which is where it would start and it is statewide
9 because all users have C&T for furbearers in Unit 7.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, that's
12 why. Oh, okay, hey, Dorothy, I can tell you as --
13 whenever the Federal government took over management,
14 there's a whole bunch of them that did not get C&Ts so
15 everybody qualifies.....

16

17 MS. SHOCKLEY: Uh-huh.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:that's
20 why. And then so this one was specific to 7 plus 14 --
21 and 14 -- I don't feel like we need to take it up
22 because they're just saying you guys could go trap
23 there because you have a C&T for there, because they
24 never did a C&T.

25

26 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay,
29 that's helpful.

30

31 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yep.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I
34 would say -- I would recommend moving on and getting
35 another snippet.

36

37 MS. WESSELS: So you're not taking up
38 07?

39

40 MS. MCDAVID: They're not taking up 07.

41

42 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

43

44 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 Members of the Council. So the next one is going to be
46 on Page 261 of your meeting books.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Remember this
49 is a snippet.

50

0329

1 MR. PLANK: It's just a snippet.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

4

5 MR. PLANK: So I'm just letting you
6 know where it's at in your book if you wanted to infer
7 more.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

10

11 MR. PLANK: This is Wildlife Proposal
12 WP24-09 and it is for Unit 13A and 13B.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And all it is
15 is a delegation of authority letter. And just for the
16 Council members, I'll add to your snippet, to what you
17 just finished.

18

19 The SRC from our region, which I'm on
20 took it up and they actually passed it. It's pretty
21 much a simple thing. And I think we've been already
22 represented by the SRC.

23

24 So this is an effort to move the
25 meeting along. Sometimes you do get a little tired
26 when it's not in your area, especially at the end of
27 the meeting. I think it's been covered by our local
28 people and I would say that's -- we don't need to take
29 it up.

30

31 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, as long as it
32 doesn't come into my backyard.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I love it.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It probably
39 won't, it's in Unit 13. Okay. And, again, that's
40 because our region has a C&T for Unit 12 -- Unit 12 has
41 a C&T on the caribou.

42

43 All right, snippet No. 3.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 Members of the Council. Snippet No. 3 is for WP24-28
49 and 29. And this is a combined analysis for the

50

0330

1 Western Arctic Caribou Herd and that's on Page 295 in
2 your book. And the reason this is being brought to you
3 is because at least two villages in your region has
4 C&T, which is Stevens Village and Tanana and that could
5 be found on Page 309.

6
7 (Pause)

8
9 MS. SHOCKLEY: What page?

10
11 MR. PLANK: Thank you. It starts on
12 Page 295 but the C&T is on 309, so if you wanted to see
13 the entirety of the C&T for these proposals.

14
15 MS. MCDAVID: Is Charlie coming back?

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Charlie
18 -- I was asked if Charlie Wright is coming back and he
19 is coming back but he's taking care of a gift to the
20 Chief here, something that he wouldn't have time to do
21 and he wanted to have time so he left, and, yes, he is
22 coming back and he didn't think it'd be over 10 minutes
23 but it probably has been. And you asked that question
24 for what reason, because it's his area?

25
26 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, because Tanana is
27 included in the C&T.....

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.

30
31 MS. MCDAVID:he might be
32 interested.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I think
35 we would be okay waiting for Charlie for this one and
36 if he wants to take it up or not.

37
38 MR. WOODRUFF: I do.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You want to
41 take it up, okay, so that's all it needs to be taken
42 up. Do you want to wait until Charlie's here.

43
44 MR. WOODRUFF: That would be good
45 but.....

46
47 REPORTER: Don.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mic.

50

0331

1 MR. WOODRUFF: I just have one little
2 thing to say about this proposal. I read through it
3 and read all the data and looked at the graphs about
4 how fast the herd doubles and how fast it's depleted
5 and there is no justification for harvest of cows if
6 there's a conservation concern. If you go hunting in
7 October at this time, and they're rutting, you have to
8 go hunting again because you can't harvest cows,
9 period.

10

11 That's all I got to say, thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
14 that's discussing the proposal.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So all I'm
19 asking, Don, are you okay if we wait until Charlie gets
20 back.

21

22 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
25 will take it up when Charlie gets back.

26

27 All right, so the next one is the
28 statewide one for the sale of brown bears. I can tell
29 you a cute snippet. I think that came from the SRC
30 that I'm on, a member, and his intention wasn't written
31 in the proposal, it was supposed to be for just our
32 area and it went into statewide. So -- and then they
33 said, okay, let's take it up as statewide so that's why
34 we're there. Are we okay for taking that one up.

35

36 (Council nods affirmatively)

37

38 MR. VICKERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 My name is Brent Vickers from the Office of Subsistence
40 Management. The analysis for this proposal begins on
41 -- I didn't check the page, can you tell me the
42 page.....

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: 363.

45

46 MR. VICKERS: 363 of your Council
47 books. Sorry for that. It was submitted by Caleb
48 Rowland of McCarthy.....

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rowland.

2

3 MR. VICKERS: Rowland, thank you. It
4 is requested to allow the sale of brown bear hides.

5

6 The proponent states that Federally-
7 qualified subsistence users in many areas of Alaska
8 must salvage the hides of brown bears, however, the
9 hides must not be sold. The proponent continues that
10 the hides of many other legally harvested big game
11 species may be sold and brown bears should be added to
12 this list.

13

14 First of all, let's make it clear, that
15 sections of the regulatory booklet produced for the
16 public that describe legal uses of brown bears is
17 actually incorrect. This happens from time to time --
18 sorry about that -- the Code of Federal regulations,
19 which is correct, regarding the utilization of brown
20 bears are correctly reflected in the appendix of the
21 analysis that is in your meeting book. When
22 considering this proposal it is important to note that
23 this is a -- that this is legal under State
24 regulations, including on most Federal public lands,
25 except for those lands designated as National Park or
26 Monument, which are only open to hunting under Federal
27 subsistence regulations. This means that the primary
28 effect of adopting this proposal will be to allow the
29 sale of hide of a brown bear harvested on lands
30 designated as National Park or Monument, for example
31 the Denali National Park, that part that is open to
32 subsistence; Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, these
33 are both within your region.

34

35 Under State regulations, the hide of
36 legally harvested brown bear harvest must be sold only
37 if taken in an area with a two brown bear harvest
38 limit. This means that another primary effect of
39 adopting the proposal will be to allow of the sale of
40 any brown bear taken on Federal public lands -- to
41 allow for the sale of any brown bear taken as the
42 proposal is written. This is a statewide proposal that
43 will be reviewed by all 10 Regional Advisory Councils.
44 Each Council can inform the Board whether the
45 regulation is culturally appropriate for their region.

46

47 If this proposal is adopted, the edible
48 meat of a brown bear must be salvaged, the hide must
49 have the claws attached, and the hide must be sealed by
50

0333

1 ADF&G before it can be removed from the area according
2 to already existing Federal regulations.

3

4

5 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
6 support the proposal with modification to allow for the
7 sale of brown bear hides with claws attached in areas
8 where Federal harvest limit is two bears every
9 regulatory year and after first obtaining a permit
10 available at the time of sealing from ADF&G sealing
11 officer.

12

13

14 The OSM modification to the proposal
15 limits -- puts limits on the sale of brown bear hides.
16 The sale of brown bear hides can only occur for brown
17 bears shown to be legally harvested from Federal public
18 lands under Federal regulations and only in areas where
19 there is a two brown bear harvest limit in Federal
20 regulations.

21

22

23 A consideration is the Convention of
24 International Trade and Endangered Species with
25 wildlife, fauna and flora, or CITES, which provides for
26 the commercial trade of hides and legally harvested
27 brown bears only if the State of export issues permits
28 reporting that the trade will not be detrimental to the
29 survival of the species in the wild. Therefore, a
30 permit from ADF&G is required. Alaska Department --
31 ADF&G issues this type of permit before the hide of the
32 brown bear legally harvested under State regulations
33 can be sold only in areas where with two brown bear
34 harvest limit, allowing for the sale -- hide of -- sale
35 of the hide of the brown bear harvested from other
36 areas would require negotiations with State over the
37 use of its permitting system. Tools exist for the
38 Board to harvest -- to use it -- to use if harvest were
39 to rise above sustainable yields in an area. The tools
40 include reducing seasons and harvest limits, placing
41 monetary caps on sales on a region by region basis, and
42 requiring permits for and reporting of sales.

43

44

45 Again, this is a statewide proposal
46 that will be reviewed by all 10 Councils, each Council
47 can inform the Board whether the regulation is
48 culturally appropriate for their region.

49

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64

65

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions
about the introduction.

0334

1 MS. SHOCKLEY: I have a question.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

4

5 MS. SHOCKLEY: In regards to the
6 proposal, I see a list of all of the animals that are
7 -- that can be sold, but I don't see black bear, why is
8 that?

9

10 MR. VICKERS: I don't know why. That's
11 a good question. Perhaps there's not been a proposal.
12 I -- this is for brown bear so if anyone else -- I know
13 Pippa, for example, if you have a response to that, I
14 haven't looked at the history of the black bear sales.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MR. VICKERS: And if we can't get an
19 answer for you today we can try to produce one, but,
20 again, I think probably just look into the history and
21 regulations of brown bear sales and so I don't have an
22 answer for you, not having written this analysis
23 myself.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're
26 verifying where.....

27

28 MS. SHOCKLEY: Page 363.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 363.

31

32 MS. SHOCKLEY: Uh-huh.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And there's a
35 list.

36

37 MS. SHOCKLEY: Harvest of brown bear,
38 caribou, deer, moose, muskox.....

39

40 REPORTER: Dorothy.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Your mic.
43 You need to turn your mic on.

44

45 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. Page 363 there's
46 a list of raw and tanned hides are taken from legally
47 harvested brown bear, caribou, deer, elk, goat, moose,
48 muskox and sheep and so I was just curious why black
49 bears aren't involved.

50

0335

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's probably
2 not in regulation yet. I'm -- so someone needs to
3 answer that question because I think there's places in
4 Alaska where black bear -- I know it's in our region
5 that you can sell black bear hides because an elder in
6 the Tanacross area, she's deceased now, she wanted to
7 be able to make handicrafts and sell them with black
8 bear so it -- I'm pretty sure it got passed in State
9 regs but I don't know what happened.

10

11 And, Dorothy, a lot of times when
12 something's in State regs, they got to put in joint
13 proposals to get it to be in both and I'd have to look.

14

15 MS. MCDAVID: Just standby, we're
16 hoping to find an answer here. If not, that could be a
17 possible flag for a future proposal if the Council is
18 interested.

19

20 MR. VICKERS: Tom Plank just handed me
21 our handbook on Federal subsistence harvest of wildlife
22 and on Page 19 under information for all bear hunters.
23 Sealing of bear skins and skulls. Sealing requirements
24 apply to brown bear taken in all units except as
25 specified below. Sealing requirements for black bears
26 for all color phases must be taken in Units 1 through
27 7, 13 through 17 and 20, see page for sealing
28 requirements in brown bear handicrafts -- I -- is this
29 about the sale, sorry?

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: I think I might have an
32 answer.....

33

34 MR. VICKERS: Thank you.

35

36 MS. MCDAVID:for the question.
37 This is just talking about the species that are
38 required to be sealed, is that correct, because if --
39 black bear might not be required to be sealed in the
40 same way that brown bear is.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can tell
43 you that black bears in Alaska they were sealing them
44 and they quit unless they're going to be sold or tanned
45 in the Lower 48. If they just stay in Alaska they
46 don't have to be sealed.

47

48 MS. SHOCKLEY: It doesn't say anything
49 about.....

50

0336

1 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

4 Dorothy one more thing and then is that Amanda.

5

6 REPORTER: No, it's Pippa Kenner. Hold

7 on Pippa, we're going to have Dorothy talk first.

8

9 MS. KENNER: If you could.....

10

11 REPORTER: Okay, hold on Pippa.

12

13 MS. KENNER: Okey-doke.

14

15 REPORTER: Okay, Dorothy go ahead.

16

17 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, I just read the

18 proposal and it doesn't say anything about sealed. So

19 that was just my comment. I mean I'm just curious

20 because, you know, it names everything else and I'm

21 just curious and are they allowed.....

22

23 MS. MCDAVID: I believe we might have

24 Lisa Grediagin online who will address the Council.

25 Thank you.

26

27 REPORTER: So Lisa?

28

29 MS. MCDAVID: Yes.

30

31 REPORTER: Are you there, Lisa?

32

33 MS. KENNER: No, this is Pippa.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's Pippa.

36

37 REPORTER: I know Pippa's here too but

38 she asked me to ask for Lisa.

39

40 MS. KENNER: I'm the author of the

41 analysis.

42

43 REPORTER: Okay, but somebody was just

44 asking if Lisa.....

45

46 MS. KENNER: Hi, Madame Chair.....

47

48 REPORTER: No, wait a minute, Pippa.

49 Somebody was just asking if Lisa Grediagin was online,

50

0337

1 are you online Lisa.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. KENNER: Yeah -- yeah, but I'm
6 online and I wrote it so.

7

8 REPORTER: Okay, go ahead, Pippa.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So this is
11 Lisa.

12

13 REPORTER: No, it's Pippa and she would
14 like to talk, she wrote it.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

17

18 REPORTER: Pippa, go ahead.

19

20 MS. KENNER: Okay. Could you please
21 repeat what the question was, I want to apologize
22 because I (indiscernible - breaks up).

23

24 MS. MCDAVID: So do we.....

25

26 MS. KENNER: There was a question about
27 black bears not being included in the list of animals
28 for which you can sell the hide and that is true, we
29 haven't -- we have received proposals that is
30 documented in the analysis but the Board did not adopt
31 that proposal.

32

33 I have more information on that in
34 front of me if you'd like it.

35

36 There were other questions about brown
37 bear sealing and there are -- or there are large areas
38 in the state where unless you're removing the hide from
39 the area you do not need to get it sealed.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And just to
42 clarify, Pippa, that's Alaska. If it's not shipped out
43 of Alaska it does not need to be sealed, that's the
44 sealing requirements for the State, I deal with it.....

45

46 MS. KENNER: If it's not sealed.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:all the
49 time.

50

0338

1 MS. KENNER: If it's not sent out -- if
2 it's not sent out of the management unit. The idea
3 being during subsistence hunts and somebody takes a
4 brown bear, they do not have to go through the effort
5 of getting it sealed if they're using it where they --
6 or they hunted for it and they are using it where they
7 live.

8
9 MS. SHOCKLEY: I mean my question was
10 why.....

11
12 MS. KENNER: And there's.....

13
14 MS. SHOCKLEY:black bears weren't
15 included in the list on the proposal in regulations.

16
17 MS. KENNER: So we have received a
18 proposal -- let me get to it -- we did receive a
19 proposal, I think it was back in 2002, the Board
20 received a proposal from Fort Yukon to allow the sale
21 of black and brown bear hides. Again, every Council in
22 the state took up the issue, they came back with
23 different recommendations and in the end the Board
24 adopted the -- the majority recommendation, which was
25 only to allow the sale of handicrafts incorporating
26 brown [sic] bear fur, not the pelt itself.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pippa, she
29 was asking.....

30
31 MS. SHOCKLEY: What does that have
32 to.....

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:about
35 black bear.

36
37 REPORTER: Say it again. Say it again
38 so she can hear what you said.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pippa, she
41 was asking about black bear.

42
43 MS. KENNER: Yeah, I'm talking
44 about.....

45
46 MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa Gred.....

47
48 MS. KENNER:black bear -- we
49 received a proposal in 2002 from Fort Yukon to allow
50

0339

1 the sale of both brown bear and black bear hides and
2 all of the Councils in the state made a recommendation
3 to the Board and the Board adopted the majority
4 recommendation for black bear, was to only allow the
5 sale of handicrafts that incorporate black bear fur.
6 It has -- it has to be incorporated into a handicraft,
7 you may not sell the hide itself.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
10 Pippa. Dorothy, do you have any other questions.

11
12 MS. SHOCKLEY: No.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
17 right, continuing on, we just finished the introduction
18 and we had a few questions and I believe they're
19 answered now. So basically black bear hides right now
20 are not allowed to be sold unless it's a handicraft.
21 So that's something that if somebody wanted to do that
22 they'd have to put a proposal in specific to black
23 bear. And the only question I would have to the state
24 is isn't black bear allowed to be sold?

25
26 MR. NELSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
27 This is Mark Nelson, Fish and Game. So a few years
28 back, quite a few years back we went through the
29 process and classified black bears as furbearers with
30 the sole purpose of allowing their hides to be sold.
31 So right now you can sell a black bear hide under State
32 regs once it's sealed. And what I don't know is if the
33 Feds have also classified black bears as furbearers
34 because it says in here on Page 18, that you can sell
35 the hide of a furbearer, but I can't find where it
36 defines furbearer under Federal regs.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
39 So.....

40
41 MS. KENNER: Yeah, neither -- yes, this
42 is Pippa Kenner with OSM. So neither brown bears or
43 black bears are categorized as furbearers in Federal
44 regulations, they are big game.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So just
47 speaking to black bears, it did not get classified as a
48 furbearer; that's a point of clarification so we don't
49 mix the two up because.....

50

0340

1 MS. KENNER: I can.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:brown

4 bear is not.

5

6 MS. KENNER: Right. So Federal -- so
7 Federal and State regulations really depart on this
8 issue. They're very different. So Federal regulation
9 brown bears and black bears are big game, they aren't
10 furbearers, which means that you may not sell the pelt
11 unless it's incorporated into a handicraft.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
14 that, we got it.

15

16 MS. SHOCKLEY: Can we amend it.....

17

18 REPORTER: Dorothy.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
21 ahead but you.....

22

23 MS. SHOCKLEY:to add.....

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:turn
26 your mic on.

27

28 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. So, Dorothy,
29 again. Can we amend this proposal to add black bears?

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I love this.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MS. KENNER: Yes, this is.....

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh?

40

41 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner again
42 for a moment.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: Hold on Pippa.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we
47 have.....

48

49 MS. MCDAVID: Hold on Pippa.

50

0341

1 MS. KENNER: And I would answer you by
2 saying that, yeah, you can, you can make a
3 recommendation to the Board and then the Board can
4 consider that at its meeting when it's taking up these
5 proposals.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now's the
8 time.....

9
10 MS. KENNER: I wanted to say.....

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:if you
13 want.....

14
15 MS. KENNER:that in the Federal
16 system the Board does steer away from using proposals
17 to adopt something that wasn't in the proposal because
18 it feels there is not a robust public process, however,
19 based on the issue the Council Chair's testimony at the
20 meeting and, you know, issue by issue, the Board has
21 done it before.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we're
24 in the part of introduction and questions of the
25 introducer so we got to be careful we don't get into
26 what our recommendation is, which we're kind of leaning
27 that way so let's go through the rest of the process.

28
29 MS. SHOCKLEY: But I.....

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hopefully
32 you're following there, Dorothy, we'll just go through
33 the rest of the process and then we'll go to the -- you
34 can definitely do that amendment, but right now we need
35 to finish and then we'll go to our recommendation at
36 No. 7. So we're down to ADF&G. Do you have agency
37 comments. And that comm -- and if Mark Burch is
38 online, he's the one that's supposed to do this because
39 of this craziness that they say you can't contact
40 somebody directly, you got to just contact this one
41 person at the State and this one person in the Federal,
42 which I think is cumbersome so is there any ADF&G
43 comments on this proposal.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He was there
48 but he isn't there anymore I guess.

49
50

0342

1 Federal agencies.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any tribal
6 entities that want to speak to this proposal.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
11 online.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any Advisory
16 Committee groups.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Regional
21 Advisory Councils.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any Fish and
26 Game Advisory.....

27

28 MS. MCDAVID: We have other Councils.

29

30 MR. VICKERS: We have two recommend --
31 or we have two actions that were taken, two.....

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

34

35 MR. VICKERS:recommendations,
36 would you like to hear them.

37

38 Kodiak/Aleutians Council supported the
39 proposal as written. Justification. The Council voted
40 to support the proposal as written by the proponent
41 because it allows Federally-qualified subsistence users
42 to make fuller use of an animal and in keeping with
43 basic principles of subsistence it would also allow
44 Federally-qualified subsistence users to make some
45 money and support their livelihoods in places where
46 cost of living is always high.

47

48 The Southcentral Regional Advisory
49 Committee voted to support it -- the proposal as

50

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1 written. This was -- the justification. The Council
2 supported the intent of the proponent from the
3 Southcentral region who would not be able to use the
4 new regulation, if it was passed, with the OSM
5 modification, as it would then only apply to areas with
6 a two bear limits [sic], all of which are in the
7 northern region -- northern area of the state. They
8 also noted that there are no brown bear conservation
9 concerns in Alaska.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, that's
14 very interesting information. I think right now this
15 is the Regional Advisory Councils. Any Fish and Game
16 Advisory Committees.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Unfortunately
21 a lot of them haven't met yet.

22

23 Subsistence Resource Commissions. I
24 know that Barbara has a report.

25

26 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
27 Chair. This is Barbara Cellarius, Wrangell-St. Elias
28 National Park and Preserve. A comment from the
29 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
30 Commission. The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
31 Subsistence Resource Commission unanimously supported
32 WP24-01 as written. And they noted if there's a need
33 to limit the geographic scope of the proposal, they
34 support the proposal for Units 11, 12, and 13. They
35 specifically opposed the OSM Staff recommendation to
36 limit the authorization to areas with a two bear
37 harvest limit, given the requirement to salvage hides
38 hunters should be able to sell them. And there was
39 also a note that hides could also be used for sewing
40 and handicrafts.

41

42 That completes the comment, thank you.

43

44 (Side discussion away from microphones)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's a
47 side discussion going here we probably should hear it,
48 right.

49

50

0344

1 (Laughter)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah, we probably
4 should.....

5

6 REPORTER: Your mic, Dorothy.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We need to
9 hear it, yeah.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Are we there now.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're not
14 quite there but we're close. Okay, I would ask the
15 Council, all of the -- I appreciate what you're trying
16 to get done here but we do need to put stuff on the
17 record. Yeah.

18

19 So next is summary of written public
20 comments. Any.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Apparently
25 not.

26

27 MS. MCDAVID: Have not received
28 notification of any.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And is
31 there any public testimony.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't see
36 public in the room right now. So that would -- anyone
37 online, public testimony.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, Sarah's
42 here -- you're hiding Sarah.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
47 testimony.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0345

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
2 none now it's our turn.

3
4 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay, so can I.....

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Affirmative.
7 Motions for affirmative.

8
9 MS. SHOCKLEY: Can we take a five
10 minute break?

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can take a
13 five minute break, got it.

14
15 (Off record)

16
17 (On record)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda and
20 Andy, I just want to let you know we've had a little
21 discussion at break and Dorothy just wants to make sure
22 she's doing everything properly. She's -- I really
23 appreciate Dorothy for -- you're doing a great job, I
24 really appreciate it.

25
26 She'd like to add black bear to it and
27 she wasn't sure how to go about it so I was asking Don,
28 because there was four of us talking that we're all in
29 agreement for adding black bears, if you guys don't
30 want to do that you need to tell us so. So we're going
31 to try to get our intent on the record and have Staff
32 write it for us.

33
34 Okay. I'm told that you can hear me.
35 So if you guys have anything to add please let us know.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I assume
40 they're hearing us and they're okay because we're to
41 our action now. Do you want to try to make the motion
42 and give your intent, Dorothy, it's an affirmative and
43 add black bear, I believe, is all we need to do. Oh,
44 we just lost Brooke so.....

45
46 MS. SHOCKLEY: So what I'm doing is
47 just reading the proposal, right, to add black bear?

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, my
50

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1 recommendation, but I do it the way I like to do it, is
2 one motion to add -- yeah, I make a motion to add black
3 bear to No. 24-01, is it.

4

5 MR. VICKERS: 24-01.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

8

9 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then

12 they'll know our intent is for both. Okay. And I

13 think Katya's missing, too, so two Staff members.

14

15 And just for your information, Charlie,

16 we didn't take these two up and this one we waited for

17 you because you're in Tanana and they have a C&T. So

18 Donald wanted to take it up and we waited for you for

19 this one.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All

24 right. We are back and go for it Dorothy.

25

26 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. So this is

27 Dorothy. I would like to make a motion to add black

28 bear to WP24-01.

29

30 MS. MCDAVID: Just a point of order

31 perhaps. I might need some help with Roberts Rules if

32 we have to take up -- make -- support the original

33 proposal and then amend it, I'm not sure. Is that --

34 okay, Tina's nodding yes, so let's make a motion to

35 support and then we can make a -- once it's seconded

36 make a motion to modify.

37

38 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay, yes, that makes

39 sense. Okay. So I make a motion to support WP24-01

40 and that is to add brown bear for sale, brown bear

41 hides.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just say as

44 written.

45

46 MS. SHOCKLEY: As written.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, got it.

49 So the motion is to support 24-01, the sale of brown

50

0347

1 bears, as written, which is -- doesn't.....

2

3 MS. POPE: So this is.....

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that Andy,
6 go ahead.

7

8 REPORTER: It's Amanda.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that a
11 second, I can't.....

12

13 MS. POPE: This is Amanda.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, Amanda.
16 Did you second it?

17

18 MS. POPE: Yes, I second that motion.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
21 The motion has been made and seconded as written. Any
22 discussion, go ahead, Dorothy.

23

24 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. Now I would like
25 to make a motion to add black bear to the original
26 motion to support 24-01 as written.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So this would
29 be, you make a motion to amend to add black bear.
30 Okay. I have a motion to amend to add black bear to
31 24-01. I need a second.

32

33 MS. POPE: I'll second.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
36 Amanda. Amanda has seconded it. Now discussion.

37

38 REPORTER: On the amendment.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: On the
41 amendment.

42

43 Dorothy go ahead.

44

45 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. I mean I guess my
46 concern when I -- you know, I originally asked, well,
47 why aren't black bear on this list and then found out,
48 you know, that it was proposed and for some reason it
49 was not added. But, you know, my concern was that I

50

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1 wanted to be respectful to the animal. But, you know,
2 people can kill black bear on State land, is that
3 correct, and sell them, right, I don't know.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom. Yes.

6
7 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, because they're
8 classified.....

9
10 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay.

11
12 MS. MCDAVID:as furbearers under
13 State regs.

14
15 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. Okay. So I'm
16 just kind of streamlining this to add black bear so.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, and
19 another thing I would say is that subsistence is more
20 restricted and we want to bring it up to par. Anyone
21 else, discussion on the amendment to add black bear.

22
23 MS. MCDAVID: Are there any
24 conservation concerns.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
27 conservation concerns for black bear; with a five bear
28 limit and three bear limits I don't think so. Is that
29 enough.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Our
34 intent is here. So call.....

35
36 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Question.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie's
39 called for the question. I'm going to ask for
40 unanimous consent for the amendment to add black bear
41 to 24-01. Anyone opposed.

42
43 (No opposing votes)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
46 it passes. Now back to the original motion amended.
47 Any other discussion.

48
49 (No comments)

50

0349

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'd go back
2 to the discussion we've already had.

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, go
7 ahead.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, just I'm very much
10 in favor of this proposal. You know being a person who
11 lives in an area where a lot of moose and caribou
12 aren't showing up anymore and salmon are pretty much
13 almost extirpated, I'm eating a lot of black bear and
14 occasionally a grizzly bear, and I don't know what the
15 heck to do with all the hides that we get. We don't
16 throw them away, we don't leave them in the woods,
17 that's disrespectful, but I sure don't know what to do
18 with them, and I'd love the opportunity to be able to
19 utilize them in some way.

20
21 That's the only comment I have.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
26 Andy. That's really good information and I ditto that
27 because I, too, am eating a lot more black bear these
28 days.

29
30 MS. SHOCKLEY: I call for question.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
33 question's been called for. The motion as -- I'm going
34 to have to ask Brooke to restate it so I don't mess it
35 up.

36
37 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Well, hopefully I
38 don't mess it up either.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MS. MCDAVID: All right, the motion
43 with the amendment is to support WP24-01 as
44 written.....

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As amended.

47
48 MS. MCDAVID: As amended, sorry, to add
49 black bear.

50

0350

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm,
2 again, going to ask for unanimous consent. Anyone
3 opposed.

4
5 (No opposing votes)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. It
8 passes unanimous. Thank you, very much. And the next
9 one we waited for Charlie for, is this 24-28.

10
11 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madame Chair.
12 Members of the Council. For the record my name is Tho
13 Plank, Wildlife Biologist in the Office of Subsistence
14 Management and I am presenting a summary of the
15 analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP24-28 and 29 which
16 starts on Page 295 in your books.

17
18 WP24-28 was submitted by the Western
19 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and it requests a
20 reduction in caribou harvest limits across the range of
21 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd to four caribou per
22 year per hunter, only one which may be a cow. Specific
23 areas include Units 21D Remainder, 24B Remainder, 24C,
24 24D and all the caribou hunt areas within Units 22, 23
25 and 26A.

26
27 And WP24-29 was submitted by the
28 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
29 and it requests a reduction in the caribou harvest
30 limit in Unit 23 only to four caribou per year per
31 hunter, only one which may be a cow.

32
33 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd has
34 continued to decline with the most recent estimate
35 being 164,000. The proponents are greatly concerned
36 about the precipitous decline of the Western Arctic
37 Caribou Herd and feel that action is needed to slow the
38 decline and prevent the herd from reaching a point of
39 no return. And the Northwest Arctic Council recognizes
40 that Federally-qualified subsistence users are already
41 facing food insecurities but this large reduction of
42 caribou harvest is a means to help protect the caribou
43 herd over the long-term while still allowing some
44 harvest.

45
46 There is a vast regulatory history that
47 starts on Page 353 and in the interest of time I'll try
48 to keep this brief. The State and Federal regulation
49 changes in 2016 were the first time harvest regulations
50

0351

1 had been implemented for the Western Arctic Caribou
2 Herd and the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd in over 30 years.
3 In 2017 the Board of Game adopted a proposal that
4 required registration permits for resident hunting of
5 caribou within the Western Arctic Caribou and Teshekpuk
6 Herds in Unit 21, 23, 24 and 26. And this was similar
7 to a proposal passed for Unit 22 in 2016. In 2018 a
8 proposal was adopted to close all Federal public lands
9 within a 10 mile wide corridor five miles either side
10 along the Noatak River to non-Federally-qualified
11 users, the Board adopted a proposal requiring State
12 registration permits for caribou in Unit 22, 23 and
13 26A. In 2022 the Board approved WSA21-01(a) with
14 modification to close Noatak National Preserve
15 including the Nigyu River portions of the Preserve in
16 Unit 26A and BLM managed lands between the Noatak and
17 Kobuk Rivers in Unit 23 to caribou hunting to non -- by
18 non-Federally-qualified users from August 1st through
19 September 30th for the 2022 to '22 and the 2023/24
20 regulatory years. In June 2023 the Board voted to
21 reject Wildlife Special Action request WSA22-05 and
22 WSA22-06 which requested the same change as the
23 proposal being presented to you now. The Board stated
24 that immediate reduction to four caribou per year per
25 hunter would be detrimental to subsistence needs. The
26 Board acknowledged the need to focus on caribou
27 conservation and that reductions to harvest limits may
28 be needed in the future. Additionally, the Board
29 suggested a more robust discussion of potential
30 alternatives to the harvest reduction is essential.
31 The Board stated that the Federal regulatory process --
32 proposal process is a more appropriate avenue to allow
33 an analysis to be written and received by the public,
34 all of the affected Councils and Federal and State
35 agency partners in the range of the Western Arctic
36 Caribou Herd resulting in formal recommendations. The
37 Western Arctic Caribou Herd and the Teshekpuk Caribou
38 Herd and the Central Arctic Caribou Herd have ranges
39 that overlap in Units 26A and 24B and that is Map 1 on
40 Page 314. The Teshekpuk Caribou Herd primarily
41 occupies Unit 26A and the Central Arctic Herd mostly
42 occurs in Unit 26B. There can be considerable mixing
43 of these three herds during the fall and winter.

44
45 For the last 10 years the management
46 objective of the Teshekpuk Herd of 15,000 caribou has
47 been met and in 2022 the minimum count was
48 approximately 51,000 caribou.

49
50

1 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd
2 population has fluctuated over time from a low of
3 75,000 in the 1970s to a peak of 490,000 in 2003.
4 Between 2003 and 2016 the herd declined at an average
5 annual rate of 7.1 percent. In 2017 there was an
6 uptick to 259,000 from the previous approximately
7 200,000 in 2016. This could possibly be attributed to
8 improved photography technology when ADF&G switched
9 from film to high resolution digital cameras in 2017.
10 Between 2017 and 2019 there was an approximate 6
11 percent total decline to 244,000. The next photocensus
12 in 2021 estimated 188,000 caribou. And this was an
13 additional decline of about 24 percent. The population
14 estimated in 2022 was 164,000 representing an
15 additional 12 percent decline. As for the composition
16 data, in 2017 the bull/cow ratio was highest since 1998
17 at 54 bulls per 100 cows, in 2021 the ratio fell
18 slightly to 47 bulls per 100 cows, which still exceeds
19 the critical management level of 30 bulls per 100 cows.
20 Parturition rate from 2020 to 2022 was 66 percent,
21 which is below the long-term average of 70 percent.
22 During the same time the young -- the shortyearling
23 recruitment has remained average at 17 per 100 adults.
24 The adult female survival has been below the long-term
25 average of 81 percent since 2017. And although factors
26 contributing to the 2003 to present decline are not
27 known with certainty increased adult cow mortality and
28 decrease calf recruitment and survival are likely
29 playing a role.

30
31 From 1999 to 2018 a range-wide average
32 estimated total harvest for Western Arctic Caribou Herd
33 was about 14,000 caribou per year, ranging from 12 to
34 16,000 caribou per year. Year specific harvest
35 estimates have not been generated since 2018, in part,
36 because they're not very accurate. Household survey
37 data demonstrates that local communities harvest
38 parallels Western Arctic Caribou Herd availability
39 rather than population trends. Local hunters account
40 for approximately 95 percent of the total Western
41 Arctic Caribou Herd harvest and residents of Unit 23,
42 on average, account for the majority of the total
43 harvest. On average, 76 percent of the Western Arctic
44 Caribou Herd focus -- harvest by non-locals are
45 harvested in Unit 23 and in 2016 when the Federal lands
46 closures began and 2020 reported caribou harvest by
47 non-local hunters in Unit 23 averaged 254 caribou.

48
49 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
50

1 Group voted to place the herd in a preservative
2 declining level in 2021 and 2022 which prescribes a
3 harvest of 6,000 to 10,000 caribou. With the 2022
4 population estimate of 164,000 the harvestable surplus
5 is roughly 7.800 caribou. While all these harvest
6 estimates are above the preservative harvest levels
7 specified in the Western Arctic Caribou harvest caribou
8 herd management plan and indicates unsustainable
9 harvest levels, actual harvest is unknown and could be
10 much lower due to caribou being unavailable for harvest
11 near local communities.

12
13 The herd affects a large group of
14 subsistence users and during public hearings for WSA22-
15 05/06 we heard a lot of concerns and recommendations
16 and we've tried to capture many of those alternatives
17 from the public and our Federal and State partners and
18 these start on Page 338 in your books.

19
20 In summary, WP24-28, if adopted, would
21 apply the same harvest limit restrictions across the
22 entire range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
23 including Units 22, 23, 26A and portions of 21D and 24.

24
25 And WP24-29, if adopted, would reduce
26 the harvest limit to four caribou per year, only one
27 which may be a cow in Unit 23 only.

28
29 WP24-28, if adopted, may cause
30 unnecessary hardship and restrictions for subsistence
31 users in areas on the edge of the Western Arctic
32 Caribou Herd's range where there's overlap with other
33 herds or local caribou populations, where a reduction
34 may not be necessary. Caribou movements and
35 distributions are highly variable and in a recent year
36 no collared Western Arctic Caribou Herd have migrated
37 to Units 22, or 21D Remainder, but they could return in
38 the future. A resident caribou herd may be present in
39 Unit 22 and harvest limits restrictions -- reductions
40 under Federal regulations could curtail harvest from
41 these caribou. The Teshekpuk and the Central Arctic
42 Caribou Herd occupies Units 26A Remainder and Units 24B
43 Remainder. These herds have not experienced substantial
44 population declines like the Western Arctic Caribou
45 Herd, therefore, reducing the harvest limits in 26A
46 Remainder and Unit 24B Remainder may not be
47 substantially affect the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
48 harvest or conservation and could unnecessarily
49 restrict subsistence harvest from the Teshekpuk and
50

0354

1 Central Arctic Caribou Herds.

2

3

4 The precipitous decline of the Western
5 Arctic Caribou Herd warrants strong measures to aid in
6 the recovery and conservation of this population.
7 Current harvest rates, especially the taking of cows
8 could prolong or worsen the current decline and hamper
9 recovery efforts. Additionally, while causes of the
10 decline are multi-faceted and uncertain, reducing human
11 harvest is the most controllable factor.

12

13 OSM's conclusion is to support Proposal
14 WP24-29 and the preliminary conclusion for WP24 -- is
15 to support Proposal WP24-28 with the modification to
16 exclude the portion of Unit 26A north and east of a
17 line running from the east north bank of Wainwright
18 Inlet to the headwaters of the Ketik River to the
19 headwaters of the Awuna River to the Colville River at
20 Umiat and then east to the Dalton Highway to Sagwon.

21

22 Thank you, Madame Chair. Members of
23 the Council. I'd be happy to field any questions.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
26 questions.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I'll have a
29 comment at the end.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

36 Hearing no questions, agency comments, ADF&G.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Federal
41 agencies.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tribal

46 entities.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

0355

1 Advisory Groups, other Regional Advisory Councils.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nothing.

6

7 MS. MCDAVID: I don't think any of
8 them have met yet.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, none of
11 them have met yet. Fish and Game Advisory or SRCs.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nothing.

16 Okay, none of the Regional Advisory Councils have met
17 yet.

18

19 Summary of written comments.

20

21 MR. PLANK: Once again Tom Plank with
22 OSM. There were no written comments.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any public
25 testimony.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. No
30 public testimony. All right, Council, what is your
31 pleasure.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I'm sure the
34 people that live in those areas are used to a little
35 bit more but after going to the ungulate conference and
36 seeing how caribou and reindeer are being affected by
37 mainly climate, from what I understand, around the
38 globe, we have to really start paying attention to our
39 use. And for caribou it's quite a bit for a declining
40 herd. Compared to what was originally taken I think
41 that's a good number. So I would -- I'd probably
42 support the number.

43

44 That's just my comment.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do you
47 want to take the proposal up because we need a motion
48 to support and a second, then you discuss it and then
49 you vote.

50

0356

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. I was
2 reading something, sorry -- I'll.....

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Sorry. I'll make
7 that motion.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A motion to
10 support as written.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Uh-huh.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
15 Second.

16
17 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

18
19 MS. EVANS: Second.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We got
22 two seconds, Linda and Don.

23
24 MS. MCDAVID: I just want to clarify if
25 you're going to take up both, because it's a combined
26 analysis, 28 and 29 at the same time?

27
28 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: (Nods
29 affirmatively)

30
31 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. I'm getting nods
32 of yes so that's -- just for the record, thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All that's on
35 our agenda is 28.....

36
37 MS. MCDAVID: Yes. The agenda.....

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:so.....

40
41 MS. MCDAVID:says 28 because --
42 just -- yes, it's fine. In the book is the combined
43 analysis, they combined them so.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
46 So.....

47
48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Now we're all
49 scrambled.

50

0357

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what I'm
4 hearing though is your motion is as written on 28?

5

6 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

9

10 Discussion.

11

12 MS. SHOCKLEY: I just have one just to
13 clarify that these numbers would -- are accurate or the
14 caribou herd can sustain these numbers, right, as far
15 as harvest?

16

17 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I couldn't answer
18 that.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a
21 manager.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can managers
26 answer that?

27

28 MS. MCDAVID: I'm not a manager by any
29 means, but I think the intent of this proposal is
30 actually to reduce the harvest because there are
31 concerns that it.....

32

33 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

34

35 MS. MCDAVID:can't support it at
36 the current levels at which it's occurring.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay.

41

42 MS. MCDAVID: If anyone wants to
43 correct me, please do.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, did you
46 hear what Brooke said?

47

48 MS. SHOCKLEY: Uh-huh.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This reduces

0358

1 the harvest.

2

3

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does that

6

help?

7

8

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah.

9

10

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Other

11

discussion. Donald.

12

13

14

MR. WOODRUFF: I would encourage our Council members to look at Page 321, if there is any doubt, on the top graph, the precipitous decline is almost a 45 degree line straight down. And I support this proposal as written but I would encourage the hunters in this region to avoid shooting cows for conservation concerns but, hey, cows get harvested by accident sometimes and you don't want to leave them lay.

21

22

23

24

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So Donald, do you want to put that recommendation in as a like a direction, a recommendation to the managers to like encourage the not shooting of cows.

26

27

28

29

MR. WOODRUFF: I think the Federal Subsistence Board is going to hear my comment and they're going to say, yeah, that's true, if it's a conservation concern we should really avoid shooting cows.

32

33

34

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

35

36

37

MR. WOODRUFF: I don't think we need to put it in a modification or something.

38

39

40

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, I'm just asking as a comment added to our justification.

41

42

MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.

43

44

45

MS. MCDAVID: It can be part of the justification.

46

47

48

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

49

Okay. Any other discussion.

50

0359

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Call for
2 question.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
5 has been called for. I'm going to ask for unanimous
6 consent. Anyone in opposition.

7
8 (No opposing votes)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none,
11 we'll move on. The next thing on the agenda, did
12 anyone have any Board of Game proposals they wanted to
13 take up.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know when
18 you have lots of time that could happen. I know when
19 we had Andrew Firmin on he could just checkmark,
20 checkmark, checkmark and we'd get 'er done. So --
21 there's a lot of issues on the Board of Game proposals
22 that are very difficult to come up with solutions and
23 some of them have to do with sheep and the SRC decided
24 not to take them up, let the State figure it out.

25
26 But they only have like 300 or so, I
27 think.

28
29 All right, yeah, I'm not hearing.....

30
31 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: We're real
32 limited for time.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.
35 I'm not hearing any, and I'm not even sure, the Board
36 of Game meets after our next meeting.

37
38 MS. MCDAVID: I have a schedule to give
39 you guys just so you're aware. I'll pass this out
40 shortly. Yeah, Interior and Eastern Arctic Region
41 meeting is March 15th through 22 next year in Fairbanks
42 and comments are due by March 1st, which will be before
43 we meet again. So I encourage you all to participate
44 in your AC processes or -- in your local AC processes
45 or submit your own comments if there are Board of Game
46 proposals you're interested in.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's very
49 helpful. I used to look around this RAC and see almost
50

0360

1 every member was a member of an AC, so I don't even
2 know the status of that anymore but good place to go
3 for if you have Board of Game proposals that you're
4 interested in.

5

6 Okay, the next thing on the agenda, and
7 I'm assuming, no one spoke up that they wanted to take
8 up any, and like Charlie said we are limited in time so
9 suggesting we move on. Western Interior Council Draft
10 Sheep Management Plan.

11

12 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: I believe we'll have
17 someone from OSM leadership helping lead us through
18 this discussion but I wanted to point you all to your
19 meeting books. There was a letter from the Western
20 Interior Regional Advisory Council that our Council was
21 copied on, that letter was sent to the Alaska
22 Department of Fish and Game and as an attachment to
23 that letter, so Page 73 if I didn't say that -- sorry
24 -- of your meeting books, is that letter -- and then
25 the next following pages are some draft sheep
26 management guidelines that the Western Interior Council
27 would like to be considered to be incorporated into a
28 management plan.

29

30 I know Sue has talked a little bit with
31 Jack about this. The Western Interior Council also
32 submitted an agenda change request to the Board of
33 Game, which I'll pass out a copy of that now.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Just
36 to let the Council know, I was asked as the Chair of
37 the Eastern Interior RAC to sit in on a -- like a
38 discussion with OSM, Jack, Staff in Anchorage at OSM,
39 you know, to talk about this, and the one thing -- you
40 guys might remember, those who have been on awhile,
41 there was a sheep working group and I think it was
42 seven or eight years ago that the State put in place
43 and I was a representative sometimes and I -- sometimes
44 I think there was another person from us, they met
45 almost two years and they hired in a facilitator and
46 he's always got compromises from every group he's ever
47 worked with, well, he didn't get that compromise from
48 the sheep group. It ended before any compromise was
49 given and a lot of what was discussed early was

50

0361

1 airplanes looking for sheep during sheep season. And
2 the airplane people were pretty upset that they
3 couldn't be scouting with their airplane. And that's
4 probably what instigated the working group but the --
5 the proposal passed the Board of Game that it was
6 illegal to do that once the sheep season started. And
7 I thought, even pilots I know were happy to hear about
8 that.

9
10 So, you know, Jack's saying -- if I
11 understand Jack correctly, he's saying that the State
12 doesn't have any sheep management plans. And he's
13 upset and he wants -- he's starting it through the
14 Federal program. If I understand him correctly. I
15 don't even know if he's online to speak. But I -- I
16 told Jack, hey Jack, you know, I don't want to go
17 through any of that stuff that doesn't work anymore.
18 Sheep need a lot of help right now, immediately, and
19 then Jack went on to say, well, we need to get rid of
20 that annual -- that age of eight years old because he
21 thinks people are shooting sheep and going up and it's
22 not eight years old and then they let it lay. That may
23 happen, but I don't think it -- he implied it's
24 happening all the time shooting three-quarter curls and
25 they're laying on the ground dead, and that's something
26 I think Fish and Game would see.

27
28 But at any rate he's pretty passionate
29 about it and -- did they put a proposal in to get rid
30 of the age? Is that what they put in to the Board of
31 Game?

32
33 MS. MCDAVID: They did not submit a
34 proposal, they submitted an agenda change request, I
35 think because they missed the deadline.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But it's for
38 eight years, get rid of the age, right?

39
40 MS. MCDAVID: Yes. It's.....

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and
43 that's something I think a lot of sheep hunters would
44 really support, get rid of the age.

45
46 Okay, go ahead.

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, so thank you, Sue.
49 For the record, Katya Wessels. I just wanted to
50

0362

1 clarify a few things. So the Western Interior
2 submitted, they drafted this dall sheep work management
3 plan guidelines and they submitted it to OSM with a
4 request to share it with your Council, they also shared
5 it with the ADF&G to get their comments back, and I
6 think they were basing that decision on ANILCA that
7 says, the Council can recommend to the Board management
8 strategies. So in their mind that was a recommendation
9 for the management strategies. The way the document,
10 it's now in draft, so they were hoping to take your
11 comments during this meeting that is coming up next
12 week and improve this draft, but there's obviously not
13 enough time to really go through their document at this
14 meeting. So when we have this preliminary discussion
15 with Chairman Reakoff of Western Interior, and, you, we
16 were thinking of the idea that there should be a
17 working group, if your Council is interested, you know,
18 participating in one, to get the stakeholders engaged
19 and, you know, just talk about it and see where it can
20 possibly go. I think that the Council should discuss
21 if you want to participate in this working group,
22 because I don't think there's enough time really to
23 look at this document in detail and provide any kind of
24 significant meaningful comments for inclusion, and then
25 after, you know, this document is discussed then the
26 working group can bring back the discussion to the
27 Councils and then Councils can decide one way or the
28 other.

29
30 We also have our policy coordinator,
31 Robbin LaVine, online, so, Robbin, if I've missed
32 anything, what comes from OSM, you know, maybe you can
33 add to that.

34
35 MS. LAVINE: Hello, can you hear me?

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
38 ahead.

39
40 MS. LAVINE: Excellent. I think Katya
41 has covered the most important points. The -- this
42 Western Interior Regional Council dall sheep management
43 plan guidelines are recommended management strategies.
44 OSM suggests bringing a number of representatives from
45 the different Regional Advisory Councils together along
46 with OSM Staff and inviting State and Federal agency
47 Staff to discuss these strategies, these guidelines,
48 these recommendations and ideally identify tools for
49 immediate response, data gaps and strategies for moving
50

0363

1 forward.

2

3

4 There is a hope that we might be able
5 to have at least two teleconference based meetings to
6 discuss these guidelines in time to have an in person
7 meeting with all of the working group people together
8 around the time of the all Council meeting, so that
9 would be like a total of three working group meetings,
10 two by teleconference, one in person in Anchorage in
11 order to have recommendations presented to the Board
12 during their summer work session. So that's what we
13 talked about, that's kind of the scope of the work
14 we're looking at and we're looking for interested
15 participants from your Council.

15

16

Thanks.

17

18

19

20

21

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
Robbin. And that's getting both the State and Federal
together with it, right?

22

23

24

MS. LAVINE: That is our hope. We can
only invite people. Thanks.

25

26

27

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
members.

28

29

(No comments)

30

31

32

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So Western
Interior is asking us if we want to be part of that.

33

34

Linda.

35

36

MS. EVANS: I would volunteer.

37

38

39

40

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
Linda. As would I. So am I hearing an interest in
participating this.

41

42

(Council nods affirmatively)

43

44

45

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm seeing
one nod of the head, go ahead, Charlie.

46

47

48

49

50

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I am happy for us
to participate but I have too many hats to put on
another one. So thank you.

0364

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I will
2 say sheep is near and dear to my heart so, yeah,
3 everybody has their -- what they are, that would be me,
4 a lot like Sarah. So do we need it in a motion that we
5 want to.....

6
7 MS. WESSELS: You don't need to.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. So, I
10 guess, Council members I would ask, are we all in favor
11 with working with the Western Interior and the group
12 for this proposed working group. I should say is
13 anyone opposed.

14
15 (No opposing votes)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
18 moving forward, we have two volunteers from this RAC.

19
20 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. And we can
21 let the Western Interior Council who's meeting next
22 week know about that.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
25 The next thing on the agenda is our joint Council
26 letter to the North Pacific Management Council.

27
28 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 Members of the Council. If you recall last year the
30 four Councils that have C&T for Yukon River salmon,
31 that includes the YKDelta, the Western Interior, the
32 Seward Peninsula and the Eastern Interior Councils
33 drafted a joint letter and sent that to the North
34 Pacific Fishery Management Council requesting
35 reductions in chinook salmon bycatch hardcaps,
36 requesting chum salmon hardcaps, and requesting that
37 there be tribal or subsistence representation added to
38 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

39
40 The YKDelta Council, at their winter
41 meeting this year, they voted to send an almost
42 identical letter because their concerns were not hear
43 -- or necessarily acted upon. So they want to keep
44 doing this until some action is taken. And so you'll
45 find in your supplemental materials a draft letter for
46 this year. It's very similar, nearly identical to last
47 year. The main thing that has changed is there are
48 some new harvest information, you know, for this year,
49 and that will actually need to be updated before the
50

0365

1 final version is sent out because this was drafted in
2 the spring and, of course, the summer salmon harvest
3 season followed that. So the main points, again, that
4 this year's letter makes, you'll see them bolded and
5 underlined. The sections are primarily about -- I'll
6 just read them:

7

8 Subsistence salmon needs are not being
9 met and subsistence users are bearing the burden of
10 conservation.

11

12 MS. EVANS: Where is it?

13

14 MS. MCDAVID: Tab 4 of your
15 supplemental materials.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tab 4.

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: That's your binder. And
20 I can pause for a minute, sorry guys, I was barreling
21 ahead there because Sue likes me to do that.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MS. MCDAVID: Is everybody there.

26

27 (Council nods affirmatively)

28

29 MS. MCDAVID: And I'll just point out,
30 there's some highlighting on here and that's just
31 things we'd need to edit, depending on if all the
32 Councils decide to sign on again, et cetera.

33

34 But as I was saying, similar to last
35 year, the main points being brought forward are that
36 subsistence salmon needs are still not being met and
37 subsistence users are bearing the burden of
38 conservation. There is a need for immediate reductions
39 in chinook and chum salmon bycatch. There's a need for
40 subsistence representation on the North Pacific Fishery
41 Management Council.

42

43 And, now, as you heard, Carrie Stevens
44 mentioned the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
45 is actually meeting right now. They are reviewing some
46 chum salmon recommendations and so unfortunately we
47 weren't able to submit this for the period of their
48 meeting that's right now, but we did submit a copy of
49 your previous letter.

50

0366

1 So, again, the intent of the YKDelta
2 Council is just sort of to keep the pressure on and let
3 folks know they're not really backing down with their
4 concerns.

5
6 And I would entertain any questions you
7 guys have or any comments for edits or changes to the
8 letter at this time.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MS. SHOCKLEY: This is Dorothy. I mean
13 I, you know, I appreciate everything that we do to try
14 to restore our fishing, our fish -- salmon on the
15 Yukon. I think -- I mean we've talked about bycatch, I
16 don't know for how long now.

17
18 (PHONE LINE DROPPED)

19
20 MS. MCDAVID: I think we just got
21 disconnected, sorry Dorothy.

22
23 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay.

24
25 MS. MCDAVID: If you could hold those
26 thoughts.

27
28 (PAUSE)

29
30 REPORTER: So this is Tina, the court
31 reporter. Okay, so our call dropped here again, so
32 we're back on and Dorothy was speaking. Go ahead,
33 Dorothy.

34
35 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. Again, Dorothy.
36 I just.....

37
38 MR. BASSICH: Tina, this is Andy, I'd
39 like to speak when there's a chance.

40
41 REPORTER: Okay. Andy wants to talk
42 after -- or, too.

43
44 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

47
48 MS. SHOCKLEY: So, you know, over the
49 years we have limited or reduced the numbers of
50

0367

1 bycatch, which is great but I think we need to go even
2 farther and limit fishing quotas in the North Pacific.

3

4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted)

6

7 MS. SHOCKLEY: I mean if we can't catch
8 anything then it's wrong for others to be able to catch
9 salmon with very little limit so I would like to see a
10 reduction of their limits by, I don't know, 50 percent.
11 But -- so that's my proposal.

12

13 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Dorothy. Just
14 some clarifying comments so I make sure I'm getting it
15 right. When you say reduction in limits for what --
16 what fishery, I guess and.....

17

18 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, mostly pollock, I
19 think. But what other species are they catching out
20 there, pollock -- I don't know, all of them.

21

22 MR. WOODRUFF: Dorothy, I can help you
23 out.

24

25 MS. EVANS: Whatever they're fishing.

26

27 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yes, okay, so all of
28 them, okay.

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: They have species that
31 are not allowed on their vessels. And those are chum
32 salmon, dog salmon -- or, I mean king salmon, snow
33 crab, king crab and I think there's a few others I read
34 in the letter. So basically they're scraping the
35 bottom and picking up everything, sponges, everything
36 off the bottom.

37

38 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yep. Yeah.

39

40 MR. WOODRUFF: And it takes a decade
41 for the habitat to recover on the ocean floor.

42

43 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, my proposal is for
44 them to limit, or to reduce the catch, the quotas.

45

46 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Dorothy.

47

48 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, not the bycatch,
49 no, the.....

50

0368

1 MS. MCDAVID: I think that I
2 understand. So Dorothy is saying because they're
3 targeting pollock and salmon are bycaught in that, if
4 you reduce the number of pollock they're allowed to
5 harvest by 50 percent, you would effectively also
6 reduce the bycatch.

7
8 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yes.

9
10 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, thank you.

11
12 MS. SHOCKLEY: Thank you. And whatever
13 species that they're allowed to catch out there.

14
15 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. I don't have an
16 answer for those other species but I know there are
17 some other groundfish that they do target and we could
18 say, pollock and other groundfish.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I
21 understand what she's saying, whatever they're licensed
22 to catch.

23
24 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Andy, we
27 hear you. We just wanted to finish with Dorothy.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
32 anything else Dorothy.

33
34 MS. SHOCKLEY: (Shakes head negatively)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
37 ahead, Andy.

38
39 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. First of all
40 in trying to modify this in any way let me inform the
41 Council that there are a great many people working very
42 diligently with scientists on strategizing the best
43 ways to reduce the bycatch of chinook salmon and chum
44 salmon in the Bering Sea as well as Area M so I would
45 defer to this working group of people who is comprised
46 of many experts and many people with a great deal of
47 experience to come up with the best strategy to put
48 forward and then we can sign on as a RAC to support
49 that, that will be coming in the future, rather than us
50

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1 trying to modify that at this meeting as a
2 recommendation, not being as well informed.

3

4 That's my first comment that I wanted
5 to make on this.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, Andy, I
8 just wanted to clarify that in my mind, what you just
9 said. Are you saying that this letter that's before
10 us, don't put any changes in it?

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Well, the only change
13 that I would add to it right now is that, when I read
14 the letter, the only thing that I saw that I would
15 modify on it is that there was a line in there that
16 stated the rebuilding of chinook and chum might take --
17 I think it was two to four years, or four to six years,
18 that should be doubled, because all science is
19 basically showing that we're going to be into a
20 rebuilding plan for at least two life cycles, which for
21 king salmon is a minimum of six years, so that would be
22 a six to 12 year need for this to happen, and for chum
23 salmon it would be a minimum of four to eight years for
24 this to happen. That was the only thing that I saw in
25 this letter that I would recommend maybe modifying. I
26 think in the letter it stated four to six years or
27 more, but I think given our concerns specifically for
28 chinook and chum salmon we should put in the letter
29 specifically chinook salmon, six to 12 years; chum
30 salmon four to eight years; minimum. That would be my
31 recommendation for any modifications to the letter in
32 these regards.

33

34 And I'll just sign off with that.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, well, I
37 guess I was asking -- I wasn't getting, and I bet you
38 weren't getting what he was saying earlier about your
39 comments, so go ahead, Dorothy.

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: I have -- can I ask Andy
42 something?

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
45 ahead.

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: Hey, Andy, this is
48 Brooke. I think I understood what you were trying to
49 get at earlier, too, is maybe we don't necessarily have
50

0370

1 to know all the answers in our letter but could you
2 tell us who -- what the group you were referring to
3 just so we can make sure to get in touch with them too
4 as a separate -- we could always support any
5 recommendations that they have in the future.

6
7 MR. BASSICH: So there is a large
8 working group with AYK and Bristol Bay and they've been
9 working with scientists and policymakers and it's
10 representative of a lot of different tribal
11 organizations, people who have been involved in these
12 fishery issues for many, many decades and they're
13 basically working together to try and develop
14 strategies for helping us to rebuild our salmon stocks.
15 So it's a large group of people. I would say contact
16 Karen Gillis with BSAFF if you want to get more
17 information on that. Bering Sea Fishermen's
18 Association, Karen Gillis.

19
20 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Andy. I do
21 have her contact, appreciate it.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and
24 Charlie, you just told me you're on that.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah, I am part
27 of that group and sent all the information from them, I
28 have had little time this summer to be participating
29 because I was busy doing other things but I will be
30 listening in on the meetings. I hear Andy on there
31 when I do call and listen in sometimes. It's a great
32 group so -- and they're working good.

33
34 MS. SHOCKLEY: So the group, I'm on it
35 as well, but I haven't participated.....

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, so go
38 ahead, put on your mic.

39
40 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. So this new
41 working group, that they just formed this summer,
42 correct, I'm also on it but I haven't been contacted
43 yet about meetings so -- but I did attend the Marine --
44 Marine Resource Education Program -- I had to think
45 about it in my head. And it was a four and a half day
46 workshop in Juneau so we had a lot of users, whether
47 they were trawlers or crabbers or, you know, it was
48 just a huge mix of people from Kodiak, like I said to
49 trawlers, to Seattle people, to, you know, people from
50

0371

1 the North West, people from the Coast in Alaska and
2 they were talking about, you know, well, how they
3 collect data. And so from what we got, unfortunately
4 sometimes they use your old data and so our
5 recommendation to them at the time was that they
6 include local knowledge from fisher people, crabbers.
7 I mean, you know, people that are out on the boats,
8 they are seeing things, they're seeing changes, they're
9 seeing, you know, just different things from what
10 management are saying so -- but they're not listening.
11 You know a fisherman can call in and say, hey, I see,
12 you know, all of this happening and it's just not
13 acknowledged. So not only do we need to limit the
14 quotas of all the fish that they're catching out in the
15 North Pacific but also, you know, look -- start using
16 local knowledge from the fisher people and historical
17 information, information from local indigenous people.

18
19 And the other thing is adapt to climate
20 change. You know they're talking about all this
21 climate change but they're not willing to adapt to it,
22 you know, in their decisions. And, you know, it's just
23 ridiculous that they're not willing to change.

24
25 So I think those things are important.

26
27 And as far as this working group, I
28 mean, yes, you know, lets, you know, hear from them as
29 well, but I think it's really important we write this
30 letter now and get it off to them. And like I said, I
31 would like to see a limit on all fishery quotas out in
32 the North Pacific, but I guess we can save this for
33 later but -- yeah, I think that would make a
34 difference.

35
36 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Dorothy. So
37 how this process will work for this letter, since you
38 weren't on the Council the last time we did a joint
39 letter is, so the four Councils will review this draft
40 during their meetings this fall and so you're the first
41 ones to do so, and WIRAC will be meeting next week,
42 Seward Penn will be meeting at the end of the month,
43 beginning of November and just like you suggested the
44 addition of this reduction in their fishing quotas,
45 we'll share that with the other Councils and as long as
46 they agree to add that to the letter, there might be
47 some further discussion after the meeting amongst the
48 Chairs and folks that want to review and make sure the
49 final letter and everyone is in agreement and then
50

0372

1 we'll get that sent off to the North Pacific Fishery
2 Management Council.

3
4 And I will remind folks that we will be
5 talking about potential ideas for the All Council
6 meeting this coming winter, that's another item that's
7 going to be on the agenda, and just keep that in mind,
8 this could be a potentially good topic to meet with the
9 other Councils in the region on salmon issues.

10
11 Thanks.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what
14 you're looking for is additions from the Councils and
15 we're first meeting.

16
17 MS. MCDAVID: Yes. And I guess we
18 would need a motion -- so that will be -- yes, I'm
19 sorry, that will be a separate agenda item to talk
20 about the All Council meeting. At this time we're
21 talking about the letter and if everyone's happy with
22 those additions and changes we could entertain a motion
23 to sign on to the joint Council letter and include the
24 recommendations made by the Council.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do I
29 hear a motion.

30
31 MS. SHOCKLEY: I move.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So moved.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, this is
36 Andy.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead
39 Andy.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

42
43 REPORTER: Go ahead, Andy.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair. If there
46 hasn't been a second, I'll second it. I would like to
47 get a review of what those recommendations were because
48 we had some breaks in our ability to hear the Council
49 meeting, so if you could very quickly address the
50

0373

1 amendments to the letter recommended by the Eastern RAC
2 that will be helpful to me.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Brooke can do
7 that.

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, sir, I'm happy to do
10 that. So the amendments would be to add -- or the
11 additions, or edits would be to also suggest the
12 reduction in pollock and other groundfish quotas by 50
13 percent. And to modify that line that you pointed out
14 about -- I haven't found the line in the letter but
15 I'll find it and instead of what it says we will say a
16 rebuilding would take at least two life cycles, which
17 would be six to 12 years for chinook and four to eight
18 for chum salmon, at a minimum.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23 Brooke. Can I make one more comment.

24

25 REPORTER: Yes, go ahead, Andy.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I just
28 want to caution the Council. This is a very touchy
29 issue and it's going to take working with the huge
30 industry and the pollock fleet and the processors and
31 asking for a 50 percent reduction is basically going to
32 make them want to walk away from the table and we'll
33 not get any cooperation. And that's why I'm suggesting
34 that we forego making any recommendations like that,
35 specific numbers, until the working groups that are
36 working on this can develop the best strategy to do
37 that. So it's up to the Council but, you know, I've
38 been involved in these fisheries for over 25 years,
39 very intimately, I've testified at a lot of these
40 meetings, I've met a lot of these people and this is
41 going to require a long-term fix, nothing is going to
42 happen in the next two or three years. This is a very
43 long-term fix that we have to be very patient for and
44 we have to be very, very smart in our strategic
45 planning on how we address this otherwise it will
46 backfire on us. So that's just a word of caution to
47 the Council.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0374

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. My
2 head went to, well, just reduction, and forget the 60
3 percent, what do you think, Dorothy?

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I got a
8 thumb's up from Charlie and a nod of the head of Linda.
9 And I think I'm seeing the same from Don, that just
10 mention it and not say the percentage.

11
12 Dorothy.

13
14 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, I was going to
15 reach for a high and then somewhere come through with
16 the middle somewhere, negotiation.

17
18 MS. EVANS: We're negotiating.

19
20 MS. SHOCKLEY: But I want to negotiate
21 with, not the Council, but with North Pacific. We have
22 given so much and we only take one percent of all
23 fisheries, not only in the state but in the world,
24 probably. And we're not asking for a whole lot, you
25 know, I mean it's like, I know asking for 50 percent
26 reduction, you know, is a lot, but I think we need to
27 negotiate. At the same time, you know, our little bit
28 of harvest is nothing compared to what is being
29 harvested in the North Pacific and they are taking our
30 food and we need to play -- I mean we have to quit
31 being nice, we need to play hardball if we're going to
32 get anywhere with them.

33
34 I mean we've always, you know, said,
35 okay, we'll do this, we'll do that and we are hungry.

36
37 So like I said, I mean, yeah, we can
38 lower the number, but they just -- they need to know
39 that they need to limit what is being caught out there
40 and so how do we do that. Nobody else is saying that,
41 they're just concentrating on bycatch but we need to
42 limit their catch as well.

43
44 That's all I'm saying.

45
46 And I think it's really important.

47
48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted - overwhelmingly)

50

0375

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I feel your
2 pain actually very well. I get it. So I would
3 actually feel like I was being bullied by them people
4 if, oh, you're going to leave the table because I'm
5 asking for you to get reduced.

6
7 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yeah. Right.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry,
10 Andy, I kind of get it.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: 25 to 50 percent.

13
14 MS. SHOCKLEY: That's good.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah, go with 25
17 to 50 percent.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So what we
22 need.....

23
24 MS. EVANS: How about just a reduction.

25
26 REPORTER: Charlie. You guys need to
27 turn on a mic, any mic, pick a mic.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, so.....

30
31 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah, we can say
32 reduction or 25 to 50 percent.....

33
34 MS. SHOCKLEY: But what if they're
35 just.....

36
37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT:just to put
38 something on the record.

39
40 REPORTER: Dorothy, you guys have to
41 turn your mic on -- sorry, if you want it on the
42 record.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Dorothy, did
45 you have something else.

46
47 MS. SHOCKLEY: I'm sorry.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I couldn't really
50

0376

1 think of.....

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Charlie, put your mic on.

4

5 MS. SHOCKLEY: What did you say, I'm
6 sorry, I didn't.....

7

8 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I said that 25
9 percent.....

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: Mic.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He said 25 to
14 50 percent. Okay, we do, honestly, try really hard to
15 turn your mic on to speak. I know it's.....

16

17 MS. SHOCKLEY: I'm sorry.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:more fun
20 without them.

21

22 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. Somebody
23 suggested just putting a reduction, but I don't think
24 that is adequate because I mean they could reduce it by
25 one percent and that would do nothing. So we need to
26 put a number in there, I think.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: How about if we
29 say reduce to try to make escapement for Yukon River.

30

31 MS. SHOCKLEY: And what would that do?

32

33 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Or just -- well,
34 you can't eat until you make escapement at the Canadian
35 Border, that's why we ain't eating right now is because
36 we ain't making escapement. That's what it's all
37 about, on the Yukon, the Kuskokwim is a little
38 different.

39

40 MS. SHOCKLEY: But how are they --
41 reduction in the.....

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What I think
44 I'm hearing here is he's saying reduction until.....

45

46 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

49

50

0377

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So the AYK salmon
2 goes through the area of intercept, Area M, at a
3 certain time of the year. We've battled for years to
4 try to get windows or less fishing time. So they know
5 exactly -- not exactly, but in June, they know a couple
6 week span where our salmon go through and we've been
7 trying to get them to lower their numbers and their
8 fishing days during that time to make windows so we can
9 get some fish into the rivers and make escapement so
10 people could eat. So that's the objective, is to get
11 some salmon back on the spawning ground. So 1,500 fish
12 that made it into Canada this year, if average -- the
13 salmon are not the same size no more, so kind of an
14 average used to be like 33,000 eggs so if you did that
15 math times 1,500 I think it's a little over 2 million
16 eggs so if they could reduce enough to let some back in
17 and try to see improvements in numbers going up. We're
18 not saying -- and was stated that those little salmon,
19 when they're stressed some of them are not even
20 spawning now so that number is probably half. So if we
21 can improve and work on escapement through windows or
22 less fishing time then we might start improving our run
23 and chance for them to rebuild. If there's not enough
24 fish making it to the spawning ground it's a really
25 tough thing.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I'm trying
28 to help here. So I'm hearing you say instead of what
29 the other suggestion of 50 percent reduction of their
30 harvest on other fisheries, you're saying that they
31 need to reduce their fisheries like the pollock and
32 other fisheries until we see an escapement on the Yukon
33 -- what's the exact words?

34
35 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Escapement.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Escapement.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah, the border
40 escapement.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, the
43 border escapement, because you haven't met it in years,
44 right?

45
46 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: No.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So all you
49 want to do is meet the escapement for salmon on the
50

0378

1 Yukon.

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ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: If we meet escapement then the people along the river can eat. That's what's stopping us from eating right now on the Yukon River is the number of salmon going past the border. And if you're going to make an amendment or anything, I think the reason I made my comment is because you have to have some kind of good reason for them to even read your material or consider it.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That sounds reasonable to me. I mean the fishery should have its escapement.

MS. MCDAVID: This is Brooke. Just a couple of points as we're discussing. First to that last point about the escapement, I mean in the first part of the letter that is really sort of the justification of why we're making these requests because we're not meeting escapement and people are not meeting their needs for subsistence.

The second point I just wanted to make is that this letter is directed towards the North Pacific Fishery Management Council who oversees the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands marine groundfish fishery, which is separate from the Area M fishery that the State of Alaska manages.

So I just wanted to make those points.

We did send in comments for those Area M Board of Fish proposals last Board of Fish cycle, which, unfortunately we all know the outcome of, it didn't go how people wanted but that's where we are. So this letter is to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. I think you all are making, you know, some very good points that have been brought up, you know, every meeting for the past, you know, a decade since chinook salmon started really declining on the Yukon. I think it's a big issue that we can continue addressing at future meetings, working with other Councils, these other working groups.

So thanks for your input and I guess I just need clarification how we're going to address this suggestion about the reduction and fishing quotas.

0379

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. So -- this is
4 Dorothy, if I may.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

7

8 MS. SHOCKLEY: So I hear where you're
9 coming from and I appreciate that. So maybe we could
10 go to 25 percent reduction. And, you know, just having
11 worked with the, you know, State Legislator, and now
12 Federal -- I mean I appreciate the letter, for sure,
13 but one thing that I learned is they get -- every
14 agency, everybody, Legislators, whoever, get inundated
15 with letters, paper, and, you know, they know our
16 issues, you know, the most effective way is a one pager
17 bullet points, this is what we want, they know the --
18 they know the issues and that's all they're going to
19 look, that's all they have time to do is read one page
20 and so, you know, I appreciate this long explanation
21 but, you know, just to the very point -- small
22 paragraph for each bullet point and that's all we need.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm hearing
25 you say we should shorten the letter. Well, I think
26 this -- this is coming from four RACs, I think that's
27 powerful.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Uh-huh.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And to do --
32 if the other RACs don't agree with us then we'd be
33 pulled out, I don't want to do that.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. So,
38 you know, I'm okay with that.....

39

40 MS. MCDAVID: Amanda just said the call
41 got dropped again.

42

43 REPORTER: The call did not get
44 dropped.

45

46 MS. MCDAVID: No, okay.

47

48 REPORTER: Everybody was muted
49 including us and your platform won't let us unmute.

50

0380

1 (Pause - redialing in - still muted)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we're
4 having difficulty once again.

5

6 REPORTER: I'm going to call back in,
7 try to call back in.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Should we
10 wait?

11

12 REPORTER: Yes. Let me call back in.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Man this is
15 so frustrating you guys, I don't know how to go about
16 it. Our next meeting, Charlie just asked, is in March
17 at the All Council meeting.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I'll say now that
20 we know, I wanted to say a little bit more.

21

22 (Pause - redialing in - still muted)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda and
25 Andy are both on. So I'm trying to recap where we were
26 when this technical difficulty occurred.

27

28 REPORTER: Brooke knows.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
31 Actually I just talked to Dorothy as we came back on
32 and her feeling was.....

33

34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's that
38 feedback about.

39

40 REPORTER: Okay, so I will tell people
41 that are online if you're not speaking with the Council
42 right now, if you could go ahead and mute yourself and
43 you could do that by star, six.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Please mute.

46

47 REPORTER: So if you're not speaking,
48 please, star, six. Because we're getting feedback from
49 somebody's line. Thank you.

50

0381

1 All right, go ahead, Sue.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
4 Dorothy, I'm going to try and then you -- actually you
5 would restate it quite well, what you were after.

6

7 MS. SHOCKLEY: Is that where we were?

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

10

11 MS. SHOCKLEY: So my suggestion would
12 be to add another, I guess, bullet point in regards to
13 limiting all fisheries in the North Pacific by 25
14 percent. And then the other thing was just have a one
15 page white paper, they call it, where you just give
16 bullet points with a limited explanation. We could
17 still add the letter behind it but as long as they see
18 that one page white paper saying this is what -- you
19 know, it's kind of like a summary, and most agencies,
20 Councils, I mean including ours, I think, that's what
21 you want to see, just the most important thing, we
22 don't have time to read, you know, 400 pages of letters
23 and that kind of thing.

24

25 So that's my suggestion.

26

27 I mean I definitely want to add
28 reduction of fisheries -- fishing in the North Pacific.
29 You know if we can't fish then they can at least reduce
30 the limits.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you want
33 to add what Charlie suggested until there's escapement
34 on the Yukon?

35

36 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yeah. I mean I don't
37 know if it's in this first.....

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It might be
40 in the letter you think. I'm sorry you guys.

41

42 MS. MCDAVID: Just to clarify, if you
43 added -- I think what Charlie was suggesting is that
44 there shouldn't be fishing in the marine environment
45 until escapement is made; is that what you.....

46

47 MS. EVANS: That is correct.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Uh-huh.

50

0382

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm --
2 there's a bunch of nodding of heads over here.

3

4 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Well, if that is
5 -- I'll just say this and you guys can discuss it. If
6 that is something that you want to add that is very
7 restrictive and it might -- I mean I'm not saying it's
8 a bad idea but in line with Andy's comments, if we're
9 trying to find some sort of middle ground -- just
10 putting that out there.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
13 Charlie.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: We're not really
16 in comments.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're in
19 comments.

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, this is just an
22 open discussion so.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. Seeing how
25 our next meeting is in March and we'll have time to put
26 in more comments I think we should just stick with the
27 way that letter is as Andy stated and work on another
28 one and make sure that the other Councils agree with it
29 before we get ourselves into some more trouble.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
34 Dorothy.

35

36 MS. SHOCKLEY: So where exactly is this
37 letter?

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry?

40

41 MS. SHOCKLEY: Where exactly is this
42 letter?

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: Where is it?

45

46 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yes. Yeah.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Has it been
49 sent?

50

0383

1 MS. SHOCKLEY: Has it been sent is what
2 I'm saying. Where exactly in the process is.....

3

4 MS. MCDAVID: No, this is in the
5 editing stage so all the Councils.....

6

7 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay, so.....

8

9 MS. MCDAVID:were able to edit
10 it. This letter was sent last year, a very similar
11 version. They want to send another version.

12

13 MS. SHOCKLEY: Oh, okay.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The Councils
16 don't have a chance to all meet together for this
17 version, but if you want to all meet together at the
18 All Council meeting and come up with additional.....

19

20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22

23 MS. MCDAVID:measures and
24 restrictions that you would like to suggest that would
25 be a great avenue to be able to talk to each other
26 instead of all this back and forth, do you approve
27 this, do you approve that, type of drafting of a
28 letter. It's very difficult to draft a joint Council
29 letter when the joint Councils can't actually meet
30 together.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is there a
33 committee scheduled to meet at the All Council meeting
34 on this subject?

35

36 MS. MCDAVID: Not currently. That is
37 something you can suggest during a future agenda topic.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Boy, it
40 sounds like a wise decision to me, okay, and there's
41 time to get the letter out after that joint -- or the
42 All Council meeting?

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: Well, the North Pacific
45 Fishery Management Council meets regularly, I think
46 they have three meetings a year and so we can submit a
47 letter to them at any time.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I agree.

50

0384

1 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: We want to have
4 all the Councils in it and working together and
5 agreeing on that letter before we send it that way we
6 have more power and more strength in our letter.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Dorothy
9 and I were talking about just that at break. This has
10 a lot of oomph from all four.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yep.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Dorothy.

15

16 REPORTER: And you've got Andy next
17 too.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy you're
20 next. Dorothy you.....

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I want
23 to concur with Charlie's comments in regards to just
24 sending the letter as is and then working on it into
25 the future at an All Council meeting. I think that's a
26 wise way to proceed right now and it will save us some
27 time at this meeting, which is drawing to an end pretty
28 quick here, so I think that's the prudent course to
29 take and I'm in support of that.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
34 Andy. Go ahead, Dorothy.

35

36 MS. SHOCKLEY: Hnnnnnnnn. Well, I think
37 it's important that we get the message to the North
38 Pacific Fisheries Council to limit fishing out in the
39 Bering Sea. Do we wait until March? Do we, you know,
40 ask the other Councils if they, you know, concur with
41 that? Or do we just write our own letter?

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think you
44 just went down the list of things we could do.

45

46 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. Uh-huh.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So then what
49 do you want to do?

50

0385

1 MS. MCDAVID: I'm happy to ask the
2 other Councils if they're okay with that addition and,
3 you know, if they're not then it doesn't go in and we
4 can meet and talk about the next version of the letter
5 that we want to send. That would be my suggestion but
6 it's not up to me.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
9 heard two people say they think just get this going
10 now. If this letter was approved on and went -- when
11 would it go out, before our next meeting?

12

13 MS. MCDAVID: Yes.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you would
16 reinstate our wishes and it would go out before the
17 next meeting and then we could go into another one?

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: Yes. If you guys chose
20 to do another joint Council letter or a session at the
21 All Council meeting you could do another letter then.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see the
24 benefit in that because of the squeaky wheel getting
25 the grease. So Charlie.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: This letter we
28 want to keep sending and adding to but we want to keep
29 sending to like keep stabbing, you have to let them
30 know that you're not going away. So that's why we
31 started the letter in the first place but it's more
32 powerful with the four Councils on there, by far. So
33 that's what I was talking about. And we could write
34 our own letter also but I think this has way more power
35 with the other Councils and everybody agreeing and on
36 the same page, unity is strength.

37

38 MS. SHOCKLEY: I appreciate that, yes.
39 But I like the idea that Brooke had too. If the other
40 Councils agree to put that reduction of fisheries in
41 the North Pacific then let's add that, if not, just
42 send the letter and we'll talk about it in March.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Does
45 that make sense?

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: It makes sense to me, I
48 guess the Council as a whole just needs to agree on
49 that. Thanks.

50

0386

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do I need
2 a motion to agree on sending that -- like we like this
3 and we'd like it to go out again, so the Council gets
4 the -- the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
5 gets it and then they're going to get some more.
6

7 MS. MCDAVID: I think the motion on the
8 table was to -- to agree to sign on to the letter with
9 the amendments but we are still clarifying what we want
10 to suggest. So it sounds like Dorothy is proposing
11 that we suggest adding this reduction in the fishing
12 quotas, 25 percent, and we're going to propose that to
13 the other Councils.
14

15 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: One more question
16 -- no, I'll take it back.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You
19 know that was so confusing from losing contact like
20 that, I didn't even know we had a motion on the floor.
21

22 (Laughter)
23

24 MS. SHOCKLEY: I didn't either.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You didn't
27 either.
28

29 (Laughter)
30

31 MS. MCDAVID: Dorothy made the motion
32 and Andy seconded it.
33

34 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Scrambled eggs.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the
37 motion was, what did you write down, the motion was
38 exactly what now? To write the letter.
39

40 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, to sign on to the
41 letter and that we will suggest one change at this
42 point.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I
45 thought I heard her say she -- and Andy seconded,
46 correct me if I'm wrong, to send the letter.
47

48 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. I will admit I do
49 not have the exact motion written down either so.....
50

0387

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, is that
2 what you seconded, or is that what you -- no, is that
3 what your motion was, to send the letter?

4
5 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yes, something -- I
6 think so, with the change.

7
8 REPORTER: I need you to turn your mic
9 on Dorothy.

10
11 MS. EVANS: She wanted a change added
12 on.

13
14 REPORTER: I need the mic on -- you
15 guys need to turn your mics on over here.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

20
21 REPORTER: Okay, go ahead, Andy.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead
24 Andy.

25
26 MR. BASSICH: Am I good Tina.

27
28 REPORTER: Yes, you're on, go ahead.

29
30 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. So the motion
31 from my recollection was to send a letter with the
32 additions that we discussed, one of them was Dorothy's,
33 one of them was mine and then we got into the
34 discussion and I made the points that I made, but the
35 motion was to send the letter with some suggested
36 modifications. That's all the motion had, there is
37 nothing specific and then I asked if we could get a
38 clarification on what those changes would be and that's
39 when we got kind of wrapped around the axle on the
40 whole reduction of the pollock industry.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
43 still would like to recommend to the Council that we go
44 ahead and send this letter so we keep sending it. Are
45 we all in agreement with that part; any objection?

46
47 MS. SHOCKLEY: Of sending the letter?

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sending this
50

0388

1 letter now, now, and then moving forward this letter
2 gets sent as soon as it can be approved and then these
3 suggestions will go to the All Council meeting -- no?
4 No? Okay, go ahead.

5

6 MS. SHOCKLEY: No.

7

8 REPORTER: Dorothy, turn on your mic.

9

10 MS. SHOCKLEY: What we're proposing is
11 we send the letter with the recommended changes. If
12 the other Councils agree then we'll make the changes,
13 if they don't the letter goes as is, and then we will
14 attempt to make the changes at the March meeting. So
15 it will go out -- well, Brooke is going to ask the
16 other Council people.....

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Councils.

19

20 MS. SHOCKLEY: Councils. If they agree
21 with the two changes. Mine and Andy's. And then if
22 they agree then it will be added, if not, then it still
23 goes out and the changes will hopefully be made in
24 March for another letter.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does everyone
27 understand that.

28

29 (Council nods affirmatively)

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It sounds
34 like they do. Okay. So then I'm asking again for
35 unanimous consent, with that understanding. Anyone
36 opposed.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
41 none it passes. I guess I would suggest it would be
42 nice -- I don't think we need a motion at the All
43 Councils, like there would be like a little gathering
44 of people at the meeting.

45

46 MS. MCDAVID: No. But we have an
47 agenda item that will be coming up that we're going to
48 be discussing the All Council meeting because there may
49 be additional topics, in addition to salmon, that you

50

0389

1 would like to see at the All Council meeting.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, then we
4 covered it, and if we didn't stop me. I'm going on in
5 the agenda.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Kanuti/Yukon
10 Flats Refuge complexing update. Ronnie Santez.

11

12 MS. MCDAVID: Sanchez.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Say it again.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Sanchez.

17

18 MR. SANCHEZ: Yes, I'm online.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We hear you.

21

22 MR. SANCHEZ: Madame Chair, thank you,
23 and members of the RAC. Quick introduction. So my
24 name is Ronnie Sanchez. I am currently the Acting
25 Chief of Refuges here in Alaska. I've been in Alaska
26 for nine years in a different role as a Refuge
27 Supervisor for the southern zones, until they
28 backfilled the Chief's position I will continue to be
29 acting. So I don't know if that'll be another month or
30 two months, or three, but I am here today, I guess, to
31 maybe listen and answer questions for you all regarding
32 our proposal to merge the Kanuti National Wildlife
33 Refuge and the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge,
34 our operations.

35

36 I can tell you right now we are still
37 kind of in a -- I would call it a listening mode. We
38 do have some upcoming meetings, consultation meetings
39 with TCC and I believe Alatna this following week in
40 Fairbanks and there's one yet to be scheduled yet for
41 Allakaket Tribe, they've requested consultation. I do
42 not believe we have actually scheduled that meeting as
43 of yet.

44

45 So I guess with that I want to hear
46 from you all, what are your concerns, ultimately,
47 again, as we move forward, what services are you
48 feeling need to be critical, that we ensure that needs
49 are met, whether it be positions, projects, activities,

50

0390

1 these are tough decisions as I think you are all well
2 aware of, it's not lightly that we've considered this
3 as an option moving forward. The one thing I can say,
4 regardless, as we move forward, we're always looking
5 at, quite frankly, just diminished budgets and what we
6 have to do to prioritize any work that goes with that.
7 An example for that, like this year, we have two pilots
8 that currently left our agency for other employment, so
9 good for them, I'm happy for them, not that happy, but
10 I'm okay. We have another pending retirement of a
11 pilot that will happen later this year, and then
12 unfortunately with the passing of Robert Sundown out of
13 Yukon Delta Refuge, I can tell you right now just our
14 operations alone, that we depend heavily on aviation,
15 we will not be able to continue to do all the same
16 services, all the same monitoring, all the same
17 progress we've done in the past. Decisions will be
18 made as to where we will send our limited resources.

19

20 So, anyway, enough talking from me, I
21 would really love to hear from you more about what this
22 means to you and how we can try to move forward
23 together.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
26 members.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I will say
31 that Brooke just passed me a note, we have a public
32 comment on this from Mike Peter and he's online. Do
33 you want to hear from him now?

34

35 (Council nods affirmatively)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
38 ahead, Mike Peter.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 REPORTER: Mike Peter, if you want to
43 speak, could you please star, six, we can't hear you.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 REPORTER: Mike Peter, star, six.
48 Sometimes you have to do it twice.

49

50

0391

1 (No comments)

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We'll just -- Mike Peter if you can hear us you just butt in whenever you get -- we'll acknowledge you when we hear you, but we can't hear you right now. And as the court reporter said you have to push star, six, multiple times sometimes.

9

10 Council members, your feelings on this
11 subject, they're asking us. We just got an update,
12 it's not really an action item but I'm sure they're
13 listening and if I heard it correctly there's going to
14 be a lack of funding because it's only on Refuge and
15 not two.

16

17 Charlie.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: My only concern
20 with this is it's going to be -- it's going to be
21 spread thin for a large area, management and
22 enforcement, and the Haul Road is part of that. I know
23 Jack had some concerns about that -- Jack Reakoff, up
24 in his area about the lack of enforcement, and there's
25 already a lack, and so this is going to be a huge
26 thing. I think it's going to cause problems going
27 forward. That's just my comment.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

30

31 MR. SANCHEZ: Thank you, Charlie.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, this
34 isn't an action item and we're -- who -- what power do
35 we have?

36

37 MR. SANCHEZ: Well, I mean if you're
38 asking me, we do consider everything that somebody
39 shares with us, right, decisions are one thing, it's
40 how we make those decisions, are we listening to the
41 right -- are we listening to all the facts, maybe
42 starting there, is there something we're missing as we
43 make these decisions. So I think there's power in any
44 organization, any group, especially a recommendation
45 coming from the RAC as to how we prioritize any of our
46 work that goes forward. Again, just like your
47 household, I'm certain -- at least in my household, I
48 won't speak for any of you guys, things have gotten --
49 I mean fuel's gone up, prices of everything has gone

50

0392

1 up, my grocery bill's gone up, my heating bill's gone
2 up, everything has gone up so you do make choices every
3 single day as to how you will use what precious
4 resources you've got, what are you going to spend it
5 on, and from a Refuge Program that's what we're trying
6 to do. We didn't start this effort, where we finally
7 came to the conclusion that this might be a way forward
8 for the Refuge Program to merge these two Refuges, we
9 went out and said what are our priorities, what is the
10 priorities for the whole program as a whole, not any
11 one, what are the program priorities, then we built a
12 budget based off of those priorities. So if we say
13 tribal connections is our Number 1 priority, where are
14 we going to invest in; if we say moose surveys are our
15 Number 1 priority, where are we going to invest in,
16 where are we going to go do that, fisheries, right
17 where -- we start building off of those priorities that
18 we identified, and then that's what led us to a
19 reduction in the budget for both stations, it wasn't a
20 penalty like, how can we -- because the work that
21 they're doing and the work you guys represent right now
22 is critical for everyone, we're not saying that's a bad
23 thing, all we're trying to do is identify where do we
24 fund our priorities and sometimes that means making a
25 tough decision.

26

27 And, again, I'll use my own personal
28 example in my house right now if I could take a few
29 minutes here. But my daughter, a few months ago,
30 competed in the USA National TaeKwondo tournament, went
31 down to Florida, not a whole lot of competition in
32 Alaska so we didn't really know what she could do but
33 she's a tough battler, she took gold in the USA
34 National TaeKwonDo* tournament in her age group, in her
35 weight division, in her belt, super proud of her, she
36 did awesome. She got looked at by coaches from all
37 over the country for schools. Let me flash forward to
38 literally this next weekend, her group from her class
39 that she goes to, they're going to Las Vegas for
40 another tournament, another kind of big tournament, and
41 we finally said, honey -- this was decided a few months
42 ago, we're sorry, your brother, he's asked us to
43 financially help him, he's kind of hurting, we can't
44 send you to this tournament, and it broke my heart, and
45 guess what her coach called me, even parents and she's
46 like the oldest one in the group, she helps all the
47 other ones, I heard all the stories, and it felt bad
48 and I still feel bad but we just couldn't afford to do
49 it, so those are just tough decisions that need to be
50

0393

1 made. I mean I feel bad for her, but it's just what
2 I'm doing in my household. And now I'm just kind of
3 using that as an example, what we're trying to do is
4 fund priorities. We identified a priority in my house
5 and that's where we've put our money at.

6
7 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
10 Andy.

11
12 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. You're asking
13 for priorities. I understand budgets will be
14 constrained more, I think a really good use of money
15 would be to partner more with people who live in the
16 areas that you are basically in control of and start
17 building relationships with people on the land for
18 doing survey, for helping you understand what's
19 happening on the land. I recommended this to the Park
20 Service many decades ago, everybody loves to send out
21 graduate students and so on and so forth to do the work
22 when the people out on the land that live there have a
23 much better understanding of the full life cycles going
24 on out there. So I know you need to have hard data but
25 if you work with the people out in the Bush they are
26 quite capable of providing hard data with a little bit
27 of training and I think that would go a long ways to
28 developing relationships, it would go a long ways to
29 getting traditional, ecological knowledge into the
30 system which has been a long fought battle with very
31 poor results in most entities, agencies, and I think
32 that's a way to move forward to co-steward the land.

33
34 That's my top priority and my top
35 recommendation. It's going to be critical to monitor
36 how climate change is affecting fish and wildlife and
37 the people out on the land will be your best allies and
38 one of your better sources for getting that
39 information.

40
41 That's all, Madame Chair, thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
44 Andy. I might be a little confused. I thought we were
45 discussing do they go together or not, but we're
46 discussing funds or both?

47
48 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair.

49
50

0394

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Brooke.

2

3 MR. SANCHEZ: I would say -- sorry,
4 Madame Chair. I was just going to say -- I would say
5 sometimes I think they go both hand in hand. Where we
6 decide to prioritize our funding and I totally agree
7 with the last speaker here, I think we're in a
8 different place right now with land managing agencies
9 here in Alaska and our working relationships with the
10 local tribes and local people, I think there's a shift
11 in the wind and I think our managers that are out in
12 the field right now appreciate that, because they're
13 the ones that want to be those stewards co-working with
14 individuals. We're working with short budgets and,
15 yeah, I think we can do more of that.

16

17 MR. PETER: Yes, hello, Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. PETER: Yeah, good afternoon, this
22 is Michael Peter, Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwichin Fort Yukon,
23 Second Chief. Also I'd like to comment on that, the
24 merger. I think it's not a good idea with everybody
25 being spread so thin and the cutbacks and the shutdown
26 but I agree with Mr. Bassich, those are good words, and
27 those are kind of words what we spoke to Jimmie Fox
28 when he came here about a month or two ago, we met with
29 the tribal council about the merger of the Kanuti and
30 Yukon Flats, the Refuges. Since we are out here, we
31 are the people of the land, the stewards, I think that
32 we do need to co-manage getting it more in place
33 because we are here, we're out on the land, and we see
34 what's going on, what's happening, we have a front row
35 seat, we're not going anywhere and I think the status
36 of that will go a long ways and not only that I think
37 it will build a stronger and better relationship with
38 the people that are out in the villages in the
39 communities because there is change that is happening
40 and you can't see it from a cubicle in Fairbanks or
41 Anchorage.

42

43 So with that, and, you know, like I
44 said if everything's getting spread out pretty thin and
45 the cutbacks, but I think that we do have a resolution
46 in place, that we introduced to the Fish and Wildlife
47 Service, all the co-management status and on the
48 disagreement of the merger of the Refuges.

49

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0395

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. SANCHEZ: Thank you, Mike Peter.

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair. I just
6 wanted to point the Council to Page 59 of your meeting
7 books. The Council did receive a letter from Regional
8 Director Sara Boario earlier this year was to notify
9 you that the complexing is planned and she, in her
10 letter, asked for you all to express your concerns to
11 identify ideas to make sure that your needs are still
12 being met in light of the complexing, so that's why
13 Ronnie is calling in today, to get your input and
14 feedback on the complexing.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
19 members, I know we're getting tired but I would
20 recommend -- go ahead Charlie with something.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I would support
23 if we could do what Andy Bassich said, if we could work
24 towards that, in that direction, I think that would
25 work out.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're
30 agreeing to a merger, or what are you agreeing to?

31

32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: It appears that
33 the merger is going to happen and they're looking for a
34 comment and I think if it's going to happen and be
35 spread so thin and if they look for co-management in
36 those villages in that area, I think it's doable.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

39

40 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yeah, if you look

41 at.....

42

43 REPORTER: Dorothy, mic.

44

45 MS. SHOCKLEY: If you look at paragraph
46 three it says as a result of the work load the
47 difficult decision was made to merge the operations of
48 both Refuges -- or -- yeah. So I don't think -- I mean
49 it's just -- I mean I agree with Andy in having the

50

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1 Refuge work with the local people. I mean that's a no-
2 brainer.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I like the
5 no-brainer.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Because there
8 ain't none left here.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we put
13 in a long day yesterday and so we're kind of feeling
14 brain dead. But, yes, Council members anything else
15 you'd like to share with the presenter.

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: Ask Amanda, I thought she
18 said something on there.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who?

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: Amanda.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda, did
25 you have something.

26

27 MS. POPE: Hi, Madame Chair, no. I
28 agree with the other comments that was stated and I
29 feel that in the future it will be hard for both areas
30 that these Refuges serve and kind of going forward for
31 them I hope they would involve the local input more,
32 and tribal opportunities to allow them to participate
33 and even co-steward, anything that happens in and
34 around their communities.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
39 Amanda. I would think that even Fish and Game Advisory
40 Committees would probably be very useful.

41

42 Anything else, Council members.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hope that's
47 helpful, Ronnie.

48

49 MR. SANCHEZ: Madame Chair. Other

50

0397

1 members of the RAC. This is Ronnie again, I want to
2 thank you for the time, maybe you are brain dead, I'll
3 use your words, this is an ongoing conversation, this
4 isn't a one and done. We do have great folks, our
5 managers out there in the field, Joanna Fox, Jimmie
6 Fox, or myself, feel free to reach out to any of us at
7 any time if you want to provide additional information
8 that can help us as we move forward. And I, again,
9 thank you for your time.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
12 Okay, the next thing on the agenda is to identify
13 issues for our annual report. This is an action item.

14

15 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. So I will
20 turn your attention to 387 of your meeting books. For
21 the folks, especially that are new on the Council,
22 these are the guidelines for the annual reports and as
23 Sue said -- Madame Chair said, this is an action item.
24 I won't read through the guidelines but basically this
25 is an opportunity for you to ensure that the Board has
26 the most up to date awareness of issues, concerns,
27 current events that are impacting your subsistence way
28 of life.

29

30 So earlier in the meeting we had gone
31 over the topics that you included last year, and so I
32 will remind you that we will only be able to add new
33 topics at this meeting, in the fall. At the winter
34 meeting you will review the draft that we develop after
35 this meeting. I will craft that and send it out for
36 you all -- for your feedback. I do suggest that if
37 you're raising topics of concern to the Board, if there
38 are specific actions that you would like the Board to
39 take to address those concerns, that those also be
40 included.

41

42 And I'll turn it back to you, Madame
43 Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Council
46 members. Charlie.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Due to the
49 uncertainty of climate and the effects it's been having

50

0398

1 on caribou herds, I would really like to see the
2 climate buffer added to management somewhere or some
3 how in their -- like I said on the first day if they
4 see a thousand caribou in one herd that can be
5 harvested, then maybe they should do 750 to make a
6 buffer for climate, you got to start adding that in
7 there because a lot of questions are -- the answers to
8 questions end with well it's climate, but then that's
9 all that's said, nothing's done. So I would like to
10 see it added, some way, some how. It has a huge effect
11 on everything that's going on.

12

13 So I'd like that to be added and one of
14 the things to be put down.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. SHOCKLEY: Are we talking about
19 the.....

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

22

23 MS. SHOCKLEY: I'm sorry. I wasn't
24 recognized by the Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, go ahead.

27

28 MS. SHOCKLEY: Are we talking about
29 this report that we talked about at the very beginning?

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

32

33 MS. SHOCKLEY: Where there was no
34 action?

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

37

38 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, my recommendation
39 is that we get some action.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I like
44 that. Can that be added?

45

46 MS. MCDAVID: So if the Council, you
47 know, in agreement that this topic should be added, I
48 guess some words on how -- so would you say that the
49 Board should direct the managers -- because the Board

50

0399

1 might not necessarily make the management decisions
2 themselves if management has delegated authority. So
3 would you say they should direct the managers to add
4 this buffer?

5

6 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: Okay.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes, add that
11 please.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I didn't
16 -- I don't think -- well, Andy, you're next.

17

18 REPORTER: Hold on Andy, Dorothy's
19 still on.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You had a
22 different way that you wanted to approach it, right,
23 Dorothy?

24

25 MS. SHOCKLEY: Correct. I mean last
26 year there were 11 recommend -- I don't know what you
27 would call them, directives, or whatever these are --
28 these.....

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Topics of
31 concern.

32

33 MS. POPE: Madame Chair.

34

35 MS. SHOCKLEY: Topics of concern. And
36 what issues. So what I read was they agreed with our
37 concerns and what I would like to see is them be
38 directed to whoever can make these issues go away. If
39 -- I mean not necessarily just go away but something be
40 done about them. Right? I mean.....

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, then
43 Charlie, then Brooke.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I just have one
46 quick thing.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 I'd like to build on Charlie's topic. And to give you

50

0400

1 an example of how this could be done I think in the
2 Yukon River fisheries directives should be given to
3 managers to always try and manage through the mid-point
4 of a goal. In most fisheries, management, they have a
5 range that they develop and one of the things that has
6 been causing problems on the Yukon River is we always
7 manage to the lowest point in the goal to reach
8 escapement so that they can open it up for fishers,
9 however, with all these uncertainties, like what
10 happened on the Yukon River with ichthyophonus and many
11 other types of things that cause mortality, we haven't
12 met escapement goals for six out of 10 years. So by
13 asking the Board to request that managers always manage
14 to the mid-range of a goal, that's building in the
15 buffer. So that's just trying to give you an example
16 that's a workable, easy thing to accomplish, that
17 Charlie just recommended. And that can be transferred
18 over to caribou. There's usually generally a range
19 that they are trying to work with in populations and so
20 if managers start working towards the mid-range of a
21 goal instead of the bottom end, the bottom end should
22 be the absolute last resort, it should not be the goal
23 to reach so you can open it up for people to slaughter
24 things.

25
26 That's my comment, thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
29 you're next right.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Well, I want to
32 say something before Dorothy.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I just wanted to
37 make it clear that I don't think Dorothy's issue is the
38 same as mine, if there's any confusion.

39
40 MS. SHOCKLEY: Right. Right.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: She was trying to
43 do her own.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

46
47 MS. SHOCKLEY: Right.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I just wanted to

50

0401

1 make that clear on the record.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

4

5 MS. SHOCKLEY: I mean I agree. It
6 could be No. 12.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: Dorothy, could I just
9 make a clarification for you. So we're not adding --
10 so that report with those 11 topics that we sent last
11 year, we're not sending that report again, we already
12 got the replies back. If you want to repeat those
13 topics because we didn't get adequate, in your opinion,
14 response or action, we can do that. We can also make
15 another topic that we're -- that the Council is unhappy
16 with the level of action is perhaps what I'm hearing
17 you suggesting as.....

18

19 MS. SHOCKLEY: No. No.

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, never mind. Okay.

22

23 MS. SHOCKLEY: My thought was that we
24 would just send these again along with an addition to
25 what Charlie suggested in regards to climate change.
26 With a request that we would like to see action.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is
29 that understandable?

30

31 Charlie.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Am I hearing
34 Brooke right, you're not sending back last years?

35

36 MS. SHOCKLEY: Unless we want to.

37

38 MS. MCDAVID: Well, I'm hearing that
39 Dorothy's suggesting that we do repeat the same topics
40 so I don't know if the Council wants to look through
41 the topics real quickly that we sent and make sure that
42 we want to send them all again.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: My question was,
45 is that okay, can we do that? I thought you said we
46 couldn't so I'm just trying to clarify.

47

48 MS. MCDAVID: Well, it'll technically
49 be a new report but it will have the same topics.

50

0402

1 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: If that's what you
4 choose.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'm okay
7 with -- me, personally, with what Dorothy's suggesting.

8

9 Linda.

10

11 MS. EVANS: I have one more concern and
12 it's about the -- the trucking that's going to be going
13 on on the Richardson Highway from Delta to the.....

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tok.

16

17 MS. EVANS: From Tok to the Kinross
18 Mine Company at Fort Knox. There's supposed to be a
19 lot of trucking going on, big 90-foot hauling ore on
20 the Richardson Highway going through to the mine there,
21 Fort Knox to process the ore. And the number of trucks
22 that are coming is supposed to be like four every hour.
23 There's already a lot of traffic on that highway from
24 North Pole to Fairbanks or even from Delta probably. I
25 don't know about that, but I know going from North Pole
26 to Fairbanks during certain hours of the day, like in
27 the morning, around 8:00 o'clock everybody's trying to
28 get to work, in the afternoon 4:00 o'clock, 5:00
29 o'clock, everyone's trying to get home and I can just
30 see disasters happening with those big truckers on that
31 road and I don't know if there's anything that can be
32 done about it but I'm very concerned about it. It'll
33 affect -- it affects our area there in Fairbanks.

34

35 So, thank you.

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair, can I
38 respond to Linda please.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

41

42 MS. MCDAVID: Linda, I just want to
43 remind you about the intent, I guess, of the annual
44 report and in those guidelines it does -- there are
45 some limitations on the content of the report. It
46 should be related to subsistence so if you think that
47 the trucking could have an impact on any subsistence
48 resources then we certainly could include that, but I
49 would ask that you maybe share that with us.

50

0403

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. EVANS: Well, subsistence resource
4 that I know there's always moose getting killed on that
5 highway so can you image those big truckers, how many
6 more are going to get killed.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: I believe I heard
9 and.....

10

11 MS. POPE: Madame Chair, this is
12 Amanda.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
15 Amanda.

16

17 MS. POPE: I am just trying to go over
18 everything of the things that we got -- of the
19 responses that we got back from OSM. One thing that
20 sticks out and this goes for all subsistence of
21 Federally-qualified users and the fact that BLM for
22 cabin permits, a lot of the responses that I've seen
23 about that is basically not answering the initial
24 concern that the regulations that BLM puts in for the
25 cabin permit process helps the subsistence user by
26 using the area. I would like to include that into the
27 Board's, I guess, request for this meeting cycle.

28

29 And I could state what I read here if
30 people would like to know.

31

32 MS. MCDAVID: Thanks, Amanda, this is
33 Brooke. I think it would be helpful to just get a
34 little bit more clarification about what you would like
35 to see in the response that you didn't see in the
36 current response to our report last year from BLM.

37

38 MS. POPE: I'm done.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you hear
41 what Brooke asked you?

42

43 REPORTER: No, she didn't.

44

45 MS. POPE: No, I did not.

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: That's okay, Amanda, can
48 you hear me now?

49

50

0404

1 MS. POPE: Yes, I can.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. I was just
4 saying that it would be helpful if you would share what
5 you would like to see in the response from BLM that you
6 do not see in the current response.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MS. POPE: Okay. I thank you for that.
11 I -- I see that the Board reached out with their
12 concerns to BLM and received the following responses.
13 It says, first it is necessary to clarify terminology,
14 BLM does not have cabins available to use for
15 subsistence activities. There is cabins there from the
16 local's perspectives and that goes -- that is history
17 from the area that there is cabins there that are
18 preexisting before BLM is -- had received the authority
19 to take those lands for management. I'll just state
20 that for the record. Because there is local knowledge
21 that states that there is cabins there. So the
22 response is not really an answer.

23

24 The next thing I saw was that the BLM
25 State Director may reduce or waive some fees under some
26 circumstances, these include if payment of actual costs
27 would result in undue financial hardship, an applicant
28 would receive little monetary value from the permit
29 relative to the processing monitoring fees, or if the
30 processing monitoring fees grossly exceed the cost of
31 constructing the project. It is incumbent upon an
32 applicant to demonstrate such hardship based on the
33 applicant's specific financial status, not simply
34 membership in a category such as being a rural Alaska
35 resident. To me, as a subsistence user, and I think a
36 lot of people who have been dealing with BLM have this
37 statement -- it puts -- it kind of goes back to how the
38 BLM management would like to do things and put
39 roadblocks in for subsistence users which is not okay
40 because Alaska is different than any other state
41 because of the laws we already have in place and for an
42 agency to make new laws to contradict what we already
43 had before they took the land, it's -- it doesn't make
44 any sense for them to ask for specific financial
45 status, such as poverty, what's it called -- poverty
46 qualifications or income statements, they shouldn't be
47 asking for any personal information in order to waive
48 fees. And so for them to charge for the application to
49 be processed is outrageous for a subsistence user and
50

0405

1 for them to charge rent on that price is outrageous
2 because we have a subsistence right that should be
3 honored because we use that area and I'm saying, we, as
4 the subsistence users of all of Interior of BLM, no
5 matter where it's at, there shouldn't be rent because
6 the people already own the land technically, in my
7 opinion, and for them to charge rent and an application
8 fee which may be -- so with that said, they're charging
9 rent and the process for the application, which may be
10 a thousand to \$2,000 depending on where these people
11 are at who are applying within these BLM regions and
12 the people have to get the cabin fixed up which cost
13 money with the outrageous prices we have now with gas
14 and material.

15
16 So I'm concerned for the average
17 subsistence user in the Interior, Eastern Interior, who
18 are asking to use their traditional lands when some
19 people are -- it's just outrageous for these fees to be
20 even asked, or even asked for the financial incomes,
21 personal information to be shared with the Federal
22 government where they should already have the
23 subsistence right to use the area.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
28 Amanda. Brooke wanted to ask you a question, I think.

29
30 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you for sharing
31 your concerns again, Amanda, and I think a lot of that
32 is what we had hoped to convey to the Board last year
33 and, you know, Dorothy had brought up this idea of
34 action and wanting to see more action, and I would
35 suggest that perhaps -- because the Board doesn't
36 necessarily have jurisdiction over that, that the
37 Council consider writing a letter directly to BLM doing
38 exactly what you stated and creating the category of
39 permits for subsistence users, which was kind of what
40 you were getting at last year. But I'm certainly not
41 telling the Council that's what you should do, it's
42 just an option for perhaps more action.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would
47 take a motion then, to write a letter directly to BLM
48 to state all of the things that she's brought up?

49
50

0406

1 Dorothy.

2

3

4 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yes, if I may. In the
5 response it says, you know, like Amanda was saying, to
6 clarify terminology, I don't know what that means, but
7 it says BLM does not have cabins available to use for
8 subsistence activities but you say there is a cabin out
9 there, correct, Amanda?

10

11 MS. POPE: Yes, ma'am. The local
12 people do know where the cabins are at and they are
13 preexisting.

14

15 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. So can you -- can
16 we be more specific on identifying those cabins, or at
17 least the one cabin?

18

19 MS. POPE: Yes. There is a preexisting
20 cabin, cabin, that people use for trapping and they
21 were preexisting before BLM.

22

23 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay.

24

25 MS. POPE: And this one that I'm
26 referring to, I guess, is within the Wild and Scenic
27 Area in Birch Creek on BLM land. But this example is
28 not the only one in our area, so there is more cabin
29 issues, subsistence issues that are still being -- and
30 mine, personally is just an example, it's just not what
31 I'm trying to do with this, it's just to provide an
32 example. For instance there's another cabin in the
33 Bettles area and it's on BLM land and they're having to
34 pay, also, and it's hard for the average subsistence
35 user to be able to fight this, and I think the Board
36 can help everyone and then -- in the Eastern Interior,
37 not just the land I'm referencing.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I
40 think I'm hearing that the best thing to do is to write
41 a letter to BLM and be specific?

42

43 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, for us to
44 write.....

45

46 REPORTER: Dorothy, your mic.

47

48 MS. SHOCKLEY:or for OSM.....

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You have to

0407

1 use your mic.

2

3

MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay, oops, sorry.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

6

7

8

MS. SHOCKLEY: For the Eastern Interior Council to write a letter to BLM, okay, and just not go through the Council, or the.....

9

10

11

12

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or the OSM -- or I mean the Board?

13

14

MS. SHOCKLEY: Yeah.

15

16

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MS. MCDAVID: I would suggest still including the topic on your annual report to let the Board know that this is still a concern and that you have also written directly to BLM and we can include that. We've done that on other topics as well.

21

22

MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay, sounds good.

23

24

25

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What was that, you need to use your mic.

26

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MS. SHOCKLEY: That sounds good. And, Amanda, if you can be more specific in regards to where these cabins were, if you have any idea when they were built and when the land was conveyed to BLM, or that's something I guess we could find out, so that they know that these were built for subsistence use prior to them having patent to the lands.

34

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so in the essence of time, I guess I would suggest that we get Amanda working with -- because the intent is to find out that information and send that letter from the RAC. That's what I'm hearing here. So do we need a motion for that? And then you can get the information that's been requesting from Amanda.

43

44

45

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MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, I can work with Amanda on a draft of the letter. We can -- as long as it's been stated on the record that you all vote to send a letter to BLM, after the meeting we can draft a letter and make sure it includes the information that you've mentioned and review the final before we send it off.

0408

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A motion,
2 right?

3
4 MS. MCDAVID: Yes.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we need
7 a motion, and who feels comfortable, Dorothy, or
8 Amanda. I think you can do it Dorothy.

9
10 MS. POPE: Madame Chair, Amanda.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You want to
13 do it Amanda, go ahead.

14
15 MS. POPE: Madame Chair, this is
16 Amanda.

17
18 REPORTER: Go ahead Amanda, they can
19 hear you.

20
21 MS. POPE: Thank you. I guess I'm just
22 trying -- I mean if you guys want anything specific I'm
23 going to have to switch hats and go a subsistence user
24 aspect and I could provide you specifics and.....

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda, can
27 you hear me?

28
29 MS. POPE:and just let.....

30
31 REPORTER: Amanda. Amanda, could you
32 -- Amanda, can you hold on just one moment, Sue wants
33 to say something to you.

34
35 MS. POPE: Okay.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda.
38 Okay, we just -- the intent is to get with you after
39 the meeting to be specific and Brooke can work with you
40 on that and we just need to take a vote on doing it
41 that way and I hope you understand that the intent is
42 to write a letter from this RAC expressing our concern
43 of the issues that you brought up but we would like you
44 to work with Brooke on a little more specific, and I
45 know you can look into it and get the information, or
46 Brooke can. We can have Staff do it, yeah, because
47 we're volunteers and they can do that.

48
49 So I'll entertain a motion with Brooke
50

0409

1 -- I mean, I'm sorry, Dorothy.

2

3 Dorothy, go ahead, I'm sorry.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: I can do a motion, this
6 is Andy.

7

8 REPORTER: Andy will do the motion.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Andy,
11 go for it.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. The
14 motion would be for the Eastern Interior RAC to write a
15 letter to BLM in regards to rental and fee schedules
16 charged to subsistence users for the use of cabins, and
17 to develop -- and to request that BLM develop a
18 schedule in their fee program with no fees to allow
19 subsistence users access to cabins, remote cabins on
20 BLM land.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we got
23 the motion. Is there a second.

24

25 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second.

26

27 MS. SHOCKLEY: Second.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Don
30 beat Dorothy.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion
33 quickly.....

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Further
36 discussion.

37

38 MR. BASSICH:it occurred to me
39 reading and listening to the conversation that what's
40 missing from BLM is they're used to dealing with large
41 companies, companies that are on their lands for
42 profit, oil companies, guiding companies, whatever,
43 they are not used to dealing with the subsistence
44 people so they need to create a new category for people
45 who just want to go out on the land and do a little bit
46 of subsistence activity on a temporary basis and they
47 shouldn't be charged, or the charges should be absolute
48 minimum for processing. And I think that would be the
49 way to address it to BLM without ruffling feathers too

50

0410

1 much.

2

3

Madame Chair, thank you.

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
Andy. Go ahead, Dorothy.

7

8

9

10

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12

MS. SHOCKLEY: And I think, you know,
especially cabins that they inherited. I mean they
didn't even build them, they were already there for the
use of trappers and subsistence people.

13

14

15

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And let that
be known.....

16

17

18

MR. BASSICH: It doesn't matter,
they're BLM lands and they got.....

19

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21

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I'm sure
there's some data that can be proved.

22

23

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MR. BASSICH:a process that
doesn't allow for what we're asking them to do so we
need to ask them to review their processes and build
that in to their fee schedules. That's what I see by
reading this material and listening to what's
happening. They just don't have any provisions to
adjust for that but we need to ask for them to provide
provisions for subsistence users. It doesn't matter
whether the cabins were there or not, they just don't
have that in their system because they're used to
working with larger entities that are in -- on the
lands asking to do things, access, for profit, the
commercial entities and subsistence activities are not
commercial entities. And so they're lacking that in
their fee schedules for providing access to these
cabins.

38

39

40

That's my take on it.

41

42

43

44

45

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Andy, I
appreciate that. But I also appreciate what Dorothy's
trying to say too and I think it could be easily added.
I hope that's okay with everyone.

46

47

48

49

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(Council nods affirmatively)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A lot of
nodding of the heads here. So is there any other

0411

1 discussion on the motion to write a letter to BLM to
2 create a fee schedule.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Again,
7 I'm going to ask for unanimous consent on the letter.
8 Anyone opposed.

9

10 (No opposing votes)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Moving
13 rapidly along. We're still on our topics of concern.
14 You know there's only one thing I would add and that is
15 let's get a little into the 21st Century and use the
16 technology that's out there instead of battling all the
17 time all these disconnects and all that and streamline
18 the meeting a little bit for us. This introduction of
19 all the members, I can see a little iPad in front of me
20 and ding, ding, ding, they're all there and I'd know
21 that they're there. That would be so helpful to not
22 have to go through an hour of introductions so that's a
23 concern I have that I would add to it.

24

25 Charlie.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I see that OSM
28 supports the hunter ethics program and I think that
29 that needs to continue to grow. I think that should be
30 always on there, I think that's something that's very
31 important. When there's a big long line of people
32 slaughtering caribou, it seems to me that caribou can
33 take a huge rifle round and take a good hit and if it's
34 not good enough to knock it down, that caribou could
35 run a long ways. So there's people shooting and
36 wounding until they knock a caribou down, and so it's
37 really really important for that hunter ethics program
38 to continue to grow as our caribou herds continue to
39 shrink. So I think that's very important to continue
40 to have that on there.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and it
45 was my understanding, and I'm hoping that everybody
46 understood that. Dorothy said that she would like to
47 see all of those issues sent back in so was that your
48 understanding everyone.

49

50

0412

1 (Council nods affirmatively)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Yeah,
4 go ahead.

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair. I just have
7 a response to that. We can certainly do that but if
8 you don't add -- or anything you're going to get the
9 same responses and.....

10

11 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah.

12

13 MS. MCDAVID:so it is good to
14 kind of say a few things about each one that you --
15 like the information you want to see coming back to
16 you. Because if you didn't get what you wanted then we
17 need to be more clear about what you want.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It sounds
20 like we need a working group.

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: So I think -- but in
23 response to Charlie, I think that's great and we can
24 also update the Board, let them know that we formed a
25 working group at this Council meeting and that we
26 appreciate -- would appreciate their support moving
27 forward with that and expanding it.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I wanted to say
30 one more thing please.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, I want to
35 put in a request for moose counts in the Rampart/Tanana
36 area, or -- and that's more State land than Federal
37 land they said, so they said that we should write a
38 letter to ADF&G to ask for better moose counts because
39 it's the same down the corridor now, there's no moose
40 close to the river. I could hunt for a month and not
41 see a moose, it's -- there might be some way back but
42 the corridor is dry. It is for a long ways. And so
43 it'd be really nice to have a good moose count there
44 instead of an estimation or from harvest tickets. The
45 people are really kind of desperate in the area with no
46 moose, no caribou, no fish, so I think that needs to
47 happen, or management needs to change because of the
48 amount of animals around, somehow. People are getting
49 desperate out there.

50

0413

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don.

4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie, is there a
6 winter hunt in that area?

7

8 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: There's a winter
9 hunt over near -- more on the Minto side that leaches
10 over into the Valley but there ain't no moose in there,
11 you can't even find a rabbit let alone a moose.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
14 Brooke.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, I just wanted to
17 respond to Charlie. The Board did suggest that we
18 write a letter to Fish and Game for that topic because
19 it is outside of their jurisdiction since it's mostly
20 State lands, so if the Council would like to do that we
21 would need a motion.

22

23 And I will add that I have requested
24 for the past two meetings that Fish and Game provide an
25 update if they're able to for the moose counts in those
26 areas but they have not been able to fulfill that
27 request.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: It's pretty hard
30 to give a report when you got nothing to report. They
31 ain't doing the count. Like I said they're doing an
32 estimation or a count from the permits that go out.
33 And I asked them last year to look at the days -- the
34 amount of days, they have it on that report, how many
35 days did you hunt, how many days did it take and 20
36 years ago it would take me one or two days to find a
37 moose, now it's two weeks or more. Sometimes -- the
38 last few years I've hunted really hard and have gotten
39 lucky around the last day because they're not moving --
40 the climate also. You can't go off of -- you should go
41 off of how many days, it tells you how far you have to
42 go. In the Rampart area there are hardly any kills
43 there. For a couple years, prior to last year, there
44 was only like two moose shot in Rampart. And last year
45 they got a -- I don't know where they came from but
46 they got a -- just a couple more. And this year it's
47 back to hardship again. So something's got to change.
48 Maybe some other kind of -- I don't know what we could
49 do. But I think the count would give them a better

50

0414

1 idea, a real count, but that's a huge area, I know it's
2 really hard to do. They say they weren't able to get
3 counts sometimes for sheep and moose because of
4 weather, I guess it's bad all year-round, you know. I
5 know they have to do it at a certain time of the year,
6 I just -- I just can't see how it can't get done.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

11

12 MS. MCDAVID: So do you want to send a
13 letter.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Do you want me to
16 state.....

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay. I'll make
21 a motion for the Council to send a letter to the ADF&G
22 for a better moose count in the -- along the Yukon
23 between the Yukon bridge and probably all the way to
24 Ruby. Because I've been hunting in the Nowitna
25 Wildlife Refuge because there's no moose around Rampart
26 and there's no moose in the Nowitna Wildlife Refuge
27 either. So it's -- the whole -- all of moose hunting
28 needs to be assessed in that area. And I'll go back to
29 the motion now and restate that we'd like to send a
30 letter to ADF&G and see if there's some kind of way
31 that we could do a better moose count to assess the
32 population from the Yukon River bridge to the Nowitna
33 River. That will be a good start.

34

35 Thank you.

36

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

39

40 MS. SHOCKLEY: I'll second.

41

42 MS. POPE: I'll Second.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We've got two
45 seconds. Dorothy did and Amanda did. Okay, any more
46 discussion needed.

47

48 MS. SHOCKLEY: So since we're going to
49 write this letter, do we take this item off of the

50

0415

1 report?

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: It's up to you guys, you
4 can leave it in there and let the Board know that you
5 are requesting this.

6

7 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. Okay, leave it.

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: Okay.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Leave it and
12 request it. Which brings me to the first one which is
13 the sheep population.

14

15 Do you want to speak to it, Don, go
16 ahead.

17

18 MR. WOODRUFF: As I stated earlier in
19 the day, yesterday, that this is a topic that is
20 critical for sheep survival and this sheep surveys that
21 are done every five years and with rain on snow events,
22 it's very inadequate to have an accurate account of the
23 sheep population and still hunt that population. There
24 really is no reason why lack of data should result in
25 overharvest.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we'll add
28 that.

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: (Nods affirmatively)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And
33 then the only thing I thought that could be added is
34 that we actually supported OSM's working group and
35 hopefully it won't be a 10 year thing and nothing get
36 done. I get a little irritated with that. But.....

37

38 MS. MCDAVID: So reiterate.....

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and
41 that's my big cry forever and ever is reiterating the
42 Federal and State cooperation on these kinds of studies
43 and working groups. But I don't want it, and neither
44 did Jack want it to turn into what we had before so I
45 would be careful with that and put that in our -- in
46 there.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

49

50

0416

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is there
2 -- so you want us to be specific to each one, we've
3 already identified some. The next one on there is.....

4
5 REPORTER: Sue.....

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

8
9 REPORTER: Andy had a comment.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy. Andy,
12 I didn't hear you, go ahead.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I would
15 like to add if this is possible, I think it should be
16 for OSM, I would like to have someone do an analysis of
17 all hatchery production in Alaska from when hatcheries
18 were first started to current, year by year. And the
19 reason for this is that -- many people have very strong
20 feelings that hatchery production is greatly affecting
21 all salmon species with the exception of sockeye and
22 it's probably the one thing that's causing the biggest
23 problem with rebuilding salmon stocks now and into the
24 future until that's brought under control. But I have
25 not been able to find any correlated study or
26 information on the history of hatchery production in
27 Alaska. So if that's possible for OSM to do that
28 exercise I think that would be extremely valuable to
29 all of AYK, Bristol Bay and especially the Yukon
30 River.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're moving
33 so rapidly along we forgot to vote on that letter.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: I don't know if that
36 would be a better suited for a Fisheries Monitoring
37 Program or if that would be in the annual report. But
38 that's an actionable item that would give us direct
39 results to make further comments and help us to recover
40 our salmon.

41
42 I just want to say one more thing, Sue.
43 Virgil has been bringing that up since the day I met
44 him back in 2001 and I've been trying to carry that
45 message and I am firmly convinced that this is one of
46 our biggest problems with salmon, that they're starving
47 to death. Virgil calls it the marine pastures, I
48 believe he's 100 percent correct, and we lost a great
49 thing when we lost his voice on this Council in regards
50

0417

1 to fisheries issues.

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Andy. Appreciate all that but I -- again, I failed to get you guys to all agree to the letter, the motion that was on the floor about the.....

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Ask for unanimous consent.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'm asking for unanimous consent. Anyone opposed.

(No opposing votes)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The formality has been completed. And then we spoke about the sheep, I don't think it calls for a motion to add -- and then Andy spoke to the issue of the hatcheries.

MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

MS. WESSELS: May I have a word.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

MS. WESSELS: I just wanted to clarify to the Council that you can, of course, put a request in your annual report to do the research but OSM, as a rule, doesn't do any kind of independent research so that probably will be the answer to that request in the annual report. I'm just letting you know that's how it is. We don't have enough Staff or funding to do research.

Thank you.

MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy. Response.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you, I appreciate that. I kind of had a feeling that might be the case. It kind of goes back to what we talked about earlier in our meeting about there's really nothing coming back to us of any real meaning in the annual

0418

1 report, it's just basically acknowledging our concerns.
2 So maybe what I'm requesting might be better suited for
3 the Fisheries Monitoring Program, and if that's the
4 case then I would like to see it added as a potential
5 project for the Fisheries Monitoring Program.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

13
14 MS. MCDAVID: Andy, we can certainly
15 let our fisheries Staff know and I know the next -- I'm
16 not sure when the next round of priority information
17 needs will be developed but that can certainly be --
18 next summer it will be -- we can add that as a request
19 from the Council.

20
21 MS. SHOCKLEY: This is Dorothy.

22
23 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I will be
24 searching other avenues to get that work done because
25 it's really important work to get done as soon as
26 possible.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MS. SHOCKLEY: I agree with Andy in
31 regards to getting some -- do you want some data,
32 history, is that what you're asking for Andy?

33
34 MR. BASSICH: Yes. What needs to be
35 done is basically a history of hatcheries and their
36 production from their start to the present. There was
37 basically -- really briefly -- I think it was in 2003
38 the Board, they made an agreement to reduce their
39 production by 50 percent when in fact over the next two
40 years they increased it by over 150 percent. And
41 basically what's happening is right now the biomass in
42 the Bering Sea and the marine environment is over 60
43 percent pink salmon. The pink salmon are voracious
44 feeders and there is a direct correlation that has been
45 proven that on the odd years when pink salmon are very,
46 very strong in numbers all other species have
47 difficulty finding food, that's why they're coming back
48 younger, that's why they're coming back smaller and
49 that's why they're not coming back. So this needs to
50

0419

1 be documented, it needs to be brought to the Board of
2 Fish and any other entity that we can -- our
3 legislators to start putting some reductions back to
4 pre-2000 for hatchery production if we want to have any
5 chance at all of rebuilding salmon stocks. Because
6 basically it doesn't matter what we put out there it's
7 starving to death. That's why hatcheries won't want --
8 one of the reasons why hatcheries are not a solution as
9 well.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. SHOCKLEY: I agree. I am, along
14 with Charlie, we were on the Comprehensive Salmon Plan
15 where the discussion is on hatcheries, and that's the
16 purpose of that salmon plan. But the State has all
17 that information. They have all of the numbers and the
18 history and so I suppose we could write a letter to the
19 State asking for that.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep. Do we
22 need a motion.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: My comment to that is
25 that the State manipulates numbers and manipulates data
26 to further their political agenda. That's the fact and
27 it's also proven over time. So I don't trust the State
28 to provide us with its history of hatchery because they
29 want to see hatchery production to replace wild stock.
30 That's what's happening slowly underneath our noses.
31 And I hate to sound so aggressive but it's been pissing
32 me off for 10 years and I've been talking about it and
33 now finally people are starting to realize that we're
34 in big trouble and we need to affect change, and that's
35 one of the biggest changes we can make in a positive
36 way to rebuild our salmon stocks because it doesn't
37 matter what we do, we will not rebuild salmon stocks
38 until hatchery production is reduced.

39

40 MS. SHOCKLEY: I agree. But I don't
41 know where you would get that history or the data if
42 you don't ask the State. But, you know, one thing that
43 I did hear the Commissioner talk about and was very
44 concerning, when we went on the TCC trip down to
45 Shageluk, Grayling, Anvik and Holy Cross is the
46 Commissioner was with us, of Fish and Game, and he
47 wanted people to start thinking about hatcheries, he
48 said that was the solution. So that's pretty scary.

49

50

0420

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: My case in point.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: His case in
6 point. Okay. The only thing you could do is.....

7

8 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue could I respond.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
11 ahead, Donald.

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: Dorothy. My response to
14 that comment about hatchery fish is the treaty that we
15 have with Canada does not include hatchery fish, they
16 specifically said they do not want to destroy the wild
17 stock.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MS. SHOCKLEY: That was a decision made
22 by the Comprehensive Salmon Plan as well. That we
23 decided, no hatcheries. But it -- yeah, it was very
24 concerning for the Commissioner to mention that.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
27 Charlie.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So I was talking
30 to a Board of -- North Pacific Fishery Council, one of
31 the members and he also was talking to me about
32 hatchery and I told him, well, in your own rules it
33 says that you have to make escapement on the border
34 with all three species of salmon before you can enhance
35 and I told you all you have to do is go and make
36 windows in that fishery out there and that will happen
37 naturally and he said, well -- if they find they're
38 being intercepted in Area M and then they go through
39 the Aleutian and then the trawlers are hitting them
40 really hard so if they could figure out a way to make
41 windows then all the problems would go away, but
42 unfortunately that's a really tough ask.

43

44 So that's where that stands. I just
45 wanted to add that escapement, not only of one species,
46 it's all three salmon species they have to make
47 escapement for before hatcheries can happen unless they
48 get an Act of Congress to change the rules.

49

50

0421

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

5
6 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

9
10 MR. WOODRUFF: Charlie, there's only
11 two species crossing the border. Well, there might be
12 coho, but we don't know because they're under the ice.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah. In their
15 words it says three, yeah.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Coho go to Old Crow.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What did he
20 say?

21
22 REPORTER: Coho go to Old Crow.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
25 are we off topic or is this.....

26
27 MS. MCDAVID: Well, it's sounding to me
28 like hatchery should be a topic in the annual report
29 because it's a topic of concern. We won't necessarily
30 ask the Board or OSM for the data but we should
31 probably -- you all have raised lots of important
32 concerns and we can let the Board know that's a
33 continued concern. If you want to write a letter to
34 someone in addition you could choose to do that but as
35 Andy mentioned we could include a priority information
36 need for an analysis or summary of all the hatchery
37 data in the next priority information needs.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: That would
40 definitely get it on the record and I think that's good
41 enough and we could search out that information on our
42 own.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that
45 satisfactory for the annual report and the discussion
46 here.

47
48 MS. MCDAVID: Well, Madame Chair, there
49 are a couple other topics that I haven't heard any
50

0422

1 discussion on and I'll just start from the beginning.

2

3 Number 2 is Fortymile Caribou, you
4 know, Charlie did bring up about the climate change but
5 that wasn't directly related to Fortymile Caribou, so
6 is there anything specifically about Fortymile Caribou.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I have
9 a concern and that is that they completely shut down
10 the Nelchinas and then I get phone calls from people
11 asking me, hey, Sue, where can I go on the Fortymile.
12 So you're displacing hunters when you take away their
13 ability to hunt in one area. So I would add that to
14 that.

15

16 MS. MCDAVID: Okay.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was --
19 and just the fact that, make a big statement, from
20 53,000 in 2019 down to 7,300, something's going bad
21 wrong there. I would say that the managers are --
22 something's wrong. All I can say is something's wrong
23 and that really has an affect on the other herds.

24

25 Okay, continue.

26

27 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, thank you. The
28 next one is the ongoing salmon fishing closures and
29 record low returns to Yukon River chinook salmon.
30 Maybe you might want to add chum salmon to that title
31 because I heard you talking about both species being a
32 concern.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
35 enough to get it back in there and make a difference.

36

37 MS. POPE: Madame Chair, this is Amanda
38 Pope.

39

40 REPORTER: Go ahead Amanda.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 REPORTER: Go ahead.

45

46 MS. POPE: I just wanted to comment
47 really quick on the Fortymile Caribou Herd. And I
48 personally am opposed to everyone but the subsistence
49 because a -- a Federally-qualified user should have

50

0423

1 priority. But in reality I feel like that -- I feel
2 like it should be available but I feel like the whole
3 thing should be closed also. It went from, what was
4 it, 89,000 to 40,000 and they still allowed people to
5 harvest quite a bit of caribou. I know they're trying
6 to limit it this year but it's hard on the caribou when
7 they're constantly trying to go between the two
8 highways and they don't cross the Yukon or even into
9 Canada anymore. So I just feel that herd should also
10 be kind of looked at more, and possibly even close it
11 to some folks.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MS. MCDAVID: And I'll just remind the
16 Council that at the last meeting the Department of Fish
17 and Game told us that there could possibly be a
18 Fortymile harvest coalition planning meeting at some
19 point later this year. I haven't heard anything more
20 about that but we did, you know, elect to send a
21 representative so if that happens we can certainly
22 continue to be involved in that.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

25

26 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Next topic that I
27 didn't hear much about was food insecurity. That was a
28 topic you brought to the Board because obviously it's a
29 big concern but if there's any other -- if you want to
30 just let the Board know it's a continuing concern, or
31 remains a concern, that's fine but if there's anything
32 else you want to add please let me know.

33

34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted)

36

37 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, I think we should
38 add.....

39

40 MS. POPE: I think.....

41

42 REPORTER: Okay, hang on, who's next,
43 Sue, Amanda or Dorothy.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda, go
46 ahead and then Dorothy.

47

48 REPORTER: Go ahead, Amanda.

49

50

0424

1 MS. POPE: Thank you. I was just going
2 to add that in my opinion, I think so much people are
3 hurting right now. The low numbers with the caribou
4 and moose and their fish and most people as -- most
5 people are eating bear and I, myself, haven't harvested
6 a moose in five years just because of the high number
7 of people and the low number of moose. But there's --
8 gas prices are going up, the -- everything is just
9 getting too expensive for people to go out and to be
10 able to harvest what they need for winter, and the
11 prices in town for food is pretty outrageous. I just
12 think taking that into consideration with what everyone
13 is saying is -- I think we still need to stress the
14 issue because it's really important for people to eat.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
19 Amanda. Dorothy.

20
21 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. I worked for the
22 InterTribal AG Council and our Executive Director told
23 us that we aren't sovereign until we can feed
24 ourselves. And, you know, only three generations, four
25 generations, maybe five, 120 years or so in some areas
26 we were feeding ourselves. And then the government
27 came in and now we can't feed ourselves. I'm not sure
28 exactly, you know, how to put it across to the State
29 and Federal government on this issue.

30
31 I mean, you know, there's hundreds if
32 not, probably thousands of people, that have jobs in
33 the State and Federal government who supposedly, you
34 know, are managing our food and they are failing. I
35 mean I don't know how to stress it enough to where it
36 makes any sense to them. But, you know, food security
37 is an issue and they are playing with our food. And
38 that is, I think, Constitutionally wrong.

39
40 That's my comment, thanks.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you want
43 that as an addition on the food security -- insecurity?

44
45 MS. SHOCKLEY: Sure.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
48 think we can all just give comments, I mean -- and it
49 all goes in there and it adds to what we've been

50

0425

1 talking about. So anything else on food insecurity.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What else do
6 we have to take care of.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: We already discussed
9 hunter ethics, No. 6. No. 7 incorporating local and
10 traditional knowledge into management and the need for
11 co-management. Any discussion on that.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
14 members. Linda.

15

16 MS. EVANS: I wonder if we could change
17 that word, co-management, into steward -- stewardship.

18

19 MS. SHOCKLEY: That's what I was going
20 to say too.

21

22 MS. MCDAVID: We can certainly do that.
23 We can also reference the comments that you provided to
24 Ronnie earlier about the Kanuti complexing and how this
25 could be an opportunity for some increased co-
26 stewardship, if the Council would like that.

27

28 (Council nods affirmatively)

29

30 MS. MCDAVID: I'm seeing nods.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. In
33 this situation nodding is working.

34

35 MS. EVANS: That's about all I got
36 left.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

41

42 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, thank you. And
43 just so you know in the response, I'm sure you all will
44 look at it at some point or already did, they did, at
45 least, they hired -- Fish and Wildlife hired two
46 indigenous knowledge liaisons which was a big step
47 forward for the state and one of those is George Yaska,
48 he's based in Fairbanks, and some of you are probably
49 familiar with him. But just as a note, there's, you

50

0426

1 know, little steps forward for that one.

2

3 We talked about climate change already.
4 We can add about the buffer that Charlie brought up.

5

6 Topic 9. Subsistence education and
7 culture camps. Anything to add or reiterate there.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I think that
10 that's a great thing and maybe we can, in addition, ask
11 to create a program to support those culture camps. I
12 don't know what the process would be but with the lack
13 of salmon I think that the cultural permits and
14 supporting cultural camps will really help to conserve
15 the culture and tradition.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: Thanks, Charlie. And
20 just so you're aware, under the Fisheries Resource
21 Monitoring Program, culture camps and education camps
22 can be funded by that program as long as they're not
23 the only and the primary objective of the funding that
24 can go along with -- with it.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yep.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's using
29 that system, uh-huh. Okay, go ahead.

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: But it sounds like you
32 would like to perhaps hear about other additional
33 funding beyond that maybe?

34

35 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: No, I think
36 that's fine, it's all right, if the program is already
37 there let's not reinvent the wheel.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. The last topic in
42 the report was about OSM's comments on Alaska Board of
43 Fisheries proposals. Last year and if you recall there
44 was a statement that the Area M proposals wouldn't
45 impact subsistence users, OSM did comment on that, they
46 have started to meet with the ISC and ask the
47 leadership team to identify how they might be able to
48 change or modify that commenting process in the future
49 and they do plan to report back but they haven't yet.

50

0427

1 So it sounds like we should keep that in there because
2 we want to hear that report back. Does anyone want to
3 add anything to that?

4
5 MS. SHOCKLEY: What, to
6 subsistence.....

7
8 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I'm just curious
9 to see what they have to say so I'm pretty happy with
10 just waiting for that and see what goes on. That's my
11 comment.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You don't
14 have to add -- we just want a response?

15
16 MS. SHOCKLEY: Can I -- yeah, I --
17 yeah, this is really discouraging.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

20
21 MS. SHOCKLEY: But, you know.....

22
23 REPORTER: Hang on, Andy.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Got it.

26
27 MS. SHOCKLEY:only -- well, only
28 eight sessions, but, still, that's quite a few sessions
29 in Juneau, I don't ever remember seeing a Commissioner
30 talk against a proposal like that. I -- I was so
31 floored and we were in Juneau at the time, at that
32 hearing. I mean they are supposed to be working for
33 the people, not the government. And I don't know if we
34 can mention that, that it was very discouraging to see
35 the Commissioner speak against this proposal. I don't
36 know but, yeah, I was -- I was floored that he was
37 allowed to do that when normally they don't.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's
40 related to this, right?

41
42 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yeah, Area M, uh-huh.

43
44 REPORTER: Okay, Andy wanted to comment
45 too.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Andy.

48
49 MR. BASSICH: I lost my train of
50

0428

1 thought, sorry.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hate when
4 that happens.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: It's getting late in the
7 day, my apologies. I think it had to do with the
8 Fisheries Monitoring Program but that's all right, I'll
9 come back around if I can think of it.

10

11 MS. MCDAVID: Well, Andy, we were on
12 the topic of OSM's comments on Board of Fisheries
13 proposals so if your mind gets jarred at all.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: I'm sorry, thank you,
16 that reminds me. Sue, basically the comment I was
17 going to make. When I addressed that miscue by them
18 they said that the Federal Program basically doesn't do
19 any monitoring or anything out in the marine
20 environment and that was where the breakdown was from
21 their explanation. But as we all know fish not only
22 migrate out to the marine environment from inland, but
23 they also go overseas. So I guess my suggestion into
24 the future would be if they're going to write comments
25 like that they need to maybe vet it with some of the
26 areas that they're affecting by their comments. So if
27 their draft could be sent to our Co-Chair or
28 Coordinator to get some public feedback on possible
29 impacts or whatever that might be helpful in being a
30 little bit more accurate in their statements.

31

32

33 That's all I had, thank you.

34

35 MS. MCDAVID: Thanks, Andy. We can
36 include something like that. And I'm just trying to
37 help out here, maybe something else we could add to
38 this general topic here about the salmon and commenting
39 on salmon is maybe getting a report back, if the
40 Federal Subsistence Board does meet with the Secretary
41 to talk about these cross-jurisdictional salmon
42 management issues that that also be included in the
43 response.

44

45 (Council nods affirmatively)

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: I'm seeing nods of yes.

48

49 MR. BASSICH: Yes, that would be

50

0429

1 helpful. That's one of our biggest problems is just no
2 one entity that has authority over regulating them or
3 protecting them.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we
6 made it through it. Yeah, all right. You're doing a
7 good job for us, Brooke, there, thank you, and keeping
8 us straight.

9

10 Do we need a short break?

11

12 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we need
15 a short.....

16

17 MS. MCDAVID: So.....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, no.

20

21 MS. MCDAVID: I think we need a motion
22 to submit the annual report with the topics we have.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought we
25 were doing that at our next meeting.

26

27 MS. MCDAVID: Nope, this meeting.

28

29 MS. WESSELS: They don't really need a
30 motion.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.

33

34 MS. WESSELS: It's on record and their
35 intent.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: No. Okay, we will not
40 take a motion.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, five
43 minute break.

44

45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted)

47

48 (Off record)

49

50

0430

1 (On record)

2

3 MR. BASSICH: I'm online, Tina.

4

5 REPORTER: Okay, we're on.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
8 the next thing on the agenda -- we had to get our bags
9 so the five minutes turned into many more. Sorry. So
10 topics winter Council -- All Council meeting, proposed
11 topics of discussion.

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)

15

16 REPORTER: If everyone could mute
17 themselves, star, six, if you're not speaking to the
18 Council.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
21 members.

22

23 MS. MCDAVID: Hey, we're starting.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that loud
26 enough.

27

28 REPORTER: Just not on the microphone,
29 Sue, please.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
34 Council members do you have anything on the next topic.

35

36 (Many people talking)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, we're
39 back in session please. Okay.

40

41 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, the
44 third time I ask, are we -- any proposed topics of
45 discussion for the All Council meeting?

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Brooke.

50

0431

1 MS. MCDAVID: So as the Council should
2 hopefully know by now instead of having an individual
3 RAC meeting in the winter in March next year, we're
4 going to have an All Council meeting, all 10 regions
5 will meet in Anchorage. There will be some different
6 combinations of sessions throughout the four days. You
7 have the opportunity if you want to request to meet
8 with other regions on specific topics. It sounded like
9 salmon was a topic that you would like to meet with the
10 other regions on that have C&T for Yukon salmon. This
11 would be the time if there are other things you would
12 like to see at that meeting. Some topics will be
13 covered, such as there'll be sessions about ANILCA,
14 about Council -- there'll be like an opportunity for
15 some Council member training for folks that are new,
16 like Roberts Rules, like some things like that. But
17 are there other specific like resource related topics
18 that you would like to see covered on a statewide or on
19 a regional basis at that meeting.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone.

24
25 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, I would.....

26
27 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Dorothy, then
30 Andy. Go ahead, Dorothy.

31
32 MS. SHOCKLEY: Climate change.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. One is
35 climate change. Andy.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I would like to
38 talk about food security in regards to the loss of
39 salmon, so basically at any salmon discussion I would
40 like to talk about some of our options for trying to
41 have a long-term strategy for rebuilding salmon stocks
42 and that's going to involve replacing salmon with
43 something for people so that they don't go out and
44 salmon fish and rely on that to the extent they do
45 right now.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Brooke's
48 writing fast. Anything else.

49
50

0432

1 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, I guess I wanted
2 to clarify.....

3
4 REPORTER: Dorothy, your mic, please.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Dorothy.

7
8 MS. SHOCKLEY:I mean -- I'd like
9 to clarify in regards to climate change. I think that
10 needs to be addressed but also changes in seasons, you
11 know, opening seasons like moose and caribou and
12 possibly salmon because of the climate change.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
15 that.

16
17 (Outside noise)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that our
20 airplane?

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MS. MCDAVID: I'll just remind you all
25 it is a charter, they are waiting -- they will wait for
26 us, the latest -- they just can't wait past 7:00 so we
27 have a little bit of wiggle room, I know we still want
28 to finish as soon as we can.

29
30 MS. SHOCKLEY: But that isn't our plane
31 is it?

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
36 Council members, it's easy to get distracted. Anything
37 else.

38
39 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Brooke.

42
43 MS. MCDAVID: Just one other thing.
44 You know we had discussed a lot about the topic of
45 salmon earlier, something else to consider is if there
46 are other agencies or representatives that you would
47 like present for certain discussions beyond members of
48 OSM and the Regional Advisory Council members.

49
50

0433

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I would like to
4 see the managers of the caribou herds there so we can
5 have a talk about them. We haven't seen them in a
6 little while.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: Do you.....

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that
11 State?

12

13 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Well, I don't
14 know who because there's many.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's State
17 and Federal.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah. So I guess
20 we could start with our own but maybe both should be
21 there, or maybe all, and most of the time when we're in
22 the city they can all show up and they do. So maybe
23 all of them should be there because they're all working
24 on the same herd and just different land. So I think
25 that's important.

26

27 MS. MCDAVID: Certainly we can add that
28 as a suggestion. You know if you wanted to have a
29 session on caribou management, statewide, you could
30 even do breakout groups by region with your managers
31 within that or something so.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I really don't
34 have a strong herd near where I live but I'm really
35 concerned about the people who do have herds and
36 they're not strong anymore and it seems like we've been
37 losing a large percentage of those herds and I think
38 something needs to be said and done immediately to save
39 them before we get in really bad trouble with them.

40

41 So that's just a big concern. A huge
42 concern.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: What about for salmon.
45 Any other agencies you would like to see there?

46

47 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Would it be
48 possible to have the State talk about hatcheries,
49 that'd be really nice.

50

0434

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that'd
2 be good.

3
4 MS. MCDAVID: We can certainly put that
5 in as a topic and a request, of course there's no
6 guarantee but if that's something you think is
7 important.....

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, go
12 ahead.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you for that.
15 I was going to suggest that we have a breakout group on
16 hatcheries and I can provide a few names to Brooke,
17 Doug Rigaroni (ph)*, Dr. Rigaroni and David -- Dr.
18 David Schindler are well versed in that and likely
19 would come and do some kind of presentation for the AYK
20 area.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
23 Katya, do you have something?

24
25 MS. WESSELS: Yeah. I just, you know,
26 we really appreciate all your feedback and everything,
27 I just wanted to make sure that you understand we'll
28 try to fulfill all the requests and we're talking with
29 each Council about that but we cannot guarantee every
30 single topic. I just want to let you know we have four
31 days, so we're going to have a joint session the full
32 first day, then you will have to have your meetings and
33 do at least the agenda items that will be maybe a half
34 a day, maybe to a day, there will be concurrent
35 sessions, other sessions that will be offered. Just
36 keep that in mind so don't get disappointed but please
37 make your suggestions and, you know, we will like --
38 well, like what the majority of the Councils want to
39 have, and, you know, Yukon is definitely one of the
40 topics that is probably at the top of the list.

41
42 MS. MCDAVID: Any other ideas at this
43 time, any other input? Thank you all for your
44 suggestions so far.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I guess
49 a short report on the Council application nomination
50

0435

1 that's open.

2

3

4 MS. MCDAVID: Yes. Just so everyone is
5 aware and folks listening in online there is an open
6 season right now for Council applications and
7 nominations, that will be open through March 15th next
8 year. That's for all 10 Regional Advisory Councils.
9 Council members serve for three year terms and next
10 year we have three Council members whose terms are
11 expiring, so just a reminder, please submit your
12 incumbent applications, so that's Don Woodruff, Dorothy
13 Shockley and Charlie Jagow. And then we will also have
14 one vacant seat on the Council next year because Member
15 Bill Glanz did not reapply so that seat will become
16 available. So we definitely welcome applications from
17 people throughout the region. So, yeah, if you need an
18 application you can reach out to me, reach out to any
19 of the Council members, they know how to get a hold of
20 us, they are available on the OSM website. We can mail
21 you hardcopies. Whatever works best. So, again, the
22 application period closes on March 15th.

22

23

Thank you.

24

25

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda.

26

27

28 MS. EVANS: Is there a way to get this
29 information out to the villages?

29

30

31 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Linda. Yes,
32 OSM actually mailed out over a thousand copies of
33 applications to all the tribal councils throughout the
34 whole state.

34

35

36

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

MS. MCDAVID: We also mailed them to
the different agencies. There's copies on the table
back here. We hope we get some applications from
Arctic Village. So we do make a concerted effort to
get applications in.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. WESSELS: Yeah, and that.....

REPORTER: Nope, go to the mic.

(Laughter)

0436

1 MS. WESSELS: One of the testifiers
2 yesterday.....

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

5
6 MS. WESSELS:Evon, he would be --
7 he's not right currently, but he's originally from
8 here, if somebody could encourage him to apply that
9 would be great. But we always look to you Council
10 members, also spread the word, because you know what it
11 is. How it is working on the Council and what
12 difference you make for the communities and for your
13 user groups. So please spread the word as much as you
14 can and we can mail applications to you, they're also
15 available on our website, there's a downloadable form
16 that people can fill out on the computer -- they cannot
17 fill out online, but they can fill it out on their
18 computer, download it, they can write it by hand, we
19 can help them to fill out the form if they want to,
20 anything. Just like this last time, Eastern Interior
21 usually has a lot of applications, last time we only
22 had two applications which is very unusual for the
23 Eastern Interior.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
28 you. You want to take over?

29
30 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Nope.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

35
36 REPORTER: That was fast.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that
39 was really fast.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

44
45 REPORTER: Andy. Sue, could Andy talk.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Andy go
48 ahead.

49
50

0437

1 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I just wanted
2 to see if there was any update, we talked for many
3 years about trying to get a youth seat on our Council
4 and I'm wondering if there's been any progress on that?

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
7 Andy.

8
9 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Brooke.

12
13 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah, thanks Andy. So
14 this summer the Board did review the request from your
15 Council and several other Councils requested the same
16 thing. The Board forwarded those requests to the
17 Secretary of Interior, that's who ultimately approves
18 -- or, reapproves, reauthorizes your charters and
19 approves changes to the charters so when we get back
20 the appointments -- the Council member appoints for
21 this year, we should also be hearing back whether or
22 not that youth seat was approved and we'll have
23 information to you about that as soon as it's
24 available.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
27 Brooke.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
32 next on the agenda is the Fisheries Program updates,
33 oh, hold back for one second, let's turn that page and
34 we're going to do action items which is future meeting
35 dates.

36
37 MS. MCDAVID: Get it out of the way.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're going
40 to get it out of the way. So Brooke is it -- that must
41 be.....

42
43 MS. MCDAVID: Sure, I can take over if
44 you want. So Council members on Page 420 of your
45 meeting books is the calendar that shows the dates for
46 the All Council meeting and that meeting is going to
47 happen March 5th through March 8th in Anchorage. And
48 that's basically an announcement.

49
50

0438

1 (Laughter)

2

3

MS. MCDAVID: Last time -- you know
4 it's very hard to choose the dates that every -- all 10
5 Councils can agree on so this was OSM's best effort to
6 work with all the suggestions from all the Councils.
7 So I don't know if anyone has any questions or comments
8 about that.

9

10 (No comments)

11

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sounds like a
12 done deal. Okay.

13

14

MS. WESSELS: So hopefully there's no
15 shutdown.

16

17

18

19

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We won't talk
20 about that now.

21

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(Talking off mic)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just want
to say that whenever a fisheries comes up and you want
to come to Tok it isn't as impactful for the people in
the community as it would be for game.

0439

1 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you for bringing
2 that up, Madame Chair. So for the Councils reminder,
3 next year will be a fisheries cycle as this year was
4 wildlife so at the fall meeting next year you will be
5 making recommendations on fisheries proposals that are
6 developed in the winter.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
9 Charlie.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: We could schedule
12 for Fairbanks and then maybe add Tanana to the hub for
13 the future, if that will work.

14
15 MS. MCDAVID: That could work. If you
16 still want to meet in Tanana next fall I'm -- I guess
17 sorry if I wasn't clear, you could still maybe do that
18 we just have to -- it's not preapproved, I guess, we
19 have to ask for approval, and we could have Fairbanks
20 as a backup.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

23
24 MS. MCDAVID: If you want to stick with
25 Tanana.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you. I'd
28 like to see the meeting continue to go to Tanana, if
29 not the second choice, Fairbanks.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, thank you. I would
34 appreciate if I could get feedback if you do think
35 Tanana should be a hub community or not.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Tanana is a hub
38 community for everything else so there's no reason why
39 it shouldn't be for this. I think it's a good spot.
40 The Tanana River is there, Yukon, a lot of fishermen,
41 so I think that will be a better place for the
42 fisheries cycle.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Charlie. And
47 this is sort of for OSM to approve Tanana to be a
48 future -- to be on the list of hub communities, they do
49 -- they are asking for that justification. And I know
50

0440

1 we are all pretty familiar with the Eastern Interior
2 region but maybe you could just add a few more words
3 about why, within the Eastern Interior region, Tanana
4 is a hub.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Tanana is a hub
7 because of its place.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

10

11 REPORTER: Andy, hold up, Charlie's
12 talking right now.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: The barge
15 service, the Military used to be there, there used to
16 be a regional hospital, and that's a Military site and
17 so that's what made it a hub, it's been a hub for a
18 long time.

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you for providing
21 that for the record, Charlie.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, I heard
24 your voice.

25

26 REPORTER: Go ahead, Andy.

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'd also add that
29 they have a road close to Tanana you still have to
30 cross the river but that leads road access very close
31 to the community. And one other thing for the next
32 fall meeting is there's also a Board of Fish member
33 that lives in Tanana, Stan Zuray, so if we're talking
34 about fisheries issues that would be an ideal place to
35 go to.

36

37 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you all for that
38 input. So for the record it sounds like you would like
39 to keep the meeting dates for next fall, October 8th,
40 9th and 10th, for Tanana with a second choice of
41 Fairbanks as a back up and you would like to request
42 that Tanana also be added to the list of approved hub
43 communities?

44

45 MS. SHOCKLEY: Can you clarify the
46 dates again, please.

47

48 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, ma'am. October 8th,
49 9th and 10th. On the calendar, we apologize.....

50

0441

1 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID:it was supposed to
4 extend on to the 10th but it got left off.

5

6 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: And that is a three day
9 meeting. We don't typically have three day meetings
10 but as you noticed here when you're in a rural
11 community and there is a lot of public testimony it'll
12 give you more time for discussion and a little bit
13 more, hopefully, relaxed feel to the meeting.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we won't
16 be hit on the head for speeding up.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: So.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
23 you. Go ahead, Charlie.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Did you say --
26 can you repeat that date, because on here it says 15th
27 and 16th of October.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, see how
30 this is here, it's underneath.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Oh, okay, I'm
33 just looking at it upside down. Okay, thank you.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I did the
38 same, my brain went there too, so don't worry.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah,
43 it's up there isn't it.

44

45 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, that concludes the
46 last action item on the agenda which was to confirm the
47 future meeting dates. Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

50

0442

1 Dorothy.

2

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MS. SHOCKLEY: Yes. So we're going to submit the request that Tanana be a hub?

ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yes.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay.

MS. MCDAVID: Yes.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the way we did it is fine?

MS. MCDAVID: Yes.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right, well, we did that action item and that's as far in the future as we're going, right, for meetings?

MS. MCDAVID: Yes.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

MS. MCDAVID: That's correct.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So the next thing on the agenda after we did the 13, our future -- back to Fisheries Program updates, Liz Williams. And she's going to be brief.

MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Madame Chair, or Mr. Chair. We have pages and pages of information and we tell about the finances and the processes but what we'd really like to go through with you, briefly, are the projects that are under consideration and we'd like to get your feedback, sort of a yea, or a nay, or a proceed. So if that's okay with you I'm not going to go over the financial system and the procedures of the review, I think -- you want me to?

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Please don't.

(Laughter)

MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. That's what I

0443

1 thought. See, I'm getting to know you without -- so
2 anyway, we're looking at several projects and these
3 have all been submitted and reviewed by the Technical
4 Review Committee and I think we're ironing things out
5 right now. And some of these actually came from
6 suggestions you made for the priority information needs
7 in the last meeting.

8
9 So there's one called application
10 of.....

11
12 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, Liz, can I
13 interrupt you. I just want Council members to know this
14 is on Page 399, the list of projects.....

15
16 MS. WILLIAMS: Perfect.

17
18 MS. MCDAVID:that Liz is going to
19 go over, of your meeting books.

20
21 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Brooke.

22
23 MS. MCDAVID: Page 399.

24
25 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Brooke. And
26 I apologize for that. So I'll wait a second and I'll
27 just read them off and I guess we'll look to see what
28 they think of each one -- or only if you have comments
29 is really what we're doing, we don't have to vote on
30 each one or anything like that.

31
32 So the first one is application of
33 mixed stock analysis for Yukon River chum salmon, and
34 this is to get data for managers that will assist them
35 in meeting escapement, passage and harvest allocations
36 to ensure that the chum salmon fishery is managed in a
37 sustainable and equitable manner. And this project is
38 described on Page 400.

39
40 The next one is Gisasa River chinook
41 and summer chum salmon abundance and run timing. And
42 that's to create a long-term data set for chinook and
43 summer chum salmon escapements, run timing and age, sex
44 and length data and that one is on Page 401 of your
45 book.

46
47 The next one is Henshaw Creek chinook
48 and summer chum salmon abundance and run timing
49 assessment. And this one is also to provide an
50

0444

1 accurate and reliable long-term data set for chinook
2 and summer chum salmon escapements, run timing and age,
3 sex and length data. And that's on Page 404.

4
5 The next few projects are more of a
6 cultural traditional, ecological knowledge and life
7 histories of salmon in tributaries of the Yukon coastal
8 district. This is to better understand the presence of
9 salmon throughout the Kun and Kashunuk River drainages
10 situated near the communities of Scammon Bay and Chevak
11 in order to create targeted subsistence fisheries for
12 more abundant species in an attempt to conserve the
13 main stem Canadian origin chinook and chum salmon
14 stocks. And that one is on Page 407.

15
16 The next one is content analysis of
17 Yukon area salmon stakeholder meetings. And it's a new
18 one that you haven't heard of before. It proposes to
19 sort of do a computer generated data analysis that
20 analyzes content of the comments people make at
21 meetings and they propose to look at State, Federal
22 and YRDFA, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
23 meetings to sort of pull out the comments and look at
24 the frequency and the ideas that come through in those
25 meetings.

26
27 The next one is another YRDFA project.
28 It's the in-season Yukon River Subsistence Salmon
29 Survey Program. And this one, again, is a mechanism to
30 provide fisheries managers and community members with a
31 way to gather input, assess harvest and share
32 information pertaining to chinook and chum salmon
33 fisheries in the Yukon River that's shared among
34 village representatives and State and Federal managers
35 to inform fisheries management and increase local
36 capacity. And I'm not putting in a plug for this
37 project but we've talked about -- a lot about
38 increasing the participation of rural Alaskans and they
39 have really maintained a low turnover rate in the
40 surveyors. They have some people who have done the
41 surveys for eight or nine years and so that is a
42 success story, I would say. And, again, I'm not
43 telling you to support a project or anything, but it's
44 just an interesting thing when we talk about local
45 capacity increasing.

46
47 The next one is another YRDFA project.
48 It's a Yukon River in-season salmon teleconference.
49 And these, if you've been on the Council for awhile
50

0445

1 you're familiar with these, they are weekly Yukon River
2 in-season salmon management teleconferences that
3 provide a forum for all stakeholders, managers to share
4 information on subsistence fisheries during weekly in-
5 season salmon management teleconferences. Fishers,
6 managers share first-hand information on the fisheries
7 during the fishing season and really have a big
8 knowledge exchange. So that's the summary of those and
9 that one is on Page 413.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a
12 report, and what you are looking for?

13

14 MS. SHOCKLEY: I have a question.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
17 ahead Dorothy.

18

19 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yes, so these are going
20 to be funded, is that.....

21

22 MS. WILLIAMS: That's still in the
23 pipeline. These are all -- they've been reviewed but
24 no final decision has been made and maybe Brent can
25 share more insight on the process. We, like
26 anthropologists, go through the cultural projects and
27 biologists go through the biology projects.

28

29 MR. VICKERS: Yes. Liz is correct. So
30 these are projects that have applied for funding. They
31 applied -- there was an opportunity for funding earlier
32 in the spring, these are the applications that were put
33 forth. We have -- there is a committee called the
34 Technical Review Committee that evaluates the proposals
35 as they're written and they put out a recommendation
36 just like the Council can put out recommendations on
37 particular projects that they would like to see, the
38 Technical Review Committee actually makes
39 recommendations based on the content of the
40 applications. Nonetheless, the -- there's going to be
41 a set amount, which hasn't been decided, of money
42 available, for this region. So these proposals are
43 actually competing for the money just for this region.
44 So depending on how much money there is and how much
45 each of these projects are requesting, the top rated
46 projects will get it. And I could not tell you, I --
47 there's historic amounts that are, I think, included in
48 your handbook but we have no idea at this moment how
49 much funding would be available.

50

0446

1 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. So do we
2 prioritize, can we?

3
4 MR. VICKERS: That's -- if you would
5 like to prioritize this is your opportunity to do so.

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

9
10 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah, and I'm just
11 reading the notes more carefully. So after the
12 Technical Review Committee reviews.....

13
14 REPORTER: Liz, your mic.

15
16 MS. WILLIAMS: Sorry. This is Liz
17 Williams again. After the Technical Review Committee
18 reviews Staff reviews of the projects they summarize
19 what they thought of the projects and the
20 justifications are found at the end of each project, an
21 executive summary, in your Council books and then we
22 collect Council comments on the projects, and that's
23 what we're doing today.

24
25 Your comments and the Technical Review
26 Committee's justifications are combined and presented
27 to the InterAgency Staff Committee which is the Staff
28 to each Board member and they will also provide
29 comments on the projects. The Board will meet in April
30 next year, they'll be presented with all the
31 information.....

32
33 MR. VICKERS: No, they.....

34
35 MS. WILLIAMS: Uh?

36
37 MR. VICKERS: They meet before that.

38
39 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Well, anyway the
40 Board will meet, not at that Board meeting but at one
41 before that, and they will look at the information from
42 the Technical Review Committee, from you, and from the
43 InterAgency Staff Committee and then the final
44 selection will be determined by the Assistant Regional
45 Director of OSM based on all of the provided input and
46 how much money is available and OSM funds as many
47 projects as possible based on their budget.

48
49 So it's not an action item but your
50

0447

1 comments are incorporated into what the Board reads for
2 their final analysis.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Dorothy did
5 you have anything, and then Charlie.

6

7 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, I was just asking
8 what the process was so.....

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
11 Charlie.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: After looking at
14 these, I'm pretty happy with the way they are set up
15 here already, myself. Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

18

19 MS. SHOCKLEY: So you like these?

20

21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I like the way
22 that the plan is in here and I think they should all be
23 funded. Thank you.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. VICKERS: Okay, thank you. And I
28 just wanted to clarify -- again, this is Brent Vickers
29 for the record. That the way it's listed is not in any
30 particular order, just so that's clear.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah.

33

34 MR. VICKERS: But if you like them all,
35 then that's great, we'll make note of that.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
38 members.

39

40 MS. SHOCKLEY: So would we want to put
41 No. 1.....

42

43 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

44

45 MS. SHOCKLEY:for each one of
46 those.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50

0448

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Dorothy first
2 and then Andy. Go ahead and ask your question.

3
4 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, I want to.....

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead with
7 your question.

8
9 MS. SHOCKLEY: So they're not in any
10 particular order and I don't know, I mean they will
11 make a decision on how much money they get but should
12 we pick the top three or something?

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I can't
15 answer that question to the best we should be doing.

16
17 Andy.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you, Madame
20 Chair. I just wanted to pointed out that in my mind 24-
21 250 traditional, ecological knowledge is probably the
22 weakest, as far as having an impact to the salmon
23 crises right now. I'm in strong favor of the first
24 three, they collect hard data which is used for
25 analysis. And I'm supportive of the last two because
26 those are dealing directly with fishers on the river
27 and trying to both educate them and hear their ideas
28 and their needs. So basically 24-250 could be that the
29 bottom of my funding list as a priority. But all of
30 them are good, it's just I doubt you're going to have
31 the money to do them all, they're pretty pricey. If
32 you do, great, if you don't 24-250 should drop off in
33 my opinion, if any of them are.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, well, after
38 listening to Andy, that's what I thought about the top
39 three also, they're really good. I didn't have too
40 much to say about the other ones, but after hearing
41 from Andy, if you went from the top to the bottom I
42 would be happy with numbering them one through seven,
43 and it being one, two, three, six, seven, four and
44 five.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that was a
49 suggestion, do you want.....

50

0449

1 MS. SHOCKLEY: I can live with that.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You need to
4 read it again it sounds like, going down the list.

5

6 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yeah.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. I'll go down the
9 list for you all. So starting at the top this is the
10 order that Charlie suggests for prioritization.

11

12 One, two, three, six, seven, four,
13 five.

14

15 MS. SHOCKLEY: Oh, I see, okay. I was
16 just curious as to one, two, three, six, seven.....

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is everyone
19 okay with that?

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Charlie.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda.

24

25 MS. EVANS: I think the Yukon River in-
26 season salmon teleconferences are really important.
27 People get to talk together about what's going on in
28 their area, so I think that should have a little higher
29 priority.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

32

33 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

34

35 (Talking with no mics)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
38 Council members, we switched the last two, 252 is five,
39 and 256 is four. Okay.

40

41 (Council nods affirmatively)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Nodding of
44 the heads.....

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy. From
47 my perspective -- yep, from my perspective Yukon River
48 salmon teleconference should be No. 3.

49

50

0450

1 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, then.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, Andy if
4 it's No. 3, what would you do with No. 3, Henshaw
5 Creek.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: No. 4.

8

9 MS. EVANS: Just shift it to No. 4.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you're --
12 okay, we're just swapping.....

13

14 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:Henshaw
17 Creek 204 to 4 and the other one to 3. We're doing all
18 kinds of fun things.

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: Do you want me to reread
21 the list?

22

23 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I got it.
26 One, two, four, six, seven, five, three.

27

28 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, Sue is correct. For
29 the record going down the list, again.

30

31 One, two, four, six, seven, five,
32 three.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hope we
35 win.

36

37 MS. EVANS: I hope we get the funding.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Put those numbers
40 in the State lottery.....

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, the
45 humor is beginning again.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, it's

50

0451

1 still here. Okay, I think that concludes that, all
2 right, thank you.

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 MS. MCDAVID: Madame Chair. We did
7 have some -- a couple of agency folks who made the long
8 trip out to Arctic Village to join us for the meeting
9 and we really appreciate that and we'd like to -- on
10 behalf of the Chair I'd like to invite you guys to give
11 a brief update to the Council. Thank you.

12

13 We could start with ADF&G if that
14 works.

15

16 Thanks.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They were
19 next anyway.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Yeah.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. I
24 loved how that you were working with the -- the State
25 was working with the Federal and you stood in front of
26 the sun so he wouldn't get blinded -- that was
27 beautiful.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. NELSON: That was great, I'm glad
32 you noticed that.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I did
35 notice that.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. NELSON: All right, thank you,
40 Madame Chair. My name is Mark Nelson, I'm with the
41 Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a biologist. And
42 there were two things we wanted to kind of talk about
43 today to keep it brief.

44

45 The first thing is some Staffing
46 changes. I said earlier in the meeting I'm new.
47 January of this year I got this job. Before that I was
48 an Assistant Area Biologist in the Fairbanks area and
49 now in this job I'm the Northeast Area -- what we call
50

0452

1 the Northeast Area, it's Game Management Units 25A, B,
2 D as well as 26B and C on the north side. This
3 position was held by Beth Lenart for a really long
4 time. She retired. Jason Caikoski was her assistant,
5 he's now our management coordinator, so he's my boss.
6 Once I got hired I had the ability to hire an assistant
7 and I found an awesome one and I'm going to let Jordan
8 introduce herself.

9
10 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Hi, my name is Jordan
11 Pruszenski and I am the new Assistant Area Biologist in
12 the Northeast. I grew up in Anchorage and then went to
13 school down in Minnesota. I got to come back to Alaska
14 and worked for the National Park Service with the
15 Yukon-Charley and Gates of the Arctic and now I work
16 for Alaska Fish and Game so I'm really excited to get
17 to work with Alaska Fish and Game and all our
18 collaborators and you so, yeah. I'll keep it brief.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good job,
21 welcome.

22
23 MR. NELSON: Thank you. And then the
24 one other thing we were just going to touch on just for
25 a minute here is I've heard Co-Chair Wright, I believe
26 is what we're calling him here today, talk about the
27 caribou a few times and the caribou managers. In our
28 office we manage two of the North Slope herds, the
29 Central Arctic Herd and the Porcupine Herd. There's
30 four herds on the North Slope altogether, the Western
31 Arctic Herd that you've heard a lot about, they're in
32 decline, and then the three other herds, which is
33 Teshekpuk, Central and Porcupine. All three of the
34 other herds are doing well, they're above management
35 objectives. The Teshekpuk Herd, the management
36 objective for that is to keep it up above 15,000
37 caribou and the last count was 61,000 so it's way
38 above. The Porcupine Herd is jointly managed by the
39 State as well as the Yukon government. The last
40 photocensus was in 2017, that number was 218,000
41 caribou. It's the highest we've ever counted that herd.
42 So we have not been -- unfortunately we have not been
43 able to get a count since, we try every year, they just
44 haven't been grouping up very well. All indications
45 are that things are still looking good but we're just a
46 little bit -- we'd really like to get a count at some
47 point, that's really important to us. That's one of
48 our highest priorities in our area. And then finally,
49 the Central, and because managing these two herds is a
50

0453

1 pretty huge effort in our office it takes up most of
2 our time and money, we kind of split the herd, so I'm
3 taking most of the Porcupine stuff and Jordan's taking
4 most of the Central Arctic stuff, so she's got a little
5 bit to share on the Central Arctic.

6
7 MS. PRUSZENSKI: So for the Central
8 Arctic Herd the last time a photocensus was done to get
9 a population estimate was in 2022. The population
10 estimate was 34,000 which is well above the management
11 objectives of 28 to 32,000. By all measures this herd
12 is stable to increasing. The parturition rates for
13 this year were about 85 percent which is on par with
14 long-term averages. The bull to cow ratio and calf to
15 cow ratios are also on par with management objectives.
16 The last time we got the composition survey done was in
17 2020 and we'll be trying to do another composition
18 survey to get an updated estimate on those counts later
19 this month.

20
21 MR. NELSON: Any questions.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
24 members, any questions.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I got a comment.

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

30
31 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Thank you so
32 much. And who do we contact who manages the other
33 herds that have lost 40, 60 percent over here near
34 Fairbanks?

35
36 MR. NELSON: It depends which herd. So
37 the Fortymile Herd is a big one, that's managed out of
38 the Tok Fish and Game office, so Jeff Gross.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Uh-huh.

41
42 MR. NELSON: The Nelchina Herd is
43 probably the one that's in the Interior that's doing
44 the worst, and that's managed out of the Glennallen
45 office, which is a different region than ours, Heidi
46 Hatcher is the area biologist out of there.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay, thank you.

49
50

0454

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jordan,
2 what's your last name again?

3
4 MS. PRUSZENSKI: Jordan Pruszenski.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, boy, you
7 might have to spell that.

8
9 MS. PRUSZENSKI: It is.....

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll get it
12 from Brooke.

13
14 MS. MCDAVID: Perfect.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's like
17 Entsminger.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. WOODRUFF: I've got one question.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
24 Don.

25
26 MR. WOODRUFF: The Porcupine and the
27 Central Arctic Herd that are doing so well, is that
28 because they are not harvested very heavily or is it
29 because they have a perfect habitat?

30
31 MR. NELSON: That's a really good
32 question. If we knew the answer I think we'd be a lot
33 further along on caribou management all around. One
34 thing to note with Central Arctic, because that's
35 trending above we actually submitted a proposal to the
36 Board of Game to change the bag limit. Right now for
37 residents it's four bulls, and we recommended going to
38 five of either sex. With that trending up it's already
39 above management objectives, we'd really like to start
40 slowing that growth and I think that's one way to do
41 it. But, yeah, I don't have a really good answer for
42 your question.

43
44 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Brooke, and
47 then Charlie.

48
49 MS. MCDAVID: Charlie can go.

50

0455

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: This -- what you
4 just said reminds me of something that was said a few
5 years ago on the herd that lost a lot of animals, so is
6 there any thoughts in your mind about having a problem
7 going into the future, killing all those cows is my
8 concern.

9

10 MR. NELSON: And that's exactly what
11 we're trying to avoid is that situation. And that
12 herd, the Fortymile Herd, it ended up getting so big
13 that all of the metrics from health, from three year
14 old parturition rates, everything was showing that that
15 herd was extremely, extremely stressed and we had to
16 bring that herd down. Right now we're not seeing that
17 yet in the Central Arctic and so if we can get ahead of
18 that and start slowing that growth and keep it at a
19 more reasonable level we're hoping we don't see that.
20 But that's exactly what we're trying to avoid.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Okay.

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
27 Andy.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. Along
30 the same lines as Charlie there, having heard those
31 exact same arguments and strategies and voicing those
32 to our manager, Jeff Gross, in Tok, I was very much
33 opposed to increasing harvest rates and harvesting
34 cows. In our region, most of the traditional knowledge
35 that when the herd grows to a certain extent they will
36 expand into Canada more, which is their historic range
37 and also move and merge a little bit more with the
38 Porcupine in the Ogilvie Range. Managers and
39 biologists never allowed that herd to get to a point
40 where they would make that change and that move, they
41 didn't listen to us and now we feel like we're in
42 crises and many of us feel like if they had listened to
43 us we probably wouldn't be quite in the situation we
44 are in now. So whether that history helps you or not,
45 whether you want to take that advice or not, many of us
46 feel that was a critical mistake in management
47 resulting in what we have now. A lot of the
48 traditional, ecological knowledge shows that the herd
49 movement early in the year is really important to let
50

0456

1 them move, don't up hunting too early, let those lead
2 animals move and migrate and also they need to be
3 stressed a little bit to go into an expanded range.
4 But nobody listened.

5

6 That's all, thank you.

7

8 MS. SHOCKLEY: Madame Chair, this is
9 Dorothy.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
12 ahead.

13

14 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yeah, any time you
15 start, you know, seeing an increase in the herd and
16 then increase harvest, I mean to me that's not a good
17 idea. And, you know, I don't know if you heard me,
18 when I talked about food security, and you all playing
19 with our food, I mean that's serious. You see where
20 people are today in rural Alaska, they're hungry. And,
21 you know, it's just a crime for you all to be making
22 decisions that are against what we believe and what we
23 need.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MR. NELSON: Thank you for that. One
28 thing with the Central Arctic Herd and we didn't paint
29 a picture of a very long time scale, but back in about
30 2012 that herd was up over around 65,000 animals and it
31 actually crashed all the way down to 20,000 because
32 there were too many on the landscape. So that's what
33 we have for data to look at and that's one of the
34 reasons we're asking the Board to make this decision at
35 this point.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I know you both
38 are new, so I'd just ask you, going into the future
39 when making your decisions, to please consider the
40 traditional, ecological the people of the land carry.
41 That's, in short, that's -- if we can do that a little
42 bit I think everybody would be happy and you could say
43 you did.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0457

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You probably
2 saw my face when you said cows.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I get
7 nervous, I get really nervous when we're hunting cows,
8 if it's incidental take, sometimes you expect that but
9 I would be cautious of that too. So anyone else.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
14 you very, very much. And I'm going to ask if Jesse
15 Coleman is online, because you would have been hear for
16 the Fish and Game.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I don't
21 think she has a report in our tabbed book -- yeah.
22 Yeah, Jesse Coleman, if you're on and you want to speak
23 you have to push star, six, maybe once or twice.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I'm not
28 hearing here. If she is having trouble she can butt
29 in.

30
31 The next thing on our agenda is -- we
32 got the report from Merben, and I'm going to ask the
33 Council -- here's our timeframe -- we have exactly --
34 it's seven minutes to 6:00 -- oh, there's somebody here
35 -- my apologies -- and I saw that beautiful smile back
36 there but I failed to call on you, sorry, go ahead.

37
38 MR. CAMERON: No problem. Thank you,
39 Madame Chair. Members of the Council. For the record
40 my name is Matt Cameron. I'm a Wildlife Biologist with
41 Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. And also
42 joining us on the call are Kyle Joly, also Wildlife
43 Biologist.....

44
45 (Phone line dropped)

46
47 MR. CAMERON:and Marcy Okada.

48
49 MS. MCDAVID: Did we get dropped again?

50

0458

1 REPORTER: Yes, yet, again.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, Matt, we got
4 dropped.

5

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

7

8 REPORTER: Go ahead if you want, I'll
9 redial back in again.

10

11 MR. CAMERON: While we're waiting
12 though I just want to thank all of you for your time
13 here. I really appreciate these meetings and seeing
14 all of you and catching up and hearing what you're
15 seeing on the land. And I also want to thank our
16 wonderful hosts here at Arctic Village for making us
17 feel so warm and welcome. This has been a great two
18 days, so, thank you.

19

20 (Pause)

21

22 MR. CAMERON: So our update is on Tab
23 11 in your supplemental packet and I also have
24 hardcopies back here on the table if anyone in the
25 audience wants to grab those.

26

27 REPORTER: Okay, go ahead.

28

29 MR. CAMERON: Awesome, thanks, Tina.

30

31 REPORTER: Um-hum.

32

33 MR. CAMERON: So to start us off, for
34 sheep we did a -- we got our sheep survey in for the
35 Preserve in July and we were quite surprised with how
36 few sheep we saw out there, kind of in line with what
37 other surveys are seeing in the area. We saw a total of
38 70 sheep in the core areas within the Preserve, and
39 comparing to our last survey in 2018 this was a 68
40 percent decline and a 78 percent decline from the long-
41 term average. And for the first time we saw no sheep
42 at all in two of the areas that we're surveying. And
43 we talked about, yesterday, that this resulted in the
44 WSA 23-05 the closure within -- on the south side of
45 the Preserve for Yukon-Charley. And this was only for
46 this year. So one thing -- we have some more
47 information in the handout there on some of the
48 composition results. But what would be helpful for us,
49 from you, is your input on what do we do next. So

50

0459

1 we're not planning on doing another survey next year,
2 the earliest we'll have a survey will be 2025 depending
3 on funding. But given the declines in the areas all
4 around we don't expect this population to come back
5 quickly.

6

7 On the next page, talking about moose.

8 We conducted a fall moose survey in November of last
9 year. Our estimate was 738 moose, the density of .24
10 moose per square mile. This was a slight decrease from
11 our previous surveys but still within kind of a normal
12 fluctuating range, and you can find more information
13 there on the handout.

14

15 I'm also providing an update on our
16 collaring project. This is with -- my colleagues with
17 BLM and Fish and Wildlife in ANWR asked me to speak to
18 their project as well. We have a collaborative project
19 with collaring female -- adult females in Yukon-
20 Charley, BLM area to the north in the Draanjik and
21 Little Black River as well as Arctic National Wildlife
22 Refuge. So this is the fourth year of the collar
23 project. We saw the lowest adult survival in the last
24 biological year, but our calving and twinning rates
25 were up a little bit and what's been really helpful
26 with this is this is filling in some of the gaps
27 between our every three year survey estimates.

28

29 The BLM update is on Tab 12. And the
30 update for ANWR was on the handout that Merben gave you
31 this morning.

32

33 Also wanted to let you know that we're
34 working with the Yukon government and the biologists
35 there and they have a similar project and so we're
36 trying to understand moose very broadly and also want
37 to give a shout out to our ADF&G colleagues for helping
38 us collect some data this spring. It's been really a
39 great collaborative project, we're all working
40 together.

41

42 And Council Member Pope, on the call,
43 at our last RAC meeting you had asked me a question
44 about moose movements and how much space they used so I
45 had some numbers for you. And these are just some very
46 rough numbers but in the last year on average our moose
47 move about 450 kilometers and that ranged from just 70
48 to a little bit over 800 for over individual. So just
49 gives you a sense that some of our moose are really

50

0460

1 localized and some are making some notable migrations
2 on their own.

3

4

5 And then the last page is our wolf
6 project update. We've been monitoring wolves in the
7 Preserve for over 30 years and in this last year we had
8 nine packs, 22 wolves total collared, about 77 percent
9 survival through the year. And an exciting project
10 we're working on is we have four video collars we've
11 put out and collected and so this is a GPS collar that
12 essentially has a GoPro mounted into it and it's
13 collecting short video clips throughout two months and
14 from this we're understanding -- our goal is to
15 understand diet, behavior and we're working on
16 analyzing that right now. And there's a recent
17 publication on the handout.

17

18

So I tried to go fast.

19

20

Happy to take any questions.

21

22

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie.

23

24

25 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: If you can or if
26 you noticed, the moose movement, are they going in one
27 direction, west -- no, they're going away from it.
28 Well, that's what we're wondering because of the
29 population explosion down west side of the state. I
30 know they had a five year moratorium over there that
31 helped out a lot with the numbers but there's just so
32 many and so I'm just kind of curious if there's a
33 movement that way or they're just having better numbers
34 because of their moratorium. I just want to know what
35 you know about it, I was curious.

35

36

Thank you.

37

38

39 MR. CAMERON: Yeah. Through the Chair.
40 Thank you, Charlie for the question. For this, I think
41 it's a long established population and we -- it's kind
42 of all over the place. We have some that are migrating
43 north in the summer and then go back, south, like
44 migrate out of the Yukon Drainage and go to the north
45 and then come back. We have some that have been slowly
46 moving south up the Charley River and in the high
47 country up there. So it's kind of high -- I wouldn't
48 say there's a single overall pattern, it's kind of all
49 over the board.

49

50

0461

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any more
2 questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think I had
7 one but I forgot.

8
9 MS. POPE: Madame Chair.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Andy.

12
13 REPORTER: I think it's Amanda.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Who is it?

16
17 REPORTER: Amanda.

18
19 MS. MCDAVID: It's Amanda.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, Amanda,
22 sorry.

23
24 MS. POPE: Madame Chair, this is
25 Amanda.

26
27 REPORTER: Go ahead.

28
29 MS. POPE: Thank you for the followup
30 information, I really appreciate it. You said the
31 State is also helping you guys and I wanted to ask what
32 are they -- how are they helping with the data and for
33 what units?

34
35 MR. CAMERON: Through the Chair.
36 Thanks for the question. This was for our ANWR moose,
37 we were doing our calving surveys this spring and some
38 weather came in and prevented us from checking on how
39 many calves two or three females had along the Canning
40 River and so through talking to Mark, they were going
41 up to do caribou work and were able to check on them
42 for us. So I don't know the units, they were along the
43 Canning River there on the North Slope.

44
45 MS. POPE: Okay. I guess the reason
46 I'm asking is because we -- in my region we don't
47 really get moose numbers for the State area, we do get
48 good hunter -- good information from the Yukon-Charley
49 BLM, but we don't really get anything from the State on
50

0462

1 behalf of the State land managed areas and I was just
2 wondering if they had reached out to you to, to work
3 with you guys also.

4

5 MR. NELSON: Hey, Amanda, this is Mark
6 Nelson. We did get funding this year to survey 25D on
7 the east side there so if the weather permits we will
8 be doing that survey this year. I'm sorry we didn't
9 mention that earlier. If you'd have been in the room I
10 would have definitely not forgotten that part.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, visual
15 is helpful. Okay, anything else Amanda.

16

17 MS. POPE: Thank you. I just wanted to
18 say thank you and I just would like to see the agencies
19 work together and possibly invite the locals to be
20 involved in these surveys. I think that's a very good
21 step to build a relationship with the locals and have
22 them be involved more. That's just my opinion and I
23 hope to see more collaboration.

24

25 Thank you, both, appreciate it.

26

27 MR. NELSON: Hey, Amanda, it's Mark
28 again. One more thing, I did forget to mention also
29 that we have talked to Bruce Thomas, he may observe for
30 us if he can, if not, he's going to find somebody else
31 from Fort Yukon who can. So we definitely are working
32 on that aspect as well.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's great to
35 have you guys in the room and great to hear these nice
36 things. Yeah. I know what I was going to ask you, the
37 GoPro on the wolf, that hasn't been finished? No?

38

39 MR. CAMERON: Through the Chair. So,
40 yeah, we're analyzing that right now. So once we have
41 some results to share we'll -- you'll see it.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That'll be
44 really fun to watch. Okay.

45

46 MR. WOODRUFF: I got something.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

49

50

0463

1 MR. WOODRUFF: As Amanda said, I think
2 is an example of co-management that works and works
3 well. Thank you both for that.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep. And it
6 looks like they're happy so that's a good thing.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
11 Okay, appreciate it everyone. You know in the essence
12 of time, where we are, I'm looking at the rest of the
13 schedule and all of the reports that are listed in this
14 is all tabs, we have them in front of us and if anyone
15 has looked at any of these and have any questions now
16 would be the time to ask.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Otherwise I
21 would recommend that we take them home and look at
22 them, if you haven't had a chance prior to the meeting
23 and we can contact Brooke and have -- ask the question
24 to the agency. Okay?

25
26 (Council nods affirmatively)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes,
29 everybody's in agreement here. There's just one more
30 thing, Office of Subsistence Management, Brent must
31 have a report for us.

32
33 MR. VICKERS: All right, thank you,
34 I'll try to make this brief. We have a couple things,
35 a couple updates.

36
37 First off, what a meeting. Great.
38 Pretty amazing. So thank you all very much for your
39 time, your expertise, your knowledge. This was an
40 amazing meeting so thank you. It was really fun to be
41 a part of it. I also wanted to thank anyone who's
42 still here from Arctic Village, you guys are amazing
43 hosts, this was such a beautiful place and your
44 hospitality was just amazing, thank you so much for
45 everything. And thank you for participating in the
46 meeting as well. It's so great to get testimonies from
47 local residents.

48
49 As you heard throughout the meeting we
50

0464

1 changed the timing of the tribal and ANCSA
2 consultations to followup the RAC meetings this year.
3 We're hoping that that increases participation since we
4 were having issues with scheduling during subsistence
5 season. Concurrently, we have identified weeks between
6 November 13th and December 15th to schedule
7 consultations. Additionally, the Federal Subsistence
8 Board will, again, host tribal and ANCSA Corporations
9 at the start of the wildlife regulatory meeting, April
10 2nd through 5th, 2024. The Board will also schedule
11 consultation with tribal governments and ANCSA
12 Corporations on any subsistence issues or concerns
13 throughout the year as requested by the tribes. If you
14 would like more information on scheduling a tribal or
15 ANCSA Corporation consultation, please, contact the
16 Office of Subsistence Management, Native Liaison,
17 Orville Lind at 907-786-3953.

18
19 The upcoming Board meetings scheduled
20 for the next year include the Fisheries Resource
21 Monitoring Program work session scheduled for Wednesday
22 February 7th and then the wildlife regulatory meeting
23 which will be held April 2nd through 5th, 2024 in
24 Anchorage. The Council Chair or representatives who
25 are liaisons to the Board are invited to participate in
26 the Board's April regulatory meeting to share their
27 region's subsistence report and discuss their Council's
28 recommendations on wildlife proposals and closure
29 reviews with the Board.

30
31 There's a student Art Contest and OSM
32 is inviting all Alaskan student artists, such as the
33 artists that have painted these amazing paintings, and
34 I'm lucky to be able to take one home, in this
35 building. They should submit original art work to
36 subsistence art contest. The deadline for submission
37 is February 2nd, 2024. We are specifically looking for
38 art work that illustrates wildlife that are harvested
39 for subsistence use or subsistence hunting activities.
40 The winner's art work will be featured on the front
41 cover of the 2024 through 2026 wildlife regulatory
42 handbook and at least 16 other entries will be selected
43 for display inside. The art contest offers an
44 opportunity for students to express their talent and
45 creativity while sharing their knowledge of subsistence
46 resources. For more information contact Office of
47 Subsistence Management and ask for outreach
48 coordinator, Kayla McKinney.

49
50

0465

1 With that said, someone said this at
2 your last meeting. RealID. Get your RealIDs.
3 Beginning May 7th, 2025 every air traveler will need to
4 present RealIDs for identification to fly in the U.S.,
5 even when you fly on small commercial Bush carriers.
6 You will need your RealID for our Program for the fall
7 2025 Council meeting. You can find more information on
8 the RealID requirements on the State of Alaska,
9 Division of Motor Vehicle website.

10

11 We've had some changes in Staffing.
12 North Slope Regional Council Coordinator Jessica Gill
13 has sadly left us. She was here relatively shortly but
14 she made some big impacts with fresh new ideas of the
15 OSM meeting process. She's already greatly missed.
16 We're the process of hiring a new Council Coordinator.
17 In the meantime our other excellent Coordinators, Nissa
18 Pilcher and Leigh Honig took over the coordination
19 duties for Southcentral and North Slope Councils,
20 respectfully.

21

22 We also had to say goodbye to our
23 administrative support assistant, Michelle Andrews, who
24 moved on to new opportunities.

25

26 But while saying goodbye to some, we
27 are pleased to welcome two new team members, Becky
28 Brown and Janel Day. Becky joins us as a new
29 administrative support assistant. She has a background
30 in defense payroll and worked overseas in the UK for
31 many years. She will primarily be handling
32 invitational travel and property for OSM. Janel joins
33 us as our new cartographer and GIS specialist. She has
34 worked as a cartographer for the National Park Service,
35 Arizona Geological Survey, Kodiak Island Borough and
36 the Anchorage Municipality, and private contracting
37 company.

38

39 Additionally, OSM is welcoming back
40 Anthropology Pathways Intern Kristen Morrow, Christine
41 was with us last summer but then had to take a year to
42 complete her dissertation research in the jungles of
43 Borneo. Christine will be working with us fulltime in
44 Anchorage until she graduates and completes her
45 Pathways Program.

46

47 Thank you all. Our Council
48 Coordinators, OSM Staff, our multi-agency colleagues in
49 subsistence working towards our goal of informed

50

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1 subsistence management and implementation of Title VIII
2 of ANILCA.

3

4 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair. Council
7 members. And everyone else in the building and online.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Why thank
12 you, that was very good.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
17 questions.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

22

23 MS. SHOCKLEY: So is that report
24 somewhere, can we get a copy of it?

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
27 is, can we get a copy of your report.

28

29 MS. SHOCKLEY: That was just talking
30 points.

31

32 MR. VICKERS: Yeah.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're just
35 talking points.

36

37 MR. VICKERS: They're just talking
38 points, we don't really distribute it out, just.....

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But you
41 could.

42

43 MS. SHOCKLEY: If you.....

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you want
46 it, I bet you could, it's just information, right.

47

48 MR. VICKERS: If you request.....

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
2 let's not debate this.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, my
7 goodness.

8
9 MS. MCDAVID: Dorothy, are you saying
10 in the future you would like to see that put in the
11 book, we can probably accommodate you?

12
13 MS. SHOCKLEY: Sure. I mean even the
14 one today.

15
16 MS. WESSELS: We can get you that
17 report.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay.

20
21 MS. WESSELS: It's on record so it's
22 not like it's a big secret.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that'd
25 be great.

26
27 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yes, I'd like it.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The last
30 thing on the agenda is closing comments, and I'd have
31 to ask that they be brief.

32
33 Donald. Closing comments.

34
35 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 I want to thank Sarah, in particular, but all of Arctic
37 Village for our wonderful stay here and I hope to be
38 back soon. Thank you, very much.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: I, too, would
43 like to extend thanks for the hospitality here in
44 Arctic Village, it was wonderful, the food was great,
45 accommodations were great. The scenery is out of this
46 world. I just thank everybody for taking time out of
47 their lives to come here and work on these tough
48 issues.

49
50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 That's all I got to say.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda.

6

7 MS. EVANS: I'd like to thank Sarah and
8 Galen for their hospitality, inviting us here for this
9 meeting. It's been really, really nice coming back to
10 Arctic Village. I haven't been here for a long time.
11 The topics that were brought up, I think, were very
12 informational and the information we gathered for our
13 work is top notch. I'd just like to thank you very
14 much for everything.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Dorothy.

17

18 MS. SHOCKLEY: Yes. Well, this being
19 my first, I'm sure you all had fun.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We enjoy you,
22 you're doing a great job.

23

24 MS. SHOCKLEY: Well, thank you. Well,
25 I also wanted to thank the village of Arctic Village.
26 This is one of my favorite places to come to and,
27 yeah, like I said before it's like a secret of the
28 state, it's one of the most beautiful places so thank
29 you. Basee' Mahsee'Choo.

30

31 I had a few issues, comments -- can I
32 go ahead and do that or do we just say thank you.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR WRIGHT: Go ahead.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go for it.

37

38 MS. SHOCKLEY: Okay. Just as I'm
39 sitting here remembering what my boss told me when I
40 worked for the InterTribal AG Council, we traveled all
41 over the U.S. and met with policy people, you know,
42 trying to change policy in regards to food security,
43 primarily, but he said to know the policy better than
44 the agencies so that we know what policies, regs could
45 be changed and which need Congress to change. So I
46 will be -- in my spare time -- looking at more of the
47 regs and looking at, you know, being more aware of what
48 can be changed and -- yeah.

49

50

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1 And then, you know, I think as a new
2 person it's really important that we have an
3 orientation and training. And then also a list of the
4 acronyms, that would be helpful. And.....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I went
7 through that too. It's crazy, yeah.

8

9 MS. SHOCKLEY: And if we could have
10 that, you know, at every meeting that would be great.
11 And then evaluations. I think it's really important
12 that we have evaluations, not only for ourselves but
13 for the Board, but for agencies as well. You know look
14 at what is working and what isn't and what we need to
15 change. So I think those are important.

16

17 I don't mean to offend anybody but, you
18 know, I feel like this is our meeting and, you know, I
19 appreciate the presentations from different organiz --
20 or different agencies but I also think we need time
21 for, you know, to speak candidly without having State
22 and Fed people here all the time. While I appreciate
23 that, I think, you know just having maybe one day
24 where, you know, we're discussing topics or, you know,
25 schedule it so we have all of our agency reports, you
26 know, at the beginning or at the end so that, you know,
27 they're not here all the whole time. And I don't feel
28 that there's a purpose. But I don't know, maybe there
29 is a purpose. But, yeah, I think they could be limited
30 with their time, or just call when we need their report
31 or something.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I
36 really appreciate Dorothy's comments but, hey, just for
37 your information, this could go forward and they can
38 respond to you on that, okay.

39

40 Andy.

41

42 MS. SHOCKLEY: Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have two
45 more.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I just
48 wanted to thank both you and Charlie for running a good
49 meeting. I know you've had a lot of challenges but I

50

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1 think you put it together and kept it moving really
2 well. And I especially wanted to thank Tina. She's
3 done an amazing job during this meeting with all the
4 technical difficulties, keeping the lines open and
5 keeping us informed and just a great job from her, very
6 professional and very patient and often overlooked, so,
7 thank you, Tina.

8
9 Thank you all and look forward to
10 seeing you in March.

11
12 REPORTER: Thank you, Andy.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Amanda.

15
16 MS. POPE: Hello, Madame Chair and the
17 Board and everybody else, online and in person. Thank
18 you for hosting this meeting, to Arctic Village. I
19 really appreciate your hospitality even though I wasn't
20 there. I would have loved to be there with you all and
21 talked to the folks that were affected by these
22 proposals. I really appreciate that this meeting is
23 happening and it gives the people a chance to speak
24 their mind, which is really important. It was a good
25 meeting, kind of long crammed into a few days, but
26 maybe next time we'll have more time to look at more
27 proposals that affect the area.

28
29 Thank you, again, and I hope to talk to
30 you all some more.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
33 Amanda. And I would also like to -- a huge thank you
34 to Arctic Village and all of you, you guys have treated
35 us very wonderfully and that food, the person that was
36 doing all that food and bringing it in here, amazing.
37 Please give them our best thank you. I was hosted by
38 Sarah and I was enjoying making fry bread last night
39 with her. And Edward Sam, it's so good to see you
40 again. And really great to be in this environment.
41 Thank you all so much and putting up with the speed
42 that we had to go through at the end.

43
44 God bless you all and see you next
45 meeting.

46
47 I need to have a motion to adjourn.

48
49 MR. WOODRUFF: I make a motion.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion to
2 adjourn by Don.

3
4 MS. EVANS: Second.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And seconded
7 by Linda. All in favor.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
12 opposition, no, okay we are adjourned.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 (Off record)

17
18 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through
12 ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the
15 5th day of October 2023;

16

17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;

22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 9th
27 day of November 2023.

28

29

30

31 _____
32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/26

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