

EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA Subsistence Regional Advisory Council



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Winter scene from the Dalton Highway.

Meeting Materials
February 29 – March 1, 2012
Fairbanks

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Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Pike's Landing, Fairbanks, Alaska

February 29 – March 1, 2012

8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments are welcome for each agenda item and for regional concerns not included on the agenda. The Council appreciates hearing your concerns and knowledge. Please fill out a comment form to be recognized by the Council chair. Time limits may be set to provide opportunity for all to testify and keep the meeting on schedule.

PLEASE NOTE: These are estimated times and the agenda is subject to change. Contact staff for the current schedule. Evening sessions are at the call of the chair.

1. **Call to Order** (*Chair*)
2. **Roll Call and Establish Quorum** (*Secretary*)..... 3
3. **Welcome and Introductions** (*Chair*)
4. **Review and Adopt Agenda** (*Chair*)..... 1
5. **Election of Officers**
 - A. Chair (*DFO*)
 - B. Vice Chair (*New Chair*)
 - C. Secretary (*New Chair*)
6. **Review and Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting** (*Chair*)..... 4
7. **Reports**
 - A. Council Member Reports
 - B. Chair's Report
 - C. 805(c) Report (*Chair*)
 - D. Committee Reports
 - E. Working Group Reports
8. **Tribal Consultation**
9. **Regulatory Proposals**
 - A. Customary Trade of Chinook Salmon (*OSM*)
 - B. Call for proposals to change Federal subsistence fish/shellfish regulations – deadline March 30, 2012 (*Don Rivard*)
10. **Old Business** (*Chair*)
 - A. Review and Finalize Draft 2011 Annual Report

Agenda

B. Review 40 Mile Caribou Management Plan	
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A. Confirm date and location of fall 2012 meeting	
B. Select date and location for winter 2013 meeting	
14. Closing Comments	
15. Adjourn (Chair)	

To teleconferencing into this meeting, dial 1-877-638-8165, the pass code is 9060609.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife is committed to providing access to this meeting for those with a disability who wish to participate. Please direct all requests for accommodation for a disability to the Office of Subsistence Management, at 1-800-478-1456, 786-3888, at least five business days prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this agenda or need additional information, please contact the Office of Subsistence Management.

REGION 9—Eastern Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Yr Apptd <i>Term Expires</i>	Member Name & Address	
1	2001 2013	Susan Louise Entsminger Tok, Alaska	Chair
2	2007 2013	Andrew Paul Firmin Fort Yukon, Alaska	
3	2010 2013	Larry Williams Sr. Venetie, Alaska	
4	2007 2013	Lester Charles Erhart Tanana, Alaska	
5	2005 2014	William L. Glanz Central, Alaska	
6	2002 2014	Andrew W. Bassich Eagle, Alaska	
7	2011 2014	Isaac A. Juneby Eagle, Alaska	
8	2010 2012	Joseph Albert Matesi Fort Yukon, Alaska	
9	2009 2012	Donald A. Woodruff Eagle, Alaska	
10	2001 2012	Virgil Umphenour North Pole, Alaska	Vice Chair

**EASTERN INTERIOR SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 11-12-13, 2011
Pike's Waterfront Lodge
Fairbanks, Alaska**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sue Entsminger at approximately 10:05 AM. Invocation was led by Council member Larry Williams.

Roll Call

The following Council members were present and a quorum established: Sue Entsminger (Chair), Andy Bassich, Lester Erhart, Andrew Firmin, William Glanz, Joseph Matesi, Virgil Umphenour, Larry Williams, Sr. and Frank Gurtler. Donald Woodruff was an excused absence due to weather.

Welcome and Introductions

The following persons were present at the start of the meeting and/or on subsequent days:

Aaron Dupuis – Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks
Alecia Davis - Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage (via teleconference)
Barbara Cellarius – National Park Service, Wrangell-St. Elias
Beth Lenart – Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks
Bob Childers – Gwich'in Steering Committee, Anchorage
Caroline Brown – Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks
Carrie Stevens – Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Fort Yukon (via teleconference)
Charley Swaney – Arctic Village
Chris McKee - Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage (via teleconference)
Chuck Ardizzone - Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage
Chuck Hurst – Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Tok
Dan Sharp – Interagency Steering Committee, Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage
David Jenkins – Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage
Darcie Warden – Alaska Wilderness League/Black River Working Group, Fairbanks
Dawn Young Carroll – Gwich'in Steering Committee, Fairbanks (via teleconference)
Dian Gurtler – Manley Hot Springs
Don Rivard – Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage
Ernie Peter – Second Chief, Arctic Village (via teleconference)
Faith Peters – Tanana (via teleconference)
Fred Bue – Yukon Area Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks
Geoff Haskett – Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage
Gerald Maschmann - Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks
Gerald Nicholia – Tanana Tribal Council, Tanana
Gideon James – Arctic Village Council
Gloria Stickwan – Southcentral Alaska Regional Advisory Council, Tazlina (via teleconference)
Greg Dudgeon – Superintendent, Yukon Charley and Gates of the Arctic, National Park Service
Greg Risdahl – Fish and Wildlife Service, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge
Hollis Twitchell – Fish and Wildlife Service, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Fairbanks
James Kari – Linguist
James Roberts - Tanana

Jeff Gross – Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Tok
Jennifer Yuhas – Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage
Jim Neely – Law Enforcement, Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks
Jonathan John – First Chief, Arctic Village (via teleconference)
Josephine Peter – Arctic Village
Judy Putera – National Park Service, Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve
Julian Roberts – Native Village of Venetie Village Council
Kathleen Zuray – Tanana
Kathlyn Zuray – Tanana
Kent Moos, Koyukuk-Nowitna National Wildlife Refuges, Galena
Kirk Sweetsir – Yukon Air Service, Fort Yukon and Fairbanks
KJ Mushovic - Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage
Kristen Ke'it – Bureau of Indian Affairs, Anchorage
Maggie Roberts - Venetie
Marcy Okada – National Park Service, Yukon Charley/Gates of the Arctic, Fairbanks
Marjorie Gemmill – Arctic Village Council, Arctic Village (via teleconference)
Mark Bertram – Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, Fairbanks
Martha Russell – Arctic Village (via teleconference)
Mildred Peter Allen – Arctic Village
Nate Berg – Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, Tok
Nissa Pilcher – Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks
Pat Petrivelli – Bureau of Indian Affairs, Anchorage
Patrick Moore – Tanana (via teleconference)
Paul Williams – Beaver
Pete Probasco – Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage
Rita St. Louis - Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks
Robert Jess - Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, Fairbanks
Ruth Gronquist - Bureau of Land Management, Eastern Interior Field Office, Fairbanks
Russell Wood – Fairbanks and Tanana
Ryan Mullnow – Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, Tok
Sandy Rabinowich – Interagency Staff Committee, National Park Service, Anchorage
Sarah James – Arctic Village
Seth McMillan – National Park Service
Stan Zuray – Tanana/Rampart/Manley Advisory Committee, Tanana
Steve Hayes – Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage
Sue Masica – Alaska Regional Director, National Park Service, Anchorage
Teddy Northway – Northway Village Council
Tom Liebscher – National Park Service, Fairbanks
Torsten Bentzen – Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Tok
Trevor Fox - Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage (via teleconference)
Trimble Gilbert – Arctic Village (via teleconference)
Vince Mathews – Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon Flats Refuges, Fairbanks
Victor Lord – Nenana
and
Computer Matrix Court Reporter (Salena Hile)

Council Members' Reports and Concerns

Council members provided introductory remarks and noted the following issues and concerns:

The need to prevent the waste of harvested meat by non-local trophy hunters;
The importance of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan;
The importance of the Bureau of Land Management Draft Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan;
Relations with the National Park Service are showing some improvement in the Central and Circle Hot Springs areas;
Successful management of the Fortymile Caribou herd continues;
Noticing more moose on the upper Yukon River likely due to intensive management of predators and recent fires – more moose noted on the Yukon Flats, as well;
The importance of responsible management of fisheries;
Maximum mesh size for Chinook salmon should be 6 rather than 7.5;
The need to educate the Board of Fisheries on the impacts to wild stocks from hatchery production and persuade the Board to limit hatchery production;
The continued need for predator management, primarily wolf management;
The continued need for cultural etiquette awareness for non-local hunters;
Yukon River Chinook salmon escapement to Canada goals were met for the first time in recent years;
Progress made on customary trade issues;
The need for tribal consultation to be more inclusive.

Chair's Report

Chair attended the May 3 & 4 Federal Subsistence Board meeting with much discussion on tribal consultation.

Chair attended the October Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee and Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission meetings in which Federal Subsistence wildlife proposals were considered.

Chair referred Council members to the 2010 Annual Report Reply in the meeting materials book and requested that they think about identifying issues for the 2011 Annual Report.

Review and Adoption of Agenda

Chair proposed adding proposals WP12-23/24, 25 and 27, and adjusting the order that the Council would consider proposals, to group them by Unit and to ensure that those related to Customary and Traditional Use Determinations be considered before regulatory proposals for the same area.

***Motion:** Mr. Bassich **moved** to adopt the agenda as suggested. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Umphenour. Motion carried.*

Review and Approval of Minutes of October, 2010 Meeting

***Motion:** Mr. Bassich **moved** to adopt the minutes of the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's March, 2011 meeting in Fairbanks with no changes. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Glanz. Motion carried.*

Council members discussed the degree of detail that they would like to see in future minutes and agreed that not everything needs to be included verbatim, but that, if there is any particular discussion that warrants extra detail, it should be identified.

Public Testimony

James Kari testified on WP12-68, noting the longstanding traditional law and protocol about requesting and granting permission to use different areas in the region for hunting and fishing.

Kirk Sweetsir testified in support of WP12-63 as fair-minded, reasonable, and addresses a significant concern. As a pilot based out of Fort Yukon in the fall, he sees many hunters who stay in the field for long periods of time, and has noted the warm season extends longer, and feels that boned meat is more likely to spoil. Meat left on the bone is also aids law enforcement in assessing if all the meat has been salvaged. Mr. Sweetsir noted that trophy hunters with little interest in the meat will salvage it in order to comply with the requirement, but handle the meat in a disrespectful manner that is essentially insulting when donated to rural residents. The primary purpose of the animals should be for meat and the trophy aspect secondary.

Mr. Sweetsir also testified on WP12-76. Mr. Sweetsir disagreed with the premise that air traffic somehow drives sheep into higher country, stating that, in his experience, large, mature male rams seek the highest country available regardless. Mr. Sweetsir also stated that, while he is sympathetic to the frustrations of area residents, non-local hunters are unlikely to hunt the corridor accessible by boat from villages downriver, and that the regulatory process may not be the best way to address the lack of respect by non-locals with the resources to access the area for hunting.

Russell Wood, of Fairbanks and Tanana, testified on WP12-74 and his concern that the resident caribou of Unit 20F not be regulatorially be connected to caribou in Units 20E and 25C. Mr. Wood also requested, through the chair, an ADF&G report on how many caribou are taken in that portion of 20F that is east of the Dalton Highway and south of the Yukon River.

Mr. Wood also testified in opposition to the recommendations of the Tri-RAC subcommittee on customary trade, stating that the words did not have any meaning, were vague, and difficult to interpret for the most part. Mr. Wood was in favor of catch calendars as a way to get much needed data on how many fish are being caught and/or sold, but disagreed with the \$750 monetary limit, citing differing costs to harvest and process fish along the river. Mr. Woods also reiterated statements by the Secretary of Agriculture as to the importance of the Federal subsistence management program in, among other things, sustaining the livelihood of rural families, ensuring access to healthy and affordable food, and sustaining cultural and traditional ways of life.

Julian Roberts, tribal chief for the Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government testified about the relationship between tribal consultation and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)'s provision to form tribal corporations affected the standing of many tribes, but Venetie opted not to form a corporation and continues to claim sovereignty.

Mr. Roberts also testified in support of WP12-76.

Gideon James, of Arctic Village, testified about how the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provision for subsistence helped rectify the access to fish and game resources that ANCSA stripped, but benefits primarily those villages surrounded by Federally managed lands, so something should be done for those villages surrounded by lands under state or other management.

Mr. James also testified in support of WP12-76. Mr. James noted the expense associated with obtaining the proper equipment and supplies to hunt the area, and how they represent a significant percentage of a local resident's income (as opposed to the resources of non-local hunters), but still considered an important investment in passing along traditional cultural practices to the younger generation. Mr. James was also concerned about trespass, including landing strip development, occurring on private allotments in the area. He used to regularly get game in the area, but has not been successful in recent years, and believes the air traffic has influenced game movement. Mr. James felt that the option of opening up the season to local residents earlier than others is not a useful solution, because the people of his village use traditional knowledge to determine when to hunt there.

Teddy Northway, president of the Northway Village Council testified in support of WP12-66, and against WP10-104 and WP12-65. He and the people of his community have a history of hunting this herd for meat, there is keen interest in the opportunity to hunt it again. Mr. Northway maintains that this subsistence use should have a higher priority than trophy hunting.

Charley Swaney of Arctic Village testified in support of WP12-76, noting that people in his village have experienced increasing difficulty in harvesting sheep and moose since the area was re-opened to hunting. People in his village earn very little cash income and must rely on hunting for food, and feel that their lifestyle is threatened.

Trimble Gilbert of Arctic Village testified in support of WP12-76. He has been using the area for over 50 years, and has heard many stories about thousands of years of traditional use of the area, as well as observing evidence of that use, such as sheep and caribou fences. He has an allotment there that he has spent a great deal of time using, and has noticed a decline in sheep numbers.

Marjorie Gemmill of Arctic Village testified in support of WP12-76, noting the importance of Red Sheep Creek to the people of her village and that they would like the area closed to sport hunting and open to subsistence hunting only. Ms. Gemmill suggested that some effort could be made by the Fish and Wildlife Service or the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments to better document local subsistence use of the area.

Mark Hess Sr., of Arctic Village testified in support of WP12-76. Mr. Hess provided information about certain plants and minerals in the area that are known for their medicinal values, but are not completely understood, and that there is concern that too much visitation to the area poses a threat to the plants – there have been different plants, insects, and other items appearing since non-local hunters and hikers have been frequenting the area. Mr. Hess noted that, even the sheep from that area are considered to have special traditional medicinal properties as a result of feeding on the plants and licking minerals from the unique red rocks. Nina Russell, a relative, received an allotment in the area and made it expressly known that it was not to be disturbed. The area is to be used only for subsistence and when it is truly needed, and not for sport.

Martha Russell of Arctic Village testified in support of WP12-76. Ms. Russell has an allotment in the area, and considers the land sacred. She feels strongly about others going on or around that land and would like to see an end to the sport hunting that brings non-locals to the area.

Jonathon John, First Chief of Arctic Village, testified in support of WP12-76. Mr. John has been using the area since he was a young teenager, and is disturbed by the number of landing strips he has observed developing. The area's geography makes it naturally attractive for not only sheep, but moose and caribou, as well, which has drawn in competition from non-local hunters with superior resources. Mr. John also testified in support of WP12-63.

Ernie Peter, Second Chief of Arctic Village, testified in support of WP12-76. Mr. Peter noted that his mother has an allotment in the area that the family would like left alone, and he expressed concern over the development of airstrips developed by sport hunters.

Carrie Stevens, Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments, Fort Yukon, testified in support of WP12-76. Ms. Stevens questioned the OSM preliminary conclusion, which recognized a lack of data on subsistence users, and suggested that the testimony being provided today be considered to fill data gaps. Ms. Stevens noted that both the Office of Subsistence Management and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have published papers acknowledging that harvest reporting in the region is inaccurate.

Mildred Peter Allen, Arctic Village, testified in support of WP12-76. Her mother's allotment was pristine in 1976, but now there is much evidence of trespass in trash, such as buried propane bottles, cut trees, and trail development. Ms. Allen said that sheep meat is considered a delicacy, taken only when needed, and eaten by elders, and that it is important to keep the area natural out of respect for the divii (sheep), as well as the moose and caribou taken there.

Josephine Peter, Arctic Village, testified in support of WP12-76. Ms. Peter would appreciate seeing her allotment cleaned up and the airstrip removed. The area is very special to her and her family.

Maggie Roberts, Venetie, testified in support of WP12-76. Ms. Roberts has family ties to Arctic Village and the Red Sheep Creek area. Her family's traditional practice when hunting in that area was to hunt there only, and camp three or four miles away, in order to keep the area clean and natural. Ms. Roberts said that the smell of humans and trash, and planes landing on airstrips, affects animal behavior.

Sarah James, Arctic Village, testified in support of WP12-76 and for a community harvest in Anuktuvuk Pass. Ms. James said that Red Sheep Creek is sacred to Gwich'in. They highly respect the sheep, which take so long to become rams. There are special rituals associated with preparing to hunt for the sheep, as well as how to bring it back and use it. Ms. James made trips to the area with her family to harvest sheep, moose, and caribou and continued as an adult. It requires extensive time and effort.

Ms. James noted the red streak that runs down the back of sheep from the Red Sheep Creek area, resulting from the red clay that the sheep suck on that is unique to the area. The clay and a medicinal rock and medicinal plants all contribute to the sacred value of the area, and just going there is said to help elders find relief from painful joints. Ms. James recalled a time when Arctic Village was struggling, yet building a church, when a sheep was taken that had a red cross on its back, which was taken as a very significant sign. Ms. James said that Cane Creek's name came from very long ago and is associated with the story of a man who lived there with the sheep his entire life.

Ms. James described how people use every bit of the sheep. The chewy chest and back meat is prized. The skin is the warmest there is, and there is a small sack between the big toe and the other that contains a gel that can be used like a lip gloss and to bring energy when hungry. It is offensive to see sport hunters return with the equivalent of a plastic grocery bag after taking a sheep, as they consider the only edible part the hindquarter, so that is all they salvage besides their trophy.

Ms. James did not think that opening the hunt to locals earlier would be helpful, because the sheep would be too high up at that time.

Bob Childers, executive director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee, testified in support of WP12-76. Mr. Childers spoke of his personal experience hunting in the area, and how one such hunt had turned around the life of a troubled youth who now hunts sheep there for his community. Mr. Childers pointed out that the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act clearly anticipated hunting closures unrelated to biological issues, and hopes that the Office of Subsistence Management will reconsider its preliminary conclusion, and take cultural importance under further consideration. He has a sense that local residents feel keenly displaced from an area that they feel should be protected for their use, and agreed that having earlier access would not be useful, because they are busy with other seasonal tasks at that time, and that it would be too warm, increasing the chances of meat spoilage, especially considering the amount of time that it takes to get the meat out.

Paul Williams, Beaver, testified in support of WP12-76. Mr. Williams pointed out that he has hunted in the Red Sheep Creek area, and it is important to other villages in the Yukon Flats region, as well. He would like to see it protected for subsistence uses.

Gloria Stickwan, of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, spoke during consideration of WP-12-23/24, to clarify that Council's recommendations.

Gerald Nicholia, Tanana, testified in support of WP12-56. Local hunters are facing competition from non-local hunters with superior resources, and can use the benefit of additional harvest opportunity, especially in years when moose rut later, as it has been trending. Mr. Nicholia explained that low hunt participation has been due to some years where hunters forgot to turn in permit/reports. Mr. Nicholia also testified that Doyon and Tanana Chiefs will go to court over changes to the way customary trade is regulated, and that the emphasis needs to be on better management of commercial fisheries so more kings make it into the upper river and across the border.

Kathleen Peters Zuray, executive director of the Tanana Tribal Council, testified in opposition to the recommendations of the Tri-RAC subcommittee on customary trade, as the practice has been going on for centuries and promotes passing on traditional cultural activities to future generations. Ms. Zuray finds fish camps an important activity and recognizes that they are expensive to operate. Ms. Zuray felt that additional information was needed. Ms. Zuray also objected to over-regulation in general, which is contributing to the declining use of fish camps. The priority should be on managing the Chinook run, not the subsistence users.

Patrick Moore, Tanana testified on customary trade. Mr. Moore detailed some of the expenses involved in building a fish wheel and traveling to and supporting a fish camp, and pointed out that a State of Alaska lawsuit in Sitka on herring on kelp determined twenty years ago that \$13,000 was not a significant commercial enterprise according to State regulations. Mr. Moore also thought that evolution in subsistence practices should be recognized and taken into consideration.

Stan Zuray, chairman of the Tanana/Rampart/Manley Advisory Committee, secretary of YRDFA, and manager for several fisheries data collection projects, testified in opposition to the recommendations of the Tri-RAC subcommittee on customary trade. Mr. Zuray has been following the issue for quite some time, and referred Council members to the written comments made by Charley Campbell and Doyon/TCC to the Tri-RAC subcommittee earlier in the year. Mr. Zuray provided additional details about the costs for him to stay in fish camp all summer, as well as information from others, placing the cost in thousands of dollars for gas alone, making the \$750 figure suggested by the subcommittee inadequate. When questioned, Mr. Zuray offered \$10,000 off the top of his head as perhaps a more realistic starting point, and added that the concept of "household" is different in villages than what regulators may be familiar with, and no large volume sellers can operate without extended family help. Mr. Zuray shared statistical data on the effects of pulse protection to illustrate that better management, not further restrictions on subsistence users, is needed to address declining king populations. Mr. Zuray stated that the Federal subsistence program came about because the State was not protecting subsistence properly, and the Fish and Wildlife Service should be fighting to protect customary trade, not facilitating its elimination. Mr. Zuray said that he would prefer that law enforcement address the few who may be abusing the system to avoid ruining the lifestyles of all the rest.

James Roberts, Tanana, testified in opposition to the recommendations of the Tri-RAC subcommittee on customary trade. Mr. Roberts noted that Tanana has ideal conditions for harvest of salmon, and a long history of doing so to trade for cash with others for whom harvest and processing is not as optimal. Mr. Roberts expressed distrust of most members of the Council and accused the Council of turning people into criminals. Mr. Roberts finds \$750 a poverty level amount, especially considering he drives 90 miles per day in season to check nets three times a day, at a cost of about \$2,000. Mr. Roberts does not want to see the way of life lost, and noted the health benefits of eating salmon rather than processed food.

Faith Peters, of Tanana, testified in opposition to the recommendations of the Tri-RAC subcommittee on customary trade on the basis of how much it costs to go to fish camp to obtain healthy foods, and how expensive processed store-bought food is in Tanana. Ms. Peters does not want to see the way of life and culture of her people lost.

Reports on Tribal and ANCSA Corporation Consultations

Sue Masica provided a briefing on the interim tribal consultation protocol being used to obtain input on 2012-2014 Federal Subsistence Wildlife Proposals. Ms. Masica reported that there was no ANCSA corporation input on any of the proposals before this Council and that 10 individuals representing tribes and tribal interests participated in a call last week, although most had only general comments, not comments on specific proposals. Ms. Masica noted that one participant cautioned that tribal governments not participating may very well have positions on proposals, and that non-participation should not be considered the same as having no position or concern, agreement or disagreement. Ms. Masica explained that the process is still under development, and that, while there may be a role for organizations like the Tanana Chiefs, if they are designated by a Federally recognized tribe to serve as its representative for government to government purposes, that opportunity will always be available to those with tribal affiliations under the regular Council proposal consideration process. Even with evolving government to government tribal and corporation consultation processes, Council members expressed how they continue to value hearing from tribal members – on the ground subsistence users – on issues and about possible effects of pending proposals.

Proposed Changes to Subsistence Wildlife Regulations

Vice-Chair Umphenour presided over proposals WP12-32, WP12-33, WP12-68, WP10-105/WP12-65/66, and WP12-70/73 and initial consideration of WP12-71/72.

WP10-02 (Deferred WP08-05): Requirements when selling handicrafts incorporating claws

Mr. Umphenour *moved* and Mr. Bassich *seconded* that the Council take no action on WP10-02 because of the action taken on WP12-01. Council recommendation:

Take No Action on Proposal WP10-02. ADF&G intends to withdraw this proposal with the permission of the Board. The Council prefers supporting WP12-01.

WP10-91: Revise Unit 25 brown bear harvest limit

Mr. Umphenour *moved* and Mr. Glanz *seconded* that the Council adopt WP10-91. Council recommendation:

Oppose WP10-91 in favor of WP12-62.

WP10-92: Revise Unit 25 black bear harvest limit

Mr. Firmin *moved* and Mr. Glanz *seconded* that the Council adopt WP10-92 with modification to replace Unit 25 with Unit 25D. Council recommendation:

Support WP10-92 as modified to pertain to Unit 25D only. The Council finds no conservation concern and notes that the proposal provides increased subsistence opportunity.

WP10-104: Revise Unit 12 caribou harvest limit and season dates

Take No Action on WP10-104 in favor of WP12-66.

WP12-01: Requirements when selling handicrafts incorporating claws

Mr. Glanz *moved* and Mr. Umphenour *seconded* that the Council support WP12-01. Mr. Williams *moved* to amend the proposal to require an additional line on the sealing form to signify that the animal was harvested by a Federally qualified subsistence user, followed by a check box to signify if the harvester is Alaska Native, and Mr. Bassich *seconded*. Council accepted the amendment. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-01 with modification to require an additional line on the sealing form to signify that the animal was harvested by a Federally qualified subsistence user, followed by a check box to signify if the harvester is Alaska Native. The Council thinks that more value may be attached to a handicraft product if authenticated as from an Alaskan subsistence user or Alaska Native. The Council does not find any conservation concerns, but notes that the proposal actually addresses conservation by providing harvest data and could result in more accurate reporting. The Council recognizes that the proposal represents the extensive efforts to reach a compromise by the Bear Claw Handicrafts Working Group.

WP12-02: Redefine “designated hunter” so that a designated hunter can only hunt for elders or a person who is disabled

Mr. Umphenour *moved* and Mr. Bassich *seconded* that the Council support WP12-02. Council recommendation:

Oppose WP12-02. The Council recognizes that traditional networks of sharing and support are too complex within and between communities to fit with this proposal and feels that this proposal places undue hardship on specific users such as single mothers. The Council suggests that the proposal may be more appropriate for a specific area experiencing abuse of the system, rather than as a statewide proposal.

WP12-03: Trapping; incidental take

Mr. Umphenour *moved* and Mr. Glanz *seconded* that the Council support WP12-03. Council recommendation:

Oppose WP12-03. The Council understands that State of Alaska regulations addressing this issue already apply to Federal subsistence trapping, making a companion Federal proposal unnecessary. The Council is also aware of improved snare design that allows unintended catch to break away and survive.

WP12-23/24: Establish season and harvest limit for Caribou in Unit 11

Mr. Bassich *moved* and Mr. Glanz *seconded* that the Council support WP12-23/24. Council recommendation:

Oppose Proposal WP12-23/24. The Council cites conservation concerns.

WP12-25: Revise season date for Caribou in Unit 13

Mr. Umphenour *moved* and Mr. Glanz *seconded* that the Council support WP12-25. Council recommendation by show of hands (Williams, Firmin, Entsminger, Gurtler support; Matesi, Glanz, Umphenour, Bassich, Erhart oppose):

Oppose Proposal WP12-25. The council cites law enforcement concerns.

WP12-27: Add additional residents to customary and traditional use determination for goats in Unit 11

Mr. Bassich *moved* and Mr. Glanz *seconded* that the Council support WP12-27. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-27. The Council finds the analysis justifies support of the determination and notes that the exclusion appears to be the result of oversight.

WP12-32: Revise season dates for elder sheep hunts in Units 11 and 12

Mr. Glanz *moved* and Ms. Entsminger *seconded* that the Council support WP12-32. Ms. Entsminger *moved* to amend the proposal to change the season dates to 8/1 – 10/20 in Units 11 and 12 and limit the harvest to one sheep, and prohibit harvest of lambs and ewes with lambs in Unit 11 and Mr. Bassich *seconded*. Council accepted the amendment. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-32 with modification to change the season dates to 8/1 – 10/20 in Units 11 and 12 and limit the harvest to one sheep, and prohibit harvest of lambs and ewes with lambs in Unit 11. The Council does not find a conservation concern and feels that the extended season provides improved flexibility for both youth and elders, particularly when the animals are lower in the mountains during the

latter part of the proposed season.

WP12-33: Revise hunting season for wolf in Units 11 and 12

Mr. Bassich *moved* and Mr. Glanz *seconded* that the Council support WP12-33. Council recommendation:

Oppose WP12-33. There is not a conservation concern for wolves in Units 11 and 12, and shortening the season would negatively affect subsistence users by reducing subsistence opportunity. Hides harvested in the fall, when the hair is short, are better for hats and mittens. Spring hides can be used to make good ruffs.

WP12-52: Close sport hunting along Yukon River

Mr. Umphenour *moved* and Mr. Bassich *seconded* that the Council support WP12-52. Council recommendation:

Oppose WP12-52. The Council agrees with concerns about competition for food sources, but finds this proposal as written unnecessary and lacking in specificity.

WP12-56: Revise Unit 21B moose season

Mr. Umphenour *moved* and Mr. Glanz *seconded* that the Council support WP12-56. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-56. The Council does not find a conservation concern, and that the proposal could provide a very important subsistence opportunity late in the season for subsistence users who may not have yet been successful. The Council also notes that recent climate changes have influenced historical rut times and cites traditional ecological knowledge that, even during rut, moose meat is not compromised unless it comes into contact with urine, and that later harvest can be beneficial to those with no or limited electricity.

WP12-62: Revise Unit 25D harvest limit of brown bear from 1 bear to 1 bear every regulatory year or by community harvest permit

After considering how the intent of the proposal had been misinterpreted, Mr. Firmin *moved* and Mr. Bassich *seconded* that the Council support WP12-62 with the modification to limit the proposal to residents of Unit 25D and the harvest limit to two bears every regulatory year. Council recommendation: **Support** WP12-62 as modified to eliminate the community harvest provision and change the harvest limit wording to “Unit 25D, two bears every regulatory year.” The Council finds no conservation concerns and feels that the proposal provides increased subsistence harvest opportunity to the relatively low number of users who utilize this resource.

WP12-63: Requirement in Unit 25 to leave meat on bones of harvested moose and caribou to prevent wanton waste

Mr. Umphenour *moved* and Mr. Bassich *seconded* that the Council support WP12-63. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-63. The Council does not find a conservation concern nor that the proposal places an undue burden on users, as most Federally qualified subsistence users typically practice it voluntarily. The Council hopes that success of this proposal will lead to similar proposals in other units and by the State of Alaska, as well.

WP12-65: Revise Unit 12 caribou harvest limit and season dates

Take No Action on WP12-65 in favor of WP12-66.

WP12-66: Revise Unit 12 caribou harvest limit and season dates

Ms. Entsminger *moved* and Mr. Bassich *seconded* that the Council support WP12-66. Ms. Entsminger withdrew her original motion, with Mr. Bassich's concurrence. Ms. Entsminger *moved* and Mr. Bassich *seconded* that the Council support WP12-66 as modified by the OSM, with the addition of the communities of Tanacross and Nabesna. After consulting with staff, Ms. Entsminger more precisely articulated the wording of her amendment to clarify its intent. Council accepted the amendment. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-66 to establish a federal registration hunt for the Chisana Caribou Herd beginning fall 2012 with a harvest quota in accordance with the Chisana Caribou Draft Management Plan with a harvest limit of one bull between 9/1 and 9/30 subject to additional ANILCA Section 804 analysis for the inclusion of the communities of Nabesna and Tanana, as modified by the OSM language on page 98 of the meeting materials book, with the expectation that the Wrangell-St. Elias superintendent would be delegated to:

Announce the harvest quota, number of permits to be issued, and the reporting period;

Open the season;

Close the season, in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, and the chairs of the Eastern Interior and Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, by local announcement when the quota has been taken, and is expected to provide the two Councils with a hunt report at their Winter 2013 meetings. The Council finds the initial Section 804 analysis well done and recognizes that the proposal reflects the extensive efforts of many contributors. The Council feels that, while the harvestable surplus is small, it should not pose a conservation concern with good in-season management. The Council notes that the remoteness of the hunt area will limit access, but that the proposal will provide increased subsistence opportunity for some.

WP12-67: Revise season date for Unit 20E caribou

Mr. Bassich *moved* and Mr. Umphenour *seconded* that the Council take no action on WP12-67 because of the action taken on WP12-74. Council recommendation:

Take No Action on WP12-67 in favor of WP12-74.

WP12-68: Revise customary and traditional use determination for Unit 12 caribou.

Ms. Entsminger *moved* and Mr. Bassich *seconded* that the Council support WP12-68. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-68. The Council finds no conservation concern or potential detriment to other subsistence users. The Council feels that certain subsistence users will benefit, and that there is good documentation of traditional use patterns to support a positive determination.

WP12-69: Customary and traditional use determination for caribou in Unit 25-remainder for residents of Unit 25

Mr. Umphenour *moved* and Mr. Firmin *seconded* that the Council support WP12-69, as modified by OSM. Mr. Umphenour *withdrew* his motion with Mr. Firmin's *consent*. Mr. Bassich *moved* and Mr. Glanz *seconded* to change the wording on page 117 of the Federal Subsistence Wildlife Management Regulations booklet to add Units 24A and 25C. Mr. Bassich *withdrew* his motion with Mr. Glanz's *consent*. Mr. Umphenour *moved* and Mr. Matesi *seconded* that the Council support WP12-69, as modified by OSM on page 180 of the meeting materials book. Mr. Matesi *moved* and Mr. Firmin *seconded*, to amend the language to allow residents of Unit 24A to hunt in Unit 25A only. Council accepted the amendment. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-69 as modified by OSM on page 180 of the meeting materials book and further modified to add residents of Unit 24A to Unit 25A only. The Council feels that the proposal addresses the potential for subsistence users from outside the area that have not utilized this hunt in recent years to impact harvest of the Fortymile Caribou Herd, and clarifies the intent of the herd planning group. The Council

finds the documentation provided in the analysis sufficient to warrant its recommendation.

WP12-70/73: Align Federal moose hunting seasons, eliminate split season, extend season dates and change harvest limit for Unit 12 moose

Ms. Entsminger *moved* and Mr. Glanz *seconded* that the Council support WP12-70/73, as modified by OSM, with the typographical error regarding an antlered bull corrected. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-70/73 with the modifications suggested by the OSM, with the typographical error regarding an antlered bull corrected. The Council feels that this proposal will benefit subsistence users by providing a more generous season, reducing the number of permits that they will need to obtain, and by aligning the seasons and harvest limits along the Nabesna Road.

WP12-71/72: Revise required permit and season dates for Unit 12 moose

Mr. Bassich *moved* that the Council support WP12-71/72, as modified by OSM with the additional modification to strike the words “joint State” from “by joint State-Federal registration permit,” and revise the season to 11/1 to 2/28. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-71/72 as modified by OSM but further modified to strike the words “joint State” from “by joint State-Federal registration permit,” and revise the season to 11/1 to 2/28.

WP12-74: Revise Unit 20E caribou season dates and align quota with Units 20F and 25C

Mr. Umphenour *moved* and Mr. Glanz *seconded* that the Council support WP12-74. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-74. The Council finds the proposal supports the efforts of the Fortymile planning group, and will provide managers more options in controlling harvest – both to protect it when needed, as well as to allow for increased harvest when warranted, while ensuring improved reporting and better protection of the herd as it expands into the White Mountains area.

WP12-75: Combine two existing portions of Unit 20E and extend moose season dates

Mr. Bassich *moved* and Mr. Firmin *seconded* that the Council support WP12-75 with the modification that, under 20E – Remainder, changing the harvest dates to run 8/24 to 9/25. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-75 with the modification of Unit 20E – Remainder season dates to 8/24 -9/25. The Council sees no conservation concerns, and feels that the proposal provides consistency among multiple hunts.

WP12-76: Close Red Sheep and Cane Creek drainages in Unit 25A to taking of sheep by non-federally qualified users

Mr. Umphenour *moved* and Mr. Glanz *seconded* that the Council support WP12-76. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-76. The Council sees no conservation concerns and finds that the proposal enhances the ability of the residents of Arctic Village to pursue subsistence opportunities and may reduce incidents of trespass and resource damage. The Council appreciated the extensive information provided during public testimony and recognizes the powerful connection between residents of Arctic Village and the subject area as one that is deeply culturally rooted. The Council was compelled by extensive and detailed public testimony.

After the Council made its recommendation, it heard a briefing from Hollis Twitchell regarding land status, hunting, and trespass on private lands in the Red Sheep and Cane Creek areas, as well as refuge law enforcement, monitoring and information outreach efforts

WP12-77/78/79/81: Revise seasons and limits for wolves in Units 12, 20A and 25A

Mr. Glanz *moved* and Mr. Bassich *seconded* that the Council support WP12-77/78/79/81. Council recommendation:

Oppose WP12-77/78/79/81. The Council feels that harvest limits are not needed and would

unnecessarily restrict subsistence users when there are no conservation concerns.

WP12-80: Align Unit 25 wolf trapping season with State wolf trapping season

Mr. Umphenour *moved* and Mr. Bassich *seconded* that the Council support WP12-80. Council recommendation:

Support WP12-80. The Council finds no conservation concerns and sees benefit in aligning Federal and state seasons, especially for those federally qualified subsistence users with traplines that cross unit boundaries. The Council supports the increased subsistence opportunity that this proposal provides.

Customary Trade

The Council considered the report of the Tri-RAC subcommittee on customary trade, as well as extensive public testimony. David Jenkins, of OSM, provided a briefing on customary trade and the recommendations of the other councils involved, making several points:

- Customary trade is a protected subsistence use under Title VIII of ANILCA.
- Federal regulations for fish defined customary trade as the exchange for cash of fish, their parts and their eggs.
- The fish have to be harvested in Federal waters.
- The sale cannot constitute a significant commercial enterprise; it's not clear what that means, but it can't go beyond that threshold.
- The sale can't involve any individual or business or organization that is required to be licensed as a fisheries business.
- The sale cannot involve a business as defined by Alaska statute.
- The sale to non-rural residents is for personal or family use and not resale.
- The subcommittee was made up of representatives from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Councils, and met telephonically once, and face to face twice. Law enforcement, legal, and biological expertise were available from staff at the two face to face meetings.
- Extensive outreach was conducted to obtain input.
- The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council agreed with the prioritization of the subcommittee recommendations and that a \$750 monetary limit was appropriate. The Council did not address record keeping and receipt forms, nor catch calendars.
- The Western Interior Council voted that the first alternative was the appropriate alternative, and suggested that the Federal Subsistence Board should consider recognizing customary food processing techniques, such as strips or jarring, as culturally significant and customary practices and specifically establish that those practices are not prohibited in any way. The Council did not address record keeping and receipt forms, nor catch calendars.

Subcommittee member Andrew Firmin further clarified that the recommendations as made would apply only to whole fish in the round harvested from Federal waters and only in times of low abundance, when there are restrictions to Federal subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon. Subcommittee member Andy Bassich added that the subcommittee recognizes and values the traditional way of life along the Yukon River and took care to minimize impacts that could result from any proposed changes to regulations, intending to provide food security within the Yukon River drainage during times of low abundance, while still allowing for the practice of barter and attempting to provide a clear line for law enforcement application. Mr. Bassich emphasized that, in years of low abundance, Chinook salmon should stay as close to the villages that rely on it as possible, and in those years the resource cannot sustain markets in such places as Fairbanks, Anchorage, Nome, or Barrow. Mr. Bassich stated that the intent of the subcommittee extended to restriction of sales of incidental caught Chinook salmon by any commercial fisheries in the lower river. Mr. Umphenour stated, and the Council agreed, that the restriction should extend to all rivers in the Yukon River drainage, and the subcommittee agreed to consider that during

proposal development. The Council questioned and extensively discussed each aspect of the recommendations of the subcommittee, including the lack of data on harvest numbers.

Motion: Mr. Matesi **moved** that the Council respond to the recommendations of the Tri-RAC subcommittee for the subcommittee consideration as it determines whether to develop a proposal for regulatory change for the 2013-2015 call for proposals. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Umphenour.

Chair requested a roll call vote on the first recommendation: **Customary trade of Yukon River Chinook salmon may only occur between Federally qualified rural residents with a current customary and traditional use determination.**

Yes: Chair Entsminger, Mr. Firmin, Mr. Bassich, Mr. Glanz, Mr. Umphenour.

No: Mr. Williams, Mr. Erhart, Mr. Gurtler, Mr. Matesi.

Motion carried.

Chair requested a roll call vote on the second recommendation: **Preclude customary trade of Yukon River Chinook salmon between rural residents and others.**

- a) **Establish a \$750 limit per calendar year per qualified household;**
- b) **Require customary trade recordkeeping and receipt form.**

Yes: Mr. Bassich, Mr. Glanz.

No: Chair Entsminger, Mr. Williams, Mr. Erhart, Mr. Gurtler, Mr. Matesi, Mr. Umphenour.

Abstain: Mr. Firmin

Motion failed.

Motion: Mr. Bassich **moved** that the Council respond to the recommendations of the Tri-RAC subcommittee **that a Chinook salmon harvest calendar be required for federally qualified subsistence users.** The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Firmin. Chair requested a roll call vote.

Yes: Chair Entsminger, Mr. Firmin, Mr. Williams, Mr. Erhart, Mr. Bassich, Mr. Glanz, Mr. Gurtler, Mr. Umphenour.

No: Mr. Matesi.

Motion carried.

Board of Game Proposals

Motion: Mr. Umphenour **moved** to support all of the proposals the Council submitted to the Alaska Board of Game, plus the additional bear proposal (182) identified by Mr. Firmin. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Glanz. *Motion carried.*

The Council considered other State Board of Game proposals:

Motion: Mr. Firmin **moved** to support Proposal 170 before the Alaska Board of Game regarding moose in a portion of Unit 25A. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Umphenour. *Motion carried.*

Motion: Mr. Bassich **moved** to support Proposal 192 before the Alaska Board of Game regarding the Fortymile harvest plan. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Glanz. Motion carried.

Motion: Mr. Matesi **moved** to support Proposal 186 before the Alaska Board of Game as the companion proposal to WP12-70/73. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Glanz. Motion carried.

Council recommendations on these proposals will be prepared in time for the meeting book deadline. Council members will continue to consider the proposals, and may elect to revisit them at its Winter 2012 meeting just prior to the Board of Game meeting.

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program

Don Rivard (OSM) presented overviews of Yukon River (12-200, 12-202, 12-204, 12-205, 12-207, 12-251) and multi regional (12-700) projects.

Motion: Mr. Bassich **moved** that the Council recommend that the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Yukon River projects presented be funded. Mr. Glanz **seconded**. Motion carried.

Motion: Mr. Bassich **moved** that the Council recommend that the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program multi-regional project presented be funded. Mr. Glanz **seconded**. Motion carried.

The Council requested that it have the opportunity in the future to make recommendations for future funding projects.

Other Fisheries Issues

Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea Chinook Salmon Bycatch

Mr. Rivard referred the Council to a briefing contained in the meeting materials book.

Yukon River Post Season Reports

Reports were provided by Gerald Maschman, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Stan Zuray on behalf of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

Board of Fisheries Proposals

Motion: Mr. Umphenour **moved** to support both of the proposals the Council submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Matesi. Motion carried.

Agency and Organization Reports

Office of Subsistence Management

Pete Probasco, Office of Subsistence Management, referred Council members to Secretarial Review documents in the meeting materials book, reminded Council members of the recruitment period for the two new Federal Subsistence Board seats, and invited questions.

Motion: Mr. Matesi **moved** that the Council nominate Mr. Paul Williams, Sr., for a seat on the Federal Subsistence Board. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Firmin. Motion carried.

Mr. Matesi offered to help with the application, and council coordinator KJ Mushovic was asked to draft a letter from the Council in support of the application.

Native Corporations (Regional and Village) and Tribal Councils

Aaron Dupuis of the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) introduced himself as the new Partner's Program fisheries biologist and noted that TCC's new wildlife and parks director is Orville Huntington. Mr. Dupuis provided briefings on the net replacement program and fishery studies, and reported on plans under consideration for a Yukon River research field station in partnership with the University of Alaska's School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Jeff Gross asked for the Council's support of the Fortymile Caribou Herd Draft Management Plan and brought other proposals to the Alaska Board of Game to the attention of the Council.

***Motion:** Mr. Glanz **moved** that the Council support the 2012-2018 Fortymile Caribou Herd Draft Management Plan. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Firmin. Motion carried.*

Caroline Brown provided an update on Interior Alaska State subsistence and a Yukon River research project in response to the 2009 Yukon salmon disaster declaration and took questions.

Jennifer Yuhas suggested the Citizen's Advisory Council on Federal Areas and the State Departments of Environmental Compliance and Commerce, Community, and Economic Development as possible resources for addressing some of the trespass, customary trade, food products and licensing related issues brought forward during public testimony.

Bureau of Land Management

Ruth Gronquist noted that BLM continues to support Fortymile Caribou Herd harvest management planning efforts and will continue to conduct caribou habitat assessment in the Steese National Conservation Area and took questions.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Vince Mathews provided a handout for the Arctic Refuge Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and responded that the Refuge would have to get back to the Council in order to answer its specific questions on how the Plan affects subsistence uses.

Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge

Robert Jess provided a handout on projects of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge and took questions.

Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge

Greg Risdahl of the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge introduced new refuge staff Nate Berg, recently transferred from the US Forest Service, and Teddy Northway, new RIT from Northway Village, and noted that Sylvia Pitka is another new RIT hire. Mr. Northway provided a briefing on a project he was involved in to collect information from elders in Northway on historic use of the Chisana caribou herd. The information can be made available to those interested.

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

Marcy Okada, new subsistence coordinator for Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, provided briefings on moose, sheep, Peregrine falcon and wolf studies.

Greg Dudgeon introduced Seth McMillan as the acting district ranger based out of Eagle the past summer to help improve relations in that community and provided a brief overview of National Park Service compendiums. Mr. Bassich provided an update on how Eagle has been working with the Preserve, but would prefer a Federal Advisory Committee Act chartered group, and suggested that a more thorough review of the Preserve Compendium might be more appropriate at a future date. Mr. Glanz invited Park and Preserve staff to the November 3rd Advisory Committee meeting in Central.

Denali National Park and Preserve

Handouts were provided by Denali National Park and Preserve.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Handouts were provided by Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Other Business

The Council considered arrangements for upcoming meetings:

- Federal Subsistence Board meeting in Anchorage the week of January 16, 2012 – Sue Entsminger with Andrew Firmin as an alternate. He may be traveling to the meeting in another capacity and could handle Interior issues.
- Fortymile Working Group meeting in Fairbanks November 30 and December 1, 2011 – Council representative Donald Woodruff will not be available for travel, but Andy Bassich and Bill Glanz can attend for their Advisory Committees and also represent the Council.
- Yukon Flats Moose Management in March 2012 – Andrew Firmin and Larry Williams will already be attending.
- Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks in March 2012 – Joe Matesi will be attending anyway and will represent the Council. Bill Glanz and Virgil Umphenour will also be in attendance.
- Board of Fisheries meeting in Valdez December 2 -7, 2011 – Virgil Umphenour may be already attending.
- Representative to the new YR DFA Unified River Yukon Salmon Group, meeting date TBD – Virgil Umphenour

The Council adjusted its Winter 2012 meeting date to February 29 and March 1 and relocated the meeting to Fairbanks to facilitate attendance at the Board of Game meeting. The Council selected October 16 and 17 in Central for the Fall 2012 meeting, with Tanana as a backup. The Council expressed an interest in staying in private homes in Tanana.

Mr. Gurtler was recognized and thanked for his volunteer service to the Council.

Pete Probasco announced that this would be KJ Mushovic's last meeting.

Council members provided closing remarks.

Motion: Mr. Glanz ***moved*** to adjourn. *The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.*

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

KJ Mushovic, Designated Federal Officer

Date

Sue Entsminger, Chair

Date

These minutes will be formally considered by the Regional Advisory Council at its Winter 2012 public meeting. Any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

Federal Subsistence Board DRAFT Tribal Consultation Policy

Briefing Paper for Regional Advisory Council 2012 Winter Meetings

Introduction

The Federal Subsistence Board Workgroup for Tribal Consultation has been meeting, listening, consulting, and discussing the development of this policy since June, 2011. The group realizes the significance of this change – that is, the addition of Tribal Consultation - to the Federal Subsistence Management Program. All members of this workgroup have a strong sense of mission, and come to the table with a positive outlook for strengthening federal-tribal relations.

List of Workgroup members:

Della Trumble, Co-Chair, King Cove
Crystal Leonetti, Co-Chair, US Fish & Wildlife Service
John W. Andrew, Organized Village of Kwethluk
Lillian Petershoare, US Forest Service
Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak, Barrow/Nuiqsut
Jean Gamache, National Park Service
Nancy Swanton, National Park Service
Shawna Larson, Native Village of Chickaloon
Richard Peterson, Organized Village of Kasaan
Pete Probasco/Andrea Medeiros, Office of Subsistence Management
Brenda Takeshorse, Bureau of Land Management
George Carlson Yaska, Jr., Huslia/Fairbanks
Bobby Andrew, Native Village of Ekwok
Glenn Chen/Pat Petrivelli, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Steps Taken to Draft this Policy

May 2011 FSB Working Session - Board assigned the task of writing a protocol to the workgroup. Workgroup was assembled with 7 Tribal and 7 Federal members.

June 2011 – Workgroup met in Anchorage for 2 days, drafted an interim protocol to be used for the fall cycle of Regional Advisory Council meetings. A Tribal Co-chair was named.

July 2011 – The Board, at its work session, adopted the two interim protocols – one for Tribes and one for ANCSA Corporations to be used during the fall cycle of Regional Advisory Council meetings for the wildlife proposals.

July 26, 2011 – Separate letters were sent to Tribes and to ANCSA Corporations the Chair of the FSB regarding consultation on the 2012-2014 Wildlife Proposals and on the development of a long-term consultation protocol.

August – October 2011 – 12 consultation teleconferences were held to consult on the 2012-2014 Wildlife Proposals. Although this was a first-time process, we are positive that there will be more attendance in the future and we will be doing more outreach to increase awareness of this type of

opportunity. There was a wonderful learning experience for both Tribes & ANCSA Corporations, *and* for federal staff. What we learned during these teleconferences helped us draft this policy.

September 30, 2011 – A letter was sent to all Tribes inviting them to an in-person consultation in December, with a new draft version of the protocol.

October 20, 2011 – A consultation with ANCSA Corporations and Tribes was held during the Alaska Federation of Natives annual convention here in Anchorage. It was well attended, and we gained more valuable insight at this meeting.

December 1, 2011 – A consultation with Tribes was held during the BIA Tribal Service Providers Conference in Anchorage. It was attended by at least 300 people (my estimate) and we learned substantially more.

December 6-8, 2011 – the workgroup met in Anchorage to consider all verbal and written direction we received from Tribes and ANCSA corporations.

General Concepts of this Draft Policy

1. The policy should be simple, general, and broad. This reflects the DOI policy. Since it does not prescribe a process on how to consult, we changed the name of it from "protocol" to "policy".
2. There is no need to regurgitate the Department-level policies since we need to follow those anyway. What we attempted with this new policy format, is to utilize the DOI and USDA policies as the base, and focus this policy on Federal Subsistence Management and its unique nature.
3. Keeping this policy simple, general, and broad allows the Board (and Tribes) to remain flexible and adapt to what makes sense for meaningful consultation based on the scope and issues being consulted about.
4. The DOI is drafting a "supplemental consultation policy for ANCSA corporations". The workgroup is mirroring this format, knowing that the DOI has had Department-level Solicitors in agreement on this approach.

Themes of this Draft Policy

- Training – For the Board, Staff, and Tribes and ANCSA Corporations
- Adaptability/Living Document – this document can change based on regular reviews and it allows us to adapt to varying situations.
- “How to” is not included here, but intended to be written after a final policy is adopted

Next Steps and Timeline

1) Further Board direction given to workgroup at the January Board meeting, changes are incorporated into the document in the RAC books.

- 2) Regional Advisory Councils will review and discuss the Policy and provide feedback through staff to the Working Group.
- 3) A letter from the Board to Tribes and Corporations will go out mid-February asking for feedback on the new draft policy.
- 4) Workgroup and Interagency Staff Committee to meet in April (via tele- or video conference) to incorporate any changes from RAC discussions or written feedback from Tribes/Corporations
- 5) Meet with Board members, whichever are available, to discuss new draft prior to the May FSB meeting - including in-depth discussion about implementation guidelines
- 6) Adopt policy at May FSB meeting
- 7) Finalize Implementation Guidelines

Questions for Regional Advisory Councils

- Do you feel this policy is going in the right direction? If not, why not?
- Is there anything else that the workgroup needs to consider?
- Do you feel that Tribes concerns from the consultations *have been or will be* meaningful to the Regional Advisory Council consideration on each topic?

Thank you, Regional Advisory Councils, for your consideration of the Tribal Consultation Policy and any feedback that you might provide.

1 *“Tribes and Alaska Native peoples have been this lands’ first conservationists and first multiple*
2 *use land managers.” - Lillian Petershoare, Workgroup Member, USFS*

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Federal Subsistence Board

Tribal Consultation Policy

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7

Draft: 1/19/2012

8 Preamble

9 The Federal Subsistence Board recognizes that indigenous Tribes of Alaska are spiritually, culturally, and
10 historically connected to the land, the wildlife and the waters. These strong ancestral ties to the land,
11 wildlife and waters are intertwined with indigenous ceremonies such as songs, dances, and potlatches.
12 The customary and traditional way of life has sustained the health, life, safety, and cultures of Alaska
13 Native peoples since time immemorial. To effectively manage the Federal Subsistence Program, the
14 Board will collaborate and partner with Tribes to protect and provide opportunities for continued
15 subsistence uses on public lands.

16 The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with Indian tribal governments, which has
17 been established through and confirmed by the Constitution of the United States, statutes, executive
18 orders, judicial decisions and treaties. In recognition of that special relationship, and pursuant to
19 direction given by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to implement Executive Order 13175 of
20 November 2000, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments”, and to meet the
21 requirements of the Presidential Memorandum of November 5, 2009, “Subject: Tribal Consultation”, the
22 Federal Subsistence Board (Board) is developing this Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation
23 Protocol. This Policy affirms the Federal government’s responsibility to engage in regular and
24 meaningful consultation and collaboration with Federally recognized Indian Tribes on matters that may
25 have substantial effects on Alaska Tribes. This Policy also upholds the Congressional mandate to
26 implement the provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1990, P.L.
27 66-487, which, with its implementing regulations, defines the roles and responsibilities of the
28 Departments of the Interior and Agriculture in administering subsistence management of fish and
29 wildlife on Federal public lands.

30 Government-to-government consultation undertaken through the Board’s process is a direct two-way
31 communication conducted in good faith to secure meaningful participation in the decision-making
32 process to the full extent allowed by law. The Board will take into consideration the Tribes’ concerns
33 brought forth through the consultation process (as defined in this policy) before making its final
34 decision(s).

1 Two Department level consultation policies provide the foundation for this policy. They are the
2 Department of the Interior's *Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes (2011)* and the Department of
3 Agriculture's *2010 Action Plan for Consultation and Collaboration*. This policy is consistent with the
4 Department-wide consultation policies, and it expands on them to apply consultation to the Federal
5 subsistence management program.

6 The intent of this policy is to describe a framework whereby the Board and Federally recognized Tribes
7 may consult on ANILCA Title VIII, subsistence matters under the Board's authority.

8 Background

9 The Federal Subsistence Program, as established by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, is a
10 multi-agency program consisting of five agencies: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management,
11 U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These agencies and rural
12 subsistence users maintain the opportunity for a subsistence way of life by rural Alaskans on Federal
13 public lands and waters while managing for healthy populations of fish and wildlife. The Federal
14 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils have a foundational role in the Federal Subsistence Program. By
15 statute the Board must defer to Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council recommendations on
16 regulations unless they are: a) not supported by substantial evidence, b) violate recognized principles of
17 fish and wildlife conservation, or c) would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs
18 (ANILCA § 805(c)). The Board distinguishes the deference to Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
19 Councils from the Tribal government-to-government relationship enjoyed by Federally recognized
20 Tribes, and this Policy will not diminish in any way that relationship and the consultation obligations
21 towards Federally recognized Tribes.

22 The Federal Subsistence Management Program regulations can be found in the Code of Federal
23 Regulations (CFR) at 50 CFR 100 and 36 CFR 242. The regulations have four subparts. Subparts A and B
24 are within the sole purview of the Secretaries of the Department of the Interior and Department of
25 Agriculture. Responsibility and decisions relating to the provisions of Subparts C and D are delegated by
26 the Secretaries to the Federal Subsistence Board. Subpart C contains Board Determinations, including
27 rural and customary and traditional use determinations, while subpart D consists of the regulations for
28 taking fish, wildlife and shellfish.

29 Goals

30 With respect to the Federal Subsistence Management Program:

- 31 1. Create and maintain effective relationships with Federally recognized Tribes.
- 32 2. Establish meaningful and timely opportunities for government-to-government consultation.
- 33 3. Be responsive to requests from Federally recognized Tribes to engage in consultation.
- 34 4. Work with Federally recognized Tribes to improve communication, outreach and education.
- 35 5. Acknowledge, respect and use traditional ecological knowledge.
- 36 6. Recognize the importance of coordination, consultation and follow-up between the Federal
37 Subsistence Board and Tribes.

- 1 7. Integrate tribal input effectively into the decision-making process for subsistence management
2 on public lands and waters while maintaining deference to the Federal Subsistence Regional
3 Advisory Councils.

4

5

Consultation

6 1. Communication

7 Information sharing between Tribes and the Board/Federal staff is encouraged to occur early
8 and often. Communication between the Federal agencies and Tribes will occur in a timely
9 manner to maximize opportunities to provide input to the Board’s decisions. For in-season
10 management decisions, formal consultation is not always possible, but 2-way communication
11 will take place prior to implementing those decisions. When issues are brought by Tribes which
12 the Board does not have jurisdiction, the Board and Federal staff will provide Tribes with contact
13 information for the correct state or Federal agency related to the issue, as well as provide the
14 relevant state or Federal agency the Tribe’s contact information. Information sharing will
15 include but is not limited to sharing of traditional knowledge, research and scientific data.

16 2. Roles and Responsibilities

17 Board members are responsible for implementing this policy and ensuring its effectiveness. The
18 Native Liaison in the Office of Subsistence Management is the key contact for the Board’s
19 consultations with Tribes. The Native Liaison will also assist Federal land managers and Tribes
20 with their consultations, as requested or as needed. Federal land managers and staff have a
21 local relationship with Tribes and will maintain effective communications and coordination.

22 3. Topics for consultation are listed under the definition for “Action with Tribal Implications”.
23 They may also include, but are not limited to:

- 24 • For regulations: (e.g., taking of fish, wildlife and shellfish - harvest amounts, methods
25 and means, cultural and educational permits and funerary/mortuary ceremonies;
26 emergency and temporary special actions; customary and traditional use
27 determinations and customary trade)
- 28 • Policies and guidance documents [[Note: this is consistent with page 3 “Definitions” of
29 DOI Policy “Departmental Action with Tribal Implication” and cite USDA policy here.](#)]
- 30 • Budget and priority planning development [[Note: this is consistent with page 16 USDA
31 Action Plan for Tribal Consultation and Collaboration \(Nov 2009\) and page 3
32 “Definitions” of DOI policy – “Departmental Action with Tribal Implication” – specifically
33 “operational activity”.](#)]
- 34 • Agreements (e.g. Cooperative Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding, Funding
35 Agreement)

36

37 4. Timing

1 Timing of consultation will need to be respectful to both the Federal subsistence management
2 cycle and to Tribal timeframes for doing business. Implementing this policy includes providing
3 early notification, methods of notice, availability of Federal analyses, time and place of Federal
4 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meetings and Board meetings. This is described further in
5 Appendix “A: Federal Subsistence Consultation Implementation Guidelines”. A chart showing
6 the Federal subsistence management cycle is in Appendix “B: Federal Subsistence Management
7 Cycle.”

8 5. Methods

9 No single formula exists for what constitutes appropriate consultation. The planning and
10 implementation of consultation should consider all aspects of the topic under consideration.
11 The Board will be flexible and sensitive to Tribal cultural matters and protocols. Familiarity
12 with and use of Tribes’ constitutions and consultation protocols will help ensure more
13 effective consultation. Consultation may be prompted by a Federally-recognized Tribe or by
14 the Board. Methods for correspondence, meetings, and communication are further
15 described in Appendix “A: Federal Subsistence Consultation Implementation Guidelines.”

16

17 Accountability and Reporting

18 The Board will monitor consultation effectiveness and report information to the Secretaries, pursuant to
19 the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture policies. On an annual basis, the Board
20 shall evaluate whether the policy has been implemented and is effective, including progress towards
21 achieving the seven goals outlined in this policy. The Board will actively seek feedback from Tribes on
22 the effectiveness of consultation, and the evaluation will reflect this feedback. The Board shall modify
23 the consultation process to address needed enhancements, as identified through the annual review. The
24 Board will provide Tribes an oral and written summary through the Board meeting process, of the
25 evaluation and changes, if any. This will assist the Board in meeting its obligations to report annually to
26 the Secretaries of the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture.

27

28

29 Training

30 The program will adhere to the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture consultation
31 policies for training of Federal staff. The Board recognizes the unique traditional values, culture and
32 knowledge Tribes bring to the process and shall incorporate Tribes into the training for the Board and
33 staff. The Federal Subsistence Board will strive to accompany subsistence users to gain direct experience
34 in traditional Alaska Native hunting and fishing activities. In addition, the program will offer Federal
35 Subsistence Management training to Tribes. A list of possible venues to provide training is included in
36 Appendix “C: Venues for Training.”

1

2 **Alaska Native Corporation Consultation**

3 Refer to the supplemental policy for consultation with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)
4 corporations.

5

6

7

8

9 Adopted by the Board on _____,

10

Tim Towarak, Chair

11

cc: Secretary of the Interior

12

Secretary of Agriculture

13

Federally Recognized Tribes in Alaska

14

Federal Subsistence Board

15

Office of Subsistence Management

16

Interagency Staff Committee

17

State of Alaska, ADF&G Federal Liaison

Definitions

1

2 Action with Tribal Implications – Any Board regulations, rulemaking, policy, guidance, legislative proposal, grant
3 funding formula changes, or operational activity that may have a substantial effect on an Indian Tribe.

4 ANILCA – Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. Title VIII of the Act provides for the
5 protection and continuation of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife by rural Alaskans on Federal public lands.

6 ANCSA Corporations – As defined in 43 U.S.C. § 1606, those regional and village corporations formed by
7 Congress through the Act to provide for the settlement of certain land claims of Alaska Natives, approved
8 December 18, 1971, as amended.

9 Consensus Agenda – The Federal Subsistence Board’s consensus agenda is made up of regulatory proposals for
10 which there is agreement among the affected Regional Advisory Councils, a majority of the Interagency Staff
11 Committee members, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerning a proposed regulatory action.
12 Anyone may request that the Board remove a proposal from the consensus agenda and place it on the non-
13 consensus (regular) agenda. The Board votes on the consensus agenda after deliberation and action on all other
14 proposals.

15 Consultation – When the Federal government’s actions and decisions may affect Tribal interests, the process of
16 effective and meaningful government to government communication and coordination between appropriate
17 Federal agency(ies) and Tribes conducted prior to action being taken or implementing decisions that may affect
18 Tribes.

19 Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments) – A Presidential
20 Memorandum requiring regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Tribal officials in the
21 development of Federal policies that have Tribal implications, to strengthen the United States government-to-
22 government relationships with Indian Tribes, and to reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian
23 Tribes.

24 Federal Subsistence Board – The Board administers the subsistence taking and uses of fish and wildlife on public
25 lands, and the related promulgation and signature authority for regulations of subparts C and D. The voting
26 members of the Board are: a Chair, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the
27 Secretary of Agriculture; two public members who possess personal knowledge of and direct experience with
28 subsistence uses in rural Alaska to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the
29 Secretary of Agriculture; the Alaska Regional Directors of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park
30 Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs; the Alaska Regional Forester of the U.S. Forest Service; and, the Alaska
31 State Director, Bureau of Land Management.

32 Federally Recognized Tribe – Any Indian or Alaska Native Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that
33 the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian Tribe pursuant to the Federally Recognized
34 Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, 25 U.S.C. §479a.

35 Interagency Staff Committee – The ISC is made up of senior staff from the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and
36 Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and USDA Forest Service. The ISC
37 members serve as the primary advisors for their agency’s respective Board member.

38 Office of Subsistence Management – The OSM provides support to the Federal Subsistence Board and the
39 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. The staff includes fish and wildlife biologists, cultural
40 anthropologists, technical and administrative staff an Alaska Native liaison and liaisons to the Alaska
41 Department of Fish and Game, and the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game.

1 Regional Advisory Councils – Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provides a
2 foundational role for the ten Regional Advisory Councils in the development of regulations guiding the taking of
3 fish and wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska. Council members, a majority of whom are rural subsistence
4 users, are appointed by the Secretary. In making its regulatory decisions, the Board must follow the
5 recommendations of the Regional Advisory Councils unless they are not supported by substantial evidence,
6 violate recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of
7 subsistence needs (805(c) of ANILCA). Deference to the Councils ensures that rural residents have a meaningful
8 role in the management of fish and wildlife and subsistence uses, as envisioned by Congress.

9 Special Action – An out-of-cycle change in the seasons, harvest limits or methods and means of harvest. The two
10 types include: 1) emergency, which are effective for up to 60 days, and 2) temporary, which are effective for the
11 remainder of the regulatory cycle.

12

13

14

15 **List of Appendices and Supplements**

16 APPENDIX A: Federal Subsistence Consultation Implementation Guidelines

17 APPENDIX B: Federal Subsistence Management Cycle

18 APPENDIX C: Venues for FSMP Training

19 Supplemental Policy on Consultation with ANCSA Corporations

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Federal Subsistence Board
Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporation Consultation
Policy

Supplement of the Federal Subsistence Board Tribal Consultation Policy

**Note to reviewer: This supplemental policy for consultation with ANCSA corporations is adapted from the DOI DRAFT Policy on Consultation with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporations. Where ANILCA or FSMP provisions required extra explanation for this policy, it was added and is indicated as additions in italics.*

I. Preamble

In compliance with Congressional direction, this Policy creates a framework for consulting with ANCSA Corporations. Pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971, ANCSA Corporations were established to provide for the economic and social needs, including the health, education and welfare of their Native shareholders. Congress also required that “[t]he Director of the Office of Management and Budget [and all Federal agencies] shall hereafter consult with Alaska Native Corporations on the same basis as Indian Tribes under Executive Order Number 13175.” Pub. L. No. 108-199 as amended by Pub. L. No. 108-447.

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) distinguishes the federal relationship to ANCSA Corporations from the Tribal government-to-government relationship enjoyed by any federally recognized Indian Tribe, and this Policy will not diminish in any way that relationship and the consultation obligations towards federally recognized Indian Tribes. Recognizing the

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distinction, the Board is committed to fulfilling its ANCSA Corporation consultation obligations by adhering to the framework described in this Policy.

The Department of Interior is in the development stages of the Department-wide Policy on Consultation with ANCSA Corporations [this is slated to be finished in spring or summer 2012 – finalize this sentence at that time] and the U.S. Department of Agriculture has a policy in place for Consultation with Tribes and ANCSA Corporations. The Board will follow the Department-level policies; and for the purpose of Federal Subsistence Management, this policy further clarifies the Federal Subsistence Board’s responsibilities for consultation with ANCSA Corporations.

II. Guiding Principles

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) is a law that has a foundation built on conservation. ANILCA Section 802(3) provides direction for interactions with Alaska Native corporations: “except as otherwise provided by this Act or other Federal laws, Federal land managing agencies, in managing subsistence activities on the public lands and in protecting the continued viability of all wild renewable resources in Alaska, shall cooperate with adjacent landowners and land managers, including Native Corporations, appropriate State and Federal agencies and other nations.”

IV. Policy

The Board will consult with ANCSA Corporations that own land within or adjacent to boundaries of federal conservation units in which that land or its resources may be affected by regulations enacted by the Board.

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ANCSA Corporations may also initiate consultation with the Board by contacting the Office of Subsistence Management Native Liaison.

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Consultation Implementation Guidelines

Guidelines for implementing the Board's policies for consultation with Tribes would provide details about how the policy would be carried out. It might best be developed by a work group comprised of a balanced number of Tribal leaders and Federal staff, similar to the approach taken in developing the consultation policy. It could be comprised of members different from or in addition to those who served on the consultation policy work group. For example, Federal staff on the work group might include representation from the Office of Subsistence Management, Interagency Staff Committee, agency Native Liaisons, local land managers and/or law enforcement. Tribal members of the consultation policy work group mentioned repeatedly that, currently, most consultation occurs with local land managers and local biologists, cultural resource professionals and/or subsistence specialists; thus, a voice from the field would be beneficial in drafting the guidelines. The work group would reflect the broad interests, knowledge and experiences of subsistence users and Federal land managers.

Ideas and suggestions raised during the development of the Tribal consultation policy, as well as experience and information gained through Tribal consultations and Federal staff input should be considered in drafting the implementation guidelines.

The format for the implementation guidelines could follow the format used for the consultation policy. Major headings would mirror those used for the policy:

Communication

Roles and Responsibilities

Timing

Methods

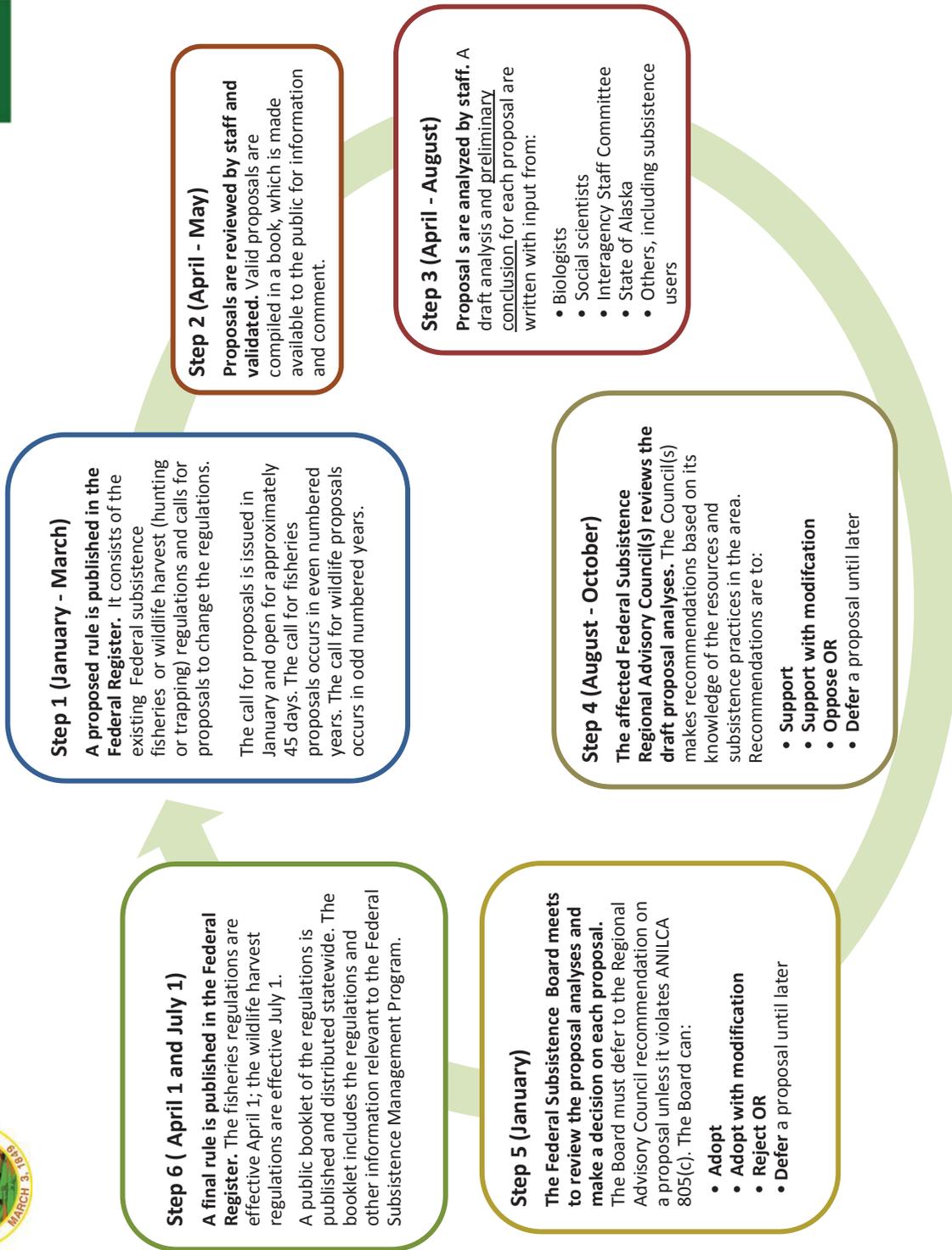
Accountability and Reporting

Training

Note: A list of ideas and recommendations raised during consultations, staff input, and workgroup meetings is being compiled and can be provided upon request.



FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REGULATORY PROCESS AT A GLANCE



Appendix C: Venues for Training

Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Service Providers Conference

Alaska Forum on the Environment

Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management

Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention

Association of Village Council Presidents

Tanana Chiefs Conference

Bristol Bay Native Association

Aleutians Pribilof Islands Association

Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Karawek, Inc.

Maniilaq Association

Sealaska Heritage Institute

Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Tribal Assembly

Southeast Clan Conference

Arctic Slope Native Association

Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Copper River Native Association

Kodiak Area Native Association

First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference

Alaska Native Professionals Association

**Department of the Interior
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Charter

- 1. Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council).
- 2. Authority.** The Council is reestablished by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)) Title VIII, and under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, in furtherance of 16 U.S.C. 410hh-2. The Council is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2.
- 3. Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The objective of the Council is to provide a forum for the residents of the region with personal knowledge of local conditions and resource requirements to have a meaningful role in the subsistence management of fish and wildlife on Federal lands and waters in the region.
- 4. Description of Duties.** The Council possesses the authority to perform the following duties:
 - a. Recommend the initiation of, review, and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the region.
 - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the region.
 - c. Encourage local and regional participation in the decision making process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses.
 - d. Prepare an annual report to the Secretary containing the following:
 - (1) An identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the region.
 - (2) An evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the region.
 - (3) A recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife

populations within the region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs.

- (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines and regulations to implement the strategy.
 - e. Appoint one member to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission and one member to the Denali National Park Subsistence Resource Commission in accordance with Section 808 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).
 - f. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
 - g. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
 - h. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council reports to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.
6. **Support.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide administrative support for the activities of the Council through the Office of Subsistence Management.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be \$140,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and .75 staff years.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Subsistence Council Coordinator for the region or such other Federal employee as may be designated by the Assistant Regional Director – Subsistence, Region 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will:
 - Approve or call all of the advisory committee's and subcommittees' meetings,
 - Prepare and approve all meeting agendas,
 - Attend all committee and subcommittee meetings,
 - Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and
 - Chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.

- 9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet 1-2 times per year, and at such times as designated by the Federal Subsistence Board Chair or the DFO.
- 10. Duration.** Continuing.
- 11. Termination.** The Council will terminate 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
- 12. Membership and Designation.** The Council's membership is composed of representative members as follows:

Ten members who are knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and who are residents of the region represented by the Council. To ensure that each Council represents a diversity of interests, the Federal Subsistence Board in their nomination recommendations to the Secretary will strive to ensure that seven of the members (70 percent) represent subsistence interests within the region and three of the members (30 percent) represent commercial and sport interests within the region. The portion of membership representing commercial and sport interests must include, where possible, at least one representative from the sport community and one representative from the commercial community.

The Secretary of the Interior will appoint members based on the recommendations from the Federal Subsistence Board and with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Members will be appointed for 3-year terms. A vacancy on the Council will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

Council members will elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary for a 1-year term.

Members of the Council will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Council and subcommittee members engaged in Council, or subcommittee business, approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States Code.

- 13. Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** No Council or subcommittee member may participate in any specific party matter in which the member has a direct financial interest in a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department.

14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. The Council Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

15. **Recordkeeping.** Records of the Council, and formally and informally established subcommittees or other subgroups of the Council, must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2, or other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.



Secretary of the Interior

DEC - 2 2011

Date Signed

DEC 03 2011

Date Filed

**GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK
SUBSISTENCE RESOURCE COMMISSION
c/o 4175 Geist Road
Fairbanks, AK. 99709
(907) 455-0631 or FAX (907) 455-0601**

June 15, 2011

Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
Hunting Plan Recommendation 11-01

A recommendation that requests an increase in the per diem rate for State of Alaska Subsistence Resource Commissions and Federal Regional Advisory Councils.

The Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) proposes Hunting Plan Recommendation 11-01, which states that there should be an increase in the per diem rate for all Subsistence Resource Commissions, as well as Federal Regional Advisory Councils. ANILCA Title VIII sec. 808 mandates the establishment of an SRC for each of the national parks where subsistence uses are allowed. The formal involvement of SRCs includes sharing information about traditional subsistence activities and the resources found on federal lands, specifically National Park Service lands. It is integral to the SRC and the management of parklands that well-qualified people serve on the commission, people with a strong knowledge base of the subsistence way of life and the fish and wildlife populations upon which they rely. In order to maintain and fulfill the mandate set forth by ANILCA, it is important to attract and/or retain suitable people who are interested in serving as commission members.

It should also be considered that the cost of living in Alaska is substantially higher than the lower 48. The Gates of the Arctic SRC would like the amount of the Alaska per diem to be set at a rate that reflects the exorbitant costs residents experience in order to live in Alaska. The SRC is requesting at this time an increase in per diem rates so that they reflect the actual costs of living in both urban and rural Alaskan communities.

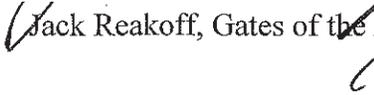
Recommendation 11-01 would reinforce the commitment the Federal government has taken in upholding the ANILCA mandate related to the formation of Subsistence Resource Commissions and Regional Advisory Councils.

Sincerely,

//Signed//

Pollock Simon Sr., Gates of the Arctic SRC Chair

//Signed//

 Jack Reakoff, Gates of the Arctic SRC Vice-Chair

Cc.

- Secretary of Interior & Pat Pourchot, Special Assistant for Alaska Affairs
- All Regional Advisory Councils in Alaska
- All NPS Subsistence Resource Commissions



Pollock Simon, Sr. (Chairperson), Jack Reakoff (Vice-Chairperson), Levi Cleveland, Taquik Hepa, Tim Fickus, Rachel Riley, Louie Commack, James Nageak, and Chris Zwoinski

Status Report on Selected Secretarial Recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Management Program

1. Develop a proposed regulation to increase the membership on the Federal Subsistence Board to include two additional public members representing subsistence users.
 - **Status:** A final rule was published in the Federal Register on September 12, 2011.
 - Applications/nominations for the two seats were accepted by the Secretary's Office.
 - Final selections were announced January 27, 2012. See the following news release from the Office of the Secretary.
2. Review, with RAC input, the December 2008 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State to determine either the need for the MOU or the need for potential changes to clarify Federal authorities in regard to the subsistence program.
 - **Status:** The MOU was provided to all ten Regional Advisory Councils for comment during the winter 2011 meeting cycle. Council comments were summarized and reviewed by the Board in summer 2011. The Board proposed to the State that a joint workgroup be re-established to address the changes recommended by the councils.
 - The State accepted the Board's proposal to form a joint MOU workgroup. The work group has had several meetings, and will report back to the Board with proposed changes by May 2012.
3. Review, with RAC input, the rural determination process and present recommendations for regulatory changes.
 - **Status:** The Board held a several executive and work sessions in 2011 to learn about the rural process, and is continuing to develop and review potential courses of
 - At its January 2012 public meeting the Board discussed the rural determination process and the decennial rural determination review. The board directed staff to publish a proposed rule to solicit comments from the public on the rural determination process and the current rural/nonrural determinations. In addition, based on its decision and the Secretarial program review, the Board directed staff to publish a direct final rule to extend the compliance date of the May 2007 final rule on rural determinations until the current review is complete or for five years, whichever comes first.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1689 C Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5151

January 27, 2012

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Pat Pourchot, Special Assistant to the Secretary
907-271-5485

Secretary Appoints Two Public Members to the Federal Subsistence Board

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today announced the appointment of two public members to the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB). Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack concurred in the appointments of Anthony Christianson of Hydaburg and Charles Brower of Barrow. Following a review of the federal subsistence program in 2010 the Secretaries had recommended that the FSB be expanded to include additional public members representing rural subsistence users. The Board currently consists of a public Chair and five directors of Alaska federal agencies.

Mr. Christianson and Mr. Brower are life-long Alaskans with deep personal knowledge and experience with subsistence. In the review Secretary Salazar asked the Board and the Department to take a number of actions, including the appointment of two additional public Board members, “to provide a more responsive, more effective subsistence program.” The Secretary believes that these appointments will go far in bringing increased knowledge of subsistence users and uses to the decision-making process of the Board.

Secretary Vilsack strongly supports the selection of Mr. Christianson and Mr. Brower for service on the Federal Subsistence Board. “Their records of leadership and experience will bring important insight to the work of the Board and represents a new chapter in the working relationship between the federal government and the people of rural Alaska.”

Mr. Anthony Christianson is a life-long resident of Southeast Alaska and currently serves as Natural Resource Director for the Hydaburg Cooperative Association, a federally recognized tribal entity. He also serves as Mayor of the City of Hydaburg. Mr. Christianson has participated in a number of programs and studies related to fish and wildlife in Southeast Alaska.

Mr. Charles Brower is a life-long resident of Barrow, Alaska, and currently serves as Special Assistant to the Vice President of the Ukpeavik Inupiat Corporation, the Barrow village corporation. Former positions include Wildlife Department Director for the Native Village of Barrow and Wildlife Department Director for the North Slope Borough. Mr. Brower has served on a number of wildlife commissions including the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council, the Alaska Nanuuq (polar bear) Commission, and the Eskimo Walrus Commission.

OFFICE OF SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT STAFF CHANGES

In 2011, the Office of Subsistence management had a high number of staff retirements, staff leaving to take positions in other areas of the US Fish and Wildlife Service or positions with other government organizations.

- **Council Coordinator** – Barbara Atoruk (Council Coordinator for North Slope, and Northwest Arctic RAC's) retired. Currently recruiting to fill this position.
- **Council Coordinator** – KJ Mushovic (Council coordinator for Eastern Interior and Southcentral RAC's) left taking another position with Bureau of Land Management in Alaska. Currently Melinda Hernandez from the US Forest Service has been detailed to act as one of our Council Coordinators (Council Coordinator for Western and Eastern Interior RAC's). We are currently recruiting to fill this position on a permanent basis.
- **Native Liaison** – Carl Jack retired. Currently working with personnel to finalize recruitment paperwork for this position.
- **Fisheries Division Chief** – Larry Buklis left taking another position with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington State. Stephen Fried was selected as the new Division Chief.
- **Fisheries Biologist** – This position is vacant as the result of Stephen Fried's promotion to Fisheries Division Chief. The recruitment process has been initiated.
- **Fisheries Biologist** – Richard Cannon retired. Currently working with personnel to finalize recruitment paperwork for this position.
- **Fisheries SCEP Student** – Kay Larson-Blair returned to OSM as a SCEP Student.
- **Fisheries SCEP Student** – Stephanie Meggars started as a new SCEP Student.
- **State Liaison for Fisheries** – Rod Campbell retired. Applications for this position have been received. The final selection for this position has not been made.
- **Wildlife Biologist** – Coleen Brown left taking another position with the Department of Transportation in Colorado. The recruitment process has been initiated.
- **Administrative Support Assistant** – Ron Babb resigned from his position. Recruitment has taken place for this position. A selection has been made and will be finalized by the end of January 2012.
- **Policy Coordinator** – Gary Goldberg took another position with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska. David Jenkins, anthropologist, is currently acting in this position.
- **Council Coordination Division Chief** – Ann Wilkinson retired. Carl Johnson has been selected as the new Council Coordination Division Chief.
- **Deputy Assistant Regional Director** – Polly Wheeler accepted a position as Deputy Chief of Refuges – Alaska Region for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Chuck Ardizzone, the Wild-

life Division Chief, is currently acting in this position. Kathleen M. O'Reilly-Doyle has been selected as the new Deputy Assistant Regional Director as should start in her new position sometime in April 2012.

- **Purchasing Agent** – Darcy Herring took another position with Department of Defense. Other staff will assume the duties of this position.
- **Budget Analyst** – Amber Wagner left OSM. Durand Tyler was selected as the new Budget Analyst.
- **Administrative Assistant** – Durand Tyler vacated the Administrative Assistant position. Glenn Westdahl was selected to replace him.
- **Subsistence Outreach Coordinator** – The Publications Specialist position was combined with the Public Affairs position. Former Publications Specialist Andrea Medeiros was selected to fill this new position.
- **Supervisory Secretary** – Verna Miller left OSM. Anita Roberts was selected as the new Supervisory Secretary.



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alaska Region
240 West 5th Avenue, Room 114
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7617(AKRO-EPC)

JAN 25 2012

Dear Interested Citizen, Agency, Tribe, or Organization:

Enclosed for your review is an executive summary briefing of an environmental assessment (EA) in which the National Park Service (NPS) is considering promulgating new regulations to allow subsistence collections and uses of shed or discarded animals parts and plants to make handicrafts for personal or family uses, for barter, or to sell. Collection activities would only be allowed in NPS areas where subsistence is authorized in accordance with Titles II and VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. The EA evaluates the effects of alternatives for managing the collections of plants and inedible animal parts from naturally shed (including natural mortality) or discarded (from hunters) for subsistence uses by qualified local rural residents. The NPS goal is to authorize these uses in a manner to prevent or minimize adverse impacts to other park resources, values, and uses.

The NPS is considering this action because Alaska rural residents asked the NPS to consider allowing these collection activities in ANILCA units with subsistence provisions because NPS national regulations at 36 CFR 2.1 presently prohibit the "Possessing, destroying, injuring, defacing, removing, digging, or disturbing from its natural state any living or dead wildlife or fish, or parts or products thereof, such as antlers or nests."

The EA was completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.9).

The comment period for the EA will extend 60 days, beginning February 7, 2012, and ending April 7, 2012. Please send written comments to:

Attn: Bud Rice
National Park Service
240 West 5th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Those of you with Internet access can review the EA online and post your comments using the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) program located on the NPS public comment website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representative of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

If you have any questions about the EA or need hard copies, please call Bud Rice at (907) 644-3530 or Sandy Rabinowitch at (907) 644-3596. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

//Signed//

Debora Cooper for
Sue E. Masica
Regional Director, Alaska Region

cc:

Frank Hays, Superintendent, Western Arctic National Parklands
Jeanette Pomrenke, Superintendent, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve/
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
Rick Obernesser, Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
Paul R. Anderson, Superintendent, Denali National Park & Preserve
Joel Hard, Superintendent, Lake Clark National Park & Preserve
Ralph Moore, Superintendent, Aniakchak National Monument & Preserve/
Katmai National Preserve
Susan Boudreau, Superintendent, Glacier Bay National Preserve

Overview Statement

Bureau:	National Park Service (NPS)
Unit:	Alaska Region
Date:	January 2012
Title:	Subsistence Collections of Shed or Discarded Animal Parts & Plants

Issue: Federally qualified subsistence users have requested the NPS to authorize subsistence collections and uses of shed or discarded animal parts and plants in NPS Alaska Region units for personal and family uses and to make and sell handicrafts. The NPS has a regulation at 36 Code Federal Regulations 2.1 that prohibits the “Possessing, destroying, injuring, defacing, removing, digging, or disturbing from its natural state: Living or dead wildlife and fish, or their parts or products thereof, such as antlers or nests.” The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Title VIII authorizes subsistence uses “for making and selling handicraft articles out of nonedible byproducts of wildlife resources taken . . .” The NPS has drafted an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts of alternatives that would allow subsistence collections and uses of shed or discarded animal parts and plants to make into handicrafts and use for personal or family purposes or to sell. A regulation may be proposed following the public review of the EA and NPS’s decision on how to proceed on the requested action.

Background:

- Two NPS units have regulations allowing subsistence users in Kobuk Valley National Park and Gates of the Arctic National Preserve (Western or Kobuk River Unit) to collect plant materials to make them into handicrafts and sell.
- The NPS Subsistence Management Team has briefed Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC) repeatedly on progress on the project, and the SRC Chairs were briefed on 10/18/2011.
- Conservation groups were briefed on the potential environmental assessment and regulation in 2010.
- Contact with the State of Alaska has occurred with Jennifer Yuhus (ADFG) and Saunders McNeil (Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development)

Current Status:

- An EA is out for a 60-day public review from February 7 to April 7, 2012.
- The NPS Regional Director identified Alternative D as the Preferred Alternative.
- Draft regulations have been prepared as an appendix to the EA to provide the reviewer with examples of how the regulations might be expressed for each action alternative.

Key Stakeholders Positions of Interested Parties:

- Subsistence groups prefer the least restrictions on collections that could limit materials to make and sell handicrafts.
- Conservation groups are concerned about liberal collections for subsistence uses within NPS areas in Alaska.
- The State of Alaska recognizes that subsistence collections of materials to make and sell handicrafts is a large industry of over \$100 million dollars per year; however, the State has expressed caution over the use of some materials, such as bear claws.

Action Needed:

- Do you need a full copy of the EA for comment and review?
- Which alternative(s) are best for your areas and why?
- How important would it be for your communities to be able to collect nonedible shed or discarded animal parts and plants from NPS areas to make and sell handicrafts?

Contacts:

Sandy Rabinowitch, Project Manager 907-644-3596
Bud Rice, Project NEPA Manager 907-644-3530



Subsistence Collections & Uses of Shed or Discarded Animal Parts and Plants from NPS Areas in Alaska

Public Review Environmental Assessment



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Alaska Region

Subsistence Collections & Uses of Shed or Discarded Animal Parts and Plants from NPS Areas in Alaska

Public Review Environmental Assessment

January 2012

Note to Reviewers

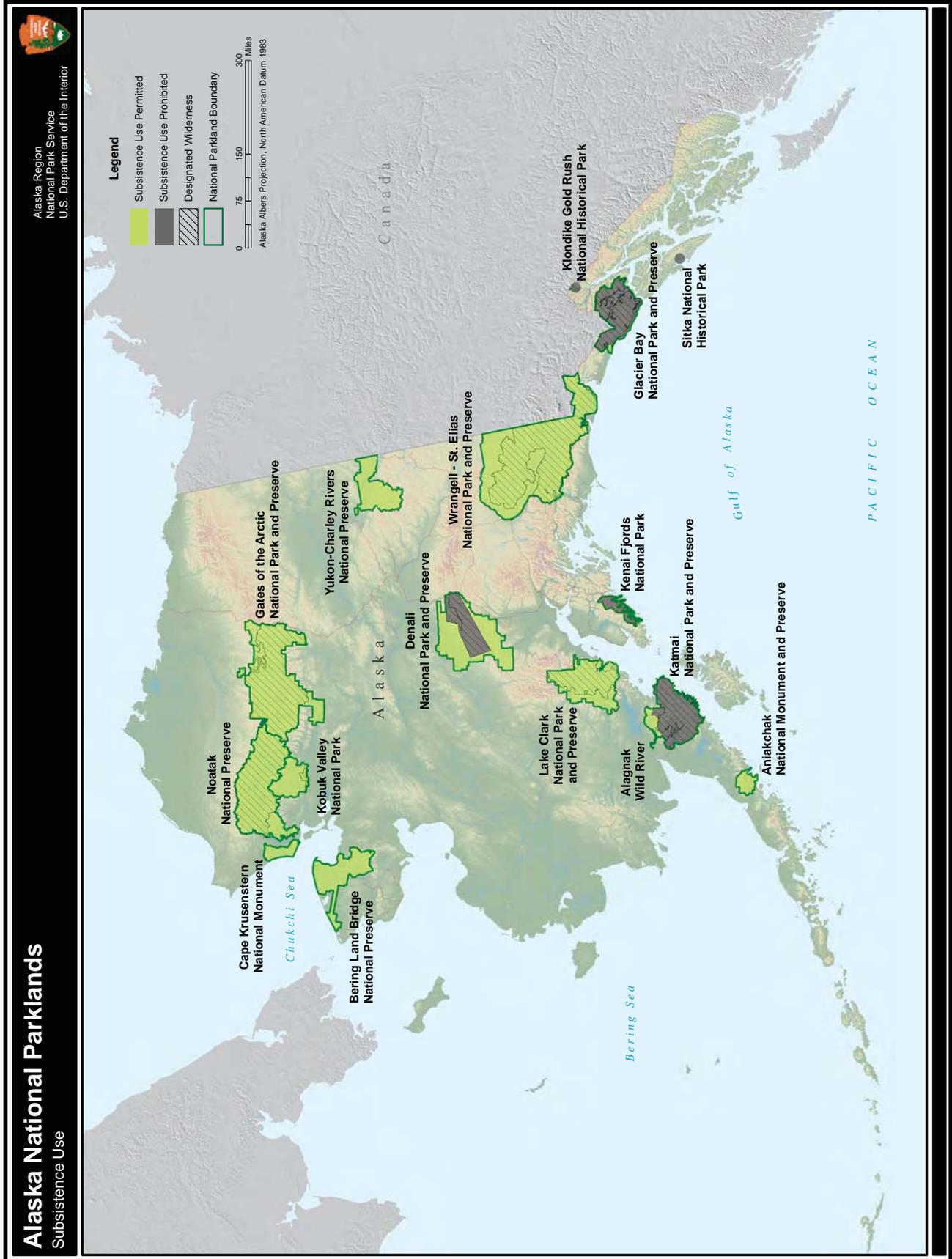
If you wish to comment on this document, you may mail comments to:

Bud Rice
Environmental Protection Specialist
National Park Service
Alaska Regional Office
240 West 5th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

You may also comment online. Go to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/> and retrieve this document on the web site to provide comments electronically.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee we be able to do so.

Mention by the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service of trade names or commercial products do not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.



**Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence
Regional Advisory Council
c/o Office of Subsistence Management
101 12th Avenue, Room 110
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: 1-(907)-456-0277 or 1-800-267-3997
Fax: 1-(907)-456-0208
E-mail: Vince_Mathews@fws.gov**

May 14, 2007

Marcia Blaszak, Regional Director
National Park Service – Alaska
240 West 5th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Subject: Gathering of Shed Antlers on National Park Service Lands

Dear Regional Director Blaszak:

The Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) requests the prohibition of collecting antlers or horns, naturally shed or discarded by hunters, on National Park Service (NPS) lands be removed (36 CFR 2.1 (a) (1) (i)). We believe the NPS should allow this collection by Federally qualified subsistence users, as there is a long history of utilizing antlers and horns to make handicrafts, and other items, as an important part of the subsistence way of life in Alaska. We also believe that allowing this collection to occur would not result in any conservation concern (i.e. overharvest), because the making of handicrafts is labor intensive, time consuming and, thus, inherently limits the amount of resource that is sought and utilized at any given time.

Our Council became aware of this prohibition on NPS lands when we were developing our recommendation on Federal subsistence wildlife proposal, WP07-04, a combination of two proposals submitted by our Council and the Upper Tanana/40-Mile Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The proposal requested the Federal Subsistence Board to allow the sale of horns and antlers from goat, sheep, deer, elk, caribou, muskox, and moose that have been naturally shed or removed from the skull of an animal harvested on Federal public lands by Federally qualified subsistence users. It was noted in our Council meeting materials, as well as during the Federal Subsistence Board's deliberation, that shed antlers are not regulated under the Federal Subsistence Management Program. This factored into the Board's decision to adopt the proposal with the modification to address only animals "legally harvested", with clarifying language regarding removal of horns or antlers from the skull.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. The Council looks forward to your response outlining the steps that the National Park Service will be taking to correct this oversight of a

traditional subsistence activity on its lands. For your information, our next public meeting is scheduled for October 16-17, 2007 in Fort Yukon. If you have questions, please contact me directly (1-907-883-2833) or our Regional Coordinator, Vince Mathews. His contact information can be found in our letterhead.

Sincerely,

//Signed//

Sue Entsminger, Chair

cc: Eastern Interior Council members
Jack Reakoff, Chair, Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Don Rivard, Office of Subsistence Management

As far as item number three above, unfortunately we cannot allow the selling of horns and antlers that have not been made into handicrafts, under customary trade provisions.

NPS staff knowledgeable about this request will attend your next meeting in Ft. Yukon in order to explain this strategy and process in detail.

I look forward to working with you, the Regional Advisory Council, as well as the Subsistence Resource Commissions on this request.

Sincerely,

//Signed//

Marcia Blaszk
Regional Director



**Gates of the Arctic National Park
Subsistence Resource Commission
210 First Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Tel. (907) 455-0621**

Hunting Program Recommendation 99-01 (#20): Customary Trade

The National Park Service should revise customary trade regulations for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve to better reflect traditional practices of local residents. The Commission recommended regulatory revisions to accommodate the following local customary practices:

- 1) Gathering plant materials for making and selling of handicrafts. These wild renewable materials include, but are not limited to roots, tree bark, wood and lichens. Uses include, but are not limited to making of snowshoes, dogsleds, baskets and various arts and crafts, etc. The materials are harvested in very limited amounts and the practice is not detrimental to park resources.
- 2) Another practice overlooked in National Park Service regulations is the small scale manufacture of handicraft articles from horn, antler and bone which are shed or are from animals that have died naturally or such parts discarded or by other subsistence users. The large-scale sale of these resources should not be allowed. The making of handicrafts is labor intensive, time consuming and inherently limits the amount of resource that is sought and utilized.

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United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alaska Region
240 West 5th Avenue, Room 114
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO:
N1427 (AKRO – SUBS)

OCT 17 2007

Mr. Pollack Simon, Sr., Chairman
Gates of the Arctic National Park
Subsistence Resource Commission
4175 Geist Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3420

Dear Mr. Simon:

I am responding to your letter regarding Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) Hunting Plan Recommendation 99-01 (#20) - Customary Trade on behalf of the Secretary of Interior. Your letter requests the National Park Service develop subsistence regulations to allow limited gathering of plant, horn, antler and bone materials for making and selling handicrafts articles. These recommendations appear consistent with provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), including Section 803 which provides for the making and selling of handicraft articles made from these types of materials. Gathering of plant material for handicrafts is already allowed in the Gates of the Arctic National Preserve. Gathering of plant, horn, antler, and bone materials in the park, and the addition of these to the current allowance of plant material in the preserve, will require new regulations.

Your recommendations will be appropriately evaluated through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Depending on the outcome of this evaluation, regulations may then be developed under a formal rule making process. Since these steps may involve input from around the state, the NEPA and the rule making process could take 18-24 months each. Please understand that there are no guarantees as to the outcome of the process, as the process will drive the decisions to be made.

We appreciate your interest in this important subsistence management issue. Thank you for your continued commitment of service to the SRC program. Your questions and comments are welcome and should be directed to the park superintendent at (907) 457-5752.

Sincerely,

//Signed//

Marcia Blaszak
Regional Director

cc:

Carolyn J. Howard, DOI, Office of Executive Secretariat
Judy Gottlieb, Associate Regional Director, Subsistence and Partnerships
Dave Mills, Subsistence Team Manager, Alaska Region
Jack Reakoff, Vice Chair, Gates of the Arctic National Park SRC
Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

Table 2.1 Summary Comparison of the Alternatives

Alternative Element ▼	Alt. A No-Action	Alt. B Broad Eligibility and No Permits	Alt. C Eligibility Restricted by Areas with Discretionary Permits	Alt. D Eligibility Restricted by Areas and Species with Required Permits
Requires promulgation of new regulations	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Eligible persons for Parks & Monuments:	N/A	People who live in a resident zone or have a Section 13.440 permit	People who live in a resident zone or have a Section 13.440 permit and who have a Federal Subsistence Board Customary & Traditional Use Finding for any wildlife species in each GMU or subunit in the park or monument.	People who live in a resident zone or have a Section 13.440 permit and who have a Federal Subsistence Board Customary & Traditional Use Finding for each wildlife species in each GMU or subunit in the park or monument.
Eligible person for Preserves are:	N/A	People who have a Federal Subsistence Board Customary & Traditional Use Finding for any wildlife species in the Preserve	People who have a Federal Subsistence Board Customary & Traditional Use Finding for any wildlife species in each GMU or subunit of the preserve	People who have a Federal Subsistence Board Customary & Traditional Use Finding for each wildlife species in each GMU or subunit of the preserve
Addresses request to allow collections.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Conditions placed on the collection of plant materials to make into handicrafts and sell	Allowed only in 2 units ¹	No	Discretionary (Pending consultation with appropriate SRC and a decision by Superintendent)	Mandatory
Conditions placed on the collection of horns, antlers, and bones for personal/family use or to make into handicrafts and sell	No collections allowed	No, except in emergency situations using closure authority and superintendents compendia; no individual permits to be required	Discretionary (Pending consultation with appropriate SRC and a decision by Superintendent)	Mandatory (Pending consultation with appropriate SRC and a decision by Superintendent)
Permit required	No	No	Discretionary (Pending consultation with appropriate SRC and decision by the Superintendent)	Yes

¹ Existing regulations allow collections of plants to make and sell handicrafts in KOVA and GAAR Preserve Western Unit.

Table 2.2 Summary Impacts of the Alternatives

Alternative Impact Topic	Alt. A No-Action	Alt. B Broad Eligibility & No Permits	Alt. C Eligibility Limited to Areas & Discretionary Permits	Alt. D Eligibility Limited to Areas and Species with Permits
Subsistence	Minor adverse impact on subsistence gathering and uses	Minor beneficial impact on subsistence gathering and uses	Minor beneficial impact on subsistence gathering and uses, but more restrictive than alternative B with reduced collections areas and discretionary permits	Minor beneficial impact on subsistence gathering and uses, but more restrictive than alternatives B & C with limited collections areas and mandatory permits
Local Rural Economic Conditions	Minor adverse effects on subset of 75,000 local rural residents	Minor beneficial effects on a subset of 75,000 local rural residents	Minor beneficial effects on a slightly smaller subset of 75,000 local rural residents than for alternative B	Minor beneficial effects on a smaller and more local subset of 75,000 rural residents than alt's B & C
Cultural Resources	Minor adverse impact to ethnographic resources	Minor adverse impacts with minor positive effects on ethnographic resources	Minor adverse impacts with minor positive effects on ethnographic resources	Minor adverse impacts with minor positive effects on ethnographic resources
Vegetation	No effects	Minor adverse effects	Minor adverse effects, but less effect than in alternative B due to more restrictive collection areas and discretionary permitting.	Minor adverse effects, but fewer effects than in alternatives B & C due to more restrictions on collections.
Wildlife and Habitat	No effects	Minor adverse effects	Minor adverse effects, but slightly less than with alternative B	Minor adverse effects, but slightly less than alternatives B and C
Recreation and Scenic Values	No effects	Minor adverse effects	Minor adverse effects	Minor adverse effects
Wilderness	No effects	Minor adverse effects	Minor adverse effects	Minor adverse effects

Table 3.3 Rural Residents in GMUs with C&T for antlered or horned species and wolves by Preserve

Species/ Preserve	Caribou	Moose	Deer	Sheep	Mt. Goat	Muskox	Wolf
ANIA	Residents of 9B, 9C, 9E, 17, Nelson Lagoon & Sand Point	Residents of 9A, B, C, & E					Residents of 6, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. Only), 11-13, 16-26, & Chickaloon
BELA	In <u>GMU 22</u> , residents of 21D, 22, 23, and 24; In <u>GMU 23</u> , residents of 21D, 22, 23, 24 (Wiseman), 26A, and Galena	In <u>GMU 22</u> , residents of GMU 22; in <u>GMU 23</u> , residents of GMU 23.				In <u>GMU 22B</u> west of Darby Mtns, residents of 22B & 22C; in <u>GMU 22D</u> , residents of 22 B –E, but not St. Lawrence Is.; in <u>GMU 22E</u> , residents of 22 E, but not Little Diomedes Is.	In <u>GMU 22</u> residents of 21D (N & W of Yukon River), 22, 23, and Kotlik; in <u>GMU 23</u> residents of 6, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. Only), 11-13, 16-26, & Chickaloon
DENA	In <u>GMU 16B</u> , all rural residents; in <u>GMU 19C</u> , Village, McGrath, Nicholai, and Telida; in <u>GMU 19D</u> , residents of 19D, Lime Village, Sleetmute, and Stony River; in <u>GMU 20C</u> , residents of 20C east of Teklanika River, in Cantwell, Lake Minchumina, Manley Hot Springs, Minto, Nenana, Nikolai, Tanana, Telida and between MP 216-239 and 300-309 of Parks Hwy; no	In <u>GMU 16B</u> , residents of 16B; in <u>GMU 19C</u> , residents of 19; in <u>GMU 19D</u> , residents of 19 and Lake Minchumina; in <u>GMU 20C</u> , residents of 20C (not in DENA) and Cantwell, Manley, Minto, Nenana, Nikolai, Tanana, Telida, McKinley Village, and between MP 216-		In <u>GMU 16B</u> , no subsistence priority; in <u>GMU 19</u> , all rural residents.			In <u>GMUs 16</u> , 19, & 20, residents of 6, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. Only), 11-13, 16-26, & Chickaloon

Species/ Preserve	Caribou	Moose	Deer	Sheep	Mt. Goat	Muskox	Wolf
GAAR	substance for NPS residents at DENA HQ. In <u>GMU 23</u> , residents of 21D (west of Koyukuk & Yukon rivers), 22, 23, Wiseman, 26A, & Galena; in <u>GMU 24</u> , residents of 24, Anaktuvuk Pass, Galena, & Anaktuvuk Pass, Galena, Koyukuk; in <u>GMU 26</u> , residents of 26, Anaktuvuk Pass, and Point Hope (not Prudhoe Bay workers)	239 and 300-309 of Parks Hwy. In <u>GMU 23</u> , residents of 23; in <u>GMU 24</u> , residents of 24, Anaktuvuk Pass, Galena, & Koyukuk; in <u>GMU 26</u> , residents of 26, Anaktuvuk Pass, and Point Hope (not Prudhoe Bay workers)		In <u>GMU 23</u> , residents of 23; in <u>GMU 24</u> , residents of 24 residing north of the Arctic Circle, Anaktuvuk Pass, Allakaket, Alatna, Hughes, & Huslia; in <u>GMU 26A</u> , residents of 26, Anaktuvuk Pass & Point Hope; in <u>GMU 26B</u> , residents of 26, Anaktuvuk Pass, Point Hope, & Wiseman.			In <u>GMUs 23, 24, & 26</u> , residents of 6, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. Only), 11-13, 16-26, & Chickaloon
GLBA		Residents of 5A	Rural residents of Yakutat		Residents of 5A		Residents of 5A
KATM	Residents of 9B, 9C, 17, and Egegik	Residents of 9A, 9B, 9C, & 9E					Residents of 6, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. Only), 11-13, 16-26, & Chickaloon
LACL	In <u>GMU 9B</u> , residents of 9B, 9C, & 17; in <u>GMU 17B</u> , residents of 9B, Lime Village, and Stony River; in <u>GMU 19B</u> , residents of 19A, 19B, 18 upstream of and including Johnson River, St. Marys, Marshall, Pilot Station, & Russian Mission	In <u>GMU 9B</u> , residents of 9A, 9B, 9C, & 9E; in <u>GMU 17B</u> , residents of 17, Nondalton, Levelock, Goodnews Bay, and Platinum; in <u>GMU 19B</u> , residents of 19A, 19B, 18 upstream of and including		In <u>GMU 9B</u> , residents of Iliamna, Newhalen, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, & Port Alsworth; in <u>GMU 17B</u> , all rural residents.			In <u>GMUs 9, 17, & 19</u> , residents of 6, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. Only), 11-13, 16-26, & Chickaloon

Species/ Preserve	Caribou	Moose	Deer	Sheep	Mt. Goat	Muskox	Wolf
NOAT	Residents of 21D, 22, 23, 23 (Wiseman), 26A & Galena	Johnson River, St. Marys, Marshall, Pilot Station, & Russian Mission Residents of 23		Residents of 23 north of Arctic Circle & Point Lay		Residents of 23	Residents of 6, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. Only), 11-13, 16-26, & Chickaloon
WRST	In GMU 11 north of Sanford River, residents of 11, 12, 13A-D, Healy Lake, Chickaloon, & Dot Lake; in remainder GMU 11, residents of 11, 13A-D & Chickaloon; in GMU 12, residents of 12, Dot Lake, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta Lake, & Slana.	In GMU 5, residents of 5; in GMU 6, residents of 5A, 6A-C; in GMU 11 north of Sanford River, residents of 11, 12, 13A-D, Healy Lake, Chickaloon, & Dot Lake; in remainder GMU 11, residents of 11, 13A-D & Chickaloon; in GMU 12, residents of 11, Chitina, Gakona, Glennallen, Chistochina, Healy Lake, Kenny Lake, Mentasta Lake, Slana, McCarthy/ South Wrangell/ South Park, Tazlina, Tonsina, Nabesna Road MP 0-46 and McCarthy Road MP 0-62. In remainder GMU 11, residents of 11, 13A-D & Chickaloon; in GMU 12, residents of 12, 13A-D, Chickaloon, Dot Lake, and Healy Lake (see manual for details)	In GMU 5B, residents of Yakutat; in GMU 6, all rural residents.	In GMU 11 north of Sanford R., residents in GMU 12, Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Dot Lake, Gakona, Glennallen, Gulkana, Healy Lake, Kenny Lake, Mentasta Lake, Slana, McCarthy/ South Wrangell/ South Park, Tazlina, Tonsina, Nabesna Road MP 0-46 and McCarthy Road MP 0-62. In remainder GMU 11, residents of Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Dot Lake, Gakona, Glennallen, Gulkana, Healy Lake, Kenny Lake, Mentasta Lake, Slana, McCarthy/ South Wrangell/ South Park, Tazlina, Tonsina, Nabesna Road MP 0-46 and McCarthy Road MP 0-62. In GMU 12, residents in GMU 12, Chistochina, Mentasta, Dot Lake, and Healy Lake.	In GMU 5B, residents of 5B; in GMU 6A, residents of 5A, 6C, Chenega Bay, and Tatitlek; in GMU 11, residents of 11, Chitina, Chistochina, Copper Center, Gakona, Glennallen, Gulkana, Mentasta Lake, Slana, Tazlina, Tonsina, & Dot Lake.		In GMU 5B, all residents of 5A; in GMU 6A, residents of 5A, 6, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. Only), 11-13, 16-26, & Chickaloon; in GMU 11 & 12, residents of 6, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. Only), 11-13, 16-26, & Chickaloon

YUCH	In GMU 20E, rural residents of 12, 20D & E	In GMU 20E, rural residents of 20E, 12 (north of WRST Preserve), Circle, Central, Dot Lake, Healy Lake, and Mentasta Lake.					In GMUs 20E & 25 B&C, residents of 6, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. Only), 11-13, 16-26, & Chickaloon
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Table 3.29 Distribution of wildlife with horns and antlers by NPS units in Alaska

SPECIES PARK	Moose	Caribou	Deer	Dall's Sheep	Mt. Goat	Muskox	Bison
Alagnak	X	X					
Aniakchak	X	X					
Bering Land Bridge	X	X				X	
Cape Krusenstern	X	X		X		X	
Denali	X	X		X	X		
Gates of the Arctic	X	X		X		X	
Glacier Bay	X		X		X		
Katmai	X	X					
Kobuk Valley	X	X		X		X	
Lake Clark	X	X		X			
Noatak	X	X		X		X	
Wrangell-St. Elias	X		X	X	X		X
Yukon-Charley	X	X		X		X	

APPENDIX A ALTERNATIVE REVISED REGULATIONS

[Note: The subsistence regulations for Alaska in 36 CFR Part 13, Subpart F amend in part the NPS general system-wide regulations and the Alaska general region-wide regulations (see 36 CFR 13.2(c)). For that reason, the likely location of the suggested revisions below is in Subpart F between 13.400 and 13.495.]

No Action Alternative

Alternative A:

No Change – The current restrictions on the collection and use of plants and shed or discarded wildlife parts for subsistence use by local rural residents would remain unchanged.

Action Alternatives

Alternative B - Collections Unlimited and No Permits:

13.4xx

(a) Local rural residents may collect shed or discarded wildlife parts and plant materials not otherwise regulated in this Part for:

- (1) personal or family use and barter, or
- (2) the making and selling of handicraft articles

(b) For purposes of this section *handicraft* is a finished product in which the shape and appearance of the natural material has been substantially changed by the skillful use of hands, such as sewing, carving, etching, scrimshawing, painting, or other means, and which has substantially greater monetary and aesthetic value than the unaltered natural material alone.

(d) For purposes of this section the definition of *local rural resident* in 13.420(1), (2) includes for preserves federally qualified subsistence users eligible to take any wildlife species within the preserve in accordance with regulations adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board.

(e) Optional (prohibition is also in 2.1): Collection of horns, antlers, bones, and plants is prohibited except as authorized by this section or 2.1 of this chapter.

Alternative C –Collections Limited by Areas and Discretionary Permits (NPS Preferred):

13.4xx

(a) In accordance with conditions established by the superintendent, local rural residents may collect shed or discarded wildlife parts and plant material not otherwise regulated in this Part for:

- (1) personal or family use and barter, or
- (2) the making and selling of handicraft articles.

(b) Violating conditions established by the superintendent is prohibited.

*Subsistence Collections of Shed or Discarded Animal Parts and Plants – Internal Review Draft EA
NPS Alaska Region August 17, 2011*

(c) For purposes of this section *handicraft* is a finished product in which the shape and appears of the natural material has been substantially changed by the skillful use of hands, such as sewing, carving, etching, scrimshawing, painting, or other means, and which has substantially greater monetary and aesthetic value than the unaltered natural material alone.

(d) For purposes of this section the definition of *local rural resident* in 13.420(1), (2) includes for preserves federally qualified subsistence users eligible to take any wildlife species within the applicable GMU in the preserve in accordance with regulations adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board.

(e) Optional (prohibition is also in 2.1): Collection of horns, antlers, bones, and plants is prohibited except as authorized by this section or 2.1 of this chapter.

Alternative D – Collections Limited by Area and Species with Permits:

13.4xx

(a) The superintendent may issue local rural residents a permit for the collection of shed or discarded wildlife parts and plant material not otherwise regulated in this Part for:

- (1) personal or family use, or
- (2) the making and selling of handicraft articles.

(b) Violating permit conditions established by the superintendent is prohibited.

(c) For purposes of this section *handicraft* is a finished product in which the shape and appears of the natural material has been substantially changed by the skillful use of hands, such as sewing, carving, etching, scrimshawing, painting, or other means, and which has substantially greater monetary and aesthetic value than the unaltered natural material alone.

(d) For purposes of this section the definition of *local rural resident* in 13.420(1), (2) includes for preserves federally qualified subsistence users eligible to take any wildlife species within the applicable GMU in the preserve in accordance with regulations adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board.

(e) For all local rural residents of parks, monuments, and preserves, collection of shed or discarded wildlife parts is limited to such wildlife parts for which the collecting local rural resident has a Customary and Traditional (C&T) use determination by the Federal Subsistence Board for that species of wildlife in that location.

(f) Optional (prohibition is also in 2.1): Collection of horns, antlers, bones, and plants is prohibited except as authorized by this section or 2.1 of this chapter.

Appendix C

Possible Management Conditions for Collections

- 1.) A report of materials collected will be submitted by the collector at the end of the collection period.
- 2.) A collector may designate another qualified person to collect for them under specific conditions.
- 3.) The use of collected horns, antlers, bones and other animal parts or plants may be made into handicrafts (as defined by (36 CFR 13.xxx) (the intention is to use the same definition as the Federal Subsistence Board and State of Alaska definition) and sold, bartered or traded as part of customary trade.
- 4.) Horns or antlers may not be attached to any part of the skull or made to represent a big game trophy.
- 5.) Collections are limited to (__Number annually) (__Number per day) (__Number in possession) (__Number of pounds daily, annually or in possession).
- 6.) The following areas: _____, in (park, monument or preserve) are closed to collecting during the specified time period.
- 7.) Sales, by the collector may not constitute a significant commercial enterprise.
- 8.) The sale of raw/un-worked material is prohibited.

Fall 2012 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

August 20–October 12, 2012 current as of 10/26/11

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug. 12	Aug. 13	Aug. 14	Aug. 15	Aug. 16	Aug. 17	Aug. 18
		NS—TBA				
Aug. 19	Aug. 20 WINDOW OPENS	Aug. 21	Aug. 22	Aug. 23	Aug. 24	Aug. 25
		NWA—TBA				
Aug. 26	Aug. 27	Aug. 28	Aug. 29	Aug. 30	Aug. 31	Sept. 1
Sept. 2	Sept. 3 HOLIDAY	Sept. 4	Sept. 5	Sept. 6	Sept. 7	Sept. 8
			KA—Sand Point			
Sept. 9	Sept. 10	Sept. 11	Sept. 12	Sept. 13	Sept. 14	Sept. 15
Sept. 16	Sept. 17	Sept. 18	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Sept. 22
Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27	Sept. 28	Sept. 29
			SE—Sitka			
Sept. 30 END OF FY2012	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 6
		SC—TBA		SP—Nome		
Oct. 7	Oct. 8 HOLIDAY	Oct. 9	Oct. 10	Oct. 11	Oct. 12	Oct. 13
			YKD—Quinhagak		WINDOW CLOSES	
			WI—Aniak			
Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17	Oct. 18	Oct. 19	Oct. 20
		EI—Central				

BB—Has not yet identified meeting dates and location.

Winter 2012 Regional Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

February–March 2013 current as of 01/25/12

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Feb. 10</i>	<i>Feb. 11</i> <i>Window Opens</i>	<i>Feb. 12</i>	<i>Feb. 13</i>	<i>Feb. 14</i>	<i>Feb. 15</i>	<i>Feb. 16</i>
<i>Feb. 17</i>	<i>Feb. 18</i> HOLIDAY	<i>Feb. 19</i>	<i>Feb. 20</i>	<i>Feb. 21</i>	<i>Feb. 22</i>	<i>Feb. 23</i>
<i>Feb. 24</i>	<i>Feb. 25</i>	<i>Feb. 26</i>	<i>Feb. 27</i>	<i>Feb. 28</i>	<i>Mar. 1</i>	<i>Mar. 2</i>
<i>Mar. 3</i>	<i>Mar. 4</i>	<i>Mar. 5</i>	<i>Mar. 6</i>	<i>Mar. 7</i>	<i>Mar. 8</i>	<i>Mar. 9</i>
<i>Mar. 10</i>	<i>Mar. 11</i>	<i>Mar. 12</i>	<i>Mar. 13</i>	<i>Mar. 14</i>	<i>Mar. 15</i>	<i>Mar. 16</i>
<i>Mar. 17</i>	<i>Mar. 18</i>	<i>Mar. 19</i>	<i>Mar. 20</i>	<i>Mar. 21</i>	<i>Mar. 22</i> <i>Window Closes</i>	<i>Mar. 23</i>