

1 SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
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6 VOLUME III
7
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9 Alaska Native Brotherhood Meeting Hall
10 Yakutat, Alaska
11 October 29, 2015
12 8:30 a.m.
13
14

15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 16
17 Michael Bangs, Chair
18 Arthur Bloom
19 Michael Douville
20 Albert Howard
21 Donald Hernandez
22 Harvey Kitka
23 Cathy Needham
24 Patricia Phillips
25 Robert Schroeder
26 Frank Wright
27 John Yeager

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33 Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Larson
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Yakutat, Alaska - 10/29/2015)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Please take your seats. We'll get started here.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Good morning, everyone. We have some public testimony that we'd like to listen to this morning. And the first one is Harold Robbins from Yakutat.

Welcome, Harold.

MR. ROBBINS: What I'd like to address the Council about -- and thank you for your time -- is the issues that we're having with the National Park Service Glacier Bay. The monu -- or the Preserve area at Dry Bay, we've fished down there for years. Since the early '70s. And it's a commercial set gillnet operation. And the Park Superintendent this last year has deemed that we are not to use our commercial fish camps any longer for subsistence after the commercial fish season is over. And he said it's fine to pitch a tent in the yard, but I'm 70 years old. I'm not much interested in that.

And so I would like your help to address this issue with the Park Service there. So if you have any questions and so on, I'd be willing to take any.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Does anybody have any questions or comments.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I think it would be appropriate if you were to write a letter of concern to the Council so that we have a document. And I think that would be something that the Council would be interested in looking at and coming up with a statement. But I think a written document would really help us, if you could do that.

MR. ROBBINS: What had happened up

1 until now is we had been able to use -- since they've
2 taken it over from the Forest Service -- the permits --
3 we'd had a longstanding use of the places for
4 subsistence. And they had honored our requests and so
5 on, but now the new Superintendent has said that he
6 feels that that's just not fair. So that's what the
7 real issue is.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Well, I
10 understand your concern and rightly so, but I'm not
11 sure what we can do other than to express our concern.
12 But like I say, we probably need a little background
13 history. And personally, I don't know the situation as
14 the way it was and whatnot, but does anybody have any
15 ideas or comments.

16

17 Cathy.

18

19 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 You know, this is the second time that we've heard
21 this. Mr. Bert Adams called into our last meeting and
22 expressed the same concern. And maybe it's something
23 that if we can get a little more information on, we can
24 include in our Annual Report after we take a look at
25 it. So if Staff can help us with that, we can have
26 that as a placeholder in our Annual Report, which goes
27 directly to the Federal Subsistence Board and shows
28 that there's an expressed concern amongst users in our
29 Region regarding this.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BANGS: That's a real good
32 idea, Cathy.

33

34 Is there any other ideas.

35

36 Mike.

37

38 MR. DOUVILLE: I have a quick -- excuse
39 me -- a question. Do they let you use a subsistence
40 camp at all there or is it just commercial. One or the
41 other? Or you can't.....

42

43 MR. ROBBINS: They have not issued or
44 allowed anybody to build a subsistence camp there.
45 They have a public cabin that's in a place that's not
46 very handy for most of the people to use subsistence-
47 wise. And they claim well, you can use that over there
48 for free. But it's about three miles back from where
49 you'd really like to do any activities.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mike.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: Have they offered any
4 rationale as to why this decision was made?

5

6 MR. ROBBINS: The only rationale was
7 that he stated that it wasn't fair to the other
8 subsistence users that could qualify to use that area.
9 Because we had a cabin and they didn't. But we've
10 shared that with the people that want to go. You know,
11 we -- like Mr. Adams. His family's been down there
12 with us and so on. And a lot of the other elders in
13 the community I've taken down over the years for
14 different subsistence activities. So, you know.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Follow-up, Mike.

17

18 MR. DOUVILLE: Yeah. So the existing
19 cabins that were used were used by the community.
20 Shared and so on there?

21

22 MR. ROBBINS: Right. Well, there are
23 personal commercial fish camps, which was allowed in
24 the original ANILCA wording. But when they received
25 those -- when they took them over from the Forest
26 Service to the Park Preserve -- when they made that a
27 Preserve, at that point they just tried to wash out any
28 idea that it was ever used for subsistence. But I mean
29 that was just -- that's the standard lifestyle for
30 there. And most of the area -- most of the people in
31 the area use their commercial fish camps for
32 subsistence, too, whether during the commercial fish
33 season or after.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Don.

36

37 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. So in the eyes
38 of the Park Service, it sounds like you own your cabin.
39 Do you have like a lease agreement with the Park
40 Service to be there?

41

42 MR. ROBBINS: Yes. We have a five-year
43 permit, which was provided for by ANILCA in the
44 original Congressional action.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Anyone else have any
47 ideas.

48

49 Patty.

50

1 MS. PHILLIPS: I don't have an idea. I
2 just have a question. So is this specific to the Situk
3 or for all the rivers.

4
5 MR. ROBBINS: This is specific to the
6 Alsek East River area because that's the Preserve
7 portion of the park, which allows you to hunt and fish
8 and all those things.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other questions
11 for Mr. Robbins.

12
13 Frank.

14
15 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
16 know, I share the frustration. I'm from Hoonah. And,
17 you know, I grew up in Glacier Bay, being a commercial
18 fisherman there. Then because I didn't fish the years
19 that -- get a point system, I was thrown out as a
20 commercial fisherman. Now they have a lifetime permit
21 there, that once that person passes on, then the permit
22 is dead, too. So, you know, one of the reasons we
23 stopped going up there was -- for subsistence was
24 because we weren't allowed to carry a firearm into the
25 Park. And I remember one meeting we had with the Park
26 Service in the City Office in Hoonah. And I asked the
27 Park Ranger -- I says do you carry a firearm. And he
28 says yes. And I says why. It's for protection. But
29 he could carry a firearm, but we couldn't.

30
31 You know, so I share the frustration
32 because I'm not allowed to go in there and catch a king
33 salmon like I used to when I was a kid. You know, so
34 -- but right now they're saying that we could go in
35 there and subsist, you know, but I haven't gone in
36 there since because I was worried about what the
37 Enforcement's going to do with me. So yeah, I share
38 the frustration that you have and wish there was
39 something we can do, but I don't know. Gunalcheesh.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Frank.

42
43 Any other questions or comments.

44
45 Mr. Howard.

46
47 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 I'm sitting here and wondering if I'm hearing you
49 correct. You're allowed to commercial fish and own a
50 commercial cabin, but you're not allowed to subsistence

1 fish.

2

3 MR. ROBBINS: Well, we can subsistence
4 fish as long as it's within the commercial fishing time
5 limits that they have -- constraints that the Park
6 Service deems we can be there.

7

8 MR. HOWARD: Okay. It seems like
9 they're not honoring anything having to do with the
10 subsistence priority when they're doing this type of
11 thing, so I'm not sure.....

12

13 MR. ROBBINS: That's our view, too.

14

15 MR. HOWARD: And that's actually law.
16 So just an observation, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Howard.

19

20

21 Any other questions, comments.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I would ask Mr. Larson
26 if it's possible we could get some more information and
27 I think Cathy's idea of including it our Annual Report
28 as a placeholder and try to maybe invite the
29 Superintendent to our next meeting and see if we can
30 get some sort of action. And send them a -- you know,
31 I don't know what we can do, but I think it needs to
32 address. This doesn't seem fair from a subsistence
33 standpoint.

34

35 Anyway, Albert.

36

37 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
38 also mentioned you didn't think it was fair. Fair to
39 who or what.

40

41 MR. ROBBINS: Well, the Superintendent
42 said that that's his reasoning for cutting us off, is
43 it's not fair to the other people in the community that
44 would be able to go down there. If we use our cabins
45 then that gives us an advantage where they don't have a
46 cabin down there to use.

47

48 MR. HOWARD: Okay. Seems like it would
49 be their deal to address, not his.

50

1 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

4

5 Mr. Larson.

6

7 MR. LARSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. I was
8 looking -- earlier in the morning, we had the Dry Bay
9 Ranger here. And I don't see him any longer in the
10 audience, but there is a representative from the Park
11 Service that may have something to share or to add on
12 this subject. So.....

13

14 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair, Council
15 Members. My name is Barbara Cellarius and I'm with
16 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. I
17 believe that our Rangers will be here later in the
18 meeting and perhaps it would be best to have them
19 provide some information when they're here because I'm
20 not familiar with the details.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. I think
23 that would be very appropriate for us to question them
24 and ask them for some information and see what we can
25 do.

26

27 But I understand your frustration. I
28 think we all do. Thank you.

29

30 Any other questions.

31

32 Don.

33

34 MR. HERNANDEZ: Maybe more of a comment
35 than I question. I guess in this issue that one other
36 thing I would like to hear would be a subsistence user
37 who uses Dry Bay that doesn't have a cabin. I guess I
38 would like to hear what they feel about this. That
39 would be the only other information I think I'd want to
40 hear. So if they're the ones that think -- if somebody
41 says it's nor fair, I guess I'd want to hear from them
42 if they think it's not fair. So that's my comment.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.

45

46 If it's okay with the Council, I think
47 when we have a Park representative, we would ask them
48 to come up and answer questions. Would that be
49 appropriate.

50

1 Frank.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is
4 it okay for, you know, a subsistence user to, you know,
5 kind of put up a temporary tent up there or is it just
6 permanent.

7

8 MR. ROBBINS: Yes. It's they don't
9 have a problem with you setting up a tent, but this
10 time of the year it's not much fun. You know, they use
11 the area subsistence-wise because they qualify, the
12 Rangers when they're not on duty. But they use the
13 Park facilities and all those things. And so
14 consequently it -- you know, I don't understand where
15 they're coming from.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Schroeder.

18

19 MR. SCHROEDER: Just a quick question.
20 And I may have missed it because I -- you may have
21 mentioned this already. But do I understand that you
22 could for some period of time use your fish camp for
23 subsistence users and then there was a change made?
24 And if you could say sort of when you were able to use
25 and what -- something about the length of use of you or
26 some of the other people have places there, that might
27 be helpful on the record.

28

29 MR. ROBBINS: Well, for the record, the
30 Park Service doesn't have an issue with using our fish
31 camps during the commercial fishing season. We can
32 hunt, fish, whatever is open at that point. But it's
33 after they deem that we should no longer be there for
34 commercial fishing, which they allow us 30 days prior
35 to the first opening, which is usually the first Sunday
36 in June and runs through -- like this year it was the
37 28th of October was the end of the commercial gillnet
38 season for Dry Bay. And then they allow you two weeks
39 after that, which a lot of times doesn't give you near
40 enough time to get the camp maintained and so on.

41

42 So -- and we can subsistence hunt,
43 fish, and trap during that time frame as long as it's
44 open. But the issue had always been that we were able
45 to use it prior to the during the time that we're not
46 able to commercial fish or be there for commercial
47 fishing in the past.

48

49 MR. SCHROEDER: Just a quick follow-up.
50 So I guess I was getting at a change took place. The

1 change took place in the last year or two?

2

3 MR. ROBBINS: Right. With the new
4 Superintendent.

5

6 MR. SCHROEDER: And then prior to that,
7 how long was this other pattern going on where you
8 could use your places for subsistence activities?

9

10 MR. ROBBINS: For me, it had -- I'd
11 started in '88 when the subsistence issue really came
12 to the forefront with ANILCA and so on. And I'd
13 written a letter explaining that I intended to use it
14 because they -- at that point they were requiring that
15 we notify them 30 days in advance to going and using
16 it. And I'd written a letter for the record that I
17 would write them a letter when I no longer intended to
18 use it. And the new Superintendent, as of last April
19 we got a nasty letter saying that we were in violation
20 of our permit because we had used in the '14 season for
21 moose hunting after the first day of November, which
22 was their cutoff date.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

25

26 Any other questions.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 I see that our -- oh, Don.

31

32 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Just a quick
33 question here for perspective. How many cabins are we
34 talking about at Dry Bay?

35

36 MR. ROBBINS: They have -- there's 22
37 total permitted cabins there. I think that's the
38 number that Park Service has.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other questions.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I see that our Park
45 Ranger just arrived. Well, maybe we could ask him to
46 come up and answer some questions or give us some
47 insight.

48

49 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chair, my name is Jim
50 Capra. I'm the Dry Bay Ranger for Glacier Bay National

1 Park and the Subsistence Coordinator for Glacier Bay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: So can you give us
4 some update on -- or some insight into why there has
5 been this change and why it's unfair supposedly to the
6 other subsistence users and why they're restricted in
7 their use of their cabins.

8

9 MR. CAPRA: Yes, Mr. Chair, Members of
10 the Council. Dry Bay was created as a unit -- well,
11 added to the National Park system as Dry Bay National
12 -- I'm sorry -- Glacier Bay National Preserve. As a
13 condition of adding the Preserve where hunting and
14 trapping under non-conflicting State regulations were
15 allowed. It additionally set forth that in Dry Bay,
16 the Malaspina Forelands and Cape Krusenstern,
17 commercial fishing and the support activities would be
18 permitted to continue at 1979 levels. That provided
19 for cabins, trails, airstrips.

20

21 In Dry Bay's case, a fish plant and the
22 commercial fishing activities. Those commercial
23 fishing facilities support things like trails, were
24 added to -- well, they were specifically mandated under
25 ANILCA to continue. So Mr. Robbins and any other
26 fisherman who has a Yakutat gillnet -- set gillnet
27 permit were allowed to continue fishing. There were
28 limits to the growth of that. That set net fishery is
29 a limited entry so there are some -- already some
30 limits. But we did cap the number of cabins at 25
31 percent over what was there in 1979.

32

33 The Park Service continued basically
34 the Forest Service permits that we had, which had a
35 season limit on the commercial fishing permits. The
36 cabins are not -- they're permitted to individuals who
37 have commercial fishing permits in this case, but
38 specifically for the support of commercial fishing
39 under Section 205 of ANILCA. And they aren't permitted
40 for anything else.

41

42 The Park Service has struggled with
43 other uses, including subsistence cabins. And in the
44 case of the commercial fishing cabins and most others,
45 the use specifically has to be non-recreational in
46 nature. That's not the issue here, but it does point
47 out that any time somebody -- we -- the National Park
48 Service permits a specific use to an individual, it is
49 -- in the case of ANILCA they are always non-
50 recreational.

1 In the case of subsistence cabins,
2 which are admittedly struggling Region-wide to come up
3 with a consistent standard, in general cabins are
4 permitted as a free use cabin, meaning not to a
5 specific individual. There are a lot of examples of
6 that. We have cabins all over the State that are
7 permitted as a free use cabin open to everybody. We
8 actually permit our public use cabin in the -- during
9 the Yakutat only moose season as a free use cabin with
10 no reservations, no fees to it.

11
12 In the case of Dry Bay, three cabins
13 are permitted to the local individuals who are
14 qualified subsistence -- four. Excuse me. Four are
15 permitted to local individuals who are qualified users
16 for example moose or most other resources in Yakutat.
17 Where the Park Service has a problem is we permit those
18 cabins for commercial fishing and there is a certain
19 season that those are permitted for commercial fishing.
20 Permitting them for subsistence to an individual for
21 the year round is at odds with our Statewide policy for
22 subsistence cabins.

23
24 Mr. Robbins sent a letter in 1988
25 stating that he would be using his cabin for
26 subsistence. He got permission that year. And our
27 Superintendent currently and -- and previously stated
28 that he'd need to notify us if he wanted to use it out
29 of season. And that's been a condition of the
30 commercial fishing permits for -- since 1981, '82.

31
32 We have worked out a system this year
33 which with the notification that the cabin holders want
34 to use their cabins for subsistence specifically, not
35 any other use, they do as the permit states have to
36 notify us in writing. And the Superintendent has
37 delegated the authority to approve individual trips due
38 to weather conditions, other things by individual who
39 are qualified subsistence users to go use their fish
40 camps. He's delegated that authority to myself and the
41 Yakutat District Ranger here.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Capra.
44 It seems from what you're saying is they're really
45 putting a restriction on subsistence uses of using a
46 cabin that has been there for a long, long time.
47 That's been used for it in the past. And I for one --
48 I think the Council would probably agree that it
49 doesn't seem right at all. And I think we should make
50 some sort of move to pass on the request to let -- you

1 know, I mean that's a very unique place. And it's been
2 used for subsistence a lot longer than commercial use.

3

4

5 And I don't know. What does the -- any
6 questions from the Council.

7

8 Mr. Howard.

9

10 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 You said this is a part of a Statewide policy. Who
12 sets that policy.

13

14 MR. CAPRA: With advice from the Parks.
15 With our Alaska Region in the Park Service.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Bloom.

18

19 MR. BLOOM: Jim, you mentioned
20 something about four people that had special permits.
21 I didn't quite understand what that was, what you were
22 saying there.

23

24 MR. CAPRA: No. Out of the -- there
25 are 19 cabins that are permitted as just fish camps.
26 There's also three lodges which are associated with
27 fish camps. Out of those, all of those permits, four
28 of the fish camps are permitted to local, Federally
29 qualified subsistence users, Yakutat residents. The
30 rest are folks who live either non-residents of
31 Yakutat, wouldn't be qualified in Unit 5 for most
32 resources or live out of State.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Howard. I'm
35 sorry, did you have a follow-up?

36

37 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, it seems
38 like if that policy is done here within the State, you
39 don't actually have to go to Congress to change it.
40 The problem I'm having with it is this gentleman here
41 has been doing this since the '80s. That's like
42 somebody coming into my house, Mr. Chairman, and
43 telling me I can't eat any more deer. To me, that
44 doesn't seem right. Doesn't sit right with me. He's
45 been doing this forever and it seems to me like
46 somebody is interpreting the recreational part into
47 this equation. Is that true or not?

48

49 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman. Council
50 Member Howard, no. I mentioned -- the recreational

1 part is -- that is a flat standard that we have that
2 anything permitted to an individual can't be a
3 recreational cabin. That's the other end of the
4 spectrum. ANILCA specifies that there will be camps
5 there for commercial fishing, for the support of that.
6 Subsistence is not considered recreational. It is a
7 permitted use.

8
9 And the Park Service, as I said, is
10 admittedly struggling for a Statewide standard on
11 subsistence cabins. They are permitted, but there have
12 been -- it has been inconsistent across the State how
13 subsistence use for existing cabins has been permitted
14 between the Parks across the State. And we are trying
15 to come to a Statewide standard.

16
17 The commercial fishing cabins are
18 essentially particular to this area. There are --
19 they're permitted in Cape Krusenstern, but there are
20 none. There are three in the Malaspina Forelands, but
21 they really aren't much used anymore as commercial
22 fishing cabins.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Follow-up, Mr. Howard?

25
26 MR. HOWARD: Well, it just -- it amazes
27 me that you will allow him to use your cabin, but he
28 can't use his own cabin within the Preserve. I share
29 the same frustration because history shows in my part
30 of the country that the Forest Service got rid of our
31 fish camps. Burned them down. That's something that's
32 locally fought with within our own Tribal Council.

33
34 But is there anything happening to
35 change this policy to allow him to use -- which he
36 probably paid for. You know, it's his. To me, this is
37 too much government in our business. You know, he's
38 done something this way for a lot of years. And
39 somebody coming in and telling him he can't do it
40 anymore just amazes me. There should have been a lot
41 of protection under the Constitution in this type of
42 thing, too. I mean, you know, I'm just sitting here
43 amazed that this is still allowed to happen.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

48
49 Mr. Schroeder.

50

1 MR. SCHROEDER: I just have a couple of
2 comments. One is just that this is a little bit new
3 territory for the Council. Because we're charged to --
4 with certain things under ANILCA that we've -- that's
5 where our main authority lies. And we haven't had to
6 look at this issue of subsistence use on set aside
7 areas or on soft parks.

8
9 But we all know that ANILCA -- when the
10 ANILCA additions, conservation units were added, the
11 very clear intention was that subsistence uses would
12 continue. That's very clear in the law and that was
13 part of the deal. That's why rural Alaska got behind
14 the set-asides and creating the new Park areas and new
15 Refuge areas. And frankly this seems like it's really
16 going in the wrong direction.

17
18 I'm really sympathetic to Park Service
19 having to come up with consistent policies and I know
20 they have some thorny issues about in holdings and
21 cabins elsewhere in the State, but I didn't hear a word
22 about how there's a resource problem, a user problem,
23 any sort of conflict going on. And people have been
24 fishing out at Dry Bay for a long, long time. I mean
25 it's -- there are fish there. What else can you say?
26 And people were doing it for subsistence uses. And I
27 think the clear intention of ANILCA is that these uses
28 continue.

29
30 So I think that, you know, maybe we
31 should revisit this at some time in the future when we
32 have a more thorough presentation on what the issues
33 are of use of Dry Bay.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
38 Schroeder.

39
40 Any other questions.

41
42 Patty.

43
44 MS. PHILLIPS: No question. But I'm
45 not going to read what I scanned through ANILCA and
46 found because I'm not really sure how it applies to
47 this situation. But I mean if I was you -- I mean if I
48 was Mr. Robbins, I would be looking very closely at
49 ANILCA and some of the sections in here that deal with
50 that. And it seems to me just on first glance that

1 there are protections for something that's been going
2 on for long term pattern of use. And to use -- and to
3 allow tents, but not already existing fish camps, means
4 you're expanding the footprint on a National Park
5 system of human use.

6
7 And it seems like you would -- I'm not
8 trying to say limit, you know, traditional subsistence
9 fishing activities by reducing the footprint. What I'm
10 trying to say is there's already a footprint there and
11 if people want to use it, they should be able to. And
12 then it's a community sharing activity, which is a
13 pattern of Alaskan Native culture that we've always
14 invited those in our communities to share with us.

15
16 And so I -- ANILCA specifically states
17 in part of this that if it's a traditional pattern of
18 Alaskan Natives, then let's try to find a way to
19 continue it. So anyways, just that's all I wanted to
20 add.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that,
25 Patty.

26
27 Mr. Yeager.

28
29 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Just for my own clarification, are you talking more
31 about subsistence fishing or hunting or both.

32
33 MR. ROBBINS: It would be all of the
34 above.

35
36 MR. YEAGER: Okay.

37
38 MR. ROBBINS: Subsistence hunting,
39 fishing, and trapping.

40
41 MR. YEAGER: And so from what I'm
42 understanding -- and if I'm wrong, please correct me --
43 is that if you wanted to get subsistence fish for your
44 family, you would have to do that within the commercial
45 season.

46
47 MR. ROBBINS: Right.

48
49 MR. YEAGER: And you would.....

50

1 MR. ROBBINS: But.....
2
3 MR. YEAGER: Go ahead.
4
5 MR. ROBBINS: Let me clarify that. The
6 commercial fishing season often is only like one day a
7 week. And the State allows for you to commercial -- or
8 subsistence fish like Friday, 6:00 a.m. to Saturday
9 6:00 p.m. on a weekly basis unless it conflicts with
10 the commercial opening, which in our case down there
11 means that the Regulation says we cannot have in our
12 possession subsistence fish that are not processed when
13 we start commercial fishing.
14
15 So that causes a bit of an issue. And
16 so you have to either have it salted, canned --
17 something done with it before you start on Sunday
18 morning at noon on your commercial opening.
19
20 MR. YEAGER: And you're using the same
21 methods, I would assume.....
22
23 MR. ROBBINS: Oh, yes.
24
25 MR. YEAGER:for both. So.....
26
27 MR. ROBBINS: Same. Basically same.
28
29 MR. YEAGER: So the potential for the
30 conflict and confusion of what kind of fish are you
31 catching and what are you doing with it is very
32 prevalent.
33
34 MR. ROBBINS: Well, that's a big
35 possibility.
36
37 MR. YEAGER: Yeah.
38
39 MR. ROBBINS: Set up the way it is at
40 this point.
41
42 MR. YEAGER: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
43
44 MR. ROBBINS: But normally in the off
45 season you don't have the king salmon.
46
47 MR. YEAGER: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
48
49 MR. ROBBINS: But you have eulachon and
50 all the other stuff, as well as your moose and goat and

1 your trapping your wolves and so on.

2

3 MR. YEAGER: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, John.

6

7 Any other questions or comments.

8

9 MR. SCHROEDER: Mike, I've got more
10 thing.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Schroeder.

13

14 MR. SCHROEDER: And I know we need to
15 move along, Mr. Chair, but it occurred to me that
16 ANILCA did establish a Park Service Resource --
17 Subsistence Resource Commissions. And it identified
18 those Parks where things were actually going to be
19 pretty thorny. And for Wrangell-State. Elias, for
20 example, that would be where you would go if this was a
21 Wrangell-State. Elias issue.

22

23 I'm kind of reading between the lines,
24 but I think that ANILCA really thought that there were
25 not major subsistence issues that needed to -- would
26 need to be addressed on a continuous basis for the
27 Glacier Bay addition, the Preserve area. So this may
28 mean that our Council is really the only place where a
29 citizen can go to a representative group to try to get
30 a little bit of redress here. If this -- again, if
31 this was a Wrangell-State. Elias or a Gates of the
32 Arctic issue or something else, the place to go would
33 be through that Commission, which works.

34

35 So I'm just putting that out there as
36 an observation.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.

39 Schroeder.

40

41 Any other comments.

42

43 Mr. Kitka.

44

45 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
46 is just to Mr. Schroeder. Does this mean that he would
47 have to bring this topic to us and then we'd take it to
48 the State. Elias Commission?

49

50 MR. SCHROEDER: Well, maybe I wasn't

1 speaking clearly. I think ANILCA set up the Park
2 Service Resource Use Commissions --- and I don't have
3 the exact wording for that -- for the areas that were
4 going to be kind of thorny. And somehow or another the
5 Glacier Bay addition -- the additional territory added
6 to Glacier Bay didn't get a Commission. So for other
7 Parks, if someone had an issue or was dealing with
8 these cabin issues, that's where it would come up and
9 perhaps would get worked out.

10

11 But in the case of Dry Bay, that isn't
12 the situation. So someone who has a problem or an
13 issue needs to go either directly to Park Service or
14 perhaps bring that up with this Council, which is what
15 our testifier has done.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

18

19 Mr. Yeager.

20

21 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Real quick, would you be allowed to have processed
23 subsistence caught fish and commercial fish both on the
24 premises?

25

26 MR. ROBBINS: I think the State
27 Regulation allows for that, but it has to be, you know,
28 canned or smoked or something to differentiate so that
29 you've got the two different definite.

30

31 MR. YEAGER: Absolutely. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

34

35 MS. PHILLIPS: Following in the
36 discussion of Mr. Schroeder, it's Section 808 that each
37 year thereafter the Commission, which Glacier Bay Park
38 does not have a Commission. Thereafter the Commission,
39 after consultation with the appropriate local committee
40 and Regional Councils considering all relevant data and
41 holding one or more additional hearings in the vicinity
42 of the Park or Park monument shall make recommendations
43 to the Secretary and the Governor for any additional
44 changes in the program or its implementation which the
45 Commission deems necessary.

46

47 But we don't have a Commission to go
48 to. I guess we're the Commission. I don't know.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Capra.

2

3 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman, Council
4 Members. Just to maybe clarify Mr. Schroeder's point,
5 where he's getting at. The National Park areas where
6 subsistence is allowed, which would be most in the
7 State. Wrangell-State. Elias, parts of Denali, Gates
8 of the Arctic, et cetera. They have -- where they have
9 National Park which has subsistence allowed under Title
10 VIII have Subsistence Resource Commissions.

11

12 The areas that are just Preserve, like
13 Yukon-Charley and Glacier Bay National Preserve at Dry
14 Bay do not have Subsistence Resource Commissions. So
15 the Council may well be -- as in the case of Yukon-
16 Charley, they use the SRC -- or the -- I'm sorry -- the
17 RACs as the body to go to. The Council may well be the
18 best option.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Don and then Art.

21

22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
23 Chairman. I'm kind of getting the impression from some
24 of the testimony that we've heard that there was no
25 public process in making the change in this policy; is
26 that correct?

27

28 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chair, Council Member
29 Hernandez. There was -- yes. It was a public policy
30 with annual meetings with the fishermen and a much
31 wider public policy when the commercial fishing cabins
32 were established and the limits on what they would be --
33 be changed to. And the issue of subsistence cabins
34 Park Service wide across the State has been a public
35 process.

36

37 What the Park Service realized -- and
38 some of us who work in the subsistence arena -- is that
39 we might be asked to consider three different -- or
40 subsistence cabin requests or comment on them in three
41 different Parks, with widely differing histories in
42 management, as well as use and resources. And the Park
43 Service was not doing a consistent job or a
44 consideration across the areas across the State.

45

46 But granted, having a camp that started
47 as a commercial fishing storage site and developed into
48 a cabin around the -- at the time of ANILCA compared to
49 a site that was used by families up and down the river
50 on the Yukon as a stopping point, they're radically

1 different histories. But the Park Service does feel
2 that we need a consistent approach for all these
3 requests for subsistence cabins.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Follow-up, Don?

6

7 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
8 Chairman. So to be more specific, at the time of this
9 policy change, which apparently occurred last April,
10 were there any local public hearings for people to
11 attend to express their opinions.

12

13 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman, Council
14 Member Hernandez. I personally do not consider it a
15 policy change. Mr. Robbins may feel so with the change
16 in leadership at the Park. Our current Superintendent
17 has worked across the State on this issue in different
18 Parks. And when he came into the job in Glacier Bay,
19 he maybe -- he has a wider experience and was able to
20 see these problems, whereas some of our past leadership
21 may not have had that experience in dealing with
22 subsistence across the rest of the State.

23

24 It has been dealt with obviously for
25 years. Mr. Robbins, as he stated, first wrote the Park
26 in 1988 to get use for subsistence for his fish camp.
27 It's been dealt with on a one off basis and that in our
28 leadership's view is part of the problem, is dealing
29 with these subsistence cabin issues one at a time.

30

31 As far as public meetings, when a new
32 cabin across the State -- I'm asked to consult on
33 several a year or comment across the State on National
34 Park Service lands. We have not had a request for a
35 new subsistence cabin in Dry Bay for well over a
36 decade. So as far as a Statewide public comment
37 process, no. This is just a new use or a different use
38 than is under the permit for the cabin.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

41

42 Mr. Bloom had a.....

43

44 MR. BLOOM: Yes. Thank you, Mike. It
45 seems like the issue's gotten kind of morphed here.
46 And I want to make sure I understand what the real
47 issue is. And also, Mr. Capra, you came in a little
48 late. The original issue that was mentioned was one of
49 unfairness.

50

1 And so it seems to me that these
2 permitted cabins are allowed to be used from sometime
3 in June to almost November 15th. And those cabins at
4 that time -- there's nothing in the Park Service
5 regulations that would not allow commercial or
6 subsistence use of that cabin by the permitted holder
7 during that time period. And so what I think you're
8 really talking about is if you want to go moose hunting
9 -- and I don't know how long the season runs here. But
10 if you want to go moose hunting in Dry Bay and use your
11 own cabin after November 15th, you have now been told
12 that that's not under your permit. And that seems to
13 be the issue.

14

15 And the Park Service's view on that, I
16 guess Mr. Capra I guess can explain what the Park
17 Service's view on it. But also maybe you could address
18 this -- the idea that was brought out that -- or it was
19 at least mentioned that the Superintendent felt that
20 that was -- it was unfair to other qualified users who
21 didn't have permitted cabins there.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. ROBBINS: You are correct. We had
26 been able to use it outside the commercial fishing
27 dates in the past. And the Park Service's new
28 Superintendent says that that's unfair now and so
29 consequently he's denying that use and in general. And
30 it's not just for the moose hunting, but trapping and
31 fishing as well. And the moose season here closes the
32 15th of November, but goat and so on does not.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

35

36 Mr. Douville.

37

38 MR. DOUVILLE: But I believe Mr. Capra
39 said that this policy was inconsistent throughout the
40 State. So it seems like a call to the Superintendent.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Howard.

43

44 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 I think given the time frame, I'm sure he'd rather be
46 out moose hunting than sitting here talking with us
47 about something he's always done forever. And what I'm
48 hearing now is the Superintendent is bringing his
49 knowledge from the Yukon River and his ability to --
50 what he assumes that he's fixed the problem there, that

1 he's going to apply the same authority and idea to fix
2 this problem. Well, you know, that's the issue I have
3 with it right now is -- is Alaska's so unique. We're
4 all different.

5
6 You know, I was sitting here thinking
7 about this and this makes sense to me. This is
8 government to me. So you can take a tent and put it
9 next to your cabin and you'd be legal.

10
11 MR. ROBBINS: That's what he said.

12
13 MR. HOWARD: I could see my grandfather
14 laughing about this idea. So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

19
20 I think -- I don't know if anybody else
21 has anything, but I don't know if the Council feels
22 this way, but I think it would appropriate if we were
23 to ask for Staff to put together some information for
24 us for our next meeting and maybe a presentation of the
25 history of this situation and see if we can help this
26 subsistence use out. I don't know how the Council
27 would feel on that. Would that be the appropriate way.

28
29
30 Patty.

31
32 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, I like your
33 recommendation. It just seems that I'm seeing a policy
34 that's been implemented Statewide where the
35 stakeholders in this case have not had an opportunity
36 to provide public comment on. If it were a regulation,
37 then there would be, you know, a comment review period.
38 But instead it was implemented as a policy that didn't
39 have to undergo that kind of review and yet ANILCA 808,
40 you know, says that you have a RAC -- you know, the
41 Regional Advisory Committees could hear this and
42 establish public hearings.

43
44 So I'm kind of thinking that I'm glad
45 Mr. Robbins brought this issue to us because it opened
46 our eyes up to another aspect of ANILCA Title VIII that
47 we weren't really familiar with.

48
49 Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.
2
3 Mr. Wright.
4
5 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Yeah. I'm glad you brought this before us, too,
7 because we are a subsistence organization that deals
8 with subsistence. And, you know, the definition of
9 subsistence is to use things that you readily have at
10 hand. You know, so here these cabins are here, but you
11 can't use it to subsist. It's so illogical. I know
12 when Mr. Howard brought it up that his grandfather
13 would be laughing about it, almost the whole Council
14 was giggling about it, too. You know, because it has
15 no logic to it. And I'm just hoping that we can really
16 address it as a subsistence group. Gunalcheesh.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Frank.
19
20 I would like to then direct Staff to
21 give us a presentation and some background information.
22 And I'd like to see the Council continue to work on
23 this, if that's the will of the Council.
24
25 Cathy.
26
27 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
28 the information that the Staff provides, I would like
29 this specific example incorporated into that so that in
30 six months when we meet again it's fresh in our minds.
31 The testimony that Mr. Robbins has given us today.
32 Because he most likely won't be at our next meeting. I
33 mean he's invited to come to the next meeting, but I'm
34 not sure that that would happen. So.....
35
36 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that,
37 Cathy.
38
39 Okay. If anybody.....
40
41 Okay. Mr. Howard, do you have a short
42 comment?
43
44 MR. HOWARD: Just real quick, Mr.
45 Chairman. I agree with what you said about having
46 Staff look into this, but also a part of looking into
47 this, what our role as a RAC is in this matter and what
48 we can do to address it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49
50 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Absolutely. Good

1 point, Mr. Howard.

2

3 I would think that we all want to
4 pursue this avenue of fixing the problem.

5

6 Mr. Capra.

7

8 MR. CAPRA: Just one quick thing, Mr.
9 Chairman, so the Council doesn't repeat reading or
10 anything. There is a process in 36 CFR for permitting
11 subsistence cabins in the Park Service. And that will
12 be part of the Staff analysis I'm sure I'll be helping
13 provide, but it's applying that policy fairly in unique
14 situations like Dry Bay and replacing a trapping cabin
15 on the Yukon and something else across the State that
16 has been our struggle.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I understand.

19

20 Okay. Any other problems.

21

22 Mr. Larson.

23

24 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Timing. So we have our next meeting is in Anchorage.
26 We do not have the benefit for three full days of
27 discussions there. We will need to be allocating our
28 time fairly rigorously. So what is your desire or
29 expectations. Are we talking about this in March or
30 are we talking about this in next fall.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any comments from the
33 Council.

34

35 Mr. Schroeder.

36

37 MR. SCHROEDER: I'd really prefer to do
38 it crisply in March because otherwise, you know, the
39 concrete may set up and the users in Dry Bay may find
40 themselves fighting for something that they need to get
41 back rather than continuing with a use pattern that
42 they have at the present time.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

45

46 Mr. Kitka.

47

48 MR. KITKA: I, too, would like to see
49 it in March. And being it's going to be a joint
50 meeting, we can probably bring it to the all the rest

1 of the Councils across the State.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Harvey.

4

5 Any other comments.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I think sooner than
10 later would be appropriate as well. So if it's good
11 with the Council, I think we should try to find a place
12 in the March meeting for this. This is a pretty
13 important issue that seems like it will affect quite a
14 few subsistence users that it's always been and now all
15 of a sudden it's looking like it won't happen. So I
16 think we should try for March.

17

18 Mr. Larson.

19

20 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
21 we'll do it in March. I think we will also have an
22 excellent opportunity for the upper level Staff of the
23 Park that will -- you know, they will be there and very
24 likely we could talk them into, you know, attending
25 that portion of the meeting. I'll also work with the
26 other Council Coordinators to determine whether or not
27 this is a common thread that has run through, you know,
28 their Councils. And we'll incorporate that concept as
29 well. But yeah, we'll do it in March.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.

32

33

34 And thank you, Mr. Robbins, for
35 bringing this to our attention.

36

37 MR. ROBBINS: Thank you for having me.

38

39

40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. We have a --
41 we're kind of pressed for time here, but I'd like to
42 get through the other public testimony.

43

44 And is it Mr. Larry Edwards?

45

46 MR. EDWARDS: Once again, I've got a
47 couple of slides that I gave your Staff yesterday. If
48 we could get that started. If you have someone else,
49 maybe they could go ahead of me while that's getting
50 set up if that would save time.

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: We only have one other
2 and I don't think he's here.

3
4 Ray Sensmeier. Ray Sensmeier.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I don't see him here.
9 So you're the only public testimony we have left for
10 this morning. Well, for this meeting unless somebody
11 signs up.

12
13 While we're waiting for the slides to
14 be set up, is there anybody online at this point for
15 this -- listening in on the meeting.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MR. ARDIZZONE: Is there anyone online
20 that would like to testify this morning on non-Agenda
21 items.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Nobody home.

26
27 Okay. Thank you, Chuck.

28
29 Okay. Larry.

30
31 MR. EDWARDS: My name is Larry Edwards.
32 I'm from Sitka and I represent Greenpeace. I'll be
33 talking about wolf issues which are on your Agenda
34 later for today, item G, so others who are here from
35 ISC or Fish and Game may have further comments to what
36 I'm going to be discussing here.

37
38 The slide that's up there is a press
39 release of Fish and Game from November 12th of 2014,
40 announcing the quota for the 2014 and '15 Unit 2 wolf
41 season quota. And I'll read here since it's small
42 print what's underlined and highlighted. The
43 underlined part says the most recent estimate for
44 research conducted in fall 2013, so this is one --
45 numbers from one year before that season, resulted in
46 221 wolves with a range of 130 to 378. And then the
47 highlighted part reads the harvest quota of 25 wolves
48 is based on 20 percent of the low end of the 2013
49 estimate. So in other words, it's 20 percent of the
50 130, not the 221.

1 I understand -- and I've got a copy of
2 it here. I think there's some on the back table. That
3 a couple of days ago the Forest Service gave the
4 Council a Unit 2 wolf briefing paper. And I'd like to
5 point out in the table there the second line from the
6 bottom, which is for the 2014 to '15 regulatory season.
7 There's actually an error in that. It says that the
8 fall population estimate used for calculating the quota
9 was 221, but this press release points out that
10 actually it was based on 130.

11
12 And there's a further discrepancy
13 there. And, you know, it's difficult because these
14 numbers come up in a lot of different places and it's
15 hard to put them together, but I'd gone back to
16 original, you know, source documents like this one to
17 figure out what really happened. But it also says on
18 that same line that the allowable harvest quota was 30
19 percent. But what was in play at that time was Fish
20 and Game had put in a Proposal to the Board of Game
21 that the quota would be 20 percent. So for that season
22 they actually based the quota on 20 percent of 130,
23 which is how they got the joint quota of 25 that you
24 see in the Forest Service's table.

25
26 And then if we go to the next slide,
27 this is the press release -- the same basic press
28 release, but for the following year, for the 2014 and
29 '15 season. And again I've got a sentence underlined
30 and one highlighted and I'll read those. The
31 underlined one says the fall 2014 population estimate
32 of 89 wolves with a range of 50 to 159, so that's, you
33 know, a different main estimate and a different range
34 than the prior year. Then highlighted it says the
35 quota of nine wolves reflects 20 percent of the
36 population estimate, plus a reduction factor for any
37 other human cause mortality. So in other words, the
38 way they came up with nine was they took the 89,
39 multiplied that by 20 percent, and then the factor that
40 they used was two. So they divided that by two. So
41 the initial calculation, they came up with 18 and
42 divided it by two to get the nine.

43
44 Now if we go to the next slide, which
45 is my final slide, but I'll have some further remarks
46 after we go through this a little bit. If you look
47 down at the bottom, the bottom two lines. So you see
48 the 2014, '15 season and then the current season, 2015
49 and '16. I've highlighted in the two yellow marks on
50 the left there, those seasons were based on -- for the

1 first of those seasons the 130 in yellow. And the
2 current season is based on the 89. So those are based
3 on different logic for the calculations that were made
4 to come up with the 25 and the nine that you see
5 further over to the right.

6
7 So the question is why the different
8 logic. And you've got a lower population estimate now
9 than before, but you're basing it on a less
10 conservative logic now than you did before, where it
11 was based on the low estimate instead of the mid-range
12 estimate.

13
14 I'd also like to point out if you look
15 at the -- kind of the history of the estimates and the
16 harvests. So I would look at the mid-range estimate.
17 The column headed there, assumed fall population
18 estimate that starts with the 350 at the top and then
19 goes all the way down to the 89 currently. And then
20 over for the reported harvest, which for 1994 season
21 you're up at 85 there. And then you're up in the
22 hundreds. The peak take ever was 132. And then I've
23 got a line drawn across there at 1999, where there was
24 an emergency order issued. And then there were some
25 changes made there that resulted in the reported
26 harvest going down. And the Department has felt that
27 that was caused by an increase in the illegal take, the
28 unreported harvest.

29
30 I'd also like to point out those blue
31 estimates of 200, beginning in 2010. And going into
32 the 2010 Board of Game meeting, Fish and Game went to
33 that meeting knowing that just from -- there were no
34 actual studies going on at the time, like radio collar
35 studies to get estimates, but they were seeing a lot
36 less wolf scat, a lot less other indications of
37 population. They went into that meeting guessing the
38 population was maybe around 150 and they were aiming
39 for a quota of 45.

40
41 But some negotiation happened during
42 that meeting with trappers and others who were there,
43 so they agreed that they would set a quota of 60
44 instead of the 45 that Fish and Game was looking for
45 and then they back-calculated from that based on the 30
46 percent regulatory cap you see there in one of the
47 columns to come up with the 200. So those estimates
48 from 2010 until 2013 were kind of just backward
49 calculated for what they figured they would want to set
50 for an actual quota.

1 Another one to point out is that 221
2 there in red. The mid-range estimate for the prior
3 year. It's shown there as 2014, but as I mentioned,
4 that's the year that was applied for making a quota,
5 but that estimate was actually for the prior year. So
6 the problem we're getting into here is that we're using
7 estimates that are for a year before when you're
8 actually doing the regulation.

9
10 And that 221, you know, if you compare
11 that with the '89, you know why the big drop. In
12 talking with Dave Person, who had been doing a lot of
13 the prior research and set up the research program
14 that's still being used, apparently the way the
15 estimate was made for the 2013 estimate of 221, there
16 were some problems with the boundary conditions where
17 they probably had wolves coming into the study area
18 from elsewhere that inflated the number. And that
19 problem was kind of addressed by expanding the study
20 area the following year. So it's thought that the
21 current estimate is closer and the prior year is
22 probably lower than what's indicated there.

23
24 Then as far as the bottom row there,
25 the 50, 89, and 159. So that's an estimate that was,
26 you know, the prior fall -- fall of 2014. We've got
27 data that's not taken into account in that calculation
28 to come up with the nine, which is that we know there
29 was a reported take of 29. So how does that get put
30 into the equation here. If you deduct 29 from each of
31 those numbers, you're getting down to pretty low
32 numbers. It would be 21, 60, and 130. So then, you
33 know, your high range is equal to the low range for the
34 year -- the estimate prior.

35
36 But you've also got to consider
37 recruitment and illegal take, so looking at the
38 recruitment end of things from talking with folks at
39 Fish and Game, my understanding is that this spring
40 that 15 dens were checked -- or, you know, known den
41 sites. Of those, only one den site was active and it
42 only had one pup. And we also know that from the study
43 area, that the percentage of females has declined since
44 the prior year from 50 percent to 25 percent, so we've
45 got a low proportion of females.

46
47 And we also know from prior Fish and
48 Game studies -- this would be in the Person and Russell
49 2009 paper, which is in some of the references that
50 I've provided to Staff related to what I'm talking

1 about today, they found from inspecting 29 den sites
2 that the average litter sizes for Prince of Wales
3 wolves is quite a bit lower than the North American
4 average for wolves. And it also discusses when you're
5 dissolving packs what that does for this kind of
6 demographic for litter sizes, where you have a lot of --
7 if you end up with a lot more first time female
8 breeders their litter sizes are smaller. So that's
9 something else you should be plugged into thinking
10 about these kind of things. And it's not apparent that
11 they have been.

12
13 I'd like to point out that after Fish
14 and Game's numbers came out, the 50, 89, and 159, those
15 were announced in mid-June. On July 22nd, Earl
16 Stewart, the Forest Service Supervisor, wrote a letter
17 to the Federal Subsistence Board requesting that the
18 season be closed for this year and next. Now, that
19 request was later withdrawn. I'm not sure for what
20 reasons. The day after he made that request,
21 Greenpeace and a couple other organizations made a
22 similar request that they be closed for this year. And
23 I'd like to say that, you know, we take very seriously
24 asking for a closure of a subsistence season. It's not
25 something we like to do, but we just feel for
26 conservation that at least for that one year that it
27 would be necessary to be on the safe side of things.

28
29 So I think we can say that the numbers
30 are low. I think that Management just by applying
31 blanket rule thumb percentages is not really a very
32 conservative way to be approaching management of
33 seasons when you're in low numbers anywhere within that
34 range. So I think there's not adequate caution here
35 and that we should be looking a lot more at conserving
36 the resources. And I hope this might give the Council
37 some ideas for questions to ask people from the
38 Agencies later.

39
40 That's all I have. Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Larry.

43
44 I have a question from Cathy.

45
46 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
47 don't actually have a question. I have more of an
48 observation when I look at this table that is put
49 before us. It seems to me that the issue that Mr.
50 Edwards was bringing forth was the discrepancy in how

1 the quota was set for the current season and how it was
2 different between years, but if I look at the low fall
3 population estimate of 50 for wolves on Prince of Wales
4 Island and knowing that the regulatory cap has now been
5 lowered to 20 percent, which is a process that Fish and
6 Game has gone, you know, to this body, as well as
7 locals trappers on the island. If you take 20 percent
8 of 50, that allows for the joint quota of ten. So
9 really the joint quota that came out was more
10 conservative than what the quota could have been.

11
12 So regardless of the way that they did
13 it between different years, to me it doesn't really
14 make a difference. They're still erring on the
15 conservative side with a joint quota of nine. And one
16 question I would ask is that joint -- I believe -- I
17 don't know. Somebody can verify that. But that joint
18 quota was in conjunction with Fish and Game working
19 with local entities on Prince of Wales Island to come
20 to some -- you know, to get feedback from people using
21 the resource about what would be most appropriate at
22 this time.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cathy.

25
26 Mr. Douville.

27
28 MR. DOUVILLE: Some of the
29 inconsistencies with the numbers you're seeing with
30 what you mentioned was that -- was the estimate of 221.
31 The Department suggested a cap of 40, which would be
32 about 20 percent. But I sat in the meeting and
33 everybody that had concern about wolves, which included
34 a wide variety of people, said no, we think 25. And
35 that's where the 25 number came from.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.

38 Douville.

39
40 I just would like to remind the Council
41 that we will be discussing this. If you have questions
42 for Mr. Edwards, we can go over that now. And then
43 we're going to be doing a brief.....

44
45 Patty.

46
47 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 At Board of Fish meetings, a presenter, when they have
49 that kind of data has to provide X amount of copies so
50 that the Board can have it for their own review. Do

1 you have copies of this table for us to review?

2

3 MR. EDWARDS: No. I don't. But your
4 Staff has the file. And actually I put this together
5 two nights ago after I saw the Forest Service briefing
6 paper. And I just, you know, pulled the information I
7 had on my computer with me to create the table.

8

9 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair -- I mean
10 thank you for taking the time to pull that table
11 together and give your presentation, but my point is
12 that -- I mean the morning of the Board of Fish meeting
13 and within an hour I'm supposed to pull together copies
14 to give to the Board so it can go in the book so that
15 the Board can review it and any other Staff committee
16 members. So I'm actually thinking we probably should
17 have a similar policy. But thank you, Mr. Edwards.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

20

21 Mr. Edwards.

22

23 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. I'd just like to
24 respond to what Council Member Needham raised there.
25 And I think we also need to look at genetic bottlenecks
26 when you get down to a small population like this. The
27 population is believed to be isolated from others in
28 Southeast, at least to a large degree and particularly
29 in the genetic sense where you need to have -- even if
30 there is some exchange between here and other Regions,
31 you need to have wolves coming in that would breed
32 successfully and, you know, enough numbers to have a
33 genetic impact.

34

35 So I think when you get down to these
36 low numbers just blanketly applying a percentage rule
37 of thumb for a quota, I think it's likely to lead to
38 problems. And you're getting it down low enough here,
39 especially if you're really at the lower end of those
40 estimates, where you could wipe this population out
41 very easily.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
44 Edwards.

45

46 Any other questions for Mr. Howard.

47

48 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, you said
49 you're here representing Greenpeace. And I'm
50 wondering, you've mentioned Prince of Wales Island.

1 There's plenty of Tribes on that island. Have you had
2 this conversation with them? Did you bring any
3 documentation from any of those groups supporting what
4 you're here doing?

5
6 MR. EDWARDS: From many of which
7 groups? I'm sorry.

8
9 MR. HOWARD: Any of the Tribes on
10 Prince of Wales Island.

11
12 MR. EDWARDS: No. I haven't consulted
13 the Tribes.

14
15 MR. HOWARD: And, Mr. Chairman, I may
16 be wrong, but it seems to me like, you know, that's
17 kind of a local -- you know, that's like someone
18 coming to talk about Admiralty Island wolves -- and to
19 be honest with you, Mr. Chairman, I'm glad we don't
20 have any -- without consulting with the Tribe or the
21 local people. So I'm not sure where we stand with this
22 if we don't have a Tribe or a subsistence user here
23 talking with us. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

26
27 Any other questions for Mr. Edwards.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Final comment?

34
35 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. Through the Chair.
36 Mr. Howard, thank you for raising the point. And I
37 will make contact with the Tribes there.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
40 Edwards.

41
42 Hearing no more questions or comments,
43 thank you very much for your presentation.

44
45 Okay. I'd like to take a very short
46 break here -- ten minutes. And then we'll resume with
47 our -- where we left off yesterday. Thank you.

48
49 (Off record)

50

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. We left off
4 yesterday afternoon with the Fisheries Resource
5 Monitoring Plan. And I'd like to finish that up here
6 this morning if we could.

7

8 Mr. Larson.

9

10 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
11 I have the files from Larry Edwards, so if anybody
12 would like to see a printed copy of his presentation,
13 I've got that. So just let me know.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty requested one.

16

17 Okay. I'd like to continue on with our
18 discussion here. I know Ms. Phillips has a few
19 statements that she'd like to make. I'm not sure if
20 she's ready, but.....

21

22 MS. PHILLIPS: I am.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Patty.

25

26 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, this is about
27 the Fisheries Monitoring Projects.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Correct.

30

31 MS. PHILLIPS: So I recognize the
32 planning efforts are based on priority information
33 needs. I sort of ranked what I thought was important.
34 And I talked about the legacy projects yesterday and
35 those are long term assessment abundance patterns
36 research. And for me, those are indicator systems.
37 Indicator systems, meaning if we see changes in those
38 indicator systems it might correlate with other streams
39 or resources in the same sub-area, sub-unit.

40

41 Also, Mr. Chair, you talked about what
42 we had before as current issues that aren't the same as
43 five year ago current issues and we change our ranking
44 based on what those current issues are. And the areas
45 of current conservation concerns are on small stream
46 systems. And so you have your legacy projects, which
47 are indicator systems, but you also have small streams
48 of concern, such as Eek, Kanalku, Sarkar, and Klag.
49 And where -- so I was thinking this morning that like
50 the Eek project is in close proximity to the Hetta

1 legacy project. And I got to thinking also that
2 projects have mobilization and de-mobilization. I deal
3 with a lot of capital projects in my community and it's
4 a huge component of a project is mob and de-mob. So if
5 you have a small stream in close proximity to a legacy
6 project, then you have less mob and de-mob costs
7 associated. Bringing people in, getting the
8 infrastructure set up, getting the equipment that you
9 need to do those stock assessments.

10
11 And then yesterday Jennifer was telling
12 us about how the priority information needs are ranked
13 equally. And in any of the what I just mentioned, to
14 me, capacity building should be ranked equally and it
15 adds -- the capacity building adds in the traditional
16 ecological knowledge because it's often the people from
17 the Village that are going in and doing the stream
18 monitoring. But it also builds capacity and that local
19 workforce gains the science-based observations tied
20 into their community use, so you get a dual benefit out
21 of those research projects.

22
23 And then of course, you know, the
24 regional distribution of projects has always been a
25 priority.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you very much,
30 Patty. That was very good thoughts.

31
32 And I would -- at this point, unless
33 anybody else has something that they would like to
34 convey, I would say that the Council has expressed a
35 lot of concerns about the change in the way this
36 process is going. And I think Jennifer has a list of
37 our comments that I feel that it would important if
38 they were conveyed forward to the Office and hopefully
39 that we'll get feedback from our concerns. And
40 hopefully you can give us like a recap kind of and see
41 if the Council agrees that that captures our intent.

42
43 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Thank you so much for your comments. They've been
45 extremely helpful. And I just wanted to note that
46 we'll be passing on your motion from yesterday as well
47 as the comments that I'll summarize in just a moment,
48 along with the TRC rankings. But I just wanted to make
49 sure that I noted that the TRC -- the Technical Review
50 Committee rankings that you saw will also go to the

1 Board as is, but they will consider those in
2 relationship to your motion and your comments.

3

4 And so what I have in addition to your
5 motion that you made yesterday, what I summarized was
6 that the continuation projects, the legacy projects
7 that Ms. Phillips was just speaking about are the
8 highest priority, with the exception of the Hatchery
9 Creek projects that appear on both the 2014 list of
10 projects approved for funding and the new 2016 list.
11 And so that those two Hatchery Creek projects would be
12 moved to the bottom of the priority and if you have
13 enough funding in the Region to reach the 2016 projects
14 after funding the legacy continuation projects from
15 2014, that the Sarkar -- that 16-06 project would be
16 the top priority for the Region.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Jennifer.

19

20 Does anybody have any comments.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 But, you know, I'm not sure that we all
25 agreed on the Sarkar being moved to the top, but I know
26 that it was in the comments from Council Member, so I
27 just want to make sure that that's where we want to go
28 with it. And then the rest of the rankings were okay
29 with the Council.

30

31 Any comments.

32

33 Mr. Howard.

34

35 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 Just real quick. Something's sitting here in the back
37 of my mind. When we talk about ranking projects, it
38 seems like when you do that you start pitting all of us
39 around the table against each other. And, you know, to
40 me, I'm sitting here thinking how to keep that from
41 happening. Well, can this Board write a letter to the
42 funding source and tell them all these projects are
43 important. All these projects are our priority.
44 Because they represent each community and what they
45 feel is important to them.

46

47 So instead of killing the messengers,
48 we should go after the funding source and help them
49 understand why these -- all these projects are
50 important. Why all these projects are a priority.

1 Because I sat last night trying to think about well, if
2 I have to give up any of the projects in my area, which
3 ones would I give up. They're all part of an important
4 puzzle to help us understand the job we have at hand.

5
6 So I think it's just an idea of trying
7 to figure out if this Board can go after the funding
8 source and help them understand that these projects are
9 important to all of us.

10
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Howard.

14
15
16 And that brings up another avenue of
17 concern, is that we were told that these projects were
18 all funded the last cycle. We felt comfortable that
19 these were all going to be funded for quite a while.
20 And then all of a sudden the money evaporates. And
21 that's a concern to us. Is we kind of look -- we try
22 to look forward. And these communities look forward to
23 okay, we're going to be funded for some more research
24 on the stream and then all of a sudden the money's
25 gone. So that's a concern I think that's on
26 everybody's mind, is how can we plan ahead if all the --
27 you know, things like that change that quickly. So
28 that's a concern I think we're all aware of.

29
30 And is there any other thoughts from
31 the.....

32
33 Patty.

34
35 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 So you sort of triggered a thought in my head. And is
37 that, you know, Fisheries Resource Monitoring projects
38 are one set of funds that are distributed Statewide
39 with X allocation going to the Southeast, but as our
40 primary land management agency is the U.S. Forest
41 Service, is the U.S. Forest Service within its agency
42 allocating funds from outside of our, you know, FRMP
43 program into the FRMP program projects, so that we can
44 minimize the level of stopping projects that have been
45 identified for funding and proceeding with?

46
47 MS. HARDIN: Mr. Chair. Through the
48 Chair. Ms. Phillips, all of the funding for the FRMP
49 projects in the Southeast Region comes from the U.S.
50 Department of Agriculture through the Forest Service.

1 MS. PHILLIPS: But that didn't -- I
2 know that. I mean I understand that. But what I'm
3 saying is that that's a budget allocation for FRMP, but
4 does the Agency have other funds that they can divert
5 to FRMP when we have times of lack of funding -- I mean
6 to complete to projects that are on the list. Thank
7 you.

8
9 MR. SUMINSKI: Through the Chair. Ms.
10 Phillips, up until -- well, at least over the last few
11 years we were getting supplemental funds from other
12 budget line item. It's NFWF funding. And this year
13 that was not given to us, I guess. So we have to fund
14 all these projects with our SMSM line item, which is
15 dedicated to subsistence. So it is possible that other
16 funding can be used for this projects, but it was
17 determined that it wasn't going to happen this year --
18 or this coming year.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Follow-up, Patty. And
23 then Cathy.

24
25 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 So can this body -- I mean can we strongly recommend
27 that other funding be reallocated to our FRMP project
28 list.

29
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty. I'm
33 not sure if we can, but we certainly could ask, if
34 that's the will of the Council.

35
36 Cathy.

37
38 MS. NEEDHAM: No.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Oh, okay. Is that the
41 will of the Council. That we could stress that if
42 there's funding available, that we redirect it to more
43 appropriate projects.

44
45 Cathy.

46
47 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
48 think in the past we actually have done that in the
49 form of our Annual Report, where we've expressed the
50 need for additional allocations into the FRMP program.

1 And I'm wondering now if we can actually express that.
2 Like this NFWF funding that I didn't know what the
3 acronym -- I don't even know what the acronym is for or
4 where that money came from, but it seems like if it
5 wasn't given to us this year, but it was given to us
6 last year, maybe it's something that we can stress that
7 we would like to try to continue to access that pot of
8 funds for these important projects.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cathy.

11

12 Tom.

13

14 MR. WHITFORD: For the record, Tom
15 Whitford, with the Forest Service. Right now the -- at
16 least Region 10 of the Forest Service, our initial
17 allocation of two percent less of last year for all of
18 the programs, which includes NFWF. And as Terry
19 mentioned, this year we are no longer getting any NFWF
20 for subsistence, so we're going to be operating on our
21 typical allocation, which is \$2,500,000. And I'll be
22 talking about this a little later. So that's the
23 funding that we have for our Subsistence Program for
24 this -- for the Region -- for the Forest Service
25 Region.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

28

29 Cathy.

30

31 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 The NFWF funding has -- was last year the first time
33 that there was an allocation to apply to these projects
34 or have we historically -- have you historically funded
35 through NFWF on projects.

36

37 MR. WHITFORD: We have had additional
38 NFWF funds since 2008. And initially that was an extra
39 \$1,000,000. And this last year, in 2015, that
40 \$1,000,000 was reduced to \$300,000. So we had an extra
41 \$300,000 in 2015 to fund the Subsistence Program. And
42 that \$300,000 is no longer available to us in 2016.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

45

46 Mr. Howard.

47

48 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, I'm
49 wondering if we could get letters sent to our
50 Delegation in D.C. on the importance of the work the

1 Forest Service does concerning these projects and make
2 sure they have the funding they need to support us.
3 Because it seems like they charge us with the
4 responsibility and then they tie our one hand behind
5 our back, telling us oh, we don't have money to help
6 you do that. So maybe we can -- it's just
7 brainstorming here by myself, I guess. But maybe
8 that's an option we should take a look at. Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that,
12 Mr. Howard. I think it's a very good idea.

13
14 Patty.

15
16 MS. PHILLIPS: I would say, Mr. Howard,
17 that that is not a new idea. In fact, that's what
18 initiated the funding for the FRMP program. I mean we
19 were in Hoonah and said hey, we don't have science-
20 based information. We wrote a letter to Senator
21 Stevens and all of a sudden we're starting to get money
22 to the tune of \$101,000,000 that's gone through the
23 State now. So -- and now it's drying up.

24
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that,
28 Patty.

29
30 Do you have a comment.

31
32 MR. WHITFORD: Just one more comment.
33 I would encourage the Council to write maybe Beth
34 Pendleton, who represents the Secretary of Agriculture.
35 I would encourage the Council to write a letter.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Tom.

38
39 Mr. Larson.

40
41 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, the Regional
42 Advisory Subsistence Council is a member of the
43 Executive Branch of the Government. As such, we do not
44 engage the Legislative Branch directly. It is highly
45 appropriate for us to engage our other branches of the
46 Executive Branch, the Agencies. In this case, Tom's
47 suggestion about engaging with Beth, who is our
48 delegated subsistence representative, delegated
49 authority to act as the Secretary of Agriculture in
50 this regard, that's highly appropriate. It's not

1 appropriate to engage our legislators. It is highly
2 appropriate for a Tribe or other Agencies to contact
3 the legislators directly. I'm sure they would
4 appreciate that. But is that -- I think that should be
5 clear. Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.

8

9

10 So I saw some heads nod that we should
11 have a letter written up to be sent. And it sounds
12 like the proper avenue is Ms. Pendleton. And if that's
13 okay with the Council, we can direct that to try to
14 encourage continued funding of these projects. Okay.

15

16 (Council nods affirmatively)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: That's what we'll do.

19 Is have Staff draw up a letter that we could review.

20

21 Any other comments on this subject of
22 resource monitoring.

23

24 Mr. Kitka.

25

26 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
27 heard Bob say that the Tribes have the right to send
28 letters off to the -- our Congress and the Senate.
29 Maybe one of the avenues is to engage our
30 representative to the Tribes, to have him contact the
31 Tribes and let them know this is available.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: That's a very good
34 point, Harvey. That might be another avenue to
35 encourage more involvement in the Tribes to contact the
36 powers that be.

37

38 Cathy.

39

40 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, one thing to
41 consider in that avenue though is that Tribes are not
42 allow to lobby. And so if they approach the
43 legislatures about getting funding that could
44 potentially come back to them, then it wouldn't be
45 appropriate for the other Federal dollars that they
46 run, so that should be checked into before you actually
47 ask the Tribes to engage in that type of conversation.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cathy.

50

1 Any -- Mr. Howard.

2

3 MR. HOWARD: This sounds like
4 government at its best again, but how can the Tribe be
5 lobbying when they're trying to solve a problem, but
6 they need the dollars to do so. Wow.

7

8 I appreciate all the work the Forest
9 Service has done to help us get to where we almost --
10 almost accomplished something meaningful with the ETJ
11 petition, so -- hmm. Talk about tying your hand behind
12 your back, Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Howard.

15

16 Any other comments.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: So we will forward our
21 comments and we'll formulate a letter to send to Ms.
22 Pendleton. And hopefully we will make some progress in
23 future funding.

24

25 Thank you very much, Terry and
26 Jennifer.

27

28 MR. SUMINSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Mr. Ardizzone,
31 we have a -- oh. This one point while we're on this
32 subject, that I spoke with a couple of different Staff
33 on the break and we should review our priority
34 information needs at our March meeting, if that would
35 be something the Council would like to do, so that we
36 can be all up to speed on it. There's a lot of members
37 that are new and I think it would be appropriate if we
38 went over that. If the Council so wish, we can have a
39 Staff put together a little presentation of our
40 information needs and then review that.

41

42 Does that sound like a.....

43

44 Cathy.

45

46 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
47 think that's a great idea. And I'm wondering if
48 wildlife could be included in that. Because in the
49 past we've written a letter about information needs on
50 wildlife and wildlife funding even though there's not

1 money to currently do it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yeah. That's a good
4 point, Cathy. And I think we don't want to let that
5 slip by without at least trying to secure funding for
6 some wildlife projects.

7

8 Okay. So we'll try to fit that into
9 the -- well, we will fit it into our March meeting and
10 get a presentation.

11

12 Mr. Ardizzone.

13

14 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair, for the
15 record, Chuck Ardizzone from OSM. I'm just going to
16 give you a quick update on RFR status. So at the
17 previous Board meeting for fish, the Board made several
18 decisions. Makhnati Island, to close the area to non-
19 subsistence users. And then to allow gillnets in the
20 Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. They've turned out to be
21 controversial. Makhnati Island, I think we have one
22 request for reconsideration to the Board. And then
23 Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, we have over 700 requests and
24 comments.

25

26 Currently, we are working through all
27 those requests and comments to determine the claims
28 that the different proponents made. And once we get
29 the claims determined, we will conduct three threshold
30 analyses to see if the claims meet the threshold to
31 move on as a full analysis. That's a determination the
32 Board will make. Staff will do an analysis like they
33 do for Proposals, present that to the Board, and the
34 Board will make a decision if they feel the claims have
35 merit. If they do, we do a further more detailed
36 analysis. At this time, like I said, we're just trying
37 to get everything pulled together so we can do those
38 threshold analyses since we had so many requests.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Chuck.

41

42 Any questions.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BANGS: How many requests were
47 put in for the Kenai and Kasilof?

48

49 MR. ARDIZZONE: Like I said, we have
50 over 700 requests and comments, so it's taking a while

1 to get through all those. It's a long process.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. I thought I
4 misheard you. That's a lot.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Thank you very
9 much.

10

11 Okay.

12

13 Mr. Reeves, we have a Summary of
14 Wildlife and Fisheries Special Actions and Harvest
15 Report.

16

17 MR. REEVES: Good morning, Mr.
18 Chairman, Council Members. Yesterday, late afternoon
19 or early evening before you adjourned, there was two
20 small handouts that were -- replaced your thing. One
21 is a table that's lengthwise like this. And then the
22 other is a table that should look like this.

23

24 So prior to the meeting, Robert asked
25 me to just try to throw together a brief harvest
26 summary. And initially my intent was to -- to try to
27 maybe compile both fish and wildlife harvest data that
28 was real representative of Federally qualified use, but
29 what I found in the process was that it was really hard
30 to physically account for those individual numbers.
31 And so to keep things simple, it became more of a
32 Region-wide harvest of both fish and wildlife species
33 that I was able to condense into the one table.

34

35 And we need a big thanks to the State.
36 To Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Within several
37 days of just my initial request that the -- the data
38 was pouring in from both wildlife conservation side and
39 from the multiple, you know, sport and comm fish and
40 subsistence sides within the State. So these numbers
41 represent -- you know, it's both Southeast and Yakutat
42 areas since that is, you know, your area of
43 responsibility.

44

45 And well, you'll notice there's some
46 little subheadings there that -- you know, the wildlife
47 numbers are -- depending on which species compiled
48 either from returned registration permits, could be
49 from voluntary hunt reports or in some species like
50 bear and wolf, you know, sealing data. So these

1 numbers are -- when I say fairly accurate, I mean
2 there's still a little bit of estimation on the deer
3 side. But these numbers are going to be, you know,
4 quite representative of what's happening. And this is
5 all take in Southeast and Yakutat. So there is some
6 non-resident and some non-Federally qualified use in
7 here.

8
9 The fish numbers, yes, they're very
10 large. It's a combination of estimates from the
11 Statewide sportfish harvest survey. I did briefly try
12 working with our local sportfish biologist to see if
13 there was a way to decipher out what was probably like
14 logbook catches, which could be, you know, more non-
15 resident. But it just -- it was not really that easy
16 and possible to do. So, you know, what you're seeing
17 by species on here is just by each year the harvest of
18 those. You know, I mean obviously when you kind of
19 glance on here, you know, a lot of the pink and Chinook
20 numbers I mean in Southeast, I'm sure a good majority
21 of that is non-resident.

22
23 But, you know, the 2014 numbers you'll
24 see there, they're in some cases still between
25 subsistence permits and such coming in, so that data
26 set is definitely, you know, incomplete. So this is
27 more just -- it's not an action item or anything. It's
28 just a reference item for -- you know, for you guys to
29 look at.

30
31 The second table is the special actions
32 that have occurred this year. Actually, this is kind
33 of a mild year. There's only six of them to date. The
34 first one, as you see on there, was the closing down
35 Unit 2 wolf when the harvest quota was met. The second
36 one was about a week later, which was the District 1
37 eulachon closure. Next one on there was actually a
38 pre-season closure in one of the areas in Unit 4 where
39 there was just not an available harvest for mountain
40 goats in one portion on Baranof Island. The fourth one
41 was a special action request that Mr. Edwards referred
42 to earlier in the year. And that was dealt with by the
43 Federal Subsistence Board.

44
45 The next one on goats, there is a
46 slight error in there. The North Fork Katlian, it
47 wasn't closed August 1st. It was closed August 8th.
48 So there was I believe about a week long season there.
49 And then the last one just recently happened here was
50 the closure here in Yakutat on the section of Unit 5A,

1 west of the Dangerous River. So that's just more
2 reference and concludes what I have for you.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Reeves.

7

8

9 Any questions from the Council.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. REEVES: I forgot one other thing.

14 I do in here -- if anyone is -- I did compile some of
15 the wildlife harvests by species by communities for a
16 number of the years. It was just way too much to try
17 to put together and hand packets to you guys. But if
18 anybody does want that, just get a hold of me. Let me
19 know and I can make copies or, you know, get it to you
20 electronically.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Jeff.

23

24 Okay. Next is the 2015 Annual Report,
25 page 146 in your book.

26

27 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, on page 146 of
28 your book you will see some background regarding the
29 Annual Report. It talks about how we got here. It
30 talks about an appropriate content. It addresses, you
31 know, how it should be written and the report format,
32 what it should look like.

33

34 The Southeast Region has always
35 submitted an Annual Report. Not all Regions do.
36 Earlier in this meeting you saw where the Board has
37 responded to last year's Annual Report. The way that
38 this works is that you provide me with Annual Report
39 topics. I do the research and work with the Chair to
40 put together a draft Annual Report. I bring it to the
41 March meeting for your review. And we finalize it at
42 that point. And then it gets submitted to the Board.
43 So at this point we are open to developing concerns or
44 topics that I would put in your draft Annual Report.
45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.

48

49

50 Does anybody have some things they

1 would like to share with the Annual Report.

2

3 Mr. Kitka.

4

5 MR. KITKA: Well, it seems like one of
6 our top things would be the funding.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes. Yeah. That's
9 kind of an ongoing thing, isn't it. So we should
10 probably include that in the Annual Report for sure.

11

12 Ms. Needham.

13

14 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Through the meeting I wrote down a few things as we
16 talked about potential items to go into the Annual
17 Report. One was Transboundary Mining. One was ETJ.
18 And then I still think that even though it's not
19 something we need a response from the Board about, it's
20 a topic that we can bring to their attention. And this
21 is the issue that was brought to us this morning by Mr.
22 Robbins about what's going on in Dry Bay. And at least
23 give the Federal Subsistence Board a heads-up that
24 we've received this from subsistence users out of
25 Yakutat. You know, this has been brought to our
26 attention as well. And that we're going to be looking
27 into it at our next meeting, so that we're giving them
28 a heads-up about a concern that subsistence users have
29 brought to us.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cathy.

32

33 Mr. Larson.

34

35 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, the first topic
36 regarding funding. I'm not sure what funding -- what's
37 the issue with funding.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Kitka.

40

41 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, we just had an
42 early morning talk about the funding for the monitoring
43 program. And that seemed like we need to make sure
44 they got a heads-up on that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for
47 clarifying that, Harvey.

48

49 Mr. Hernandez.

50

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 I've got a couple of topics here. I'm not sure if
3 they're something to address in an Annual Report or if
4 they should be separate letters to other people in
5 Agencies. I guess the first one would be we have to
6 decide -- I know we're going to discuss this topic
7 before the meeting's over, but we have this letter that
8 the working group has been generating regarding the
9 customary and traditional use policy. I think we need
10 to discuss if that's going to be included in the Annual
11 Report or a separate letter.

12
13 The other thing is Mr. Wallace from
14 Saxman was here. And as I recall, he was kind of
15 requesting an other letter of support from the Council
16 in regards to how long it's taking for Saxman to get a
17 final answer to their concern about rural
18 determination.

19
20 So yeah. Those are the two I had
21 questions on.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Donald.

24
25 Anyone else.

26
27 Mister -- yeah, Chuck.

28
29 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair, I just
30 wanted to give an update. I've been in contact with
31 the office and the two rules that Mr. Wallace was
32 talking about we anticipate getting published next
33 week. So I'm just letting you know because by the time
34 you get a letter written into the Secretaries, it will
35 probably a moot point. They should be published by
36 that time. Just so the Council's aware.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

39
40 Donald.

41
42 MR. HERNANDEZ: Excuse me. So that
43 leaves one other topic about what we're probably going
44 to discuss here at some point in the near future, but
45 the letter regarding customary and traditional use
46 determinations. So I don't know if we need to discuss
47 what to do with that now or when we have that
48 discussion later. So.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Maybe we should get

1 through the topics right now. And then if we decide we
2 want to add that to the Annual Report after we discuss
3 it. But I'd like to get some more things to put on our
4 Annual Report, if we could. Items of concern.

5

6 Cathy.

7

8 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 You know, Don brought up Mr. Wallace's concern that he
10 brought before us. And I think it would be appropriate
11 for maybe our Coordinator to let Mr. Wallace know that
12 it was something that we heard his request for us to
13 write a letter, but new information came about that the
14 timing would be sort of obsolete. But at least get
15 back to Mr. Wallace to let him know that we didn't
16 ignore his request in that aspect or didn't take any
17 action on a concern that he brought forth to us.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cathy. I
20 think that's a good idea. I think we should do that.

21

22 Patty.

23

24 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
25 Bangs. So out of the Board of Fish meetings, the
26 Council had submitted a Proposal wanting to establish
27 bag limits on salmon. So I think out of that came if
28 we can identify small stream systems with sockeye, coho
29 populations of concerns, then that if we want to -- if
30 we have a need to reduce bag limits on those small
31 streams, then we would have a list that backs up what
32 we consider small streams of sockeye and coho concerns.
33 Does that make sense.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Does that make sense
36 to everyone.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I mean I follow what
41 you're saying. I'm not sure if this is an Annual
42 Report topic or something that we need to work on
43 internally, but we could certainly list it as a.....

44

45 Patty.

46

47 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, I think it
48 meets identification of current and anticipated
49 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations
50 within the Region. And that's a report content item.

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. We can put that
2 on there. It makes sense.

3
4 Anyone else have anything that they
5 would like to add.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, during the.....

10
11 Oh, Patty.

12
13 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I don't know
14 if this would need to be an Annual Report item, but,
15 you know, prior -- both Harvey and I sat through Agency
16 Fish and Game, Forest Service Planning Committee. We
17 sat in for the RAC, where we established what our
18 priority information needs were. And I was wondering
19 might that be appropriate for the RAC to have a member
20 sitting in on those kind of Technical Review Committees
21 or -- not Technical Review. Where I get it. The
22 InterAgency Staff Committee had a planning process
23 that, you know, came up with these priority information
24 needs. And I'm -- you know, I'm going to honor what
25 they came up with, but it might have benefitted from
26 participation from a member of the RAC there.

27
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

31
32 Mr. Larson.

33
34 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, thank you. And
35 I would like to note that -- you know, that we need to
36 be specific when we're speaking. The priority
37 information needs belong to the RAC. That's not the
38 InterAgency Staff. They do not prioritize. They do
39 not identify. What the Technical Committee does is
40 look at the project Proposals that have been submitted
41 and match them up against the Council's information
42 priority needs. They also look at the cost. They also
43 look at whether or not they actually will end up doing
44 what they said they were going to do. So they look and
45 evaluate those projects. And they prioritize those
46 projects based on how they match up against the
47 Council's information priority needs. But the priority
48 needs are not -- they're not the property of the
49 Technical Review Committee. They're the property of
50 the Council.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Follow-up, Patty?

4

5 MS. PHILLIPS: Well, I did say I didn't
6 mean Technical Review Committee. I said InterAgency
7 Staff. But also the meeting we sat through with the
8 Agencies, the genetics came up as a priority. And so
9 none of the Proposals submitted to us include any
10 genetic sampling information, so that problem might be
11 another thing we want to include in the Annual Report,
12 is we need to continue on with the genetic sampling.
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

16

17 Jennifer.

18

19 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
20 just wanted to add a little bit to what Mr. Larson
21 noted. And that because you will be working on
22 priority information needs again for the 2018 FRMP
23 cycle and so I just wanted to note that as Mr. Larson
24 stated, that those priority information needs come out
25 of this body. And then when we send out the notice to
26 potential researchers or communities that want to do
27 one of these studies, we list in there for each Region
28 what the Councils have defined as their priorities.

29

30 And so those -- we're asking people to
31 -- we're inviting them to submit Proposals specific to
32 those priority information needs. And if they submit a
33 Proposal, that is the first thing we look at when we
34 review the Proposals, is whether they address one of
35 your identified priority information needs. And if
36 they don't, we're asking the proposer to identify why
37 they think it's a priority. Perhaps it's something
38 that came up after you developed your priority
39 information needs, but we're -- that's a critical part
40 of the review. It's the very first thing we look at,
41 is to see how well those Proposals line up with what
42 you've identified as important.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

45

46 Frank.

47

48 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
49 Chair. One of the issues that, you know, I always hear
50 from other people is the intercept of king salmon and

1 halibut by the trawlers that -- and I'm not quite sure
2 if we have a -- when we had requested that -- we had
3 one of our subsistence people on the National Marine
4 Fisheries Service, you know, and I'd like to have a --
5 get a report back on what the quota is and that, you
6 know, on the king salmon and halibut that is getting
7 tossed overboard because they're intercepted. Thank
8 you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Frank.

11

12 Any other topics.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN BANGS: While we were
17 discussing -- we were just talking about this -- the
18 Proposals that came in for the Fisheries Monitoring
19 Program, I think it would be a good thing for us to do
20 in our local areas to encourage Proposals to be
21 submitted by our local Tribes or entities if there's a
22 problem in your area. I think with only five
23 Proposals, it doesn't give us much -- it doesn't give
24 the choice to fund some of these projects if there's no
25 Proposals. Not that that should go in the Annual
26 Report, but while we were on that subject, I thought
27 I'd say that I'd like to see local Tribes from
28 different communities submit Proposals so that we will
29 have a chance to get things funded that we feel are
30 important.

31

32 So any other topics.

33

34 Mr. Howard.

35

36 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 Just real quick. When we submit the Annual Report
38 concerning the ETJ petition, I think we should include
39 the concerns of this Board and the lack of information
40 they got. You know, and not send in -- a watered down
41 version seems to be what we have been getting and I --
42 you know, I can say that because I'm actually now on
43 the Kootznoowoo Board and I haven't gotten the
44 information. So I think it's important to -- as part
45 of the report to help them understand our view on that
46 petition, that they get all the concerns that were
47 expressed around the table.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Howard.

2

3

4 Any other topics. Issues that you want
5 to address in the Annual Report.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Hearing none,
10 then we'll get a draft report at our next meeting of
11 the things that we talked about today. And we can
12 discuss and add or do whatever we want to.

13

14 Mr. Larson.

15

16 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, maybe it would
17 be appropriate if I just reviewed those items that I've
18 heard at this point while it's fresh in our mind to
19 make sure that I've captured everything appropriately.

20

21 I have concerns that funding for the
22 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is maintained. I
23 have that -- a discussion regarding Trans-Boundary
24 mining. We would like to bring that to the Board's
25 attention that in fact the residents of Southeast are
26 very concerned about that project. I haven't heard
27 that we asked the Board to do anything about Trans-
28 Boundary mining, but in fact inform the Board that
29 there is concerns and we're monitoring the situation.
30 That we're bringing to the Board's attention the issue
31 with subsistence users in Dry Bay. The customary and
32 traditional policy is a work in progress. That will
33 depend upon actions of the Council here in just a few
34 minutes. I will contact Lee regarding the rural
35 determination and support from this Council.

36

37 We'd like to inform the Board that the
38 Council is still concerned about small sockeye systems
39 and that the Council is concerned over over-harvesting
40 of smaller stocks and they may hear more from us at
41 some later point. The Council would also like a report
42 on measures to reduce or mitigate the interceptions of
43 halibut and salmon in other commercial fisheries. Also
44 efforts to include a subsistence use representative on
45 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. That
46 was my understanding. If that's not correct, this is a
47 good time to correct it.

48

49 Oh. And yeah, I've -- ETJ is on there.
50 ETJ is on my list. And ETJ, the concern there is

1 regarding information exchange. Making sure that
2 everybody understands where we are and what's
3 happening.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.

8

9

10 Mr. Schroeder.

11

12 MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, I think I
13 was sort of zoning out here a little bit. Because we
14 also talked about Trans-Boundary issues. And the
15 Council has weighed in on Trans-Boundary mining things
16 at different times. And I'm not sure. We haven't had
17 much discussion as a Council on what we do at this
18 point. It looks like we are unlikely to get anything
19 that really moves through the Secretaries to demand
20 that the State Department creates a meeting of the IGAC
21 to address this. I think if we want to keep an oar in
22 the water, we should do something. And I'm not
23 completely sure what that might be.

24

25 A possibility would be that first --
26 two possibilities. One would be that we continue to
27 raise this issue with the Federal Subsistence Board. A
28 second would be that we contact the Mallott Commission
29 and see how we can be part of that process that's going
30 on. That seems to be about the only live item at the
31 moment. And I think Ms. Needham has some other ideas
32 about what we might put in this.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.

35 Schroeder.

36

37 Ms. Needham.

38

39 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, I do not.

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. I think Mr.

43 Larson probably caught the gist of that.

44

45 MR. LARSON: You'll be hearing from me
46 again on this subject. And I'll have a draft for
47 March.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.

50

1 Any other things that we would want to
2 put.....

3
4 Patty and then Cathy.

5
6 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 So I was thinking about what Mr. Wright brought up
8 about the by-catch of halibut salmon. And has the
9 Federal Subsistence Board or any other Region in the
10 State -- you know, what sort of activities are they
11 doing to provide information to the North Pacific
12 Fishery Management Council that supports the -- you
13 know, the by-catch impacting subsistence harvest on the
14 river systems. And if there are, could they share
15 those with the Southeast Region or with the rest of the
16 State. And that might be actually at, you know, our
17 March meeting, something they could do there. If they
18 are -- sort of like our Unit 2 sub-committee. You
19 know, how we came up with the plan. Is there something
20 like that going on, on the Yukon-Kuskokwim area that
21 has Statewide implications. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

23
24 Mr. Larson.

25
26 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, I will -- we're
27 in the final boarding process regarding planning for
28 the winter meeting. And I will query the planners
29 there to see exactly how they're going to approach that
30 subject and in what way. And I think it's a very good
31 idea. And I'll let them know that the Southeast
32 Council is -- although it is not immediately adjacent
33 to the Bering Sea, but we still have an interest in
34 that topic very much so. Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.

37
38
39 Cathy, did you have anything more?
40 Okay.

41
42 Anyone else have any more topics for
43 the Annual Report.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. I think we'll
48 get the draft here at the March meeting. And hopefully
49 we'll have some new ideas by then. We could make it a
50 good document.

1 Okay. Next we have a wolf briefing.
2 And I think Terry Suminski was going to give that to
3 us. Does he know he's going to do that.

4
5 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, just a final
6 wrap-up regarding the interception issue that -- that
7 is on the Agenda for the All Council Meeting. And it
8 will be a topic that will be provided to all the
9 Councils. So that will be a training session that
10 we'll have. It will be a joint -- part of the joint
11 sessions.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.

14
15
16 Terry.

17
18 MR. SUMINSKI: Good morning, Mr.
19 Chairman. Council. Terry Suminski, with the Forest
20 Service. I don't have any presentation with this
21 briefing, but I think you all have a copy. It's got
22 the little Forest Service shield up in the lefthand
23 corner. And we thought we'd make ourselves available
24 if you had any questions on the briefing. And I have
25 with me Jeff Reeves with the Forest Service and Ryan
26 Scott with the Department of Fish and Game, so this is
27 your chance to ask questions.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Thank you,
32 Terry.

33
34 I know that there was some -- a little
35 bit of discussion during Mr. Edwards' presentation and
36 testimony.

37
38 Did you have any more thoughts, Mr.
39 Douville? I know you were starting to go into some
40 concerns about the wolves in Unit 2. I was just
41 wondering if you had any more thoughts on that.

42
43 MR. DOUVILLE: I read your briefing and
44 I think it's accurate. I did mention that joint -- or
45 the 25 harvest was not a percentage of anything, but
46 something the community thought they were comfortable
47 with and the Board of Game was fine with that.

48
49 I have some personal thoughts that, you
50 know, if it's okay to share. I think the science could

1 be improved. You know, I think we appreciate the
2 effort by the Department, but I think that it should be
3 expanded more Unit-wide instead of using just a portion
4 which has been used since the '90s to calculate the
5 strength of wolves. If you had been doing that looking
6 more island-wide probably you would not have a
7 significant decline. I don't think it's significant.
8 I think we're just slightly below what we feel as
9 residents in the Unit feel that is an optimum level.
10 We're very close to that. Because everybody felt that
11 that meeting we had was somewhere between 100 and 150
12 would give you a viable wolf population while still
13 maintaining a deer population that is important to
14 everybody. So I think future efforts will improve the
15 ability to give better numbers.

16
17 In my own opinion, I think that 30
18 percent was established in the '90s also, based on a
19 guesstimate of wolves at that time. And I think now --
20 I've lived there all my life. Just I've lived there
21 for 66 years and I've trapped wolves since I was a
22 teenager. But after watching this for so many years, I
23 believe that a 30 percent harvest is too high. So when
24 those numbers did not calculate out and our wolf
25 population dropped a little bit, there was all kinds of
26 excuses made to why this was happening. Illegal
27 harvest. I've heard the claim that that was equal to
28 or more than the legal harvest, but there's never been
29 any proof to show that. I don't deny that there is a
30 little bit of illegal take of wolf happens. It does
31 happen with everything else. But no, that is simply
32 not correct.

33
34 So I think 30 percent is too high
35 because you have an island populations of wolves that
36 come into contact with each other and they have a high
37 natural mortality. So I think the Department has taken
38 the proper steps in reducing the number to 20 percent
39 or less. It's a very good step to maintaining a stable
40 population. We have claims that these are a sub-
41 species, but there's also evidence that shows they
42 travel back and forth particularly on the north end.
43 In the Snow Pass area they're able to get on and off
44 the island, which they do. And to my knowledge there's
45 no definitive proof that says these are a sub-species.
46 There's no proof of that to date at least.

47
48 I think I covered my concerns. I want
49 to make one -- mention one of the things -- the two
50 couple dramatic pictures that Mr. Edwards showed you

1 was logging on -- by a private corporation. The Forest
2 Service doesn't have logging practices like that.
3 While Thorne Bay may have been a bigger sale, which,
4 you know, raised the ire of the green groups, the clear
5 cuts within that sale are limited to 100 acres or less.
6 In this case, I think most of them are like 50 acres,
7 so it's not a big clear cut. There's leave strips.
8 There's -- so it's not like State logging practices is
9 -- and this is the third time the wolf has been used as
10 a pawn to stop the logging. I think the Forest
11 Service, you know, might have been guilty of lots of
12 things in the past, but I think they're doing a good
13 job today. And a certain amount of timber harvest is
14 important to our economy.

15
16 The real culprit is not logging. You
17 know, I'm not saying logging doesn't have some effect
18 on the wolf population or the deer population, but with
19 the wolf, the trapping is the biggest factor above all
20 other that is responsible for the population trends.
21 There's no question about that.

22
23 That's about all I can think of off the
24 top of my head right now. Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
27 Douville.

28
29 I'd like to share a little something
30 that happened earlier in the year. I was contacted
31 that there was a closure request to wolf harvest in
32 Unit 2 by the District Ranger. We've heard about that.
33 And I was asked what should the Council -- what would
34 the Council's take on it be. Because I was the
35 Chairman, I was to respond. And they gave me the
36 numbers the State was going to close the season and
37 this request from the District Ranger was going through
38 to close it. And so I said well, if there's a
39 population problem, I think our Council would err on
40 the side of conservation and we would close it period.
41 And then the petition was rescinded. The State decided
42 to go ahead with the harvest a season.

43
44 And I'm just curious as to what
45 happened. I was totally miffed by that. I was like
46 well, how could this be. If there's that big of a
47 problem and the State decides that they want to go
48 ahead with it after the biologists are saying that
49 there's a problem, but yet the District Ranger
50 rescinded the request to close it.

1 So does anybody have a little history.

2

3 MR. REEVES: Mr. Chairman, Jeff Reeves,
4 Forest Service. I think there's a little -- some
5 confusion in that it wasn't the District Rangers.
6 Initially there was direction from above to the
7 District Rangers to initiate what was thought that
8 could have been in their, you know, delegated
9 abilities. But for wolf, the letter of delegation said
10 no. They can only act when a quota is met. So the
11 request actually came from above, you know, us in this
12 room. So a lot of us, you know, didn't really know
13 whose direction that was from.

14

15 During that time there was preparations
16 being made where -- and we knew that the Department was
17 planning to hold meetings within, you know, communities
18 to talk to the users because I think at that time --
19 and Ryan could correct me if I'm wrong -- the general
20 thought was that even though there was a lower
21 population estimate than had been seen, is that there
22 was still room for some managed harvest on that
23 population.

24

25 So there was at that point I believe
26 plans to, you know, meet with users. The Department
27 was planning to do that. And when the number did get
28 decided upon, I wasn't in those discussions, but Mr.
29 Scott might be able to elaborate on those discussions.
30 But the request was withdrawn when there was a agreed
31 upon joint quota that was actually determined could
32 happen. So.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Reeves.

35

36 Mr. Scott.

37

38 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 Yeah. It was -- you know, frankly it was a flurry of
40 activity come August and looking into September. And
41 lots of discussion. Once it took some time to actually
42 get the population estimate. The population number
43 that we are using -- the point estimate of 89 with a
44 range of 50 to 130, that does come from a year prior.
45 That's just life. It takes us that long to collect the
46 samples, have the DNA processed, and then to do the
47 math, to break it down very simply. And then by
48 regulation we are required to use the most recent fall
49 estimate, 92.108. We don't have a whole lot of leeway
50 in that. And so that's the number that we have used.

1 Twenty percent was arrived at by the Board of Game in
2 January 2015. That was the Proposal brought forth and
3 was adopted by them.

4
5 So if you do the math, 20 percent of
6 89, 17.8. And round that up to 18 and we cut it in
7 half for -- to be even more conservative. So we took
8 multiple steps in that approach. First we worked with
9 the Board to get it reduced down to a 20 percent
10 harvest limit, up to. The language is -- it's fairly
11 clear. It says up to 20 percent. And so we have the
12 ability -- the leeway to move below that. And with 18,
13 we reduced that further. The intent was to provide
14 some opportunity for harvest, be it subsistence users,
15 be it other users. Whoever may approach that. But it
16 took us some time to get to that -- to a nine wolf
17 quota.

18 We were in, you know, maybe daily
19 conversations with Mr. Reeves and other Forest Service
20 Staff. And then when the petition to close the season
21 came from the Forest Supervisor, that accelerated
22 things. We needed to move pretty quickly and get that
23 number out there. We had again discussions with the
24 Forest Service. We agreed that we would go with a
25 nine-wolf quota. It would provide -- you know, it
26 would provide a minimum opportunity for folks to get
27 out and harvest an animal. And we felt like that that
28 could be done. Biologically, safely we can accomplish
29 that.

30
31 The other thing that's -- I think it's
32 important to point out here is we do have differing
33 seasons. The Federal hunting season, wolf hunting
34 season is open now. It began September 1st, I believe,
35 just off the top of my head. The State season has
36 always opened on December 1st. And so we're working in
37 concert a little bit. The Federal trapping season is
38 slated to open November 15th. So it's coming up.

39
40 Mr. Douville is absolutely correct.
41 Trapping is the big push. That's where we're going to
42 see the majority of animals harvested. But we are
43 monitoring the harvest very closely right now. We can
44 confirm one animal has been harvested. And we believe
45 there's a second. And we're just waiting on
46 confirmation for that.

47
48 Will there be a state season? We don't
49 know. If we get close to December 1st and we've got
50 six or seven animals harvested, changes are there won't

1 be a State season. We'll EO the season before it ever
2 starts so that we can stay as close to that nine wolf
3 limit as possible. We don't want to exceed that.

4

5 I wanted to also brief you quickly on
6 efforts this year. We have fields in the crew right --
7 or excuse me. We have crews in the field right now.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MR. SCOTT: The hair boards or the hair
12 snares have been set. They're fishing, if you will, as
13 we speak. They should be slated to -- they'll probably
14 start checking them early next week. And that's a DNA
15 base population estimate.

16

17 I have a draft report that will be
18 released in the next few weeks, I hope, that will --
19 that kind of started this most recent round of wolf
20 research on Prince of Wales Island. And the intent of
21 the report was very simple, very straightforward. We
22 were going to take techniques that were used back in
23 the early and mid-'90s into the early 2000s and compare
24 it to new DNA base technique. And really what we're
25 looking for is we're looking for something that we have
26 confidence in the data and something we can do
27 financially. And we can do very often.

28

29 As it is right now, you know, we've
30 been there for beginning of 2012, '13, '14, and again
31 in 2015. We've got people on the ground. We've done
32 both live captures and radio collaring to collect
33 minimum pack size, as well as home range data. And
34 we're also collecting DNA and then estimating the
35 population from DNA work.

36

37 That looks very promising. We have
38 confidence in the numbers that we have right now. The
39 '89 point estimate and then the range 50 to 130. And
40 we're going to go with that again. We're essentially
41 working in the same area. I can't disagree with Mr.
42 Douville that it would be -- it's important that we
43 expand the area. We did that in 2014 in a very modest
44 way. This year our focus is increasing the precision
45 of our estimate by increasing the number of hare
46 collection stations, which in theory we'll collect more
47 wolf hair and we'll get more recaptures and we'll be
48 able to reduce that range down a little bit more,
49 increasing our confidence in the total number of
50 animals.

1 There's always issues when you take a
2 smaller geographic area and you get a density. So
3 really we're not talking -- we don't even look at the
4 total number of wolves in our study area. We look at
5 the density of wolves in our study area and we apply
6 that across game management Unit 2. There's an
7 assumption there that the densities are going to be the
8 same everywhere. We know that's not the case. That's
9 not reality. But we do -- we assume that it balances
10 out. The averages work out.

11
12 Is it perfect? Absolutely not. Is it
13 something that we can do both financially and manpower-
14 wise? It is for now. And we'll be looking to do
15 different things as we move forward.

16
17 We've worked very closely with Mr.
18 Douville. We're working with Ms. Needham right now in
19 conversations and discussions with the Hydaburg
20 Cooperative Association and how to work with them.
21 Other projects that we have associated with wolves --
22 we actually have three wolf projects going on.

23
24 One, the population estimate on Prince
25 of Wales Island in Unit 2. We are doing scat analysis
26 to look at diets. Traditionally deer have driven wolf
27 systems on Prince of Wales Island and certainly deer
28 are the primary prey species. There's a lot of other
29 things on Prince of Wales Island that deer will eat as
30 well. Salmon, beavers, other things like that. We're
31 looking at diets across Southeast Alaska. Not just in
32 Unit 2.

33
34 The next thing we're doing is we're
35 also looking at the genetic structure of wolf
36 populations across the Region. So we're collecting
37 samples, hair and tissues samples from wolves that are
38 sealed by -- presented to the Department for sealing
39 after harvest. And that's occurring -- again, as we
40 speak, these things are all ongoing.

41
42 Some other wolf efforts that we have
43 going. We've sent a couple of folks down to Prince of
44 Wales last week to work with a group of teachers who
45 will also help us deploy hair snares and collect DNA
46 information. Similar discussions with the Hydaburg
47 Cooperative Association. We've also implemented a wolf
48 sighting database. And that's kind of interesting.
49 Where people can get online. They see a wolf somewhere
50 in Unit 2, they can get online and let us know how many

1 did they see, what color, where were they. These are
2 all efforts for us to gather as much information as we
3 can about what's going on with wolves down there.
4 Again, we've got a couple of projects that span the
5 Region.

6
7 Well, there's a pretty good reason
8 we're doing all this and we're all aware of it. With a
9 potential ESA listing coming, we need to know as much
10 about wolves not only on GMU 2, but across the Region,
11 so we can respond and we can have the data and we can
12 build off of that. I'm not an Endangered Species Act
13 expert. I can tell you that the Fish and Wildlife
14 Service and that group of folks is in the decision-
15 making process right now. And we anticipate a decision
16 in about two months. It will be published in the
17 Federal Register. And we'll all know about the same
18 time.

19
20 So I hope that helps fill in some of
21 the gaps. And certainly if there's questions about the
22 Department's activities and what we're doing and where
23 we think we're going, I'm happy to answer those.

24
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Scott.

28
29 I think Mr. Bloom has a question.

30
31 MR. BLOOM: Yes, I do. You know, I
32 hear numbers, number, numbers. But my understanding of
33 wolves is that they're a highly social animal and
34 they're not all equal. So the taking of one wolf over
35 here may not have much of an impact on the population,
36 but the taking of an alpha female or something could
37 have a huge impact. And so when you've got concern
38 over the population size, I'm surprised that I haven't
39 heard any discussion about that. Just these raw
40 numbers.

41
42 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Mr.
43 Bloom, I can appreciate that for sure. They are an
44 extremely social animal. Pack structure is very
45 important. And the potential to disrupt that structure
46 is high if you harvest a certain wolf or multiple
47 wolves of that. You know, trapping is somewhat
48 indiscriminate. It is indiscriminate really. And so
49 we don't -- in that, we don't have good data at this
50 point other than the recognition that that can be an

1 issue. And if that happens, reproduction can be
2 impacted and recruitment and so on and so forth.

3

4 It's hard to get down -- we can get
5 down in the weeds on numbers. It's hard to get farther
6 down into individual animals and that kind of thing,
7 you know, when we're dealing with a social structure
8 like that.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Follow-up, Art?

11

12 MR. BLOOM: Just a very quick follow-
13 up. Yeah. I don't -- I'm not sure that from what I've
14 read that trapping is indiscriminate. That often it's
15 selective for the more dominant members of the pack.
16 But -- and so, you know, I keep hearing all this
17 concern about allowing a certain amount of opportunity
18 to take a wolf. And it does raise an alarm bell with
19 me that that shouldn't be the major concern, especially
20 if we're talking about nine wolves. I mean if for some
21 reason you -- and, you know, four or five of those
22 turned out to be alpha-type wolves, you'd have a
23 serious problem on your hands I think.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Douville.

26

27 MR. DOUVILLE: A couple of things I
28 forgot to mention. For the first time since the mid-
29 '90s I guess you have some local talent that is working
30 to -- willing to work with the Department on bettering
31 the methods, means, finding what the true story is.
32 It's kind of a milestone.

33

34 Your numbers were 89 for last year. We
35 think that the number is higher based on recruitment.
36 And there's evidence -- you know, pup evidence. And he
37 said there were seven dens with nothing in them, but
38 there's wolves on the other part of the island that are
39 having pups.

40

41 So -- and what I've been using the last
42 three years myself is cameras on the islands. So I've
43 got a good handle up in (indiscernible) and the islands
44 that I trapped in the past to -- you know, keeping good
45 track of these guys. And cameras work really well.
46 And we're encouraging the Department and I think the
47 Hydaburg Tribe is pursuing this also. It works really
48 good.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mike.

2

3 Any other questions.

4

5 Cathy.

6

7 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 So, you know, we hear about the population estimate and

9 that it has been reduced in recent years. And so I

10 have a couple of questions that are about that specific

11 piece of it, but it's a multi-fold. Is there a true

12 conservation concern. Do we know what the caring

13 capacity of wolves are on Prince of Wales Island in

14 terms of how many wolves are too much and how many

15 wolves on an island are not enough.

16

17 Touching on what Mr. Douville said,

18 when you get to the lower threshold of what might not

19 be enough in caring capacity of wolves, do we know

20 what, you know, recruitment is and whether or not more

21 wolves will be coming into the island to sort of fill

22 that void. And then all of these kinds of things,

23 whether or not there's a wolf management plan, that

24 that stuff can be incorporated into that would help

25 guide some of the harvest decisions.

26

27 MR. SCOTT: Got it. Through the Chair

28 and Ms. Needham. So I guess maybe I'll start from the

29 end of the question and work backwards. There is not a

30 wolf management plan for game management Unit 2. It's

31 a question that I've been asked many times. I guess it

32 seems fairly straightforward to me that to

33 appropriately manage wolves, we need to have a number

34 and potentially other factors to consider spelled out

35 somewhere. You know, be it in a Management Plan or

36 another kind of guiding type document. We have to know

37 where we're going and how -- so we can have something

38 to manage around.

39

40 In reference to caring capacity for

41 wolves, again that's, you know, an unknown really. And

42 I think there's two factors to consider there. Wolves

43 -- the system on Prince of Wales Island and in GMU 2 is

44 largely driven by deer numbers. Again, we know there's

45 alternative prey species there. And so we can -- there

46 are methods and techniques to calculate an estimated

47 predator abundance based on an ungulate index, the prey

48 item index. But that might be considered a maximum

49 really. And we've heard testimony from one of the

50 Council Members here that, you know, there's a social

1 capacity associated with that as well. And somewhere
2 in there we have a biological threshold that we're
3 comfortable with. What that is at this point, we don't
4 have that number identified. But there's -- you know,
5 there's some -- there's multiple factors to consider in
6 there.

7

8 We certainly -- I think that the
9 current state of the wolf on Prince of Wales Island and
10 in GMU 2 and arguably throughout the Region is
11 important. There's -- I think we have to pay attention
12 to what's going on. Are wolves still viable in Unit 2?
13 We believe they are. Does that mean there's no
14 conservation concern? I don't think so. I think that
15 it's something that again given the long term
16 trajectory of the wolf numbers, it's something we have
17 to pay attention to.

18

19 And again we've -- you know, we're on
20 the ground. We're working to ascertain those numbers.
21 We've begun to think about, you know, what do we do
22 with other questions about reduced female proportions
23 in the population that we've detected. Are there ways
24 to look at impacts to social -- the pack structure and
25 things like that.

26

27 So conservation concern. I don't
28 believe that we're at a point where the wolves are at a
29 tipping point, but it is something that we take very
30 seriously and are focused on and dedicating a lot of
31 time and resources to.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

34

35 Mr. Hernandez.

36

37 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
38 Chairman. Let's see. Where to begin. Well, first of
39 all, I was going to bring up the social aspect of the
40 wolf. I'm glad it was brought up already by Mr. Bloom.
41 That's right. He was the one that brought that up.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. HERNANDEZ: I think that's very
46 significant. It's a worry. I guess my main question
47 is, you know, this has been a 20-year study period
48 we've been looking at. And I'm remembering back to,
49 you know, 20 years ago. I was keeping -- I was pretty
50 well, you know, involved in what was going on with the

1 wolf management back then. We had local meetings. You
2 know, I've met Dave Persons. I've talked to him a fair
3 number of times. You know, Doug Larson and I have had
4 numerous conversations over the years. And me and Mr.
5 Douville have been talking about this for years. And
6 Fish and Game came out with a, you know, population
7 estimate back then. And -- I don't know -- kind of the
8 consensus of opinion was that it was too low. You
9 know, there had to be more wolves than that, 300
10 wolves. There's got to be more wolves than 300.

11
12 And now we have, you know, these new
13 numbers that are drastically lower. I mean even if
14 some people -- you know, kind of the consensus might
15 have been there probably could have been twice as many
16 wolves than 300. You know, we looked at that chart
17 that Mr. Edwards had up there and that one year, you
18 know, there was like 130 wolves trapped, you know, and
19 the Fish and Game said there were only 300 wolves on
20 the entire island. You know, things like that.

21
22 So I think Mr. Bloom also said, you
23 know, numbers are really not the main issue. Because
24 you can always get all kinds of different numbers. So
25 I look at trends. Trends are important to me. Other
26 biological information like the sex component I think
27 is important. What's happening with the breeding
28 populations and, you know, or genetic road blocks that
29 Mr. Edwards brought up. You know, that's significant.
30 But the one thing I have seen in trends is we
31 apparently had a, you know, healthy wolf population at
32 one time. All the trends are decreasing.

33
34 You said that you were fairly confident
35 in your numbers for the present. I mean if those
36 numbers are accurate, I mean then we definitely have a
37 conservation concern, in my opinion.

38
39 So I guess my biggest question is
40 what's -- there has been one change that I have seen in
41 the last 20 years and that's with these new improved
42 techniques for determining your populations. And I'm
43 wondering if your confidence in these present numbers
44 is due to those changes. And, you know, specifically
45 the DNA analysis. Has that changed everything? I mean
46 it's given you the sex ratio component more accurately.
47 Are we looking at more accurate numbers now, do you
48 believe due to that?

49
50 Has there been -- I mean that chart Mr.

1 Edwards put up there also kind of showed those
2 consistent -- you know, you were estimating 200 to 300
3 wolves and then all of a sudden it took a sharp
4 decline. Did that decline happen due to take or did it
5 happen due to different techniques in determining the
6 population? I think I really need to get some kind of
7 feel for what's going on, on the trends.

8

9 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Mr.
10 Hernandez, first off, I appreciate the history that,
11 you know, both you and Mr. Douville bring and
12 conversations with Dave and Doug and others like that.
13 For someone who's very recent to wolves in Unit 2, it's
14 very helpful. So I appreciate that.

15

16 The techniques are different. Over
17 time we've tried a lot of different things. Everything
18 from going out and radio collaring wolves, flying
19 around in an airplane, locating those individual wolves
20 and counting the number of animals running around with
21 it, and then adding 29 percent. And then on top of
22 that we've done other techniques. Radio collaring
23 wolves, getting a minimum count, and then getting their
24 home range area and estimating the number of home
25 ranges that could occur on the ground and knowing how
26 many minimum count animals we have and applying that
27 across the board.

28

29 One of the things that the document --
30 and I just made myself a note to make sure that this
31 Council gets a copy of this -- will do is compare those
32 techniques and list some of the pros and cons. I
33 believe that the DNA technique is an accurate way to
34 move forward and to go forward. My experience with
35 using these techniques comes from bears more often.
36 Both brown bears and black bears. And I believe that
37 it served us pretty well there. And I think that it's
38 something that will do a good job for us in game
39 management Unit 2 as well and other places. We hope to
40 expand some of this work into places like Unit 3 and
41 places like that.

42

43 But there's still road blocks, if you
44 will. We're limited, again time and money. And I mean
45 we've had in the two and a half days I've been here
46 lots of discussions about budgets. Our budget is not --
47 you know, we're not immune from that. So we go to an
48 area. We collect the information that we can and that
49 can access knowing that we would like to do additional
50 work in other places and we apply that to the entire

1 game management unit. And that -- you know, that
2 presents some problems. And we know it. But it's
3 something that has been shown in scientific literature.
4 It's been used across the world. Not just, you know,
5 in the United States to estimate populations.

6

7 I believe -- I also have a lot of
8 faith, if you will, and confidence in our biological
9 Staff, Dr. Gretchen Roffler, who's running the program
10 now. And Chris Larson, who assists on Prince of Wales.
11 And I do have a lot of confidence in that. That also
12 means that I recognize the declining trends. I don't
13 have the information I think necessary to reconcile the
14 differences from 1996 to present with the current DNA
15 based estimates that we have.

16

17 I think if we recognize that there's a
18 significant declining trend there and we continue to
19 improve -- you know, every year we improve not only the
20 technique, but in theory this year we're going to
21 improve the point estimate, as well as the confidence
22 intervals. We're going to reduce those and get closer
23 to where we should be or the true number. We're always
24 searching for the -- everybody wants the true number.
25 And I believe that's going to -- that's our way into
26 the future. That's the path that we'll take.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Scott.

29

30 Any other questions for these
31 gentlemen.

32

33 Mr. Howard.

34

35 MR. HOWARD: Just a quick comment, Mr.
36 Chairman. I sat here and took a picture of the three
37 sitting at the table together because that's something
38 in Angoon we've been trying to do as far as the ETJ
39 petition is to get the State to talk to the Forest
40 Service.

41

42 The other thing I'm taking away from
43 this is it's part of the process. This says a lot
44 right here. The fact that Mr. Douville agrees with
45 your report, that means you've consulted with the
46 Tribe. And then you come to the Subsistence Board. To
47 me, that's the process. Not going down to Dry Bay and
48 telling them they can't do something anymore. To me,
49 that's not the process.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Howard.

4

5 Any other comments or questions.

6

7 Mr. Scott.

8

9 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 I'd actually like to respond to Mr. Howard with that
11 and say thanks for that. Again, I'm pretty new to
12 this. But working with Mr. Suminski and Mr. Reeves,
13 it's -- you know, we're including really this Council.
14 Mr. Douville specifically. We're all in the same boat,
15 you know, and we've got to work through it to get to a
16 place that we're all comfortable at. And Mr. Hernandez
17 as well is an island resident.

18

19 So it's actually -- at least I've heard
20 it several times that it's -- you know, it's pretty
21 amazing to see the Service and the State working
22 together. But, you know, it seems pretty normal to me.
23 So.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for those
26 comments.

27

28 Patty.

29

30 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 I appreciate the transparency of this process right
32 here. And also, you know, as the long timer on the
33 Council that, you know, there has been this cooperation
34 between the Agencies, ADF&G and U.S. Forest Service.
35 And we've actually had this Mr. Person before us and
36 we've had his study in our hands, I mean years ago. So
37 that sharing of information has been ongoing. So thank
38 you. I also wanted to recognize that.

39

40 But I have a question about the summary
41 of special actions regarding wolf. So it was requested
42 a wolf harvest closure to all users on Federal public
43 lands in Unit 2. Could you describe that. Who was
44 contacted. I know Chairman Bangs made reference that
45 he was contacted, but who was contacted to bring this,
46 you know, request. And then was that -- you know, can
47 you describe that more. I don't know what I'm asking,
48 but was anyone besides Chairman Bangs. Were the Unit 2
49 reps also contacted.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. REEVES: Mr. Chairman. Ms.
4 Phillips. I think what you're getting at is -- okay,
5 initially, as was mentioned earlier, the Forest
6 Supervisor had submitted a request. Within a day or
7 two -- this was mentioned earlier -- after that one
8 kind of came into the Federal Subsistence Board, a
9 second one came in from -- we call it -- refer to it to
10 Cascade, et al., it was a number of conservation groups
11 did it. And in the process of getting -- and excuse
12 me. Since it was a special action request asking for
13 closure, it had to go the Federal Board.

14

15 And during the process -- it follows a
16 similar process as the Regulatory Proposals that this
17 Council has acted on in the past few days. And in that
18 getting established, during that time frame the
19 discussions occurred, a quota got announced, and that's
20 when the Forest Service submitted request was
21 withdrawn. But since the other request was on the
22 table -- or had been -- it got to the table and they
23 went through an analysis process. So for that one, you
24 know, I don't think any Council Members or anything
25 like that was contacted.

26

27 But a part of the process since there
28 was a closure, it did require a public hearing. And a
29 public hearing was held. I want to say it was like
30 August 28th or something. But -- and from that, the
31 folks that called in -- the comments that were written
32 and all of that, those were summarized and placed back
33 into the analysis that then went on to the Federal
34 Subsistence Board for them to make their decision.
35 So.....

36

37 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Follow-up, Patty.

40

41 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. So I know
42 it's a different process because it goes to the FSB
43 directly, but with like NECCUA closure, you know, the
44 wildlife biologist contacted, you know, the Unit 4 RAC
45 members and got our input. But that's a different
46 process because that is the Ranger or the -- yeah.
47 District Ranger is allocated decision-making authority
48 or whatever you call that. So, right? So you're not
49 required when you do it through the FSB to ask the RAC
50 or affected members of the RAC? Or I don't know. Can

1 you -- or you are. Thank you.

2

3 MR. REEVES: I may defer that to Mr.
4 Larson.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Larson.

7

8 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Now
9 you're getting out of the realm of the Field Staff and
10 into our responsibilities. The requests for
11 reconsideration -- or not requests for reconsideration.
12 Excuse me. So we have a special action request.
13 Special action requests by their nature are
14 unanticipated situations. What you'll see on your list
15 of special actions, there are some that are emergency
16 special actions. Those are those less than 60 days.
17 Those that are longer than 60 days are called temporary
18 special actions. Temporary special actions require a
19 public hearing prior to implementation. An emergency
20 special action does not. An emergency special action
21 by its nature is of a very short time frame and it
22 needs to be implemented immediately.

23

24 Those delegations are -- that reasoning
25 is why we have in-season Managers with delegation of
26 authority from the Board is to deal with emergency
27 situations. In either case, the Chairman is our first
28 point of contact within the -- for the Council. Those
29 Council Members that are immediately affected are also
30 contacted. In this case, when we have a temporary
31 special action that requires a public hearing, there's
32 a notice that gets put in the Federal Register.
33 There's also -- they want to be involved are Public
34 Affairs staff for a wider distribution.

35

36 So no, it's -- those quickly become a
37 part of the public domain and are widely distributed.
38 And there are Staff analysis that are done and so yeah.
39 No, there is a very, very strict process involved.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that
44 clarification, Mr. Larson.

45

46 Mr. Suminski.

47

48 MR. SUMINSKI: Really quickly, Robert's
49 correct that as soon as we learn about any action,
50 whether it's through a special action request or action

1 that managers think are necessary for conservation, our
2 first contact is Robert, contact the Chair, local
3 Council. And if we do have time -- you know, if
4 there's a Council meeting that would be appropriate,
5 you know, we're responsible for presenting it to the
6 Council. That's not usually the case. Usually it's
7 middle of the summer or something like that.

8

9 But the other group that we do try to
10 inform as soon as possible or get an opinion if
11 possible are the Tribes, our local Tribes. So I think
12 Robert hit everybody that we typically touch base with,
13 but also the Tribes.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Terry.

18

19 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Terry.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Douville.

22

23 MR. DOUVILLE: I would like to give
24 Doug Larson some credit. He was the Ambassador that
25 got the two groups together so they could finally at
26 least sit down and talk. But he did an excellent job
27 and he deserves a lot of credit for getting the
28 Department and the local people together and talking,
29 which was really great.

30

31 Part of our local concern was that
32 they're only using this small portion of Prince of
33 Wales to do the study. And based on those calculations
34 is what they say well, this is how much wolf there is.
35 But it went from 221 to 89 because they weren't getting
36 good results here. But some of that we felt is people
37 have been, traps and stuff like that. And once you
38 catch one and the other ones see him get caught, well
39 that isn't going to work good anymore. It probably
40 won't work at all. So if you're using the same scent
41 on a hair board there for two years, well they'll walk
42 by. They don't care about that anymore. That type of
43 thing.

44

45 And we felt that that's what was
46 happening and you're not getting good numbers. So, you
47 know, I guess we'll see down the road.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mike.

50

1 Any other questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Thank you,
6 guys, very much.

7

8 Okay. I'd like to -- I know there's
9 been some discussion. I've had a couple of inquiries
10 about the problem that we experienced at the moose hunt
11 in our area. And it had to do with the abuse of
12 designated hunter. And I'd like to have an update and
13 an informational thing on designated hunter at our
14 March meeting, if that's okay with the Council.

15

16 I think it's important for us to
17 understand it. And there is some problems and I think
18 we should be given a presentation and maybe we can
19 figure out a way to keep the intent without -- and curb
20 the abuse. And I think the State probably will follow
21 some sort of project to solve their abuse of the proxy
22 part of it, too.

23

24 So anyway, I'd just like to -- I just
25 want to throw that out there to see if Council is
26 comfortable with that.

27

28 Mike.

29

30 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 At this point I couldn't say there was abuse of the
32 system, but there seems to be some complaints about it.
33 And we'll need to look at the information to see what
34 it is. It could be that the system is working fine.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BANGS: I agree, Mr. Douville.
37 But I think we -- with the complaints and the calls
38 I've received, I think we should look at it. It could
39 be a concern. Maybe like you say it is working fine,
40 but I would like to see some data on it and maybe some
41 information that would help us.

42

43 Okay. Okay. Thank you.

44

45 We're going to go to Annual Reports.
46 Is there any Tribal government reports.

47

48 Yes. Please come forward, Ms. Demmert.

49

50

1 MS. DEMMERT: I was hoping that it
2 wouldn't happen this way. That I wouldn't stand in the
3 way of lunch.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BANGS: No worries. We
6 wouldn't let you stand in the way of lunch.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MS. DEMMERT: But I have a lot to talk
11 about, so it's really up to you. I can go after lunch
12 or before.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: What kind of a time
15 frame.....
16
17 MS. DEMMERT: And if you have someone
18 who's shorter -- you know, who is going to have a
19 shorter report from me, then you want to take them
20 next.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Well, I'm not
25 sure how long you're talking about. It's up to you.
26
27 MS. DEMMERT: I'm a Tlingit with a mic.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yeah. Maybe we'll
32 wait.
33
34 MS. DEMMERT: Okay.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead and give us --
37 we'll wait. Go ahead.
38
39 MS. DEMMERT: Okay. You want me to go
40 ahead?
41
42 CHAIRMAN BANGS: If you wish, we'll
43 listen.
44
45 MS. DEMMERT: Okay. All right. Okay.
46 Well, I want to thank the Council for meeting in
47 Yakutat. Oftentimes we have plans to where we think
48 that we're going to call in -- and I have called in on
49 meetings a couple of times, but wasn't able to stay on
50 the line.

1 People think in the Villages -- and
2 those of you who live in the Villages know this isn't
3 true -- that we live a quiet, lazy life. We spend all
4 our time making sure that we're going to eat and stay
5 alive, so we're really pretty busy.

6
7 I want to just give you kind of a
8 thumbnail sketch of the Yakutat Tribe and what we do.
9 The Yakutat Tribe is made up of five clans and our area
10 of range is from Strawberry Point almost to Cordova,
11 all the way down to Lituya Bay. So just on this side
12 of the border. We have clans from the Dry Bay that
13 have moved in and out. We have a group of our
14 Teikweidee that have come from we don't know how far
15 south, but some of them dropped off in Ketchikan and
16 some also dropped off in Angoon. And then the line
17 that I'm associated with settled in the Ahrnklin. We
18 also have our (In Tlingit) and the (In Tlingit) that
19 come from the north. The (In Tlingit), the line that
20 I'm from, came originally from Chitina. We were part
21 of a group up there.

22
23 There was a disagreement. And I'll go
24 real quickly because if I really wanted to tell history
25 we'd be here a while. But quickly we had a
26 disagreement. Our side was the sore loser and we left.
27 And we started migrating our way down. When people ask
28 how long ago was that, as I said before, oral history
29 is yesterday. When we talk about it and talk about our
30 ancestors, it's like it happened yesterday. We can't
31 tell you in linear time. Time just is.

32
33 And that's how we live. We live here
34 and now. But the main thing that is a part of our
35 culture is looking ahead to the future. To our
36 grandchildren's grandchildren. We're the stewards of
37 the land. We may claim ownership, but it's not in the
38 same way as other people own things. We own it in a
39 stewardship fashion. We're responsible for making sure
40 that there is food for the generations that follow us
41 and that we do not harm the resource.

42
43 Our chiefs in the past have been known
44 to shut down rivers to allow for proper escapement and
45 it was tough times during those times when they tell us
46 of those history, but they were thinking not of
47 themselves today, but of the future generations. So it
48 doesn't matter to us as a people who holds the deed to
49 a land. If it's Tribal land, it's Tribal land. And we
50 know that we're responsible for it. And we appreciate

1 the fact that the reason for this Council's being is to
2 also be stewards of the resource. And so in that
3 sense, we're partners.

4
5 And I appreciate hearing over and over
6 from some of you, have you talked to the local people
7 and have you talked to the Tribal people. That's
8 really important because actions shouldn't be taken by
9 any Board or government that affects people's lives and
10 they're not aware of. And that's happened to us in the
11 past, all of us. And so having this Board is a really
12 good and positive thing and I appreciate hearing how
13 important all of you take your responsibility.

14
15 I'll talk a little bit about what the
16 Yakutat Tlingit Tribe does. You were able to go to the
17 Senior Center and see the totem that was commissioned
18 by the Rasmuson Group. And that was done by local
19 artists here, with some help from artists to get
20 started and help draw things out. And it's a sharing
21 that we do as part of the resurgence of being able to
22 be cultural again.

23
24 So this is -- the Senior Center was
25 built by the Tribe using different monies from -- we
26 cobbled money together from different Agencies and were
27 able to build it. And we're really proud of it. And
28 the reason that we did this is our seniors didn't have
29 a place to really have their lunch and to gather.
30 Different places were not fitting the State rules and
31 regulations and so they were eating in one of the
32 apartments that you may have seen, the Tlingit-Haida
33 apartment building. You could only get about, if you
34 squeezed them, 12 people in. So 35 people were having
35 their lunch delivered to them, therefore there wasn't
36 the gathering that it so necessary to our elders. And
37 we claimed our elders as our treasures and we said
38 okay, let's -- you know, we've got to walk the talk.
39 And so that became our top priority and that's what we
40 did. And we're very proud of it. And we're very
41 pleased when we walk in there and see our elders
42 laughing and talking and telling stories and looking at
43 pictures and just enjoying themselves.

44
45 And speaking of lunches, Yakutat has
46 had, like other communities, an out migration of
47 people. And that's brought on by the -- originally
48 brought on by the high cost of energy and the high cost
49 of living. As the energy cost got higher, it made it
50 more difficult to pay your electrical bill because

1 everything is run on diesel. To pay your fuel bill.
2 And then to pay your grocery bills. And so people on
3 fixed income were having to leave. People with large
4 families were looking for somewhere else to go. And
5 that had an effect on our population. It had an effect
6 therefore on our school.

7
8 And it becomes like a domino effect.
9 One family leaves and that drops the school population.
10 Then another family leaves and now you're going to let
11 a teacher go. And now you're going to put more
12 classrooms under one teacher or more classes rather.
13 So it had a very negative effect for us. And we went
14 from 160 -- at one time we had 160 children. We're
15 down to about 85 children. We're under 100, which is
16 really frightening. And so then when we hear that the
17 State is talking about if you drop under 25, you're not
18 going to get State funding. It's a scary time for us.

19
20
21 So one of the things that happened is
22 the school wasn't able to afford the lunches for the
23 children. And the Tribe has -- in a strong position in
24 the community now to where when something happens in
25 the community, everyone looks to the Tribe. What is
26 the Tribe going to do. Well, we can't allow our Tribal
27 children to go without their meals. Some will be able
28 to do it, but people with big families, you all know
29 trying to make all those sandwiches and make sure you
30 get fruit and juice and sandwich into your bag lunch,
31 some families just are not going to be able to do it.
32 And there was a concern because there were some
33 children who came to school the first day without
34 lunches. And thank goodness for some wonderful
35 teachers. One of the teachers anticipated something
36 like this would happen and had lunches ready.

37
38 The Tribe said whatever we have to do,
39 we're going to do. And so our Staff got together and
40 we have been doing the lunches. Or we had our Staff
41 making lunches in the morning and making sure that
42 there was something for breakfast for the kids. A
43 little juice or milk and a little what my kids like to
44 call woohoo bars. You know, the little breakfast bars.
45 And that was the breakfast. And then for lunch there
46 were the sack lunches. And then we are trying to have
47 one hot meal a week.

48
49 So the Tribe stepped up to do that.
50 The Yakutat Kwaan, the for-profit corporation, gave us

1 a check for \$5,000 to help. And we are able to hire
2 someone. But it's just pulling money out of a hat
3 because we didn't have a designated lunch program. But
4 you do what you have to because the children need it.
5

6 The other concern that we have is the
7 ferry system. All of you know that the ferry system is
8 important to all the communities in Southeast and
9 throughout the coastal towns in Alaska. Yakutat
10 normally gets maybe five months out of the year, we
11 have a ferry system. In the winter we go without
12 because we need the ocean going ferry. And in the
13 summer we may get two ferries a month. The difficulty
14 is all the people going to Anchorage are going to load
15 up that ferry. So we're a stop and we have a difficult
16 time trying to get on that ferry either to get a
17 vehicle on north and south. And then in January the
18 State would bring a ferry down from Anchorage for the
19 legislators and we couldn't get on that one either.
20

21 So now we're hearing that we're going
22 to be cut even more and that we may get a couple
23 ferries in May. And we won't have anything through the
24 winter. We may have two ferries. And the thing that
25 really rankles me is the Federal government will give
26 grants out. And we're talking -- say the
27 weatherization. If you live off the road system, each
28 household is allowed 30,000 in weatherization to
29 insulate your house and et cetera. But if you live on
30 the road system it's only ten.
31

32 Guess what Yakutat gets. We're
33 considered to be on the Marine Highway and therefore
34 this community gets 10,000, where you'd probably by the
35 time you ship whatever the needs are in, you're getting
36 5,000 if you're lucky in actual building material and
37 labor. Because the rest is freight. We've talked to
38 our Congressional people. We've talked to HUD. We've
39 talked to different Agencies and they just say well,
40 that's the way it is.
41

42 That's part of the difficulty of living
43 in our community. However, you were out and about
44 yesterday and were able to see the beauty that we live
45 in. And we're also blessed to have a fishery and
46 resources and animal resources to feed us. The seal
47 and the moose and the fish that we rely on.
48

49 The other thing that the Tribe is doing
50 is we are one of seven in the nation that have been

1 approved for a joint venture with the IHS, which means
2 we build the clinic and they will staff us with needed
3 staffing other than what we have for 20 years. That's
4 a big deal. We are the only clinic with between Juneau
5 and between Cordova and so we definitely have to have
6 it. It's a community clinic. We serve everyone in the
7 community because not only do we receive IHS dollars,
8 we receive HRSA dollars. And the HRSA dollars allow us
9 to do this. So therefore we are going into the design
10 phase and so we'll be building a new clinic. That's a
11 big thing for a small community like Yakutat to be able
12 to do this when normally you see it done in larger
13 communities.

14

15 I might be skipping over a little bit
16 and please bear with me if I do because I wrote a lot
17 of notes down and I'm walking through them. Because I
18 don't want to miss anything. This is an opportunity
19 for us to be able to talk to you. And we take it very
20 seriously and we hope you do, too.

21

22 I walked on the -- this morning on Mr.
23 Robbins' discussion with you regarding the subsistence
24 cabins in Dry Bay. I'm glad it was brought up again
25 because I can't remember how many years ago it was
26 because as you get older everything was yesterday. And
27 so I can't tell you was it five years or ten years ago,
28 but we were approached by a Native married to a non-
29 Native who -- he had a commercial cabin in Dry Bay and
30 wanted to -- didn't have the flying business anymore
31 and wanted to use to be able to subsist, because we all
32 subsist in this area. And approached the Tribe for a
33 letter of recommendation on his behalf. And we wrote
34 one. But it was to no avail.

35

36 We don't understand as subsistence
37 people why if you have a commercial cabin, why when
38 you're not commercial fishing you can't use it for
39 subsistence and why -- the law to us makes no sense.
40 It doesn't seem to have common sense to it. And I'm
41 glad it's being brought up and I hope that we see
42 something that we can look at and say okay, I
43 understand. But right now sitting here and having
44 received the letter of explanation we didn't agree
45 with, we don't understand that. We just don't
46 understand it. So I want to say that I'm glad that
47 this is something being talked about and I'm glad Mr.
48 Robbins brought it up.

49

50 I think the -- oh. The other thing I

1 was going to talk about is what the Tribe does here in
2 the community. We have a 477 Program. And under that
3 477 Program, we deal with education. We deal with
4 jobs. And we deal with social services and mental
5 services. And we also are the largest employer in the
6 community, so it's very important that we are
7 successful. And we take that very seriously because
8 there are so many families that depend on us not only
9 for their jobs, but also for the services that we're
10 able to give. We also have a realty and a NAGPRA
11 Program that is very active. Our EPA Program is very
12 active. We're doing air and water quality studies.
13 We've worked with Ms. Needham in the water quality.
14 We're also doing air quality.

15
16 We have an active cultural and language
17 program. Language is such a huge part of our culture
18 and the base of our culture. And we were really
19 concerned because we were losing our speakers. And
20 then we had young people going to school who had
21 learned some Tlingit. They went ahead and went to
22 school at the University of -- down in Juneau and they
23 took the Tlingit classes and then competed with the
24 Tlingit in the programs that they had. And they
25 prevailed. They had won. So when we had a meeting, we
26 asked them to come back and -- and since we weren't
27 able to be there to show us what they did. And it just
28 -- it was something where you thought that this was
29 never going to come back. We didn't have enough. And
30 then to hear the young people stand up and speak in
31 Tlingit and giving their report all in Tlingit and
32 talking to us, it was like the sun coming back up again
33 when you thought it was setting. And it's so important
34 to us as a people to continue that.

35
36 And so we are continuing that. Our
37 language program is working on a program that you're
38 going to be able to get and put on your iPod with 500
39 phrases to start our children out. They're also going
40 to be doing a -- going into the schools again, which
41 they have been doing. And they've been doing immersion
42 programs. And they also are running our culture camp.

43
44 Our (indiscernible) Program is working
45 on World War II, U.S. Coast Guard, and White Alice
46 cleanup. And that's been going on for some years. But
47 that's something that's really necessary and that's
48 something that we're doing. And also working with the
49 Department of Defense on cleanup. We've been working
50 with the Forest Service on trails and we also have an

1 agreement with the Forest Service where some of our
2 people were complaining they weren't able to pay the
3 cost which was about \$800 for their cabins out at
4 Situk. And I don't know if any of you had a chance to
5 get out there to the fish camps, but we also have
6 subsistence cabins out there where people use for their
7 subsistence. And so we have an agreement with the
8 Forest Service where the Tribe pays the Forest Service
9 and then we collect from our people at a much lower
10 rate, like \$150 versus \$800. It makes a big
11 difference. And then for our people who are out there
12 just subsisting, then we do not charge anything.

13

14 We're also -- one of the things we've
15 been working with the Forest Service on was the Situk
16 Partners, which I have to say we haven't had a meeting
17 in a couple of years. And I think we're going to push
18 to do that, but because of the many users on the Situk,
19 there's the subsistence users, there's sportfish users
20 and commercial users. It's extremely important to all
21 these users. And so that we didn't get into difficulty
22 with any one user, we wanted to bring them all
23 together. And this was something that was pushed by
24 the Tribe originally and so that's something that we're
25 involved in now.

26

27 The other thing that works really well
28 for us is the Tribe, the City, and the Yakutat Kwaan,
29 which is the for-profit Village corporation, all work
30 together. We sit down and have meetings. We've
31 mandated our managers to meet twice a month on Fridays
32 and they sit down and talk to each other about what
33 each entity is doing so that we don't step on one
34 another's feet or that we have an understanding.
35 Because we're all going the same direction, we need to
36 go together. And this has worked out really well for
37 us.

38

39 So now together we're planning a
40 strategic planning session in November, the second week
41 of November, and we'll be bringing people in from USDA.
42 Because with our clinic, we're going to have to build
43 houses. Because we're going to need additional workers
44 who are professional people that we'll be bringing in
45 that we don't have locally. And we are going to need
46 more houses. And that's something that we're going to
47 need. We've invited the Tlingit-Haida Housing and also
48 USDA and other entities in on that.

49

50 And this is a culmination of many, many

1 meetings. We've had many town meetings on this. And
2 so we're going to be doing two days of intense
3 strategic planning where the City and the Assembly and
4 the school and their board and the Tribe and their
5 Council -- and am I missing someone? Oh, and the
6 Yakutat Kwaan and their board will all be sitting and
7 discussing what do we each -- where is our role to make
8 sure that we are working toward the economic betterment
9 of our community so that we don't continue to lose
10 people. That we have something for the people who live
11 here.

12

13 And then the one thing I want to say
14 about Park Service is we're able to meet with them on a
15 yearly basis on a government-to-government and they've
16 worked with the Tribe to bring people -- Dry Bay people
17 to Dry Bay, two trips now. The first time it had been
18 a long time. We don't travel the way we used to and
19 the cost of the airline is so expensive and sometimes
20 it's you just can't get there by boat the way we used
21 to be able to do. And the rivers change and the bar
22 changes and it just becomes a lot more dangerous, so --
23 but the important thing to us is if our people don't go
24 back and don't visit and be in the place of our
25 ancestors and walk in the footsteps of our ancestors,
26 they say that when the drum no longer sounds against
27 the mountain, a people have died.

28

29 And we cannot have that.

30

31 We cannot have our young people think
32 of these areas as history. These areas are still part
33 of us. That's still who we are. These are still
34 Tribal lands. So this was so exciting for us to bring
35 people down. And those drums sounded off the mountain.
36 We are not dead down there. Our people are still
37 there.

38

39 So this spring we're talking with the
40 Park Service and arranging a trip up north and up into
41 the Icy Bay area for (In Tlingit) people and (In
42 Tlingit) people. So again those mountains will ring
43 with our drums. And so we're really looking forward to
44 that.

45

46 I've left a few things out, but I know
47 I'm standing in front of you and lunch. So I just want
48 to say again thank you very much for this opportunity.
49 We're always available to talk to people that want to
50 partner with us. And we really believe in -- and

1 Tribal participation is really important. I really
2 appreciate Mr. Howard continually bringing up that
3 point. Because we cannot be partners if we're not
4 talking to one another. And our lives are affected.

5
6 And the one thing also I want to bring
7 up that one of our elders told me to be sure and
8 mention is we still eat tern eggs. We still eat
9 seagull eggs. And we still want to be able to do that.
10 We're not going to wipe out the terns and we're not
11 going to wipe out the seagulls because we are so aware
12 of the resource. But some of our elders and our young
13 people, that's a sign of changing seasons. And we have
14 different foods we eat, like the seaweed off the beach
15 and the gumboots and the tern and the seagull eggs are
16 part of that. So we want to be able to continued to do
17 that. I know we're told that we have to, you know, get
18 special permission to do this, but we don't want to
19 give up that. And so that's one of the things we're
20 going to continue to ask for.

21
22 And the other thing that we want to ask
23 for is any studies that are done in our Tribal lands
24 that Federal Agencies do or that Federal Agencies allow
25 others to do, we're not against the studies. We just
26 want to be remembered to be given a copy of the study
27 when it's over and done. And that it doesn't just go
28 sit on a shelf in a university somewhere. It's real
29 important to us to have this information because we
30 compare it with information from our TEK. And also
31 it's really important as we teach our young people.

32
33 So thank you very much for the time.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ms.
36 Demmert. I think it sounds like your Tribe does a lot
37 of wonderful things for the community and their area
38 around here. And I think I appreciate -- we all
39 probably appreciate your sharing that with us. And I
40 think maybe someone might have some questions or
41 comments here.

42
43 Harvey.

44
45 MR. KITKA: Thank you for your talk. I
46 really appreciate hearing about what the Yakutat has
47 done. I know that some of the Tribes around the
48 Southeast are starting to talk about deep immersion
49 classes and I had recommended that they contact the
50 Yakutat Tribe because they've been into it.

1 I also have one other thing that I was
2 very curious about. We've now lost our seat on the
3 State. Elias Commission. The fellow sitting over in
4 the corner. We just was wondering if the Tribe was
5 going to put anybody forward for an application to this
6 Council so we can appoint one.

7

8 MS. DEMMERT: Yes. We definitely will.

9

10

11 And thank you for the interest in what
12 our Tribe is doing in the language and culture because
13 it's something that we're really, really pleased and
14 proud of that we're working so hard to make sure that
15 we're going to have Tlingit speakers long after we're
16 gone. And we work with the elders and there's elder
17 meeting every Friday. And they're the ones who are
18 involved in putting the language, the 500 phrases
19 together so that you'll be able to -- it's an app that
20 you'll be able to pick up and work with. And that's
21 something that you might be able to talk to our people
22 about, but it will be in the Yakutat dialect, which is
23 just a little bit different.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

26

27 Any other comments or questions.

28

29 Frank.

30

31 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One
32 of the things, you know, Hoonah has been fighting for
33 are the seagull eggs in Glacier Bay for years. I mean
34 after they said no, you can't do it anymore because
35 you're going to kill all the seagulls.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. WRIGHT: Which was ridiculous.
40 But, you know, it's been so long since we've been
41 fighting for it, finally Congress has passed that we're
42 going to be able to start doing it again. But don't
43 let this happen to you. It took so long for Congress
44 to approve of what's going to happen in Glacier Bay
45 again, our young children that used to go into Glacier
46 Bay -- when I was a kid, we used to go into Glacier Bay
47 and get seagull eggs. And it diminished our existence
48 because now the young people that, you know, should be
49 just loving to get the eggs and loving to put it in
50 their pancakes like my father used to do and having it,

1 a lot of young children now -- young kids go eweee.
2 You know, that's wrong. Because the Federal government
3 had done this to us.

4
5 I'm saying this because it diminishes
6 your existence as a people. They took something away
7 from us. Took it away from our young people, you know,
8 so if you're going to have to fight for it, fight hard.
9 Because, you know, right now we've got young people
10 that won't even touch the stuff. You know, they went
11 and got some seagull eggs from out by Indian Islands
12 and Middle Pass, but a lot of the young kids won't eat
13 it anymore because it's not in them.

14
15 You know, so don't let this happen.

16
17 You know, you said, you know, this
18 Council here is always beating the drum for the small
19 communities. To keep things going on subsistence
20 issues. So we're here to make that happen. Because
21 there's a lot of young kids that still, you know, do
22 subsistence, but they don't realize they're doing
23 subsistence, you know, because they think it's kind of
24 fun to go out and go do what they do. You know, so in
25 a way we're beating the drum for the Southeast
26 communities. We're beating the drum for everybody in
27 Southeast to continue on a lifestyle that like when I --
28 like I always said is a simple issue to us as a
29 Tlingit person. Tlingit people. It's simple. But
30 let's make it complicated. It's complicated now. You
31 know, so I also have a hard time because I just don't
32 think it's right.

33
34 You know, but I'm here to try -- I'm
35 here because I believe in our small communities to
36 exist. I'm here because, you know, I want to make sure
37 that, you know, my daughter can still eat seal meat,
38 you know. You know, there's so many young people
39 nowadays that don't even eat seal meat, you know. And
40 the other -- my daughter came home this summer and she
41 had seal meat and she was just sitting there. She ate
42 the whole thing. You know, when you put it in seal
43 oil and then you take it out and eat it like that, you
44 know, she sat there and ate the whole bowl. You know,
45 and I said oh, boy, you must miss this. She says well,
46 I'm not living in Hoonah anymore right now, but I'm
47 going to be coming back. You know, so she had the
48 taste and she loves it. You know, and I was so happy
49 to see her just pick it up and just start chomping down
50 on it. That was good.

1 You know, the Tlingit language, you
2 know, if it wasn't for our schools that had put it back
3 in -- because when I was going to school we weren't
4 given that opportunity to speak. Because it was just
5 taken away from us. You know, my parents were -- my
6 mom went to Sheldon Jackson, so she was told not to
7 speak. And when she came home, she never did speak it
8 to us. And that -- you know, but the schools are doing
9 it now.

10
11 You know, and I was wondering, is it
12 just your Tribe that is doing the language or is it the
13 school? Or do you guys use different grants?

14
15 MS. DEMMERT: We received an ANA Grant.
16 And then we received one after that. We're working
17 with local people and we're working with elders. We're
18 also in the school. We go into the school. Our
19 offices are above the school and so the children come
20 up. And then we have teachers that go down into the
21 classrooms and work with the young people.

22
23 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

24
25 How about a Natural Resource
26 Department? Do you guys have a Natural Resource
27 Department? You know, like maybe they do animal
28 studies here? Or, you know, I know we were talking
29 about the wolf in Unit 2, but I was wondering about the
30 wolf in other areas.

31
32 MS. DEMMERT: Mr. Chair, we don't have
33 a Natural Resource Department per se, but we do it
34 through other of our departments. We do it with our
35 Realty Department and our EPA Department. That's
36 something that we are going to pursue because we really
37 need it. And that's why I was saying that we really
38 need the studies so that we have something when we
39 start our natural resources. But we do it, but we're
40 just not in one separate department.

41
42 The other thing that you said about
43 eggs, I know that people are supposed to go and get
44 special permission. But in the way of subsistence,
45 young people will bring to the elders. And it's the --
46 the way of subsistence is the young people, when they
47 go out and get it or the hunters get fish or whatever,
48 it goes first to the elders. They go around town and
49 give it to the elders, which we know is against the
50 law. The Western law that says, you know, you're not

1 to share. We can't be who we are without sharing. So
2 we're still able to get all this. Sometimes it makes
3 us a criminal in the eyes of the Western world, but it
4 makes us who we are. And in part of the sharing, there
5 are elders who can't get out. Who may not have someone
6 and still long for those foods.

7

8 As far as the young people, here we're
9 lucky, in so many of the families and the young people
10 are still eating our Native foods. And my
11 grandchildren love seal meat tacos.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. DEMMERT: You know, whichever way
16 they want to have it, that's how we're giving it to
17 them. You know, and so they're still having the foods.
18 And I think it's probably because we're a little more
19 isolated that we're able to continue to do this.

20

21 But to the day we die, we're not going
22 to stop.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

25

26 Anybody else have anything.

27

28 Mr. Howard.

29

30 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 I just want to -- I'm sitting here listening and a lot
32 of this -- an example. Growing up, I didn't really pay
33 much attention to our culture or any of this. But
34 looking at this, I see my grandfather. I talked a
35 little bit with Harvey. The Coho and the Sea Pigeon
36 divided because the Sea Pigeon got, you know, too big
37 as a clam. And that's what I am. I'm a sea pigeon.
38 So I feel my ties to this area.

39

40 Also talked to my uncles in Hoonah and
41 they explained to me about Lituya Bay and Dry Bay and
42 our history. And I've listened to Mr. Wright talk
43 about -- you have to excuse me. He talks about seagull
44 eggs. The reason I bring that up, my dad talked to me
45 about it. And in the Western world, my parents raised
46 me in two worlds. The Bible teaches you to honor your
47 mother and father. So my parents took really good care
48 of me. So I felt obligated, you know, if my dad wanted
49 seagull eggs, I should go get it. But he also
50 understood there's the Western law there, being a

1 retired magistrate. So I've been walking in two
2 worlds, but I'm starting to appreciate our world and
3 trying to get people to understand.

4
5 You know, I'm always going to have
6 trouble with the word subsistence. I explained earlier
7 that I grew up doing this. This didn't have a word.
8 My dad knew how many deer it took to get his family of
9 eight of us through the winter. He knew how much fish
10 it took. This is our economy. This is -- you know, my
11 parents' retirement was teaching me how to do this so I
12 can bring this home to them, but that's why. The
13 process is put in place for a reason. That's why I
14 keep hitting on it.

15
16 When I sit at these types of meetings
17 and I listen and I try to imagine from a Village point
18 of view -- my point of view what was the intent of this
19 law when our elders sat at the table and created
20 ANILCA. They didn't interpret it so maybe some day
21 they'll want to close down Dry Bay. I don't see them
22 saying that. I don't see them ever saying that. So
23 I'm sitting here and I'm learning. I've learned
24 something today through your words. And now I can
25 apply that sitting here at the table. I wish there was
26 a textbook way to explain to non-Natives our life other
27 than me coming into your home and saying you can't have
28 top sirloin steak anymore because we found a different
29 market for it. That, you know, as Natives we found a
30 market for it, so we're going to take it from you and
31 we're going to sell it to somebody else. That's
32 basically what happens to us as Natives. As the first
33 user group of this State, we seem to be the last ones
34 they consider.

35
36 I keep looking at our food over there
37 and I'm thinking, you know -- and I'll use an example.
38 Tribal Council Meeting, we had bologna sandwiches,
39 chips, and soda. Tribal Council Meeting. It's because
40 we're stingy with the very little food we're given the
41 opportunity to keep for ourselves. Whereas normally at
42 a Tribal Council Meeting you would see nothing but our
43 traditional foods there. But because I'm not going to
44 share my part of the 25 sockeye I have for my house,
45 I'm going to bring something else.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. HOWARD: The thing I wanted to
50 encourage the gentleman in Dry Bay is do what you've

1 always done. A good example is they're my relatives
2 through my grandfather. Him and his brother got -- his
3 brother got caught shooting a seal in Glacier Bay and
4 they took it all the way to the Supreme Court. We
5 shouldn't have to do that. As a people, we should be
6 afforded the rights we've asked for when we gave up not
7 what belonged to us, but what belonged to our
8 grandchildren.

9
10 And I was finally able to put that part
11 of it in perspective through your words. None of this
12 has ever belonged to any of us. It is our
13 grandchildren, our children. So when I get -- when I
14 go from my passion of trying to accomplish something to
15 frustration, it's because somebody's not going through
16 the process that somebody else felt was important to
17 put in place before you change something.

18
19 I like to use an example. Through my
20 grandfather's fishing on the river, he knows how many
21 salmon to get. He knows how many he needs for the
22 year. One day somebody came up and told him he
23 couldn't do that anymore. No process. I'm sitting
24 here, so I have a lot on my mind and -- and trying to
25 fix what shouldn't even have to be fixed.

26
27 The Natives are becoming an endangered
28 species. To me, that's more important than any wolf
29 walking on land. You want to find an endangered
30 species. Take a look at the Natives.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

35
36 Ms. Phelps.

37
38 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 And thank you, Ms. Demmert, for your testimony. What I
40 see and what I hear in your testimony is this holistic
41 way of life that we live in, you know, as Tribal
42 people, as rural people. And your words are echoing in
43 my mind. We walk the talk. Well, our talk is ANILCA
44 Title VIII. And we're trying really hard to -- well,
45 we're not trying really hard. It's just an aspect of
46 who we are. We are bringing forward ANILCA in a way
47 that it wasn't before, but that means bringing along
48 our culture with it. You know, rejuvenating it.

49
50 There were some words that you said

1 like we cannot be partners if we're not talking to one
2 another. We have different ways of talking to one
3 another, but we're listening to one another. And for
4 many years that Tribal way of talking was not fully
5 accepted. It was diminished. And now we're on a more
6 equal playing field. And I'm appreciative of ANILCA
7 bringing us there.

8

9 And we can't be who we are without
10 sharing. We're a sharing people. And, you know, you
11 say it so succinctly. I feel the reverberating of the
12 drums beating through me right now, so thank you for
13 sharing your words.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

16

17 Any other comments or questions.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you very much,
22 Ms. Demmert.

23

24 MS. DEMMERT: I'd just like to say one
25 response if I can, Mr. Chair, as far as subsistence and
26 how ridiculous it can be and harmful it can be. My
27 father-in-law, James Demmert, a well-respected man, was
28 in Petersburg and living there. And some kids had shot
29 fish in the river, on the stream. And it was dead.
30 And he thought we cannot waste this. And he picked it
31 up and was carrying it to take it home to feed his
32 family. And he was stopped by the trooper that said
33 you can't take that. Put it back -- to an elder. And
34 I never forget that. Because that is law that's
35 ridiculous. Makes no sense. And it is wanton waste.
36 And I never want to see us there ever again. Thank
37 you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

40

41 Okay. We're going to -- we have a
42 couple of lunch announcements. There is -- well, let's
43 see. Maybe Ms. Oehlers could come give us a little
44 update. She's been doing well at keeping us fed.
45 We'll recess until -- after she's done announcing it --
46 until 1:45.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50 (On record)

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Please take your seats
2 so we can get started. We have several things that we
3 need to get done here and our time constraint's getting
4 tight.

5
6 And I'd like to get started as quickly
7 as possible. We need to have a little bit of an
8 update. I messed up on the dinner thing, so Ms.
9 Needham, could you give us a correction?

10
11 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 You didn't mess up. I think we were just in a hurry.

13
14 Just as a convenience, I made a
15 reservation at a restaurant for people, if they are
16 interested. We don't have to keep it. Nobody's
17 required to go. Unfortunately, I'm not buying everyone
18 dinner.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MS. NEEDHAM: I would if I could. But
23 it was just a placeholder in case people needed a place
24 to go after we got to Juneau. Because we get there at
25 7:15 tonight and, you know, it's a long drive downtown,
26 so I just picked a restaurant in the Valley that's
27 relatively easy to get to from the main place where the
28 Council's staying. It's not a Council specific thing.
29 If there's anybody else in Juneau that's going and
30 wants to do that -- have that reservation, that's
31 great, too.

32
33 Before we get on the plane I'd like to
34 have a headcount, so if I need to cancel the
35 reservation, I can do that. So if you're -- I just
36 need the yeses. I don't need the nos. And you can
37 come up to me at the break or right after the meeting
38 and let me know if you'd want to do that. And I'll
39 just keep a tally. Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thanks, Cathy.

42
43 Okay. We just have a few Annual
44 Reports. I thought maybe there would be more Tribal
45 government or Native Organization Report.

46
47 Okay. The U.S. Forest Service. Tom,
48 did you have an update on the budget?

49
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman. Council
2 Members, this could be short. Maybe. For the record,
3 my name is Tom Whitford and I'm the Alaska Region
4 Subsistence Program Leader for the Forest Service. And
5 I'm also a member of the InterAgency Staff Committee.
6 I've been in this position for about nine months. I
7 replaced Steve Kessler at the beginning of this year.
8

9 Since this is the first time that --
10 well, almost the first time that I've address this
11 Council, I'd like to take just a couple of minutes to
12 say a few things about myself. And then I'll get on
13 with a brief update with the budget and also with some
14 personnel changes that have occurred with the
15 Subsistence Program with the Forest Service.
16

17 I need glasses these days. Just want
18 to let you know a little bit about myself. I am an
19 enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe. I was born and
20 raised on the Blackfeet Reservation, which is -- some
21 of you may know where it is. It's in Northcentral
22 Montana. My father has passed on, but my mother still
23 lives on the Reservation. And I do have a very large
24 family there and remain in pretty good contact with
25 them. And it's kind of funny. When you move to
26 Alaska, the people actually come and visit you because
27 you live in Alaska. So we had a lot of people --
28 family members visit us this summer and it was really
29 nice.
30

31 I was raised on a ranching lifestyle
32 and grew up fishing and hunting, so it seems like it
33 came natural that I became -- I was interested in
34 wildlife. And eventually I went to college, got a
35 bachelors and a masters in Wildlife Biology. And began
36 working for the Forest Service in 1984. It's funny how
37 30-something years flies by, but it has flown by.
38

39 So I've been pretty fortunate. I
40 worked primarily as a wildlife biologist for 20-
41 something years, mostly in Montana on several different
42 National Forests and at different capacities in
43 wildlife. And then I felt compelled to become a line
44 officer, which was a District Ranger. I held a deputy
45 District Ranger position in Idaho, then in Oregon. And
46 most recently I was a District Ranger in Wyoming before
47 moving to Alaska.
48

49 It's kind of weird how this position
50 came open because my wife and I were talking about

1 well, maybe let's try Alaska next. And I was telling
2 her that not many positions come open in Alaska in the
3 Forest Service that we would be interested in. And it
4 seems like a month later this position opened. We
5 talked about it. I applied for it. And we were
6 thankful that I got it.

7

8 My family and I are excited to be in
9 Alaska. We caught a lot of your salmon this past
10 summer. Enjoyed that. And we're looking forward to
11 doing some hunting here in -- I'll be a resident here
12 in a few months, so next year. Looking forward to
13 that.

14

15 So I discussed the budget a little bit
16 this morning. A little bit yesterday. We're currently
17 operating under a continuing resolution. And it seems
18 like that's the norm these days. We've been under a CR
19 for -- gosh. I don't even know the last time we really
20 actually had a non-CR budget. But by now we're
21 operating under a continuing resolution. And that's
22 due to expire December 11th, so hopefully another
23 budget is signed. And maybe we'll have a real budget
24 this year, but I'm expecting that we'll be running
25 under a CR.

26

27 At this point we're planning on
28 \$2,500,000. Like I said this morning, that's \$300,000
29 less than what we had last year. And so I'll give you
30 just a real cursory breakdown of how we're going to
31 spend that \$2,500,000. And it's going to be split
32 between the Regional Office, the Tongass National
33 Forest, and the Chugach National Forest.

34

35 So the Regional Office allocation is
36 about \$580,000. And this pays for part of all -- or
37 all of five Regional employees. And if you want those
38 names, I can give you those. But -- and I'm one of
39 those. We have \$50,000 that we're giving to law
40 enforcement each year out of that money. And also
41 we'll be allotting \$100,000 to OSM. Much of that money
42 that the Forest Service gives to OSM covers your travel
43 costs for this Council and then half of the travel
44 costs for the Southcentral Council. And then some of
45 OSM's overhead costs.

46

47 The Chugach, their allotment out of
48 that \$2,500,000 this year so far is \$290,000. That
49 covers all or part of three Forest Service employees on
50 the Chugach. And we're looking at potentially a

1 wildlife project and/or that deals with black bear and
2 possibly a FRMP project. That's still being worked out
3 at this point.

4
5 On the Tongass, as you know, we have a
6 larger Staff on the Tongass and lots of FRMP projects.
7 And a lot's going on. We have about \$1,600,000 going
8 to the Tongass. That pays for all our part of 18
9 employees and at this point around nine FRMP projects,
10 which is approximately \$700,000 of that \$1,600,000
11 that's going to the Tongass.

12
13 And if you have any questions, you
14 know, regarding the budget, just let me know. Because
15 now I'm going to talk about personnel changes in the
16 Region.

17
18 First we have two new subsistence
19 program employees on the Tongass. One is Rob Cross,
20 who's our new FRMP biologist, based out of Sitka. And
21 I think Rob's in the back. If he would stand up. So I
22 think Rob's been with the Forest since May of this year
23 and is working closely with Justin. And after talking
24 with him a bit last night, he's enjoying his duties so
25 far on the Tongass. So we're really glad to have him.

26
27
28 Another employee -- a new employee on
29 the Tongass is Jake Musselwhite. And he is also an
30 FRMP biologist and he is based out of Juneau. And he
31 works closely with -- I'm at a blank on his name.
32 Yeah. Ben. Yeah. Ben Van Alen. I don't know if
33 they're -- I don't think they've called in, but I'm not
34 sure how long Jake has been on with the Forest. Has he
35 been on since May? He started last year. I have yet
36 to meet Jake. So we're happy to have those guys.

37
38 We also have a new subsistence
39 fisheries biologist on the Chugach. His name is David
40 Pearson. He was a 13 and 13 regular fisheries program
41 biologist on the Kenai. And we were able to pick him
42 up for the other half, so now he's a full time. And he
43 works half in subsistence and half in the regular
44 fisheries program on the Chugach. I met him last week.
45 I was at the Southcentral Council meeting up in Copper
46 Center. And he's really excited to be working in the
47 Subsistence Program and has a lot of good ideas to help
48 the fish program on the Chugach.

49
50 Now for the bad news in the personnel

1 department. Maybe a few of you know that Cal Casipit
2 is throwing in the towel, so to speak. We're sad to
3 have him retire, but he's excited about it. I'd be the
4 same way. He will be done with Forest Service at the
5 end of this calendar year. And Cal has worked for the
6 Forest Service for 36 years. Thirty-six years. A long
7 time. And 20 of that's been in the Subsistence Program
8 in this Region, so with his departure we're losing a
9 lot of corporate knowledge. And I know I've only
10 worked in this program for about nine months now, but
11 whenever I have a question, Cal was the first one to
12 call -- or Robert. And, you know, there's a few people
13 that have been in this program a long time. Cal's one
14 of them. And he knows the program from top to bottom,
15 so we're really sad to see him go, but glad that he's
16 moving on to new things in his life.

17

18 We're not quite sure what we're going
19 to do. How we're going to fill in behind Cal. He and
20 I have to get together. And we're going to discuss
21 that and see really what -- discuss what our options
22 are and how best to fill in his responsibilities with
23 this program.

24

25 One thing that I -- you know, I had at
26 the end of my notes here. I was reading an email that
27 I got a few weeks ago. And it kind of gives you an
28 idea where the Forest Service -- where we've gone with
29 our funding levels over the years. And the Lower 48
30 forests and regions have really been tightening our
31 belts for quite a while. I mean it's at least the last
32 15 years. But I got this email and the Forest Service
33 increase in fire staffing has increased by 114 percent.
34 So to put that into numbers, since 1998 -- in 1998 the
35 fire part of our Agency was 5,700 employees. In 2015,
36 it's 12,000-plus fire employees. And within that same
37 time frame, the Forest Service Staff that managed
38 national forest system lands and resources in that same
39 time frame in 1998 was 18,000 employees. In 2015, it's
40 11,000 employees.

41

42 So you see where our budgets are going.
43 And they're not going to -- they're going to a
44 different area. And I won't belabor that. So you can
45 see where our budgets are going. And those are fewer
46 employees than we had across the service in 1998. We
47 used to have I think around 30,000 employees. Now we
48 have fewer employees.

49

50 I think that's all I need to say about

1 personnel and budget. Are there any questions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Yeager.

4

5 MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 Your budget for law enforcement you said was at
7 \$50,000. Is that 25 to each district between the
8 Tongass or is that 50 to each.

9

10 MR. WHITFORD: That is 50 overall for
11 the entire Region.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other questions
14 for Mr. Whitford.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Tom.

19

20 MR. WHITFORD: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Next is the --
23 if they're ready, the National Park Service.

24

25 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Again, my name is Barbara Cellarius. I'm the
27 Subsistence Coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National
28 Park and Preserve. And I have with me Mike Thompson,
29 who's our District Ranger. And I want to mention a
30 couple of things that aren't in our written report
31 that's in your book. Our written report in your book
32 starts on page 148. And we will try to be quick, so
33 aren't going to cover word-for-word everything in the
34 written report, but just want to highlight a few
35 things.

36

37 The other thing is over lunch I
38 distributed a handout. It's a news release. And the
39 Park Service recently published a final rule, a
40 regulation package. It mostly concerns hunting in the
41 National Preserves under the State of Alaska's general
42 hunting regulations, so it's not a subsistence
43 regulation. But I do -- other RACs that I work with
44 were interested in the progress on this regulation
45 package, so I'm providing you with the news release. I
46 also have a couple of copies of the actual regulation
47 package.

48

49 And in addition to prohibiting certain
50 practices -- hunting practices under the State of

1 Alaska's general hunting regulations, the regulation
2 package updates closure procedures and allows for the
3 use of Native species as they -- for fishing. And that
4 one does affect subsistence.

5
6 And then moving on -- if there's no
7 questions. On the table at the back of the room I do
8 have a copy of our Park subsistence brochure if
9 anybody's interested. And I've got some additional
10 copies with me.

11
12 And then if you'll -- going now to page
13 148, Mike is going to tell you a little bit about a
14 project we did on the Malaspina Forelands this summer.

15
16 MR. THOMPSON: So thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman and Council Members. Thank you very much for
18 coming to Yakutat. I really appreciate you guys being
19 here.

20
21 I'm excited to talk about a project we
22 had this summer in June. Approximately for ten days we
23 did a marine debris cleanup utilizing -- it was between
24 Wrangell-State. Elias, the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, the
25 Alaska SeaLife Center, Glacier Bay National Park and
26 Preserve, Gulf of Alaska Keeper. We were able to go
27 over to the Malaspina Forelands, which are across the
28 Yakutat Bay from here. Just to the northwest and about
29 22 miles. And cleaned up approximately three miles of
30 beach debris, which totaled about three tons. And we
31 were able to do this utilizing four YCC personnel from
32 -- that were -- actually three of them were from Copper
33 Center and one from Palmer. One SCA, Student
34 Conservation Association, volunteer and one Alaska
35 Native science and engineering intern from UAA.

36
37 And then we were -- the really exciting
38 thing is we were able to utilize three youth from the
39 Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, who we worked with closely. And
40 they hired the three youth and we took them over -- I
41 was a project manager on it. And we took them over and
42 did this cleanup. They made about \$10 an hour. And it
43 was -- well, it was fantastic because a lot of those
44 people -- especially the three youth from Yakutat had
45 never been over to the Forelands -- to their area
46 before. So they got to see and work in that area. And
47 it was very beneficial for both -- for everyone.

48
49 But also during that project, it was
50 part of a larger effort across Alaska. You probably

1 heard about there was money from Japan that was given.
2 And Alaska Keeper utilized that to get a barge and
3 clean the marine debris from all -- a lot of the coast
4 of Alaska National Parks and other parts of the coast --
5 of coastal parts of Alaska. And while they did that,
6 they would bring the barge down and load all the debris
7 that we piled up. And we had two locations. So a
8 helicopter would come and haul those onto a barge. And
9 that all went to Seattle. And they tried to recycle a
10 bunch of the stuff, but -- and also some of that had,
11 you know, obviously Japanese marine debris and some
12 marine debris from Russia and the Far East and Alaska
13 all mixed into it.

14

15 And a buoy. We actually found a buoy.
16 We were able to locate a buoy from a fishing net in --
17 it was originally from a fishing net out of Washington
18 State. And we were able to locate that buoy, so that
19 was really interesting. And all of the debris, like I
20 said, was placed in garbage bags, super sacks. And
21 then the helicopter came, loaded it on the barge, and
22 it went down to Seattle.

23

24 But it was a great outreach
25 opportunity. We try to do a lot of outreach here in
26 Yakutat and between the Agencies and the Tribe. And
27 anyway, it was very successful. So I wanted to brief
28 you on that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

31

32 MS. CELLARIUS: And I've got a couple
33 more things I'll just go over really quickly.

34

35 So if you'll look at page 148, there's
36 a harbor seal project that we have coming up starting
37 in 2016. And the purpose of this project is to address
38 concerns about the impact of cruise ship traffic on
39 harbor seals, which are an important subsistence
40 resource in this area. So we'll be comparing impacts
41 that occur at Icy Bay, which has no large cruise ship
42 traffic, with the -- with Disenchantment Bay, which
43 does see more than 100 cruise ships on average a year.
44 And there's more information about this project in the
45 handout.

46

47 I also wanted to mention the Yakutat
48 Ethnographic Overview and Assessment. Some of you may
49 have seen it. I had some copies at the back of the
50 room. It's got a picture of Mount State. Elias and the

1 Mount State. Elias dancers on the front. I've got a
2 couple more copies or my email address is in the
3 report. And if somebody would like me to mail you a
4 copy, I can do that as well.

5
6 So the goal of an ethnographic overview
7 and assessment is largely to look at existing
8 literature, but try to pull it all together to look at
9 connections that a group of people have to a park. And
10 on this project we also were able to do a number of
11 interviews in Yakutat. And so I'm thankful for the
12 time that local residents spent talking to the research
13 team, for the assistance of Bert Adams, Senior, in
14 helping the research team, and to Victoria for her
15 review of the draft report. So like I said, I've got
16 some copies.

17
18 The Wrangell-State. Elias seat on the --
19 the Southeast RAC's appointment to the Wrangell-State.
20 Elias Subsistence Resource Commission came up earlier
21 in this meeting. One of the challenges we have with
22 filling this seat is that you have to either be a
23 member of a local or of the RAC. I think it works
24 really, really well if there is someone from Yakutat on
25 the RAC who also serves on the SRC. So my thought is
26 to come to you at your spring meeting and after this
27 last, next round of RAC appointments and see if someone
28 from Yakutat has been appointed. But this is, you
29 know, an appointment that you make as long as it's
30 consistent with the provisions of 808 of ANILCA. So
31 that's kind of described in my report here.

32
33 And then the last thing I wanted to
34 mention is the Park is getting started -- and I want to
35 emphasize we're just getting started on a Wilderness --
36 Backcountry and Wilderness Stewardship Plan. And this
37 is also a handout in your book. It starts on page 150.
38 So we're developing this plan to guide the preservation
39 management and use of what's the largest designated
40 wilderness in the United States. The purpose is to
41 preserve the area's backcountry and wilderness
42 character, while allowing for the exceptions provided
43 for in ANILCA for things like motorized access.

44
45 So right now we're in the public
46 scoping phase. And that public scoping phase goes
47 through November of 2015. There will be additional
48 opportunities for public input as the planning team
49 develops alternatives. And so this isn't the only
50 opportunity. The planning team was here in Yakutat

1 this summer, I think, Mike?

2

3 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah.

4

5 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah. The planning
6 team was in Yakutat this summer and Mike helped them --
7 introduced them to a lot of local people. And they
8 spent a lot of time talking to the local people here in
9 Yakutat.

10

11 So that concludes my report unless you
12 have any questions.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

15

16 Any questions for them.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mike and
21 Barb. That was a good presentation.

22

23 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you very much.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Before we cover the
26 last couple of items on the Agenda, I'd like to speak
27 on behalf of the Council that -- go ahead.

28

29 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair, we have also
30 -- Glacier Bay National Park may have something to
31 report.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. That would be
34 good. This would be a good time.

35

36 MR. CAPRA: Mr. Chairman, Members of
37 the Council. Jim Capra, with Glacier Bay National Park
38 and Preserve.

39

40 I don't have much of a report for the
41 Council. As Council Member Wright remarked, the -- I
42 do like to keep you up-to-date on the gull egg issue in
43 Glacier Bay. The legislation was passed and this was
44 the first year that there was some experimental harvest
45 with local residents. They are using the different
46 traditional methods or methodologies, plus at least one
47 that the biologists have gathered might be best in
48 monitoring the harvest. Trying to figure out which
49 methods will meet the Park Service goals for
50 conservation and meet the needs of Hoonah as best as

1 possible.

2

3

4 The landscape has changed over the
5 intervening years and the locations have changed where
6 the gulls are as things grew up and new islands have
7 become larger or more exposed. It is a work in
8 progress, but after I think nine years of reporting on
9 this annually to the Council, at least some eggs have
10 been harvested this year. It is moving forward.

11

12 The other thing I'd like to mention,
13 which I don't know if the Council's former chairman
14 will have any more remarks, is we did one trip this
15 year with the Tribe down to Dry Bay. Took 24 elders
16 and youth down to Dry Bay to get them on the landscape
17 again -- mostly youth. And we took them to -- spent
18 two nights, three days down in Dry Bay. There were a
19 lot of stories around the fire and Bert and several
20 others were able to share some of their experiences
21 growing up down there. And we were able to have some
22 local food. I think teriyaki seal is the best,
23 Chairman Wright.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. CAPRA: While we were there, we
28 visited a site that Chairman Adams and I were present.
29 And we found the first traditional clan house that we
30 were able to relocate 18 years ago with the kids. And
31 after hearing the story of the first Russian battle
32 over there, told by Mr. Adams, we moved about a half
33 mile over to the site of Box House with most of the
34 kids. And most of the folks had not ever been there
35 before. And oddly enough, sticking out of the bank was
36 a musket. It was just one of the more special days
37 we'd had down there I know for everybody involved. It
38 was coming out of an eroding bank and we were able to
39 get permission to secure it. And it's now in the State
40 museum and we're hoping to hear more results. It was
41 kind of unique to hear about the battle and find
42 something that may have been used in it that same day.

43

44 I know former Chairman Adams has plenty
45 of pictures and videotape. I just thought I'd want to
46 share that with you.

47

48 I know that was a neat day for both of
49 us.

50

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Jim.

1 Any questions.

2

3 Frank.

4

5 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On
6 the gull eggs, one of the -- we used to be able to get
7 eggs off of South Marble, North Marble, but those areas
8 are being overgrown by trees and there's sea lions that
9 get in the way. And so there have been different
10 locations that we may have to go to.

11

12 Another thing that we have going is
13 that the Tribe, Hoonah Indian Association, has been
14 working with the Park Service to put a Tribal house in
15 Bartlett Cove. And we had a meeting there this August.
16 Yeah, this August. And we talked about all the things
17 that would need to be put in place before we start to
18 get viewing for tourists. And our -- the plan opening
19 for the clan house is next August. So that's when
20 we're planning on it being open.

21

22 We have -- there's been a lot of work
23 being done for putting up the clan house and there's
24 big screens that are going to be put on the outside of
25 the clan house. And they're adzing the timber for the
26 outside. So it's going to be a big event for Hoonah.
27 And there's already no more room. People are wanting
28 to be there. So it's going to be -- it's an -- you
29 know, there was one person that asked us well, is it
30 going to generate money. And I had to say this is not
31 about generating money. This is about reestablishing
32 our cultural ties to the Glacier Bay. It has nothing
33 to do with money. And that person said well, it's
34 unheard of that something that is being built doesn't
35 have anything to do with money.

36

37 But we're also in the process of
38 deciding on who's going to be able to use that Tribal
39 house. And it's going to be a fun event. I can hardly
40 wait.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Frank. Any
45 other questions.

46

47 Patty.

48

49 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
50 Bangs. I was curious about the eulachon. How was that

1 return to the Situk or to the Alsek.

2

3 MR. CAPRA: From what I saw this year,
4 the eulachon run to Situk was quite good. The Alsek is
5 an odd run that runs in pulses for a month or two. The
6 Alsek run seemed to be good, but it's hard to tell.
7 There may be parts that are low and some that are high
8 each year.

9

10 I can tell you the sea lions coming to
11 feed on the eulachon continue to grow. I believe the
12 highest count was over 3,400 this year on the bar at
13 the mouth of Alsek. And usually there's an equivalent
14 amount of seals. I didn't see that many seals this
15 year, but -- they did not seem to run quite as late as
16 they have in the past, but it did seem like the numbers
17 were there.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other questions.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Jim.

24

25 There's just one quick thing that I
26 really wanted to say on behalf of the Council is that I
27 think we all -- or I know we all really appreciated the
28 work that Cal has done for us. And you're sorely going
29 to be missed at these meetings. You've been a valuable
30 asset to the program and I think we're all going to be
31 sad that you're leaving. Thank you very much.

32

33 So I don't know what we're going to do.

34 We're lost.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Stand up, Cal. I'm
39 just kidding.

40

41 MR. CASIPIT: Do you want me on the
42 record? Or.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Sure. Please.

45

46 MR. CASIPIT: Maybe I should fight more
47 like a king salmon, huh? Anyway, well, again for the
48 record, my name is Cal Casipit. I'm the Subsistence
49 Staff Biologist for the Forest Service here in Alaska.
50 And I'm getting choked up already, buys. Geez. I was

1 hoping I wasn't going to have to come up here. But I
2 do appreciate this Council and working with you guys.
3 When I think about the people that have sat up there
4 and I've worked with -- you know, some of them aren't
5 with us anymore. John and Bill and other people that
6 have -- Dick. My good friend Dick. I'm going to miss
7 them all. And I'm going to miss all of you.

8
9 And this won't be the last you see of
10 me. You just won't see me at this table very much
11 maybe, but you will see me around I'm sure. But
12 anyway, that's all I really have. So I wanted to thank
13 you. All of you for your friendship and your guidance
14 and your good advice. And I appreciate each and every
15 one of you, but I can't say anything more. I'm going
16 to get too choked up.

17
18 So thank you. Appreciate it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Cal.

21
22 (Applause)

23
24 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, we know you're
25 not Tlingit.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Next, I think
30 -- are you going to cover for the Departments Summary
31 for the Stat, ADF&G? Okay. Okay.

32
33 MS. SILL: For the record, my name is
34 Lauren Sill. I'm a Subsistence Resource Specialist
35 with the Department of Fish and Game's Division of
36 Subsistence. I work all throughout Southeast, but I'm
37 based in Juneau. I was just going to give a pretty
38 brief update on some of the activities that our
39 Division has been up to the past -- I guess over the
40 past year.

41
42 So we finished several projects and we
43 have some reports that should be available hopefully by
44 the end of the year depending on how long the process
45 will take. Those are the harvest of wild resources in
46 Haines, Hoonah, Angoon, Whale Pass, and Hydaburg. When
47 you're finished with that report, I can make sure that
48 your Council Coordinator gets it if you guys are
49 interested in reading it. And also we send copies --
50 hard copies of the report to all the communities that

1 we did the projects in. And we also put together a
2 little four-page summary that kind of highlights the
3 interesting parts of it so that no one has to read the
4 entire report. And we send those out to all the
5 communities as well.

6
7 We also have a report on harvest
8 patterns of salmon by residents of Hoonah. That should
9 be early next year. We're just finishing that up right
10 now. And there will be on the harvest of wild
11 resources in Sitka, which was done last year. That's a
12 little bit further behind, but sometime next year that
13 report should be out as well. Also next year we should
14 have a report on ethnographic study of Chinook salmon
15 use in the Chilkat River.

16
17 I think those are all the reports that
18 we have coming out. We have some ongoing research. We
19 have a project starting right about now actually here
20 in Yakutat. We're working with the Park Service and
21 the Yakutat Tribe looking at the resilience of the
22 community and adaptation to changes through the lens of
23 subsistence. And we'll be doing that this winter.
24 We'll be coming to do harvest surveys in the winter and
25 then probably some participant observation in the
26 spring and summer. And we'll also do in-depth
27 interviews with some residents.

28
29 We have a couple of ongoing projects of
30 herring egg monitoring program in Sitka Sound, which we
31 do every year in conjunction with the Sitka Tribe. We
32 also have a subsistence halibut harvest monitoring
33 survey that has been annual, but NOAA's recently cut
34 funding for that, so now it's every other year if
35 there's funding available for that. But we usually do.
36 It's a mail out survey. But then in Southeast because
37 halibut's so important, we tend to do door-to-door
38 surveys as well in a few of the communities.

39
40 And then we have some upcoming
41 hopefully Proposals -- projects that I've submitted
42 Proposals for. One is a project to estimate in-season
43 subsistence harvest and escapement of Klawock Lake
44 sockeye. And that would be working with the Klawock
45 Cooperative Association.

46
47 Another one that I'm submitting next
48 week I guess is a comprehensive harvest update in
49 Tenakee Springs, Pelican, Gustavus, and Elfin Cove.
50 These are communities that haven't been surveyed in

1 about 30 years or so. So hopefully those will get
2 funded.

3

4 And I think that's all my report.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Lauren.

7

8 Any questions, Council.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for your
13 report.

14

15 Okay. We're going to take a time
16 sensitive public testifying of John Jensen.

17

18 MR. JENSEN: Hi. I'm Jonathan Jensen.
19 I live here in Yakutat. One of my Proposals is to -- I
20 know you guys were thinking about passing it before,
21 but I really think that it should be one moose per
22 household. And of course there should be some
23 limitations on that. If it can be a household of two,
24 they should only be able to have one moose. They don't
25 need more than one moose. And it would be up to you
26 guys. If it was a household of three or four or more,
27 then they should be allowed to have more than one
28 moose.

29

30 But right now everybody in the
31 household can have a permit. So you got a household
32 with two, and they can have two moose. I just see some
33 people in this room here are hunting all the way out
34 the end of the road because they -- well, I don't know
35 the exact statistics of all the people that got more
36 than one moose per household, but it seems like the
37 moose hunt is getting down to three or four days. And
38 it's pretty quick. And the people that really need it
39 are forced to go out to the end of the road or further.

40

41

42 That was one Proposal. And if you guys
43 -- I know you guys can make a decision on that later.
44 And I don't expect any comment on that. It's just my
45 feelings.

46

47 And the other Proposal I'd like to see
48 is not everybody has gillnets and not everybody has
49 power troll gurdies or hand gurdies. And they don't
50 have access to that a lot. It seems like the cheapest

1 way to get your subsistence fish is with a sport pole.
2 And as long as you're cutting the dorsal fin off, what
3 does it matter how you get your fish. As long as
4 you're cutting that dorsal fin.

5
6 Those are my two Proposals. I know you
7 guys are busy and that you guys can make that decision
8 later.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, John.

13
14 Is there any comments or questions for
15 Mr. Jensen.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN BANGS: We appreciate and
20 encourage Proposals to be submitted to the program. It
21 really helps us understand the problems that we have
22 throughout the Region. So appreciate that.

23
24 Anyone have any.....

25
26 Mr. Larson.

27
28 MR. LARSON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
29 Chair. And the Federal program -- this body, the
30 regulations that we're associated with, they allow the
31 use of rod and reel for subsistence. The prohibition
32 for rod and reel occurs within the State regulations.
33 So I would encourage you to meet with the -- Brian is
34 your local representative here. And he will assist you
35 in drafting a regulation for the Board of Fisheries
36 consideration. Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for
39 clarifying that, Mr. Larson.

40
41 Any questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Thank you,
46 John.

47
48 Okay. Before we go on to the last,
49 we've got to get through this -- the important parts of
50 the Agenda. And then we've got a couple more public

1 testimony. I'd like to have -- let's see. Mr. Chuck
2 Ardizzone. Is he.....

3

4 MR. LARSON: He's gone.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Oh. He's not there.
7 He was supposed to be.....

8

9 MR. LARSON: Oh. Orville will do that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay.

12

13 MR. LIND: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
14 and Members of the Council. For the record, I am
15 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
16 Subsistence Management. And I'm just going to take a
17 brief moment to bring an update to the Council of the
18 recent hires.

19

20 As most of you met Ameer Howard. That
21 is our new Policy Coordinator -- Subsistence Policy
22 Coordinator. And she got on in July of 2015.

23

24 Robbin La Vine also joined the Office
25 of Subsistence Management as an anthropologist in
26 October of 2014. And she has extensive experience of
27 research and collaborative partnerships with Alaska
28 Tribes and also the State and Federal Agencies. Before
29 coming to the OSM, she was a researcher for the Togiak
30 National Wildlife Refuge. She is a longtime Alaskan.
31 And then also a social scientist for the Bristol Bay
32 Native Association. That's where my hometown is. And
33 also a resource specialist for the Alaska Department of
34 Fish and Game.

35

36 Efforts are currently underway to hire
37 more positions at OSM. And that contains a Council
38 Coordinator, an Anthropologist, an Anthropologist with
39 Pathway students, a Fisheries Biometrician, a Fisheries
40 Biologist -- a Pathway student, a Grants Management
41 Specialist, an IT Specialist, and Administrative
42 Assistant.

43

44 As you remember, a year ago we were
45 basically almost half staffed at OSM. And so it
46 pleases me that the hirings are happening. And as Mr.
47 Gene Peltola's direction is to get these hires done for
48 OSM so we could do a better job.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Orville.
2
3 Any questions from the Council.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. I don't know.
8 Chuck was going to mention something about the Inter-
9 Tribal Fisheries Partnership Program on the Kuskokwim.
10 And I'm not sure if he gave you a handout for us if he
11 just had a.....
12
13 MR. LIND: Mr. Chairman, I didn't get a
14 handout from Chuck. The only other thing that he
15 mentioned to me was that Mr. Larson was going to give
16 an All-Council update.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Thank you.
19
20 Okay. We have one -- I don't know if
21 Mr. Schroeder is ready to -- oh. Maybe it's Mr.
22 Hernandez is going to do it. We had a little -- we
23 wanted to get a document that we could agree on that we
24 would send on the C&T Work Group's progress.
25
26 Don.
27
28 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
29 Chairman. Actually, I may need Mr. Schroeder's
30 assistance or maybe he's gotten a form there where we
31 can put it on the screen real quick and have the
32 Council review what we've been working on sort of on
33 the fly here during the course of this meeting. And
34 kind of once again review where we are, what we want to
35 do, and get Council approval if they see fit.
36
37 Okay. I'll continue from here. I can
38 see a little better.
39
40 Like I said, we've been working on this
41 document on the fly. We hope to be able to send it to
42 the Board. The Board may want to pass it on to the
43 Secretaries. This is kind of a continuation of the
44 Secretarial review process. And what we've done here
45 is kind of lay it out in a narrative form. What the
46 Council's intentions are going forward from this point
47 in regard to customary and traditional use
48 determinations.
49
50 At the end of the document we put

1 together some bullet points to kind of summarize and
2 put those in more concise form, but you might want to
3 read through the narrative portion here just so you
4 kind of get a sense of what we're trying to convey to
5 the Board about -- a lot of this is kind of about the
6 Council's feelings towards this topic. So.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Excuse me, Don. Would
9 it be okay if -- we would like you to read it for us,
10 please.

11

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'll read it. Yeah.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

15

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. In the 2010
17 Secretarial review, the Secretary requested Regional
18 Advisory Councils to examine the ways that customary
19 and traditional use determinations had been made and to
20 suggest possible changes in the process.

21

22 Second paragraph is a quote from
23 earlier work. It's from the -- the second relevant
24 task was to review customary and traditional use
25 determination process to provide clear, fair, and
26 effective determinations in accord with the Title VIII
27 goals and provisions. And that's from previous
28 briefing materials we had presented to the Council.

29

30 The Southeast Regional Advisory Council
31 took this charge seriously. The Council has discussed
32 C&T at every meeting we have held since that time and
33 has had a Council Working Group addressing the C&T
34 issue. These productive discussions have led to a
35 better understanding of how the past C&T process
36 developed and to an approach to future C&T
37 recommendations that will come from the Southeast RAC.
38 We appreciate the assistance provided by Federal Staff
39 in our effort.

40

41 We found that existing C&T procedure
42 followed by the Federal Subsistence Program was adopted
43 from procedures followed by the State of Alaska when it
44 was managing Federal land for subsistence purposes.
45 The State of Alaska considered that subsistence hunting
46 and fishing was not authorized unless there was a
47 positive C&T determination recognizing the use of a
48 hunting or fishing species by a specific community or
49 area. No subsistence use could take place without such
50 a determination. C&T determinations were essentially

1 restrictive.

2

3

4 Southeast RAC believes that this legacy
5 approach violated and violates the spirit and letter of
6 the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act.
7 The goal of the Act with respect to subsistence was to
8 protect customary and traditional subsistence uses and
9 ensure that they continue. Our policy recommendation
10 to the Federal Subsistence Board is for Southeast
11 Alaska only. And the guideline we will follow in
12 subsequent C&T recommendations to the Federal
13 Subsistence Board returns to what we understand to be
14 the clear objective of ANILCA. Southeast RAC is now in
15 its 21st year and has sufficient experience and
16 knowledge of subsistence in our Region to suggest an
17 approach that suits customary and traditional
18 subsistence use in our Region. The recommendation and
19 policy is not intended for the whole State.

20

21 In general, we believe that subsistence
22 use should be authorized for all rural communities and
23 areas in our Region for all species that are used.
24 These species comprise virtually all species of fish
25 and wildlife, including birds and invertebrates that
26 have been taken for food or other purposes, including
27 handicraft, ceremonial, and customary trade. In the
28 future, Southeast RAC may recommend determinations that
29 are similarly broad in scope. Southeast RAC notes that
30 the eight criteria or factors are also part of the
31 legacy adopted from the State of Alaska procedures when
32 Federal management began. In this light, Southeast RAC
33 may continue to use the eight factors in general to
34 allow orderly presentation of information on
35 subsistence uses in our Region. However, we will not
36 use these criteria as a checklist that need to be met
37 before subsistence use is authorized. We request that
38 the Federal Subsistence Board also eliminate use of the
39 factors as criteria.

40

41 ANILCA requires the Federal Subsistence
42 Board to defer to Regional Advisory Councils on
43 management issues that involve taking. We believe that
44 C&T determinations involve taking since C&T
45 determinations have been used to either allow or
46 restrict who can take fish and wildlife resources for
47 subsistence uses. Southeast RAC has articulated this
48 view on C&T determinations -- or that C&T
49 determinations involve taking in previous
50 correspondence with the Board and in our Annual
51 Reports. The Board recognized this in its 2007 draft

1 C&T Board Policy, which stated Title VIII of ANILCA
2 establishes a preference for customary and traditional
3 uses of fish and wildlife by according a priority for
4 non-wasteful taking by rural Alaska residents.

5
6 Southeast RAC may elect to revise the
7 C&T determinations that are on the books to better
8 correspond with our recommendations and guideline. In
9 order to do this carefully and with diligence, we are
10 likely to phase in a new set of C&T determinations
11 through Southeast RAC generated proposals over the next
12 three years. Additionally, in coming years Southeast
13 RAC intends to develop recommendations and guidelines
14 for applying Section .804. Resources in our Region are
15 generally abundant at this time and Section .804 does
16 not need to be applied. However, we wish to be
17 prepared to apply Section .804 criteria should it be
18 necessary to do so. We request Staff assistance and
19 training in this area.

20
21 Okay. So here's kind of a summary of
22 what was put in narrative form above.

23
24 Our recommendation and guideline
25 applies to the Southeast Region only.

26
27 Southeast RAC expects that the Federal
28 Subsistence Board shall provide deference to Southeast
29 RAC's C&T recommendations as per Federal Subsistence
30 Board policy and ANILCA requirements.

31
32 Future C&T recommendations from the
33 Southeast RAC will tend to be inclusive with Southeast
34 communities and geographic areas. They may refer to
35 all rural communities or throughout Southeast Alaska as
36 appropriate.

37
38 Future C&T recommendations from SERAC
39 may refer to all fish species or all game species or
40 all furbearer species, as appropriate.

41
42 Southeast RAC may use the eight factors
43 to organize review of subsistence information. As
44 indicated in the existing Federal regulation, the eight
45 factors are not required to be applied as hard criteria
46 before C&T recommendations can be made.

47
48 We reserve the option to seek changes
49 or amendments to the 36 CFR, Part 242 and 50 CFR, Part
50 100, in the future.

1 I think that was it.

2

3 Okay.

4

5 So I guess I'll throw it open to the
6 Council for any comments or questions.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Howard.

9

10 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, I was
11 looking at the part where it talks about revising the
12 customary and traditional use determinations. What
13 does that mean exactly. The option to revise it.

14

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Over the years we have
16 enacted numerous C&T regulations. I think it's the
17 belief of the Council that many of those C&T
18 determinations may be different today -- if we were
19 doing them today say under these guidelines that we are
20 proposing than what they would have been at the time we
21 did them when we were essentially told that we had to
22 do it a certain way. So we may be revising existing
23 C&T determinations here over say the next three-year
24 period.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Follow-up, Albert?

27

28 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 Follow-up to that is who would be submitting Proposals
30 to make those changes. Is it just anybody or just the
31 subsistence user themselves.

32

33 MR. HERNANDEZ: I would say that
34 anybody could submit a Proposal to the RAC to change a
35 C&T determination, although I would expect that a lot
36 of those Proposals would probably come from the RAC
37 itself. But yes, anybody could submit a Proposal to
38 change a determination.

39

40 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair, the reason I
41 asked that is, you know, there's going to be people
42 that don't agree with the fact that we're allowed, you
43 know, to subsist as a rural user group and try to
44 submit a Proposal that would negatively impact, you
45 know, our ability to live under the Title VIII of
46 ANILCA. So my concern is, you know, making sure that
47 only subsistence users make a change to that
48 determination.

49

50 MR. HERNANDEZ: That may be a valid

1 concern, but I think we just have to trust the fact
2 that these recommendations are reviewed and put forward
3 -- or I should say moved forward by the Council after
4 thorough, you know, consideration by this Council. And
5 I also might remind you that we are asking for
6 deference to Council recommendations along these lines,
7 which is fairly important. Because, you know, the
8 Board -- people on the Board just may see it
9 differently than we see it here locally, so we really
10 do want that deference as a big part of this process.

11
12 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, even the
13 State is having a hard time determining the traditional
14 and customary use of, you know, the resource. So
15 they're looking to us to define that for them so they
16 can implement their laws and regulations on rural
17 communities. So we have to really be careful on
18 defining this for anybody. If we're going to err, we
19 should err on the side of the rural communities.
20 Because when you have Department -- the State of Alaska
21 coming in and they don't have a definition of this and
22 we give them one, they're going to make that law.

23
24 That's my concern with revising any of
25 this, is that you should have each community have their
26 own determination of what traditional and customary use
27 is. So this is another one I'm really going to ask the
28 Council to be really careful on what we decide as
29 customary and traditional uses of each community
30 because it's going to have an overreaching effect on
31 each community.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you for
36 that, Albert. And yes, I think you're right. We do
37 need to be very careful. And I think there is no
38 better people in Southeast Alaska than the people
39 sitting around this table to kind of make those
40 determinations. And the communities are well-
41 represented here. And I think that's what we have to
42 put our trust in.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: So Mr. Chairman of the
45 Work Group, what do you want the Council to do.

46
47 MR. HERNANDEZ: If we're going to
48 submit this letter to the Board, we need approval from
49 the Council.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: So.....
2
3 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.
6
7 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
8 Bangs. Move to approve the recommendation of the
9 Customary and Traditional Determinations Working Group.
10
11
12 MR. KITKA: Second.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: It's been moved by
15 Member Phillips and seconded by Member Kitka.
16
17 Any more discussion.
18
19 Mr. Howard.
20
21 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, as far as my
22 remark on revising any use determination of the
23 customary and traditional, I would like that part of
24 that paragraph somewhere in there to state remaining
25 consistent with the intent of Title VIII. The original
26 intent of Title VIII.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BANGS: How does the Council --
29 what do you think, Don. Where would that fit.
30
31 MR. HERNANDEZ: Just in general, I
32 think I probably agree with what Albert is saying.
33 That it has to be consistent with Title of ANILCA. If
34 you find that paragraph and add that wording, that
35 would be probably perfectly fine.
36
37 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.
38 Hernandez and Mr. Howard.
39
40 Any other thoughts on it or any
41 discussion.
42
43 Harvey.
44
45 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When
46 we were first discussing removing C&T from -- because
47 it came down from the State, the eight criteria was one
48 of the big factors that we didn't want seen in there.
49 Because according to our tradition, if we went into
50 another person's country, we were allowed to gather

1 what we went there for with their permission. This was
2 part of our tradition. It's not a customary thing now,
3 but it was a traditional thing back then. The eight
4 criteria doesn't allow for that.

5
6 For instance, they don't allow us to
7 subsistence for king salmon out of our area. But we
8 subsisted for king salmon along with all other foods in
9 the world. When we went to gather things from like up
10 in Glacier Bay, we went and gathered. It was just one
11 of the places where we gathered. It was the same thing
12 that went on with the herring eggs in Sitka Sound.
13 Permission was given to all these other people to do
14 it.

15
16 So that was one of the reasons we asked
17 that the C&T be changed. Because -- primarily because
18 of the eight criteria, which limited us.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Harvey.

21
22 Mr. Schroeder.

23
24 MR. SCHROEDER: Thanks, Harvey. And so
25 my colleague here, I think that the -- well, I got on
26 the Working Group rather late. And so the Working
27 Group has been on the case for three or four years,
28 attempting to get something that we can go forward with
29 that sets up how this Council is going to deal with C&T
30 determinations in the future and hopefully the way the
31 Federal Subsistence Board will deal with them. So I
32 think the -- because the eight criteria have been a
33 fact of life for more than 20 years, it seemed that we
34 could acknowledge that we could still talk about eight
35 factors as a way of talking about subsistence, but just
36 not have them be criteria. Not have them be a
37 checklist where an area or a community has to meet
38 specified standards to be approved. So I think that's
39 why there is mention of having the eight criteria as a
40 way of organizing information. And that is the way a
41 lot of the subsistence reports that we would be hearing
42 are organized. So I think that's one thing I wanted to
43 say.

44
45 And then the other is that clearly
46 before this would be sent out, it needs a little bit of
47 wordsmithing. Because just when Don was reading
48 through there were obviously some grammatical errors
49 and inconsistencies.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr.

4 Schroeder.

5

6 Mr. Hernandez.

7

8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.

9 Chairman. Also, I think I need to kind of, you know,

10 emphasize the fact that that last bullet point on

11 there, the Council is stating that we do plan on

12 continuing on with an effort to maybe change the

13 wording of those CFRs. And, you know, one of those

14 changes could possibly lead to deleting those eight

15 factors altogether. But, you know, we've kind of

16 reached a bottleneck here. You know, the Secretarial

17 review period has kind of been coming to an end.

18 Everything else has been resolved.

19

20 I also neglected to point out that at

21 our last Council meeting, we did submit a list of

22 questions to the Staff to be answered that may be

23 helpful in working forward and crafting new wording to

24 that. And we haven't received those answers yet. So

25 this is kind of what we plan on doing in the interim

26 until maybe some future time we do come up with another

27 Proposal that may, you know, deal with the regulations

28 in a finalized form.

29

30 And I guess it's also recognizing in a

31 sense that the Proposal that we were preparing to put

32 forward probably did not have a very good chance of

33 being, you know, enacted on a Statewide basis, so I

34 think we're kind of moving away from that and

35 investigating new possibilities here in the coming

36 years.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.

39

40 Any other discussion.

41

42 Ms. Phillips.

43

44 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman

45 Bangs. Another recognition is that this is in response

46 to a Secretarial review and that it would be

47 appropriate for our cleaned up recommendations and

48 guidelines be submitted to the Secretary as a outcome

49 of our review of his request.

50

1 Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.
4
5 Other discussion.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. We do have a
10 motion on the floor to submit this.
11
12 Art.
13
14 MR. BLOOM: Actually, if you -- if
15 someone wrote down the words to the motion, I don't
16 think submit was in it. It was to approve.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Ms. Phillips.
19
20 MS. PHILLIPS: Approve -- with the
21 concurrence of the second, I'd like to include submit.
22
23 And thank you, Mr. Bloom.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Harvey.
26
27 MR. KITKA: Yes.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Concurred. The
30 second's concurred.
31
32 Okay.
33
34 So we have the motion to approve and
35 submit this letter to move forward to the Federal
36 Board.
37
38 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.
41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
43 Bangs. I just want to clarify. Approve and submit to
44 the Secretary the C&T Working Group's Summary
45 Recommendation and Guideline Statement Report.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.
48
49 Mr. Larson.
50

1 MR. LARSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. The way
2 we've provided materials to the Secretary before is --
3 I would think would work in this instance, where we've
4 provided our recommendations to the Board with a
5 request for them to forward it to the Secretary. So
6 that's the mechanism that we'll use for that. Okay.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.

9
10
11 Okay. So any other discussion.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 MR. YEAGER: Question.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BANGS: The question's been
18 called for by Member Yeager. All those in favor of
19 approving and submitting this document to the Federal
20 Board to be requested to send to the Secretaries. All
21 those in favor, say aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Opposed.

26
27 (No opposing votes)

28
29 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Motion carries.

30
31 Okay. Okay. Now we're getting down to
32 a time crunch here. Could you turn the lights on,
33 please? I'm getting sleepy.

34
35 Thank you, guys, for putting that
36 together. That was well done.

37
38 Okay. We do have a couple more public
39 testimonies, but we're really running short on time.
40 And I don't want to miss those guys.

41
42 We need to get our -- we only have a
43 few minutes, so first of all we'll go through the
44 Agenda. And I'm really sorry, Bert, that I don't -- I
45 can't see us having time for your important -- what I --
46 he was going to give us a short overview of some
47 slides and stuff from Dry Bay, which we heard testimony
48 earlier today. And I -- we're going to miss the jet if
49 we do that. But we'll see here.

50

1 I'd like to get through the Agenda.
2 And next on there is future meeting dates.

3
4 Mr. Larson.

5
6 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, on page 155 of
7 your book -- if you want to turn to that, there's a
8 discussion of the tentative plans for the All-Council
9 meeting. So that is now scheduled for March 7th to the
10 11th.

11
12 So it's a little complicated, but it
13 has items that I think would be very interesting to
14 this Council because it will allow the Council to
15 really become acquainted with issues on more of a
16 Statewide basis. Some of the things we talk about, we
17 talk about consistency with policies and actions by
18 other Councils in other parts of the State and how the
19 Office of Subsistence Management is -- you know, how
20 they support those things. So you will have a very
21 much of a Statewide perspective at the end of this
22 thing.

23
24 It will take five days to get through
25 them, both the joint and concurrent sessions. So, you
26 know, there's several pages where we're looking at
27 panels, reports, the kind of training that we
28 anticipate providing. There's been a lot of work put
29 into this process already. So if there are things that
30 we should consider to put -- you know, to include in
31 this process, it's probably not appropriate to have it
32 now, but it could be now. But if you find anything
33 that you want, just communicate with me and we will --
34 we'll see what we can do to include it in our
35 scheduling.

36
37 So that is the winter Council meeting,
38 March 7th through the 11th. And that will be in
39 Anchorage, at the Egan Center. It should be fun.

40
41 And I would -- let me take this
42 opportunity to remind the State that this is also an
43 opportunity for some Staff that doesn't normally get to
44 hear issues from other parts of the State to have a
45 Statewide perspective on how the subsistence law is
46 being implemented in the State. And it's going to be
47 very interesting. And it's -- there's lots of room for
48 participants there. So, you know, I'd encourage people
49 to put that on their schedule.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.

2

3

4 Okay. Next we have to decide where our
5 fall meeting of 2016 Council will meet. What town and
6 what dates. And if you turn to 161 in your book,
7 you'll see the calendar.

8

9 MR. LARSON: And, Mr. Chair, I have a
10 new calendar. And I'm going to check with Jennifer to
11 make sure that she hasn't had an email in the last day
12 or so that -- have we had an email in the last day or
13 so that's with new Council meeting dates?

14

15 MS. HARDIN: We have not.

16

17 MR. LARSON: Okay. So with that in
18 mind, if you could look at your calendar on page 161,
19 and we'll need to add -- well, let me just read this
20 through. So we're going to add the Kodiak-Aleutians is
21 going to meet on.....

22

23 (Phone interruption)

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. LARSON: Okay. September 28th and
28 29th, the Kodiak-Aleutians is going to meet in Sand
29 Point. October 5th and 6th, Northwest Arctic is going
30 to meet. October 12th and 13th, the Yukon-Kuskokwim
31 Council's going to meet. The Southcentral Council is
32 meeting on October 18th and 19th. There is a AFN
33 convention in Fairbanks on October 20th and 21st. It
34 may or may not affect people on this Council. I don't
35 know that. Seward Peninsula will meet on November 1st
36 and 2nd.

37

38 There is another Council that was
39 meeting this week and I don't know if they've already
40 selected a meeting date or not. I suspect they may
41 have, but I'm not aware of what it is right now. I'm
42 having a hard time getting emails.

43

44 So that is the most recent version of
45 our calendar. I would remind you that the Office of
46 Subsistence Management would like us to have no more
47 than two Council meetings in any one week. It appears
48 that there's only one Council in every week, so it's
49 pretty much open to you to decide.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Larson.
4 Is there a reason -- are we restricted to two days now?
5 Or I see the rest of the Councils are just two days
6 each.

7

8 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 I've made that very clear in our planning process that
10 the Southeast Council requires three days.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

13

14 Mr. Hernandez.

15

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'm also looking. It
17 seems like a lot of other years that October 1st, end
18 of the fiscal year, right? That's always kind of
19 caused problems. But this year it's happening on a
20 Saturday, so does that mean that either side of that is
21 now available? We don't have to worry about fiscal
22 year coming right in the middle of a meeting?

23

24 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, I beg -- or
25 maybe implore would be a better word. But please don't
26 put yourself in a position where we need to be crossing
27 fiscal year boundaries.

28

29 MR. HERNANDEZ: That's my question.

30

31 MR. LARSON: In this case, since it's a
32 Saturday, that's much easier to deal with that. So we
33 could have either before or after would be perfectly
34 good. We just don't want to travel -- start travel in
35 one year and end in a different year.

36

37 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay.

38

39 MR. LARSON: That causes us issues.

40

41 And I would like to say that I've --
42 that Ameer has been checking her email and the Eastern
43 Interior is now meeting on October 25th and 26th. That
44 has no effect on us. It still leaves only one meeting
45 per week, so we have a clear calendar.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: What's the Council's
48 wish. Any ideas of where.

49

50 John.

1 MR. YEAGER: Sometime the week of
2 October 24th in Petersburg.
3
4 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any discussion or
5 other ideas.
6
7 Don.
8
9 MR. HERNANDEZ: I was going to kind of
10 ask for an earlier week. I just don't -- wondering if
11 there was any particular reason why John picks that
12 week that would be a problem.
13
14 MR. YEAGER: I'd like to finish the
15 moose season.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. We're past 3:00
18 o'clock and I'm getting daggers from Mr. Douville.
19
20 (Laughter)
21
22 MR. HERNANDEZ: I was going to suggest
23 the 18th and 19th.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BANGS: 17th, 18th, 19th.
26 We're going to definitely need three days. We struggle
27 with.....
28
29 That's okay with you. Somebody make a
30 motion.
31
32 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair and Mr.
33 Hernandez, I was reminded that the Forest Service Staff
34 -- the Senior Staff appreciates interacting with the
35 Southeast Council and they have an interest in
36 maintaining the relationships with the Councils on both
37 forests. That means that having a Council meeting at
38 the same time as the Southcentral Council would force
39 them to choose between the Chugach Forest and the
40 Tongass Forest. And they would -- they could do that,
41 but they would just as soon not, if it's not really
42 important for some other reason. So.....
43
44 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Which weeks was
45 the Southcentral Council.
46
47 MR. LARSON: That's -- the Southcentral
48 Council is the Council that the Forest Service also
49 attends.
50

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: I know. But which week
2 was that.
3
4 MR. LARSON: And that's the October
5 18th and 19th.
6
7 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, I think
8 that kind of makes it October -- I'll move for October
9 25th, 26th, and 27th then.
10
11 And I think John said Petersburg, so
12 that's fine.
13
14 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. It's been moved
15 and seconded. Any discussion.
16
17 MS. PHILLIPS: Question.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Bloom.
20
21 MR. BLOOM: Yeah. I was just wondering
22 if there's a particular reason why you've suggested
23 Petersburg rather than a city that might be easier to
24 get into and out of. But.....
25
26 MR. YEAGER: Mr. Chair, we had
27 intentions I think last cycle to go to Petersburg. And
28 we over-headed that one, so I thought maybe that would
29 be a good reason to go back there again. I thought
30 that was on the block there at one time.
31
32 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yeah. We have planned
33 on going there twice now and it's been postponed for
34 different reasons. But it's up to the Council. I'm
35 good with it. It's daily jet service, so it's not any
36 more difficult than most towns. But it does have its
37 issues with fog sometimes.
38
39 So we have a motion on the floor. And
40 did someone call the question.
41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: Question.
43
44 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Question's been called
45 for to have the meeting next fall in Petersburg on the
46 25th, 26th, and 27th of October. All those in favor,
47 say aye.
48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BANGS: All those opposed.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Motion carries.
6
7 Okay. Let's see. I really apologize
8 for not being able to get to the public testimony. Is
9 there a possible way of being able to.....
10
11 MR. LARSON: They could contact me.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. We could still
14 get your comments and they would be forwarded to the
15 Council. If you would contact Mr. Larson.
16
17 And with that, I don't think there's
18 anything else on the Agenda. Let's see. Okay. Well,
19 I'd just like to say it was a good meeting. I'm really
20 -- I'm surprised we didn't get through it, but we're
21 good at always going to the last minute. I appreciate
22 everybody's patience with me and I appreciate the Town
23 of Yakutat welcoming us.
24
25 And Mr. Bert, do you have a few things
26 to say?
27
28 MR. ADAMS: I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank
29 you for giving me this opportunity. I see my name tag
30 is still up here. But anyhow, you know, I was hoping
31 maybe I could do a PowerPoint presentation on the work
32 that we've been doing in Dry Bay. It has to do with
33 history and culture and so forth. But with the time
34 constraints and everything, I am sorry that we weren't
35 able to do that. It would have taken 30, 40 minutes,
36 you know, to go through the whole thing.
37
38 But this very same presentation I'll be
39 doing in Juneau on Saturday morning if you're there.
40 10:00 a.m. for the -- it's a Sharing our Knowledge
41 Conference in Juneau. But I thought maybe this would
42 be a practice run for me, you know, but anyhow, thank
43 you, Mr. Chairman, for considering it. I talked to you
44 a couple of times, but you said, you know, time was
45 pretty short. Thank you.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you. Thank you
48 very much, Bert.
49
50 Harvey wanted to make a quick comment

1 and Mr. Hernandez.

2

3 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
4 was wondering if you can talk to Bert and to having a
5 disc made for our Council.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BANGS: That's a great idea.

8

9 Have a disc made of his presentation
10 for the Council.

11

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Oh. That's what I was
13 going to suggest.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Okay. Thank
16 you, Don.

17

18 Okay. Everybody, thank you for coming.
19 And thank the Council for being kind. And motion to
20 adjourn.

21

22 (Off record)

23

24 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

