

1 SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME I

8
9 AHTNA Heritage Center
10 Copper Center, Alaska
11 October 21, 2015
12 8:37 a.m.

13
14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Ralph Lohse, Chairman
18 Lee Adler
19 Judy Caminer
20 Eleanor Dementi
21 Greg Encelewski
22 Andy McLaughlin
23 MaryAnn Mills
24 Michael Opheim
25 James Showalter
26 Gloria Stickwan
27
28
29 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Copper Center, Alaska - 10/21/2015)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're going to start off with a little video Donald Mike would like to show us before we go into the meeting. Donald, I'll turn it over to you.

MR. MIKE: For those that remember Katie John, she was recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a conservation hero and they presented the award to the late Katie John's son, Fred John, Jr. So I thought it would be fitting to show the video here at the AHTNA Heritage Center. After the video is done we'll get started on the meeting.

Thank you.

(Video played)

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. It gives us all something to think about because we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for that, period. I mean the whole program that has been going on for as long as it is has wouldn't be here. So it just shows that one individual can make a lot of difference and one individual did.

With that, I'd like to have Judy make the roll call and we'll see if we can establish a quorum.

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning, everyone. Mr. Henrichs.

(No response)

MS. CAMINER: Donald, was there comment?

MR. MIKE: Mr. Henrichs can't make it today. Thank you.

MS. CAMINER: Ms. Dementi.

MS. DEMENTI: Here.

MS. CAMINER: Mr. Encelewski.

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Here.
2
3 MS. CAMINER: Ms. Mills.
4
5 MS. MILLS: Here.
6
7 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Adler.
8
9 MR. ADLER: Here.
10
11 MS. CAMINER: Ms. Stickwan.
12
13 (No response)
14
15 MS. CAMINER: I assume is coming later.
16
17 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Gloria Stickwan,
18 I think she may be here later, but she usually attends
19 our meeting. Thank you.
20
21 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Showalter.
22
23 MR. SHOWALTER: Here.
24
25 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Opheim.
26
27 MR. OPHEIM: Here.
28
29 MS. CAMINER: Mr. McLaughlin.
30
31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Here.
32
33 MS. CAMINER: I'm here. Mr. Lohse.
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Here.
36
37 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Carpenter.
38
39 (No response)
40
41 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Tom
42 Carpenter was unable to attend this meeting due to work
43 commitments. He may be calling in via teleconference.
44
45 Thank you.
46
47 MS. CAMINER: And Mr. Moonin.
48
49 (No response)
50

1 MR. MIKE: Mr. Moonin hasn't responded
2 to my inquiries or emails or phone calls.

3
4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5
6 MS. CAMINER: I believe we have a
7 quorum.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy.
10 Normally Gloria does our invocation. I don't see
11 Gloria here yet, so I will open with an invocation if
12 that's okay with the rest of the Council.

13
14 (Invocation)

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With that, Eric, would
17 you like to make some opening comments.

18
19 MR. VEACH: Good morning. My name is
20 Eric Veach. I'm the acting superintendent for
21 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and I'd
22 like to welcome you all here. We're very honored to be
23 able to host this meeting in our facilities here and I
24 really look forward to hearing your deliberation and
25 discussion of the issues faced in our communities. I
26 know a lot of you have traveled a long ways to come
27 here and we thank you for that.

28
29 During your time here if you need
30 anything, please don't hesitate to ask myself or any of
31 the Park staff. We'd be happy to help.

32
33 Thank you and enjoy your meeting.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Eric. Does
36 that include steak for dinner?

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. VEACH: I brought meatballs.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Tana. Ta a.

45
46 MS. FINNESAND: Welcome to C'ek'aedi
47 Hwnax, Legacy House. It's the AHTNA Cultural Center.
48 It's operated by AHTNA Heritage Foundation. My name is
49 Ta a Finnesand. I'm the curator. I take care of the
50 collections. We have some museum collections here and

1 I help with the exhibits. This place is a pretty
2 special place, expressing and helping to interpret for
3 visitors the culture of the AHTNA people who are from
4 this area. This is their country. We've been open
5 since late 2009 and I've worked here since it opened.
6 We operate through donations and grants.

7
8 On behalf of AHTNA Heritage Foundation
9 I'd like to welcome the board and the meeting and the
10 people that are attending. So thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. With that,
13 I will call this meeting to order. Oh, Barbara, have
14 you got a word or two for us.

15
16 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 My name is Barbara Cellarius and I'm the subsistence
18 coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
19 Preserve. I wanted to mention a few logistical things.

20
21 The Park visitor center is on the right
22 as you exit this building. It's closed to the public
23 this week because our interpretive staff are all in
24 training. The book store is also closed as are the
25 other visitor complex buildings, but I wanted to
26 mention that we have resource division staff over in
27 the visitor center building to keep the lights on, so
28 you're welcome to go over there and to use the
29 bathrooms. There's two bathrooms over there. We also
30 have some exhibits you can look around at.

31
32 Mike is over there today. Tomorrow the
33 person who is going to be holding down the fort is
34 Carolyn. I also have some snacks over there that were
35 left over from our SRC meeting and that's where we're
36 going to be tonight.

37
38 If you want to stretch your legs while
39 you're here, if you head out of this building sort of
40 straight out that way, you'll hit the bluff, and if it
41 clears off, there's a lovely view of the Wrangell
42 Mountains. If you turn left after you hit the bluff,
43 you'll be on the Boreal Forest Trail and it goes along
44 the edge of the bluff, turns left into the woods, turns
45 left again onto the historic Valdez Trail and then,
46 when you hit the road, there's another left and you'll
47 come back actually to this point.

48
49 There's another trail that is more
50 hilly, so the Boreal Forest Trail is pretty flat.

1 There's a more hilly trail that starts the same as the
2 Boreal Forest Trail and then kind of veers off to the
3 right down the hill. There's a sign at that point to
4 let you know about that.

5
6 So I hope you enjoy your stay and, as
7 Eric said, if you have anything we can help you with,
8 let us know.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Barbara.
13 With that, I'll call the meeting to order. This is the
14 meeting of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional
15 Advisory Council on October 21st, 2015, the fall
16 meeting. I would like to also welcome all of you. It's
17 been a long time sitting here and it's been a long time
18 seeing many, many of you. Many of you I've known for a
19 lot of years, many of you I've only known for a short
20 time. A lot of the Council members are the same.

21
22 We're here to look at things from the
23 standpoint of subsistence and that's something we need
24 to keep in mind all the time, is that the reason we're
25 here is for subsistence for rural residents of Alaska,
26 as was provided by Congress.

27
28 I'd like to introduce all of my Council
29 members or have my Council members introduce themselves
30 to the audience and we'll just start at one end of the
31 table and say your name and where you're from and we'll
32 go that way.

33
34 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim, Seldovia.

35
36 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Andy McLaughlin,
37 Chenega Bay.

38
39 MR. ADLER: Lee Adler from Glennallen.

40
41 MS. CAMINER: Judy Caminer, Anchorage.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ralph Lohse, Copper
44 Basin.

45
46 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'm Greg Encelewski.
47 I'm from Ninilchik.

48
49 MS. MILLS: Mary Ann Mills, Kenai.

50

1 MR. SHOWALTER: James Showalter,
2 Sterling.

3
4 MS. DEMENTI: Eleanor Dementi,
5 Cantwell.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Council
8 members. With that, we'll go on to a review and adopt
9 the agenda. Does anybody on the Council have any
10 additions. Donald Mike had a couple that he had for
11 us. If anybody else has any additions or changes
12 they'd like to see to the agenda, now is the time to
13 bring them forward.

14
15 Donald.

16
17 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
18 agenda under old business, Refuge proposed rule on
19 hunting, Andy Loranger, he's the Refuge Manager for the
20 Kenai, it indicates on our draft agenda saying it's an
21 action item. It's an update for the Council. Andy
22 Loranger won't be here today and he requested that to
23 be placed under agency reports for tomorrow.

24
25 And under crossover proposals, Barbara
26 Cellarius, she'll be traveling to the Eastern Interior
27 Council, so if we can address WP16-60 Unit 12 caribou,
28 rescind closure. If we can move that up either at the
29 top or later on this morning.

30
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32
33 MS. CAMINER: Whoever just called in
34 please hit your mute button.

35
36 MR. MIKE: Good morning. Whoever
37 called in please hit your mute button, *6 or mute if
38 you have a mute feature on your phone, *6 please to
39 mute your phone.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Under new
42 business, I met with George Pappas, he's our State
43 liaison for the Board of Fish and he wanted to address
44 some -- I'm sorry, this is for -- this is another
45 subject matter. The State of Alaska is seeking some
46 Regional Advisory Council members to participate on a
47 statewide Dall sheep working group, so we may want to
48 include that under new business, as 11(e).

49
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Donald, I missed the
2 Paxton closed area WP16-16. We'd like to move that to
3 the front of the list, is that correct?

4
5 MR. MIKE: No, it's the Unit 12
6 caribou, Proposal 16-60.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, 16-60. Okay,
9 number 12.

10
11 MR. MIKE: Yes.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Then we'll move that
14 to the head of the list. Then under new business a
15 report by -- who was it again?

16
17 MR. MIKE: The State of Alaska is
18 seeking Regional Advisory Council members to
19 participate on a statewide Dall sheep working group. I
20 don't know who will be coordinating this working group
21 and I have no meeting dates yet, but we'll need to
22 identify a Council member to sit on this working group.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I'm looking for
25 where we have new business put and I can't find it.
26 Should we put it right after old business?

27
28 MS. MILLS: On the top of Page 2.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, I see it now.
31 That's ADF&G, right?

32
33 MS. MILLS: Uh-huh.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Council
36 members.

37
38 MS. MILLS: This is Mary Ann Mills.
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would also like to report
40 under new business the Attorney General's Advisory
41 Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native Children
42 Exposed to Violence. There is a portion that is
43 related to subsistence activities.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And you will do the
46 report on that?

47
48 MS. MILLS: Yes.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That will be 11(f).

1 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.

4

5 MS. CAMINER: I listened in or went to
6 a couple Federal Board meetings over the spring and
7 summer and I wanted to know -- and it's probably on our
8 agenda in some of the reports. I'd like to know the
9 status of the request for reconsideration for the net
10 fishing on the Kenai. I'm sure hundreds of those RFRs
11 have come in, but also to explain to especially some of
12 the new members of the Council here what that means.
13 Also hopefully we'll get an update on the fishing that
14 took place on the Kasilof this summer as well.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy, would we put
17 that under new business or agency reports? Where would
18 you suggest we put it?

19

20 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Donald.

23

24 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
25 the RFR on the Kenai that will come under agency
26 reports and we have staff from OSM, Mr. Tom Kron, will
27 provide an update on the RFR and where it's at and what
28 are the next steps.

29

30 As far as the Kenai and Kasilof
31 fisheries, Mr. Jeff Anderson will provide a report
32 under agency reports also.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, yeah, I see it
37 down here on Page 253. And we'll add the RFR. Okay.
38 Any other further -- I'd like to welcome Gloria.

39

40 MS. STICKWAN: Thank you.

41

42 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. That's great
43 that those topics are being covered. I wonder if we
44 can just check that everybody will be available to stay
45 till the end of the meeting to hear those topics so
46 that everybody can hear them.

47

48 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chair. Just for
49 everyone's information, I need to be leaving by noon or
50 shortly after tomorrow. Hopefully we'll be there by

1 then. I do have to be back in town by Friday morning.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, if we don't, we
4 can also move it up
5 so that we can get it before you have to leave.

6

7 MS. CAMINER: That would be great.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for that
10 information. Any other changes, suggestions or
11 additions the Council members would like to add to the
12 agenda.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, a motion
17 to accept the agenda is in order.

18

19 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll make a motion to
20 accept the agenda as amended with the additions we just
21 currently heard.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second.

24

25 MS. MILLS: Second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
28 seconded to accept the agenda with the additions we've
29 just put into it. All in favor signify by saying aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
34 saying no.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. At
39 this point we'll review and approve the previous
40 meeting's minutes. Any corrections or additions that
41 need to be made to the minutes by any Council member.
42 I'd like to thank Donald for the way he does the
43 minutes and the work he puts into them.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Unless there are any
48 changes or additions that need to be made, a motion to
49 accept the previous meeting minutes is in order.

50

1 MS. CAMINER: So moved.
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved to
4 accept the previous meeting minutes. Do I hear a
5 second.
6
7 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll second it, Mr.
8 Chair.
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
11 seconded. Discussion.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none. The
16 question is in order.
17
18 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll call the
19 question.
20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All in favor signify
22 by saying aye.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
27 saying no.
28
29 (No opposing votes)
30
31 MS. DEMENTI: I'll abstain.
32
33 MS. STICKWAN: I'll abstain too.
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Two abstains. Okay.
36 Motion carries.
37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The next one is length
39 of service awards. Donald, what is that.
40
41 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, thank you. We
42 recognize -- the service awards are for Regional
43 Advisory Council members length of service. We have
44 two members that served at least five years or more and
45 that would be -- Mr. Chair, I don't know if you want to
46 present the certificate of recognition to our
47 recipients. That would be Ms. Judy Caminer. I'm
48 sorry, Ms. Caminer, this was late in coming. It got
49 lost in my pile and that was supposed to be issued at
50 our last meeting. Ms. Judy Caminer and Ms. Mary Ann

1 Mills both are getting a certificate of recognition for
2 five years of service on the Regional Advisory Council.

3

4 MS. CAMINER: Thank you.

5

6 (Applause)

7

8 MS. MILLS: Thank you so much.

9

10 (Applause)

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that, I
13 thank you for your time that you've put in, Judy.
14 Okay. Now we will go on to reports. Council member
15 reports. Do we have any Council members that have
16 anything to report that they'd like to report, anything
17 they've attended that applies to our work and our
18 meeting.

19

20 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chairman. I just
21 would address -- you know, we had quite a few meetings.
22 You know, consultation with the Federal Subsistence
23 Board. All of these are going to be covered under
24 reports from Ninilchik and Jeff's report and others, so
25 I wait until that time, but I do have some meetings I
26 should talk about.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other
29 Council member. Gloria.

30

31 MS. STICKWAN: I just wanted to report
32 that yesterday we met at Tazlina Hall, the Wrangell-St.
33 Elias Subsistence Resource Commission. We took action
34 on proposals. I don't know if you want me to go over
35 them now or wait until we go through the proposals.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think it would be
38 more apropos if we went over the actions that you took
39 on proposals when we are on the proposal because some
40 of us might not remember them that long.

41

42 MS. STICKWAN: It was a good meeting.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It was a good meeting?

45

46 MS. STICKWAN: Yes. Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

49

50 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 I'd mention that I went to a couple of the Federal
2 Board meetings since our last meeting. At one of them
3 there were a few, but there was supposed to be a lot
4 more people from Cooper Landing and Hope who were quite
5 interested in our program because they were not aware
6 of our meeting last year in Kenai, they said, and they
7 were not aware that the Board had passed regulations in
8 the Kenai that might involve fisheries there. So they
9 maybe applied this year to be more active in our
10 program and want to participate more.

11
12 Also the summer meeting, and we'll hear
13 about this, is when the Board made some decisions on
14 rural determinations, which, of course, is really
15 important to our Council, to all the Councils. Also
16 there was quite a bit of discussion again on the
17 fisheries on the Kenai and on the Kasilof. I know
18 we'll go into that in more depth, but it has been
19 talked about quite a bit since our last meeting.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy. Any
22 other Council members have anything that they would
23 like to report of interest to the rest of the Council
24 apropos to our business.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, I'll
29 give the Chair's report. The Chair really doesn't have
30 much to report. It was an excellent caribou season.
31 Fishing was okay this summer. We didn't get a buffalo
32 yesterday. I didn't attend any meetings. I got a
33 couple calls this summer for emergency actions that
34 were emergency actions that we had kind of approved as
35 a Council on the Kenai. Other than that the Chair has
36 been very inactive this summer or very active but not
37 very active in the area of meetings. We picked lots of
38 berries. The blueberries were out of this world. The
39 cranberries were better. The salmonberries were
40 excellent and we had a lot of nagoonberries.

41
42 In other words, I took part in
43 subsistence activities pretty much for most of the
44 summer instead of going to meetings. I'm looking
45 forward to doing that more in the year to come. I just
46 want to thank all of you guys for having put up with me
47 for as long as you have. I don't know how long I'll be
48 able to stay away from this, but I am going to stay
49 away from it for a while and try to continue to do
50 things like that and things with my grandkids and my

1 children.

2

3 It was real fun. We were up at -- I
4 got home from Delta last night at 1:30 in the morning.
5 We hunted buffalo until after dark or until dark. We
6 didn't hunt after dark.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We got out of the
11 field after dark and we had myself, my wife, three
12 sons, a daughter-in-law and a grandchild and we were
13 all out there looking for buffalo at 7:00 in the
14 evening. I'm hoping to do more of that this year. The
15 grandkids are getting big enough to go everywhere. We
16 camped out on the Kenai last weekend in the rain in a
17 tent and two grandkids and two different families plus
18 another son.

19

20 You know, that's the kind of things
21 that I want to do in this coming year and that's why I
22 did not reapply. I'm finding that life is just so full
23 at this point in time that it's hard -- it's hard to
24 sit in a meeting today instead of being out buffalo
25 hunting. And they all came back with me, which I tried
26 to discourage them and tell them just to stay.

27

28 That's the only Chair report that I
29 have and just thank you for all the support and all of
30 the putting up with me that everybody around here has
31 done for I don't know how many years. I don't even
32 want to think about it.

33

34 (Applause)

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Public and
37 tribal comment on non-agenda items. Do we have any
38 call for comment at this point in time, Donald.

39

40 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I did not
41 receive any requests for public comments. I just want
42 to remind the public we have testifier cards. They're
43 blue. Please print your name and identify which
44 proposal or project or issue you want to speak on and
45 then provide the blue card to me and I'll forward it on
46 to the Chair so that way we'll have records of who's
47 providing testimony.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald.
2 Oh, I did forget to report one thing. The sharp-tailed
3 grouse population is at an all-time high. Rough grouse
4 have spread all the way out to the McCarthy Road. The
5 spruce hen population is not at an all-time high, but
6 the spruce hen population is up there and we're seeing
7 rabbits wherever we go, so the rabbit population has
8 started to come back. Lots of coyotes up the
9 Richardson Highway. Not very many foxes because
10 there's so many coyotes. And the ravens have been
11 killing our chickens.

12
13 Okay. That's the Chair's report. With
14 that, do we want to take a break at this time or go on
15 to some old business. Council, it's up to you.

16
17 MS. CAMINER: A few more things maybe.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Let's go on to
20 our old business right here and then we'll take a break
21 before new business. Rural determination update. It's
22 placed under the agency reports for tomorrow. So we
23 have Refuge's proposed rule on hunting. U.S. Fish and
24 Wildlife Service.

25
26 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That's tomorrow.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that's tomorrow
29 too. Wow. Donald.

30
31 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Sorry for the
32 confusion, but the Refuge's proposed rule on hunting,
33 as the Council adopted, would be moved for tomorrow
34 under agency reports, but the rural determination
35 update is under old business and we can go forward with
36 that.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Well, that
39 completes the first page of our agenda.

40
41 MS. CAMINER: We can do rural.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We can do that one.
44 Okay. I had that down for tomorrow.

45
46 MR. ENCELEWSKI: He just mixed them up.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Good.

49
50 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair, members of the

1 Council. Tom Kron with OSM. The rural briefing is
2 presented in a news release on Page 12 of your Council
3 books. I think Ms. Caminer was there at the Federal
4 Board meeting. Basically the board at their meeting in
5 June asked that the rural determination process, the
6 determinations were made almost a decade ago, that we
7 roll back to that point and change the way the process
8 was being handled so it's not as prescriptive.
9 Currently the determinations on that issue are in the
10 Secretary's office. We don't think there's been a
11 decision or there wasn't a decision as of Monday, but
12 they're at that point and we expect a decision very
13 soon.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any
18 questions. Judy.

19

20 MS. CAMINER: I guess, Tom, just for
21 the Council. So, in other words, all the current
22 determinations for the communities that are represented
23 here don't change.

24

25 MR. KRON: Yes. Mr. Chair, Ms.
26 Caminer, that's correct.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy. Any
29 other questions.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Have they come close
34 to determining a starting point for rural size or are
35 they even considering that?

36

37 MR. KRON: Basically what the Board
38 asked is that OSM develop criteria for the
39 determination process. This will be run through staff
40 and then the Staff Committee. The hope is to bring it
41 -- well, the intent, they will bring it back to the
42 Councils to look at to get their input. From what I'm
43 hearing, they're not sure, but they don't think it will
44 be ready by the winter Council meeting cycle, but by
45 next fall, a year from now, they expect to have it
46 ready.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other

1 questions.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Tom.
6
7 MS. DEMENTI: I have a question.
8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.
10
11 MS. DEMENTI: Did they reverse that
12 Saxman determination?
13
14 MR. KRON: Yes. Mr. Chair, Madame
15 Dementi.
16
17 MS. DEMENTI: I didn't know whether
18 that happened or not.
19
20 MR. KRON: Yes.
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other
23 comments, any questions on this.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none. Thank
28 you, Tom. Okay. With that, we finished the first
29 page.
30
31 We are going to take a break. Ten
32 minutes.
33
34 (Off record)
35
36 (On record)
37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'll call the meeting
39 back into session. We're under new business right now.
40 Is the ADF&G here to make a report at this point in
41 time, Donald?
42
43 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. No. We can deal
44 with that when we're done with the wildlife proposals.
45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So at this
47 point in time we're going to go on to our wildlife
48 proposals. I was informed that if anybody needs to
49 make a cell phone call, if you'd just take your cell
50 phone over to the main building over there, they have a

1 booster over there and you'll get much better service
2 than if you try to call in here or talk in here or
3 outside and you're welcome to do that.

4
5 Okay. At this point in time we're
6 going on to regional proposals and we're going on to
7 WP16-10a and 10b 6D moose, Page 23.

8
9 MS. CAMINER: The crossover one.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, yes, that's right.
12 My fault. I just wrote a 12 up there. You can tell
13 you're getting old. Okay. We're going to do WP16-60
14 on Page 167.

15
16 MR. EVANS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
17 and members of the board. My name is Tom Evans. I'm a
18 wildlife biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service,
19 Office of Subsistence Management. I'll be presenting
20 the analysis here for WP16-60 along with Barbara
21 Cellarius from the Park Service.

22
23 Proposal WP16-60 was submitted by the
24 Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory
25 Committee. They request the Chisana Caribou Herd hunt
26 be opened to all Federally qualified subsistence users
27 with a customary and traditional use determination for
28 caribou in Unit 12. The proponent also requests that
29 there be an unlimited number of Federal registration
30 permits available. This proposal can be found on Page
31 167 of your book.

32
33 The proponent states that the intent of
34 the proposal is to open the Chisana Caribou Herd hunt
35 to all Federally qualified subsistence users with a C&T
36 for caribou in Unit 12.

37
38 A little bit on the regulatory history.
39 In 2014, the Board approved Proposal WP14-15 which
40 included residents of Nabesna, defined as Nabesna Road
41 mileposts 25 to 46, to the list of eligible C&T users
42 for this herd. Also in 2014 the Board adopted
43 Proposal WP14-49 with a modification to change the fall
44 season dates to August 10 to September 30, but not
45 establish a winter season or a meat on the bone
46 requirement.

47
48 The Chisana Caribou Herd is a small,
49 non-migratory herd in the Wrangell-St. Elias National
50 Park and Preserve and southwestern Yukon, Canada.

1 It's characterized as a mountain caribou, which are
2 unique genetically, calving at high elevations rather
3 than aggregating in common calving grounds.

4

5 From 1998 to 2005, this herd has
6 declined by approximately 60 percent. The decline is
7 due primarily to poor calf recruitment and high adult
8 mortality associated with adverse weather conditions
9 and predation. Since 2005 the population has remained
10 relatively stable at approximately 700 caribou.

11

12 The management goals from the Chisana
13 Caribou Herd Working Group are to have a stable or
14 increasing population trend, an observed bull:cow ratio
15 of at least 35 bulls per 100 cows or greater, and a
16 three year calf:cow ratio above 15 calves per 100 cows.
17 And hopefully having an annual harvest of adult bulls
18 of approximately 2 percent of the estimated population.

19

20 The bull:cow ratio has exceeded
21 management objectives from 2003 to 2014. The three
22 year calf:cow ratio has exceeded management objectives
23 since 2005. The range of this herd consists of
24 relatively poor caribou habitat due to low lichen
25 prevalence.

26

27 The harvest history. The Chisana
28 Caribou management plan recommends a harvest of bulls
29 only not to exceed 2 percent of the estimated
30 population. The harvest is split equally between
31 Alaska and the Yukon with 1 percent for each area. The
32 harvest has been below the quota of seven bulls from
33 2012 to 2014 with an average of two to three caribou
34 per year.

35

36 Barbara would like to add a little bit
37 of updates to this.

38

39 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Tom. For
40 the record, my name is Barb Cellarius and I'm the
41 subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National
42 Park and Preserve. It's my phone that rings when
43 someone harvests a caribou. So I can give you two
44 updates. One is that the biologists did a comp count
45 last week or the week before and the bull:cow ratio in
46 2015 is actually the same in 2015 as it was in '14 at
47 40 bulls per 100 cows.

48

49 Then for the harvest this year you
50 should have a pink report in your packet. I wanted to

1 let you know that this year the harvest quota was
2 seven, as it has been for the last four years. We
3 decided the superintendent has the authority to set the
4 number of permits just so we have a good idea of what's
5 going on out there in the field and we set the maximum
6 number of permits at 18. There were 11 permits
7 actually issued. Seven people hunted and no caribou
8 were harvested. So just wanted to give you that
9 information.

10

11 MR. EVANS: Okay. So the effects of
12 this proposal. If this proposal is adopted under
13 Federal regulations it will increase hunting
14 opportunities for Federally qualified subsistence
15 users.

16 While the overall harvest may increase slightly, it is
17 unlikely that the harvest quota of seven bulls would be
18 met based on past harvest history. As I said before,
19 there is no real biological consequences anticipated of
20 increasing the harvest at this time.

21

22 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
23 support Proposal WP16-60 with modification to retain
24 the delegated authority of the superintendent of
25 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve to set
26 the number of permits.

27

28 Any questions.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions. If I
31 understand this proposal right, there would be no
32 maximum number -- if the proposal was adopted as
33 written, there would be no maximum number of permits.
34 When I look at the record, I see that never have the
35 maximum number of permits been taken. I mean the
36 permits have been 14, 14, 18, 18 and the highest number
37 of permits that were taken were 11. The highest number
38 of animals taken were three.

39

40 What would be the reason then for
41 having a maximum number of permits? If he's got the
42 delegated authority, if there would be too many people
43 apply for permits and too many caribou taken, he'd have
44 the ability to close the season, wouldn't he? So there
45 would be no necessity to have a maximum number of
46 permits prior to people taking them actually, would
47 there?

48

49 MR. EVANS: The only reason I see for
50 maybe a maximum number or a set number of permits is

1 because it's divided between Yukon and Alaska, so maybe
2 that would help with that division.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions.
5 Judy.

6

7 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. If I could,
8 just for example, what communities might be added then
9 by saying all?

10

11 MS. CELLARIUS: I can answer that
12 question. So the communities that have C&T but don't
13 currently, aren't included in the 804, are Dot Lake,
14 Healy Lake, Tanacross and then I think there's also
15 some people kind of living in between the communities
16 within Unit 12. I looked at some State of Alaska 2014
17 population data and it looks like it's around
18 potentially 200 additional people living in those
19 communities.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Barbara.
22 Isn't the biggest -- I won't say detriment, but the
23 biggest impediment to hunting these caribou is the fact
24 that you have to fly in and they're not readily
25 accessible. What is our current status on flying in
26 from a Park standpoint?

27

28 MS. CELLARIUS: The majority of the
29 animals are actually in the National Preserve and
30 there's not a restriction on using the aircraft for
31 subsistence harvest in the National Preserve. I think
32 there's a map. So if you look on the map on Page 173
33 of the Council book, the light green area -- it's a
34 little bit hard to see, but the lighter green area
35 within the Park and Preserve is Preserve and it's only
36 when you get essentially south of the White River where
37 you end up in National Park, so the majority of that
38 area where the herd is is in National Preserve land.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for that
41 clarification. Any other questions for Barbara.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What has the success
46 rate in Canada been? Have we got any record on that at
47 all?

48

49 MS. CELLARIUS: Currently there's not a
50 hunt open in Canada.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There is not a hunt
2 open.

3
4 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah. So there's a
5 management plan for the herd and the hunt that occurs
6 here in U.S. is done consistent with the management
7 plan. As Tom mentioned, they felt limited harvest of 2
8 percent of the herd was something that could happen as
9 long as the other population characteristics remained
10 within those parameters. That quota is divided equally
11 between the U.S. and Canada and then essentially it's
12 Alaska where the U.S. hunt occurs and then in Canada.

13
14 Each country or province or state would
15 sort of figure out how that hunt would occur under its
16 own rule, so we've been having a hunt here in Alaska
17 for four years. They haven't had a hunt in Canada.
18 That herd is designated as a species of special concern
19 or there's a special designation there that they
20 haven't gone through the process that would allow a
21 hunt to occur over there.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So, technically
24 speaking, they're allowed 1 percent, we're allowed 1
25 percent. If they don't harvest their 1 percent, it
26 just adds to the herd. And we haven't been taking our
27 1 percent.

28
29 Any other questions. And if I
30 understood correctly from what I was hearing, OSM does
31 not see any conservation concerns with this proposal.

32
33 MR. EVANS: That's correct.

34
35 MR. ADLER: It looks like the total
36 herd here is approximately 600 now, is it, according to
37 this chart on Page 175?

38
39 MR. EVANS: Yes, it's approximately 6-
40 700 animals.

41
42 MR. ADLER: So the harvest of two or
43 three or four animals is pretty much insignificant as
44 far as affecting the herd.

45
46 MR. EVANS: Correct.

47
48 MR. ADLER: So it wouldn't hurt to go a
49 little higher than probably.

50

1 MR. EVANS: Currently their folks
2 aren't meeting the current limit now, so, yes, it could
3 go to the current limits and harvest more.

4
5 MR. ADLER: There's not much interest,
6 huh?

7
8 MR. EVANS: It's a hard -- yeah, you
9 have to fly in, so that makes it more difficult for
10 many people that don't have the resources to get there.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we have fairly
13 rapid reporting requirements on the permit?

14
15 MS. CELLARIUS: So one of the
16 conditions of the permit is that they report within
17 three days of harvest. We came up with that number
18 after consulting with the local stakeholders. So it is
19 my phone that rings when a caribou is harvested. We
20 actually have a dedicated phone line that we use so
21 they can just call the phone line and leave a message.
22 I just ask them to let me know who they are and what
23 the date is and where they harvested the caribou.
24 Later they submit the more formal form, but that phone
25 call satisfies the three-day reporting requirement or
26 they can send me an email.

27
28 I issue all the permits, so I kind of
29 work closely with the hunters. That's why I actually
30 have 100 percent reporting on this hunt already, which
31 it only closed at the end of the month, but everybody's
32 gotten back to me with how the hunt went this year.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If you were getting
35 reports and there was a problem with us exceeding our
36 quota, the superintendent has the authority to close
37 the hunt. How would you contact the hunters that are
38 still out in the field to tell them that the hunt is
39 closed or do they have a check-in requirement or
40 anything like that?

41
42 MS. CELLARIUS: It would be hard. I'm
43 not quite sure how I would contact people who are out
44 in the field without sending out a ranger in an
45 airplane, but because we issue a limited number of
46 permits I am able to keep track of the hunters. So I
47 could certainly contact everybody who isn't in the
48 field. It's a fairly long -- I mean the season now is
49 more than a month long, so not everybody goes out at
50 once. A number of our hunters are out in Chisana, so

1 they live there and don't have to fly anywhere because
2 they're already in the hunt area.

3
4 So far it hasn't been a problem. If it
5 looks like we were getting -- if we issued a lot of
6 permits and it seemed like there were a lot of people
7 out in the field, I think I would be more concerned,
8 but so far things have worked pretty well.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: At this point in time
11 the problem would be if all of a sudden you had a big
12 jump in the number of people applying for permits, at
13 that point in time we'd have to reconsider it. But
14 when you're not even giving the maximum permits that
15 are now available out, I'm totally in favor of not
16 making problems. Wait until a problem shows up and
17 then address it. In this case here, I can't see where
18 you wouldn't have some kind of warning that there would
19 be possible too many people out there.

20
21 But, Barbara, you're not going to be
22 here all of the time and sooner or later somebody else
23 is going to have to take that over, so you need to have
24 it set up so somebody else can step in and do the same
25 thing. Of course you've got 20 more years.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other
30 questions on WP16-60.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A motion to accept is
35 in order.

36
37 MS. STICKWAN: I move to accept
38 Proposal 16-60.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So moved to accept 16-
41 60. Do I hear a second.

42
43 MS. MILLS: Second.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
46 seconded. Discussion. Council members, does anybody
47 have any comments to make on this one. Greg.

48
49 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'm going to
50 make a comment. I support it, you know, the more

1 opportunity. I do not like in-season management to be
2 wide open for opening and closing. I don't agree with
3 that, but in this case I think you guys got it well
4 covered. Truthfully, I don't see why they need it.
5 They're not even getting the number of permits applied
6 for, so I find it kind of a strange proposal, but I'll
7 support it anyway.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

10

11 MS. STICKWAN: I support it with a
12 modification to retain the delegated authority to the
13 superintendent of the Wrangell-St. Elias to set the
14 number of permits. When this was set up, we had a
15 meeting at Wrangell-St. Elias and the communities
16 agreed to have a delegated authority that was agreed
17 upon from the very beginning. So I support that. And
18 allowing the Federally qualified to hunt in Unit 12
19 will provide more opportunities to meet subsistence
20 needs. It wouldn't affect the caribou herd if we added
21 the three communities, I believe it is, to the C&T. So
22 I support it with the modification.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that also the
25 opinion of the SRC?

26

27 MS. STICKWAN: Yes. Barbara is going
28 to -- I agreed that she would.....

29

30 MS. CELLARIUS: When you're ready to do
31 the comments, I'll present the comment. I'm a little
32 confused about where we are in the process.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I'm a little
35 confused too because I don't have my slip in front of
36 me. At this point in time, let's go through the
37 process. We've had the analysis, so we're going to go
38 on to the report on board consultations, tribes and
39 then ANCSA corporations. Do we have any comments on
40 this proposal from them.

41

42 Donald.

43

44 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Beginning in August, September we invited tribes and
46 ANCSA corporations to consult with the Federal
47 Subsistence Board on the wildlife proposals and it
48 varied from no participation to a few participation and
49 I did not receive the summary of the actual tribal
50 consultation, but we will have it at the Federal

1 Subsistence Board meeting.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald.
6 Agency comments. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

7

8 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is
9 Drew Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and
10 Game in Anchorage. The Department's preliminary
11 recommendation is to support Proposal WP16-60 as
12 modified by OSM.

13

14 Over.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any
17 questions for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none. Thank
22 you for that report. Federal agencies. Do we have any
23 reports from any Federal agencies.

24

25 MR. EVANS: Just a quick comment. Just
26 to clarify that we're discussing the proposal as
27 adopted with the modification. Just to clarify that.
28 It's with the modification is what you're discussing.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

31

32 MS. CAMINER: Well, I think the
33 clarification of our process, usually what the Council
34 does for any proposal is to move to adopt the proposal
35 by the proponent. If that's what was done, which it
36 was, I believe, we will still need to discuss an
37 amendment or modification. So we are a little bit
38 rusty, so we're a little out of our order here, but
39 that's okay. We'll get there. But thanks for that
40 clarification.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Native, tribal,
43 villages. Any comments from any of them, Donald.

44

45 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. No, we did not
46 receive any comments.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And the Interagency
49 Staff Committee.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No comments from
4 Interagency Staff Committee. Advisory groups.

5

6 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Barbara Cellarius from Wrangell-St. Elias and I'm going
8 to give you a comment from the Wrangell-St. Elias
9 Subsistence Resource Commission, which, as Gloria
10 mentioned, met in Tazlina the last two days. The
11 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
12 Commission supports WP16-60 as modified in the OSM
13 preliminary conclusion.

14

15 The proposal would provide additional
16 subsistence opportunity for Federally qualified
17 subsistence areas in the communities that the SRC
18 represents. It's difficult to access the herd during
19 the hunting season and the proposed change is not
20 likely to significantly increase the harvest. We
21 continue to be concerned about the small size of the
22 herd and support retaining the superintendent's ability
23 to set the number of permits as a tool to use in
24 managing the hunt.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any
27 questions for Barbara.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we have any Fish
32 and Game advisory committee reports, Donald.

33

34 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There were no
35 advisory committee comments.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we have any
38 comments from other Regional Councils on this.

39

40 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. The Eastern
41 Interior Regional Advisory Council is meeting this
42 week, so we won't be hearing what their comments are
43 until the board meets.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So their comments will
46 go to the Board.

47

48 MR. MIKE: Correct.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, thank you. Do

1 we have a summary of written public comments.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. We have one
4 written comment received from the AHTNA Subsistence
5 Committee. It begins on Page 182 of your meeting
6 materials. The AHTNA Subsistence Committee supports
7 Proposal 16-60 with an amendment to allow only
8 Federally qualified subsistence users with a positive
9 customary and traditional use for caribou in Unit 12.

10

11 They oppose opening Unit 12 Chisana
12 Caribou Herd to non-Federally qualified subsistence
13 hunters. Adding the communities of Dot Lake, Healy
14 Lake and Tanacross will provide an opportunity for them
15 to harvest caribou to sustain their livelihood and meet
16 subsistence needs.

17

18 As the proposal states, harvesting a
19 Chisana caribou is difficult due to the terrain and
20 access to the hunting area. Most likely not too many
21 more Chisana caribou will be harvested by including C&T
22 for these additional communities to the Unit 12 caribou
23 hunt.

24

25 Additionally, Wrangell-St. Elias
26 National Park Superintendent has the discretion to
27 close the hunt if the hunters are reaching the harvest
28 quota for this caribou herd.

29

30 That concludes the written comment
31 summary on Proposal 16-60 Mr. Chair.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald.
36 Any questions or any comments on that.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We have a
41 motion to adopt the proposal as written. As Judy
42 pointed out, in our discussion if we want to add some
43 amendments to it, then we need to make motions to add
44 an amendment and then vote on the amendment before we
45 vote on the proposal. So discussion now on the
46 proposal that's on the table, which is WP16-60 as
47 written. Gloria.

48

49 MS. STICKWAN: I support the proposal
50 with modification to retain the delegated authority to

1 the superintendent of the Wrangell-St. Elias National
2 Park and Preserve to set the number of permits. That
3 would be amended.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You're making that as
6 a motion.

7
8 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second.

11
12 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
15 seconded to add OSM's modification to give the
16 superintendent authority to set the number of permits
17 and take care of the season that way. As written in
18 our book on Page -- what, Judy?

19
20 MS. CAMINER: 167.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 167. Judy.

23
24 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Well, this motion as amended certainly would be
26 beneficial to additional subsistence users and it does
27 not pose any kind of conservation concern and I believe
28 it's supported by substantial evidence, so I will be
29 voting for it.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We have an
32 amendment on the table. Any further discussion on the
33 amendment.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If not, the question
38 is in order. All in favor of the amendment to adopt
39 OSM's modification signify by saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
44 saying nay.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. We
49 now have an amended motion on the table. Any further
50 discussion on this motion to adopt WP16-60 as modified

1 by the OSM.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, the
6 question is in order.

7

8 MS. CAMINER: Question.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has been
11 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

12

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
16 saying nay.

17

18 (No opposing votes)

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. WP16-
21 60 is adopted as modified by OSM. We're going to go to
22 WP16-10a and 10b Unit 16D moose.

23

24 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
25 Members of the Council. I'm Robbin LaVine with the
26 Office of Subsistence Management, an anthropologist. I
27 will be presenting the analysis for WP16-10a. It's
28 found on Page 23 of your RAC books. The proposal 16-
29 10a was submitted by Andy McLaughlin of Chenega Bay and
30 it requests that rural residents of Unit 6D be included
31 in the customary and traditional use determination for
32 moose in Unit 6D.

33

34 Currently there is no Federal
35 subsistence priority for moose in 6D and no customary
36 and traditional use determination for moose in 6D.
37 Residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek have historically
38 harvested moose in areas such as the Kings Bay drainage
39 area in Unit 7; or in the Copper River delta, near
40 Cordova; and in the Lowe River drainage, outside of
41 Federal public lands in Unit 6D.

42

43 A positive customary and traditional
44 use determination for moose in Unit 6D and an
45 established Federal open season would allow rural
46 residents of Unit 6D to harvest moose when the
47 population increases.

48

49 In regards to regulatory history, the
50 Alaska Department of Fish and Game has managed a hunt

1 for any bull moose in Unit 6D
2 with season dates running from September 1 through
3 September 30 for over 20 years. Both Alaska residents
4 and nonresidents are eligible. There is currently no
5 open season under Federal regulations to hunt moose and
6 no customary and traditional use determination for
7 moose in Unit 6D.

8

9 In 2014, the Board adopted Proposal
10 WP14-10 establishing a customary and traditional use
11 determination for moose in the Kings Bay drainage
12 portion of Unit 7 for the residents of Chenega Bay and
13 Tatitlek, recognizing their traditional use of moose in
14 this area. The Board also adopted Proposal WP16-11
15 establishing a limited moose hunt of one bull per
16 community for Chenega Bay and Tatitlek every four
17 years.

18

19 The proposal seeks to include rural
20 residents of Unit 6D, which includes rural residents of
21 Whittier, Chenega Bay and Tatitlek, in a customary and
22 traditional use determination for moose in Unit 6D.

23

24 Moose were introduced in the Copper
25 River Delta, and the numbers of moose documented in
26 Unit 6D has been relatively low. However, the customary
27 and traditional uses of moose by residents of Chenega
28 Bay and Tatitlek have already been recognized by the
29 Board, although most of these were harvested outside of
30 Unit 6D.

31

32 Although the moose population is low in
33 this area now, if the Board were to adopt this
34 proposal, residents of Unit 6D would have a customary
35 and traditional use determination already in place in
36 the event that the moose population increases to allow
37 for a Federal hunt. If adopted, this proposal will have
38 no effect on the moose population because, although it
39 will recognize customary and traditional use for the
40 communities in Unit
41 6D, there would be no Federal hunt for moose in Unit 6D
42 under current regulations.

43

44 Therefore, for these reasons, the OSM
45 preliminary conclusion is to support WP16-10a for rural
46 residents of Unit 6D to be included in the customary
47 and traditional use determination for moose in Unit 6D.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any
2 questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for that
7 presentation. Milo.

8
9 MR. BURCHAM: I guess I have a question
10 on how to proceed. Do you want to act on part (a)
11 first, the C&T, or do you want the whole presentation?

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think we should act
14 on 10a as a separate proposal. You're in 10b, right?

15
16 MR. BURCHAM: Right.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I just saw you
19 sitting there and I thought possibly you had something
20 to say on 10a. Okay. My fault. With that -- no
21 questions anybody.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With that we can go on
26 to our report on Board consultations. I think Donald
27 said that we had none and that they would be presented
28 at the Board on tribal consultations on this. So we
29 can go to agency comments, Alaska Department of Fish
30 and Game.

31
32 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. This is Drew
33 Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
34 We lumped our comments for Proposal 10. The
35 Department's preliminary recommendation is to oppose
36 Proposal WP16-10. The Board of Game has determined
37 that there are no customary and traditional uses of
38 moose in Game Management Unit 6D. There's little moose
39 habitat in Unit 6D that does not have a resident
40 population of moose. With a documented harvest of only
41 11 moose in Unit 6D in the last 40 years, harvests are
42 largely opportunistic and there is no need to introduce
43 regulatory complexity. Users are much better served if
44 State and Federal regulations are aligned as much as
45 possible.

46
47 Over.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Drew. Any
50 questions for Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any
4 Federal agencies to speak on this one, Forest Service.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No comments. Native,
9 tribal, village agencies or comments. Donald, do we
10 have any.
11
12 MR. MIKE: No, we didn't get any.
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Interagency Staff
16 Committee comments.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: None. Fish and Game
21 Advisory Committee comments. Do we have any from Fish
22 and Game Advisory Committee, Donald.
23
24 MR. MIKE: No comments, Mr. Chair.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And Subsistence
27 Resource Commissions would not be applicable at this
28 point in time and other Regional Councils would not be
29 applicable either. Do we have any summary of written
30 comments.
31
32 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There were no
33 written comments on WP16-10a. Thank you.
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any requests for public
36 testimony.
37
38 MR. MIKE: No requests, Mr. Chair.
39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Regional
41 Council recommendations. We need a motion to adopt
42 WP16-10a. Do I hear such a motion.
43
44 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll so move, Mr.
45 Chairman.
46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved. Do I
48 hear a second.
49
50 MR. ADLER: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
2 seconded to adopt WP16-10a, customary and traditional
3 use determination for moose for residents of 16D.
4 Currently no subsistence priority. Okay. We have a
5 motion on the table. All in favor -- oh, we don't vote
6 on it yet. My fault. I'm kind of in a hurry.
7 Discussion. Andy.

8
9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 I kind of find it ironic for agencies when there's
11 known documentation of these moose having been
12 harvested historically to claim that they haven't. I
13 don't think I'd be doing my job representing the people
14 there if I didn't mention Johnny M. Totemoff, Charlie
15 Salanoff and even someone that's alive today, David
16 Totemoff in Tatitlek. These are elders, two of which
17 have passed, that used skin boats to go into Kings Bay
18 to harvest moose.

19
20 The issue in this (a) -- not the (b)
21 part. The (b) part is the timing. The (a) part is
22 kind of the location. If you look on that map and you
23 can see where that line goes down and divides 7, when I
24 read the discussion it says Unit 7. Okay. Everything
25 is in Unit 7. But, no, 6D is actually a very large
26 portion of Kings Bay itself and I know for a fact that
27 moose do occupy a range in 6D miles from the mouth of
28 the bay where the Kings River and the Nellie Juan
29 River dump in.

30
31 As a matter of fact, the line is drawn
32 on the Kings River and moose do occupy -- I've seen
33 tracks on the east side of the Kings River, which is
34 technically 6D. I know that moose have been harvested
35 on a small stream in there that gets a run of silvers
36 and moose occupy that as well as three or four
37 drainages down in the Kings Bay area of 6D. Moose have
38 been taken there. So, in my opinion, that's why I put
39 this part of the proposal in there.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Questions for Andy.

44
45 Judy.

46
47 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. And I
48 appreciate Andy is telling us what people have said and
49 then there's also as part of the analysis on Page 28
50 that some of the surveys also said the same thing as

1 what Andy is saying. I think this Council has been
2 pretty good in expanding C&T when people have stepped
3 forward and asked for it and have a documented use.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy.
6 Andy, I have a question. Are there any other areas in
7 6D that have moose that you know of?

8

9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Not to my knowledge, though it would be feasibly
11 possible for some to swim the coast from the shoreline
12 past some drainages towards Seward. It would be
13 possible they could, but I've never heard of any moose
14 in there.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we are actually
17 dealing with a very small area, a small herd and also a
18 small opportunity and it's an if situation. If it
19 supports a hunt, then these people would have C&T on
20 that hunt.

21

22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: That's exactly
23 correct.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And it is on Federal
26 land.

27

28 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I believe so.

29

30 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham, Forest
31 Service, subsistence lead for the Chugach. To answer
32 your question about moose populations in Unit 6D, I
33 could add a little bit to that. There's actually three
34 places in Prince William Sound where moose harvest has
35 been documented in recent history. One is near the
36 Kings Bay area, the 6D portion of -- or the area
37 adjacent to the Kings Bay portion of Unit 7 in 6D.

38

39 The Lowe River around Valdez is where
40 -- and I'll get into this in the 10b portion, but it's
41 pertinent to the discussion right now. The Lowe River
42 area around Valdez is where most harvest has been
43 documented in Unit 6D, but there is no Federal land
44 there. And adjacent to the Copper River delta 6C some
45 moose move to the Boswell Bay area on Hinchinbrook
46 Island, the very eastern tip of Hinchinbrook Island.
47 Coincidentally, that very eastern tip is non-Federal
48 land, but some moose show up in Boswell Bay area on
49 Hinchinbrook.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And those would be the
2 areas that this customary and traditional use
3 determination would be applicable to.

4
5 MR. BURCHAM: It would be applicable to
6 all of Unit 6D, including those areas. It wouldn't
7 have much bearing on the Lowe River, which doesn't have
8 Federal land, and the actual area where moose show up
9 on Hinchinbrook is not Federal.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other
12 discussion, questions. Andy.

13
14 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 I just had one more comment here so I wouldn't miss
16 some of these though processes I had. I'd like to
17 point out that in 6D the State sport season, actually
18 allows recreational hunting of moose in 6D, but there's
19 no Federal allowed for subsistence, so it didn't make
20 sense that sport is allowed but Federal subsistence is
21 not.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy, then can I ask
24 you a question. Does the State allow hunting on the
25 Kings Bay moose?

26
27 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I believe so, but I
28 think it's closed right now. They closed it too just
29 how we closed it because there's not enough surveys
30 there recent enough to -- we don't keep that close of
31 tabs on what the population has been. As of right now
32 both are closed.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They are closed. Both
35 State and Federal.

36
37 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I believe so.

38
39 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, and they're closed
40 because there have been some survey efforts that have
41 shown a low population for a long time, the last 15
42 years, and then the most recent survey done just after
43 our big winter, we contracted Fish and Game to do it,
44 and they found no evidence of moose or moose tracks in
45 the area, which is why it's been kept closed.

46
47 I'll make this argument later on, but
48 we haven't seen the opportunity to hunt moose in the
49 Kings Bay portion of Unit 7. I'll present my
50 skepticism for leaving it open in the adjacent part of

1 Unit 6D for the same reasons, that there just isn't a
2 viable population of moose there right now.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But this is to apply
5 if there is no conservation concerns and there is a
6 viable population. It doesn't do anything about a hunt
7 at this point in time.

8

9 MR. BURCHAM: Well, right now the
10 discussion is for the C&T, which would pave the way for
11 a hunt and I'll discuss the validity of having an open
12 season at this point in time.

13

14 MS. MILLS: I have a question. Andy,
15 you said that they did have open sports hunting in 6D?

16

17 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes, but right now
18 it's closed.

19

20 MS. MILLS: Right, because it's not in
21 season.

22

23 MR. BURCHAM: Actually there is an open
24 State season in all of 6D and that's Federal and non-
25 Federal, open to rural and nonrural residents for the
26 month of September. There's a 30-day open season in
27 Unit 6D.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Go ahead.

30

31 MS. MILLS: So if subsistence takes
32 priority over all other hunting, but yet it's only open
33 during a short time for sports hunting, how does that
34 protect the subsistence hunters in that area? Why is
35 it open for sports but being promoted to be closed for
36 the subsistence?

37

38 MR. BURCHAM: Through the Chair. The
39 State season is available for all users, rural and
40 nonrural, so subsistence needs can be met through that
41 program. Where most of the harvest takes place in that
42 season is on non-Federal lands near Valdez, which don't
43 offer an opportunity for rural residents because we
44 can't hunt under Federal regulations there. That's
45 where 90 percent of the harvest has taken place over
46 the last -- I think it's 20 years is the figure I have
47 here, is in that Lowe River drainage near Valdez. A
48 couple moose have been taken on non-Federal lands near
49 Boswell Bay where a few moose show up.

50

1 So there is some opportunity for rural
2 residents to take moose, but near Kings Bay where
3 you're specifically addressing and talking about with
4 your proposal we don't think there is a viable
5 population there. We have conservation concerns for
6 that little sub-population right there and I think it
7 would be risky to open it up longer in 6D basically
8 hunting the same animals we're trying to protect in
9 Kings Bay portion of Unit 7 is the argument I'll be
10 trying to make.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Back to the question I
13 asked you before, during that open State season in 6D,
14 is that portion by Kings Bay open for State hunters?

15
16 MR. BURCHAM: Yes. In 6D, yes; 7, no.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In 6D it is open for
19 State hunters under sport hunting regulations.

20
21 MR. BURCHAM: Yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

24
25 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. So, again,
26 for maybe some of the newer people, this proposal is
27 for eligibility only, so that's just to bring us back
28 to that part of the discussion and maybe get through --
29 there's a motion on that. Again, I would support the
30 motion to expand the C&T or to provide for C&T, not
31 expand. Provide for C&T for the residents of 6D.

32
33 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair, Mr.
34 Chairman. Yeah, I would support the expansion in C&T
35 also. I believe that, you know, this is for an
36 opportunity of C&T if it does become available.
37 Stranger things have happened. Moose may get in that
38 area. It's historically reported that there were. I
39 mean it's not going to necessarily be opened, but at
40 least they'd have the opportunity if it does happen.
41 So I would support that portion of (a).

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other discussion.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, the
48 question is available for 16-10a. Anybody going to
49 call the question.

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has been
4 called. All in favor of WP16-10a expanding the
5 customary and traditional use determination for moose
6 to residents in Unit 6D signify by saying aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
11 saying nay.

12

13 (No opposing votes)

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. Now
16 we go on to WP16-10b.

17

18 MR. BURCHAM: Thank you. This is Milo
19 Burcham again. Forest Service subsistence biologist
20 for the Chugach. I apologize for -- I'll bring you
21 through this all the way again even though we've had
22 much of this discussion, but I want to be thorough and
23 make sure I cover the points that needed to be covered.

24

25 Proposal WP16-10b was submitted by Andy
26 McLaughlin. The proposal requests a September 1st to
27 December 31st season be established in Unit 6D for the
28 harvest of one bull moose and that will only be
29 considered if you've adopted the C&T, which you just
30 have.

31

32 The proponent states that rural
33 residents have traditionally harvested moose in the
34 winter and early spring months. Residents of Chenega
35 Bay and Tatitlek have historically harvested moose in
36 areas such as the Kings Bay drainage area in Unit 7; or
37 on the Copper River Delta, near Cordova; and in the
38 Lowe River drainage, outside of Federal public lands in
39 Unit 6D.

39

40 While moose populations in Prince
41 William Sound are limited by available habitat, a
42 positive customary and traditional use determination
43 for moose in Unit 6D, and an established Federal open
44 season, would allow rural residents of Unit 6D to
45 harvest moose when the population increases.

46

47 Regulatory history, as we've just
48 discussed, Alaska Department of Fish and Game has
49 managed a hunt for any bull moose in Unit 6D with
50 season dates running from September 1st through

1 September 30th for over 20 years. Both Alaska
2 residents and
3 nonresidents, that means rural and nonrural, are
4 eligible. No Federal hunt for moose or C&T
5 determination currently exists in Unit 6D.

6
7 The biological background. Moose
8 populations in most of Unit 6 were originally relocated
9 from other areas of Alaska in the 1940s and 1950s, when
10 they were released on the Copper River Delta in Unit
11 6C, and expanded mostly eastward in subsequent years.
12 The only moose endemic to Unit 6D are a small
13 population in the Lowe River drainage near Valdez,
14 numbering about 40 animals, largely occurring on
15 non-Federal lands.

16
17 No formal moose surveys have been
18 conducted in Unit 6D, which encompasses Prince William
19 Sound. Most of Unit 6D consists of habitat largely
20 unsuitable for moose with deep fjords and mountainous
21 shorelines. The vegetation is mostly forested with
22 muskeg meadows and few areas of extensive willow
23 browse. Snow depths can be extreme, especially in the
24 western and northern portions of Prince William Sound.

25
26 The moose population segment that
27 regularly provides some harvest opportunity within Unit
28 6D occurs within the Lowe River drainage in the north
29 end of Unit 6D, near Valdez. The Lowe River area likely
30 receives dispersing moose from adjacent Unit 13 and
31 because of severe winters and often extreme snow depths
32 supports only a small resident moose population.

33
34 Unit 6C to the east of Unit 6D has a
35 thriving moose population that originated from releases
36 of orphaned moose calves in the 1940s and 50s. This
37 population is currently at an all-time high and is the
38 likely source of occasional reports of moose on Hawkins
39 and Hinchinbrook Islands in Unit 6D.

40
41 The Kings Bay portion of Unit 7, on the
42 western border of Unit 6D, has had a small moose
43 population for many years. Some moose from the Kings
44 Bay population have undoubtedly strayed into Unit 6D.
45 The adjacent area in 6D that Andy referred to.
46 Narrow riparian areas along the Kings and Nellie Juan
47 Rivers result in little moose habitat in the Kings Bay
48 area. Moose surveys conducted in this area have
49 resulted in declining counts of 20 to 5 moose between
50 1997 and 2006. The Forest Service contracted with Fish

1 and Game to conduct a moose survey of the Kings Bay
2 portion of Unit 7 in 2014, but no moose were observed.

3
4 An average of 2.5 moose per year have
5 been harvested from Unit 6D since 1983. Of the 81
6 moose reported harvested from Unit 6D in this period,
7 89 percent had been taken from the Lowe River drainage
8 near Valdez. Approximately 10 percent have come from
9 the eastern portion of Unit 6D near Cordova. That's
10 the Boswell Bay area on Hinchinbrook that I referred
11 to. The majority of these coming from the far eastern
12 end of Hinchinbrook Island. No recent harvest has been
13 reported from the western portion of Unit 6D or that
14 area adjacent to the small moose population in the
15 Kings Bay portion of Unit 7.

16
17 The effects of the proposal. If this
18 proposal is adopted, it would establish a moose season
19 in Unit 6D, from September 1st to December 31st with a
20 harvest limit of one bull moose. There is little moose
21 habitat in Unit 6D and no viable moose populations.
22 The portion of Unit 6D, which is adjacent to the Kings
23 Bay area of Unit 7, is the closest area within Unit 6D
24 to where the proponent lives, that might support a
25 moose population.

26
27 The most recent survey of that area
28 revealed no moose or sign of moose in 2014. Likewise,
29 the population that has been
30 counted in the area prior to 2014 has been too low to
31 support any harvest and, as a result, harvest has been
32 closed in both State and Federal regulations. The
33 extension of the moose season in Unit 6D could lead to
34 the harvest of moose adjacent to the Kings Bay portion
35 of Unit 7, which would inhibit growth of this
36 population.

37
38 The Lowe River drainage near Valdez
39 does support a small moose harvest that averages 2.5
40 moose per year. Lengthening the Federal season in Unit
41 6D would add little or no opportunity for rural
42 residents as Valdez is a nonrural community and there
43 is little Federal land that exists in the Lowe River
44 drainage.

45 Likewise, some moose disperse from Unit 6C into eastern
46 portions of Unit 6D. Most of the harvest that has come
47 from this portion of Unit 6D has been on non-Federal
48 lands on the eastern end of Hinchinbrook Island.

49
50 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to

1 oppose the (b) portion of WP16-10 and not establish a
2 season or harvest limit for moose at this time.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Milo.
5 Questions for Milo.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have one, Milo. If
10 this proposal isn't adopted, it does not put any
11 strictures on if the moose population in that portion
12 of Unit 7 of Kings Bay starts to grow that a season
13 could then be established, does it?

14

15 MR. BURCHAM: No. The Kings Bay
16 portion of Unit 7 will open. The C&T is established
17 and even seasons are established, I believe. It will
18 open if there's a viable moose population, you know,
19 shows up there or if that population grows again. It's
20 been low for a long time. So this would not have an
21 effect on the ability to hunt moose in the Kings Bay
22 portion of Unit 7.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question I have on
25 that Kings Bay and the 6D portion next to it and the
26 fact that it never -- you have very limited habitat
27 there. What moose you're getting are moose that come
28 in and go back out or come in because they've been.....

29

30 MR. BURCHAM: Through the Nellie Juan
31 River.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:through the
34 Nellie Juan River. This population big enough to come
35 in. And the hunt that's been there has always been
36 opportunistic. If a moose wanders in there, the fact
37 that a moose wanders in there is not going to establish
38 a population anyhow because you aren't going to
39 establish a population in an area like that because
40 it's so limited in habitat that all it takes is one bad
41 winter.

42

43 So what you're doing is you're hunting
44 migrant moose, for lack of a better way of putting it.
45 Moose that are going in and out because the population
46 is big enough someplace else. Pioneers. Let's put it
47 that way. But they're not pioneers capable of
48 establishing population there because there's no
49 habitat to support a population of any size there.

50

1 So the opportunity to build a big
2 enough population there, to have a hunting season on
3 it, is almost non-existent the way I see it. You don't
4 have enough area to actually have a sustainable herd
5 there. So since the harvest always was on these
6 migrant opportunistic animals, which have no effect on
7 the long term on the population in Kings Bay, why can't
8 it continue?

9
10 MR. BURCHAM: Well, that's difficult to
11 answer and it gets into what's a viable population and
12 what isn't and how many it takes. There has been a
13 larger population of moose for a number of years in the
14 Kings Bay drainage, upwards of 20 in the past. Whether
15 or not that arguably could support a harvest of --
16 we've talked about this when we talk about the Kings
17 Bay portion of Unit 7 harvesting very lightly, like one
18 moose for each village every four years or some very
19 limited opportunity.

20
21 So until you have a catastrophic
22 winter, which possibly has removed all the moose, you
23 possibly could have a small sub-population there that
24 could take some light harvest. Right now you have no
25 moose in there and no opportunity and you possibly
26 could have opportunity if you could rebuild what was
27 there.

28
29 I agree with you that it relies
30 probably on being subsidized by populations elsewhere
31 in Unit 7 and some flow back and forth. It's a small
32 area with limited habitat and maybe it's a
33 philosophical thing on whether you treat them as
34 pioneers that will go nowhere and not develop anything
35 or try to maintain a little population there.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

38
39 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I've just got a
40 comment and you can correct me if I'm wrong. To the
41 effects of the proposal, it says the extension of the
42 moose season in Unit 6D could lead to the harvest of
43 moose adjacent to the Kings Bay portion of Unit 7 which
44 would inhibit growth. As I read the proposal, it's for
45 one bull.

46
47 MR. BURCHAM: One bull per hunter.
48 There's no limit on the total number of moose that
49 could be taken in the season.

50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That changes
2 it. Thanks. I've got another question.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You have another
5 question.

6
7 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, this question
8 through the Chair. Andy, is there a number that could
9 be possibly put in this proposal or something?

10
11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Well, it could be
12 linked to the C&T where we said one every four
13 regulatory years between the two 804 analysis for
14 villages that got the.....

15
16 REPORTER: Andy, mic.

17
18 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: It could be linked to
19 one -- I mean with modification one -- instead of one
20 per hunter, if it became more acceptable to people of
21 one -- I just don't want to see this opportunity go
22 away from the two communities that I represent. Right
23 now there is one every four years, but right now the
24 season is closed because of that delegation of
25 authority.

26
27 MR. BURCHAM: And I do want to remind
28 people that there is opportunity to hunt moose in 6D
29 for 30 days. There's a 30-day open season in State
30 regulation right now on all ownership.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that includes this
33 portion.

34
35 MR. BURCHAM: Yes.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I guess that's why I
38 have difficulty with -- if this portion is open for an
39 opportunistic taking of a moose during a 30-day sport
40 season, then why can't it be open for an opportunistic
41 taking of a moose during a subsistence season when
42 neither one of them, if it's a bull moose, is going to
43 -- it's not like this is a genetically isolated sub-
44 population. This is not a -- Kings Bay is not a sub-
45 population of moose. Otherwise there's no more moose
46 in Kings Bay ever. If you got zero on your count right
47 now, if it's a genetically isolated sub-population,
48 it's gone. So the only moose that are going to be in
49 Kings Bay are going to be moose that wander in and
50 wander out. They're just as available during that 30-

1 day State season as they would be during a subsistence
2 season.

3

4 MR. BURCHAM: I would make the argument
5 that they're more available if you leave the season
6 open for longer. It could have a greater effect on
7 moose that colonize or try to show up in that area. I
8 see your point and it is academic or I could see it
9 going both way, but you've heard my argument.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But actually you have
12 a greater opportunity
13 if anybody's been out of Whittier or out in western
14 Prince William sound with the access by boats out of
15 Whittier, you have a greater opportunity during that
16 30-day sport season because you have more people out
17 there than you would ever have from Chenega and
18 Tatitlek in the middle of winter. So the opportunity
19 under the State season is actually greater than the
20 opportunity would be under the Federal season.

21

22 MR. BURCHAM: Also keep in mind that
23 this is all of 6D and includes Cordova and the possible
24 increase in take in resident population near Boswell
25 Bay or other places, so it has greater ramifications,
26 but yes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any more questions for
29 Milo.

30

31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chair. When we
32 get to the discussion part.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Wait until the
35 discussion part. Okay. Thanks for your presentation,
36 Milo. Nobody else has any questions for him.

37

38 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. I guess for
39 clarification. For the State regulation, I mean 99 or
40 more percent of the moose harvest in 6D is on -- well,
41 I shouldn't say it that way. It sounds like most of
42 the moose harvest is from State lands in 6D.

43

44 MR. BURCHAM: Or non-Federal lands.

45

46 MS. CAMINER: Okay.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you,
49 Milo. Do we have any -- well, we won't have any report
50 on Board consultations until the Board meeting. Do we

1 have agency comments. Alaska Department of Fish and
2 Game.

3

4 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. The
5 Department's preliminary recommendation is to oppose
6 Proposal WP16-10. There's little moose habitat in Unit
7 6D and it does not have a resident population of moose.

8

9

10 I can also reiterate some of what Milo
11 told you, that harvest of moose in Unit 6D is minimal.
12 Since 1975, 80 moose have been taken in Unit 6D and all
13 but 11 have been taken on the Richardson Highway near
14 the border of Unit 6. The 11 moose that were taken in
15 Prince William Sound were very opportunistic. They
16 were taken just inside the eastern boundary of Unit 6D;
17 therefore, they were Copper River moose. And four were
18 taken at Boswell Bay, the northeast corner of
19 Hinchinbrook Island, adjacent to the Copper River Delta
20 State critical habitat area. Fish and Game's moose
21 harvest statistics also show no data for Tatitlek, for
22 Chenega. Participants are almost entirely from
23 Cordova.

24

25 Over.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any
28 questions for Mr. Crawford.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none. Thank
33 you. Do we have any Federal agencies that wish to make
34 a report.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Pretty much Forest
39 Service was with you, right, Milo? Native, tribal,
40 villages. Do we have any comments from any of the
41 villages, Donald.

42

43 MR. MIKE: No comments received from the
44 villages, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any Interagency Staff
47 Committee comments.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Can I just
2 ask a question of Donald. Are we not having any
3 Interagency Staff Committee comments?

4
5 MR. MIKE: That's a good question. Mr.
6 Chair. The Staff Committee won't meet until Regional
7 Advisory Councils get completed with their public
8 meetings on wildlife proposals and that's when the
9 staff will be able to provide their comments. For
10 brevity, I think we can skip Interagency Staff
11 Committee comments. Tom Kron.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom.

14
15 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. We have several
16 Staff Committee members that are here in the room. I
17 do not know if they have comments, but I would
18 recommend just leaving that on and if they do have
19 comments, I'm sure they'll step forward. Again, as
20 Donald said, they'll be looking at this after the
21 Councils weigh in with their recommendations. But,
22 again, some of the Staff Committee members may want to
23 say something here, so I'd recommend leaving it on the
24 agenda.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll leave it on the
29 agenda and if one of them wishes to speak to it, they
30 can.

31
32 Do we have any other Regional Councils
33 that wish to speak to this proposal.

34
35 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, none.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fish and Game Advisory
38 Councils.

39
40 MR. MIKE: No advisory committee
41 comments on this proposal, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And we have no
44 Subsistence Resource Commission because it's not on it.
45 Do we have a summary of written public comments.

46
47 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There were no
48 written public comments received on this proposal.

49
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And any public
2 testimony sign-up.

3

4 MR. MIKE: No requests, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This seems to be a
7 fairly non-controversial proposal. At least nobody is
8 too interested in it. Okay. At this point in time we
9 need a motion on the table to adopt WP16-10b so we can
10 have discussion on it. Do I hear such a motion.

11

12 MS. MILLS: I make a motion to accept
13 16-10b.

14

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy second it. Okay.
18 It's been moved and seconded to adopt WP16-10b.
19 Comments, discussion from the Council. Andy.

20

21 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 I've got some stuff here I wanted to make sure I didn't
23 miss. Basically that 16-10b is simply defining the
24 season for portions of 6D there September 1 through
25 September 31st, which accurately reflects the timing
26 that elders have mentioned to have harvested moose
27 historically in 6D. It is nearly impossible to harvest
28 a moose in that early season when moose occupy habitat
29 at higher elevations.

30

31 All moose that were harvested by
32 subsistence hunters were at low elevations when I've
33 spoken with people who have actually been there and
34 harvested moose before and these are done in the winter
35 months. This request for amendment to the allowable
36 hunting time should have already been in place, I
37 assumed. When I was looking in the book, I'm like,
38 hey, wait a minute, there's nothing in here. This
39 doesn't make sense because that was the customary and
40 traditional use practices from time immemorial, before
41 people were even keeping records.

42

43 There is a comment I saw on Page 35.
44 The only moose endemic to Unit 6D are a small
45 population in the Lowe River drainage. I would
46 disagree with that. It says numbering about 40
47 animals, largely occurring on non-Federal lands. That
48 might be true for that up by Valdez, but not out there.
49 This was in a publication by Crowley 2008. I didn't
50 find it entirely accurate because there are other

1 portions of 6D than the Lowe drainage that have moose.

2

3

4 But there's drainages adjacent to Kings
5 Bay, like I mentioned earlier, the Nellie Juan River
6 that historically have held moose, and we do our best
7 to keep tabs on the numbers of those. I admit that the
8 habitat is marginal at best, but moose have been killed
9 in them historically and moose sign was seen in them
10 right up to the year prior of that snow apocalypse we
11 had a few years ago.

12

13 On Page 36 in the book here talks of
14 effects of the proposal where it's mentioned that
15 extension of the moose season in Unit 6D could lead to
16 the harvest of moose adjacent to the Kings Bay portion
17 of Unit 7, which would inhibit growth of this
18 population. I would argue that the moose population --
19 and this goes along the lines of what the Chair was
20 commenting. I would argue that the moose population
21 experiences a similar effect to what happens in severe
22 snow winters to the deer winter kill. It should be
23 duly noted that that deer population rebounds and you
24 shouldn't think that the moose population isn't going
25 to either. Maybe not as fast with the lower biotic
26 potential.

27

28 Immigration into that area is via the
29 Nellie Juan drainage, like we talked about, and they
30 come over from Unit 7 from Seward. I've flown in
31 planes and looked at the edge of the ice field like in
32 glacier country and said what is that moose doing
33 standing on top of that mountain in like mountain goat
34 habitat. So I know they go over those mountains and
35 through the valley where the trees are, the ones you
36 don't see that are coming in.

37

38 So the same as the deer population is
39 recovering, the moose population will also do the same
40 over time if given optimal conditions. The population
41 is remote, but not entirely geographically isolated and
42 moose travel far and over high elevations during
43 summers into 6D.

44

45 So that's what's I have to say.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Andy. Any
48 other questions or comments.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I found it kind of
2 interesting that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
3 basically said what I was saying before, there is no
4 resident population in Kings Bay. Kings Bay moose are
5 immigrants that come in and go out. There is no
6 resident population to have a hunting season on. There
7 never was, probably, a resident population. It's like
8 Andy says, they're moose that travel over or travel in
9 and travel back out or get killed by the snow and that
10 is what the hunt has always been on.

11
12 That's one of the objections I know
13 that has been raised to our subsistence hunt by the
14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game on the Richardson
15 Highway between here and Valdez, that we end up killing
16 more moose in that small subsistence area than actually
17 can reside in there because it's a travel corridor that
18 moose travel through that our subsistence hunters get
19 access to moose that are traveling through. It's an
20 argument that they used in the past to basically say
21 that we shouldn't have a subsistence hunt there because
22 they're not residents. Well, these aren't residents
23 either.

24
25 I wasn't going to support this
26 proposal, but I'm going to say as the Chair that after
27 thinking about it I'm going to have to support this
28 proposal because that's what this hunt always was
29 about. It never was on resident moose. It was on
30 migrants going through and going back out and it's not
31 going to support a population. Whether you take a bull
32 or don't take a bull, you're not going to grow the
33 population in Kings Bay because there's insufficient
34 habitat there to have a population of any size. And
35 that's basically what the Fish and Game said, there are
36 no residents.

37
38 Any other comments from anybody on the
39 Council. Judy.

40
41 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. And I'm not
42 going to remember it accurately, but we had a similar
43 discussion when we were talking about Unit 7 last year
44 and we kind of developed, I think, a little bit of an
45 elaborate process about when or if hunting could occur.
46 I guess it's in our handy-dandy here, but I don't know
47 if that's kind of a -- would be an acceptable similar
48 situation. It's just a thought here. We worked on
49 that for quite a long time last year.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I guess I'd like to
2 see what the impact of this would be. From our long-
3 term harvest reports for 16D next to Kings Bay, it
4 doesn't look like there's going to be much impact. If
5 there was impact, have we got the procedures in place
6 to protect them? If all of a sudden there was a large
7 increase in hunting right there, do we have the
8 necessary protective procedures in place?

9
10 MR. BURCHAM: That would have to --
11 that would fall to the delegated authority with the
12 district ranger and right now it exists for moose in
13 Unit -- I think it's specific to Unit 6C, not 6D. It
14 would take a change to the delegated authority letter
15 if it does not already include all of Unit 6, which I
16 don't think it does.

17
18 MR. SKORKOWSKY: Robert Skorkowsky.
19 I'm just looking at it on Page 203. It does include
20 all these.

21
22 MR. BURCHAM: It does?

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It does?

25
26 MR. BURCHAM: So apparently it already
27 includes all of Unit 6, so he has the delegated
28 authority.

29
30 MS. DEMENTI: Ralph.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.

33
34 MS. DEMENTI: I support it because I'm
35 thinking with the climate change who knows what will
36 come over that. If it's been open to sports fishing,
37 it should also be open to subsistence fishing -- or
38 hunting I mean. I'm thinking you're a fishing village.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other comments or
43 questions or discussion from Council members.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, the
48 question is in order.

49
50 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has been
2 called. All in favor of WP16-10b, which is to open
3 Unit 6D to moose for people with customary and
4 traditional determination on Federal land from
5 September 1st to December 31st for one bull, signify by
6 saying aye.

7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
11 saying nay.

12
13 (No opposing votes)

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries
16 unanimously. Okay. We will now go on to WP16-11,
17 which is Unit 16 deer. A harvest limit and new season.

18
19 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 Members of the Council. My name again is Tom Evans and
21 I work as a wildlife biologist with the Fish and
22 Wildlife Service. Proposal WP16 11 was submitted by
23 Andy McLaughlin of Chenega Bay requests a buck only
24 season be established in Unit 6D with a season of
25 January 1st to January 31st and a harvest limit of one
26 buck. This analysis can be found on Page 38 of your
27 booklet.

28
29 The proponent believes that a buck hunt
30 in Unit 6D should be allowed because many subsistence
31 users have not been able to harvest enough deer to feed
32 their families during mild winters, which decrease the
33 hunter success rate. The deer population is
34 increasing, so additional winter buck season should be
35 sustainable.

36
37 The biological background. Sitka
38 black-tailed deer were introduced in Prince William
39 Sound 1916 to 1923. They're at the extreme northern
40 limit of their range. The deer population is limited
41 primarily by snow depth and duration. The deep snow
42 tends to concentrate deers along beaches and thus they
43 become more vulnerable to hunters. During mild winters
44 deer remain at higher elevations and are more
45 dispersed, so consequently they're usually less
46 accessible to hunters.

47
48 The State population objective for this
49 area is 24-28,000 deer with an annual harvest of 2,200
50 to 3,000 deer. There's no way to estimate the deer

1 abundance, but deer pellet surveys have been conducted,
2 which serve as a relative index of the deer density.
3 The deer pellet density per group declined to 0.58 in
4 2013 and it increased slightly in 2014, but it's still
5 below the deer pellet densities that are calculated
6 during the better years.

7

8 A little bit on harvest history.
9 Harvest surveys were used prior to 2011 to determine
10 the harvest and harvest tickets starting in 2011 were
11 used to estimate the harvest. So two different methods
12 were used and they changed in 2011. A mean of 639 deer
13 are harvested by local residents from 2006 to 2013. A
14 mean of 810 deer were harvested by non-local residents
15 during the same timeframe. There was a high harvest
16 year during the high snow year during the 2011-2012, in
17 which case there was 1,207 deer harvested by local
18 residents and 1,486 harvested by non-local residents.
19 The majority of the harvest occurs in October, November
20 and December and that's usually 62 to 94 percent gets
21 harvested during those months.

22

23 The effects of the proposal. The buck
24 season would
25 provide more opportunity for Federally qualified
26 subsistence users. The population in Unit 6 has not
27 reached full recovery or State management objectives at
28 this point. The potential increase of take of does
29 during the January season increases as many of the
30 bucks would have lost their antlers by then.

31

32 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
33 oppose Proposal WP16-11 and the idea is to maintain the
34 current harvest season is recommended until the deer
35 population recovers more.

36

37 Open it up for questions.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions. Andy.

40

41 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, through the
42 Chair. I'm not sure if it's appropriate or not, but in
43 looking at a different proposal here that actually is
44 going to open up doe harvests, there's support for
45 that, to add one additional harvest on one of these
46 other wildlife proposals coming up here. I think maybe
47 the one after this. But then you look at this one,
48 which would be less potentially consumptive or additive
49 mortality of use of that resource for one buck. I was
50 kind of curious. There's a contradiction there.

1 MR. EVANS: Okay. Well, through the
2 Chair. Proposal WP16-12 does address adding one to the
3 quota from four to five for the same area for deer, but
4 basically deer are being taken already at that rate in
5 Unit 6D, so that proposal it's not anticipated that
6 will really increase the take of deer, whereas this
7 proposal has the potential to increase the take a
8 little bit during the winter season.

9
10 So that's kind of the difference
11 between the two. Basically our preliminary conclusion
12 is basically based on the premise that we think the
13 population needs to increase a little bit more before
14 we open up a winter buck season. It doesn't say it
15 can't happen in the future, but for right now that's
16 where it stands.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Go ahead, Andy.

21
22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you. So what
23 would your thoughts be on utilization of unused tags
24 for one antlered deer in the month of January?

25
26 MR. EVANS: That wasn't the proposal,
27 so I've considered what was put in front of me, so that
28 hasn't been considered.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy, that can come up
31 in our discussion. I do have the same question that
32 Andy has. This is not in support of the proposal, but
33 it seems like if you're asking for an increase in the
34 harvest limit, then a potential increase in the harvest
35 limit of -- I don't know. I personally don't know too
36 many people that would make use of this myself and I
37 have heard a fair amount of objection to it. Based on
38 some of the same things that you've said, which is it's
39 pretty hard to tell a buck from a doe after the bucks
40 have dropped their horns and a lot of people can't.

41
42 It is kind of hard for me to understand
43 objecting to it on the fact that it would increase the
44 harvest when the deer aren't up to quota and then have
45 the next proposal come along and ask for an increase in
46 the harvest limit. The two of them, like Andy said, do
47 seem contradictory to me and I'll have to do some
48 thinking on that. I'm not sure that -- we'll have to
49 go through the rest of this on this proposal right
50 here.

1 Milo.

2

3 MR. BURCHAM: Just to speak of the next
4 proposal, which I submitted but wasn't analyzed by me,
5 that increase in quota is academic. The quota is
6 already five deer under State regulation, which is how
7 all of the deer harvest takes place at this point.
8 I'll explain that later, but we are not increasing the
9 bag limit. The bag limit is already five in State
10 regulations, which is what everybody hunts under. The
11 Federal regulation is less. So it's not contradictory.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's basically just
14 aligning with State regulations.

15

16 MR. BURCHAM: Not for that purpose,
17 but.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what it is.
20 Okay. Thank you for that clarification. Okay. At
21 this point in time, any more questions for the
22 presenter.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Then let's go on to
27 agency comments. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

28

29 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. This is Drew
30 Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
31 Anchorage. The Department's preliminary recommendation
32 is to oppose proposal WP16-11. Harvest statistics
33 indicate the deer population continues to be depressed.
34 So, due to conservation concerns, significantly
35 liberalizing the season and expanding the harvest
36 opportunity is not recommended at this time. Extending
37 the season will also cause problems with
38 misidentification. Some bucks lose their antlers in
39 December and they will be indistinguishable from does
40 in January.

41

42 Over.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Drew. Any
45 questions for Mr. Crawford.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none. Thank
50 you. Any Federal agencies that have a comment on this.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fish and Game Advisory
4 Committees.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Donald, no Fish and
9 Game Advisory Committee comments?
10
11 MR. MIKE: None, Mr. Chair.
12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And we have no
14 Subsistence Resource. How about Interagency Staff
15 Committee.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tribal, village
20 corporations.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Summary of
25 written public comments.
26
27 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There were no
28 written public comments received. Thank you.
29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And public testimony.
31 Any requests for public testimony.
32
33 MR. MIKE: No requests, Mr. Chair.
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Then a motion
36 to adopt WP16-11 is in order, so we can discuss it. Do
37 I hear a motion.
38
39 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I so move.
40
41 MS. MILLS: So moved, Mr. Chair.
42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Been moved and
44 seconded, right?
45
46 MS. MILLS: (Nods affirmatively).
47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Moved and seconded to
49 adopt WP16-11. Discussion. Andy, you made the
50 proposal. Do you want to make a presentation on it.

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
2 Chair.

3
4 So this WP16-11 is a similar Federal
5 subsistence management practice that already exists in
6 Southeast Alaska. Page 42 in this book here under
7 harvest history states deer are an important
8 subsistence resource for residents of Unit 6. There's
9 a very recent Alaska Department of Fish and Game report
10 in 2014. Subsistence resource use was surveyed in
11 Chenega Bay by Joshua Ream. It proved that households
12 -- if you look at a household ranking chart of the use
13 of deer, it's the top mammal utilized by the Federally
14 qualified rural residents that live there. Venison
15 basically is used by 75 percent of the households.

16
17 On Page 45 in this book here, effects
18 of proposal states if it applied to only the village of
19 Chenega Bay, would have little effect on the deer
20 population. It also points out relatively mild winters
21 occurred in the past three years. It's been kind of a
22 catch-22 for local residents out there because it has
23 enabled the deer population to rebound.

24
25 You can ask any local resident out
26 there and they're going to tell you the deer are doing
27 better. I think Milo would concur. But it makes it
28 harder to harvest those deer because of this lack of
29 snow. So few deer exist on concentrated areas during
30 winters because they're spread out over a large range
31 of habitat. I think this is also a function of climate
32 change.

33
34 I would like to point out that the
35 regulation changes are occurring to accommodate climate
36 change elsewhere in the state. Alaska Department of
37 Fish and Game studies by a Kevin White proved that
38 mountain goat habitat in alpine regions are decreasing
39 in biotic potential, so changes of the food resources
40 of the rural users there occur.

41
42 Change in availability of the resource
43 need to be adapted to perhaps in more lenient
44 regulations in order to allow an adequate harvest
45 opportunity for the qualified users. There's some
46 other examples. It's documented that whalers lose an
47 average of seven more days per year from whaling time
48 due to rough seas than in a normal year. A dramatic
49 issue in whaling season that only lasts for one month.
50 Expansion of the whaling season had to occur and a far

1 season was then allowed. Wainwright hunters harvested
2 the first fall bowhead whale in living memory for that
3 community.

4

5 This proved that amending the season
6 timing regulations has enabled those people to adapt
7 accordingly to the climate changes and how they affect
8 the availability of the resource. Knowledge of these
9 resources help anticipate new trends of these
10 historical patterns as they change into new conditions.

11

12 I think three main factors need to be
13 considered; access, abundance and seasonal
14 distribution. Interior Alaskans are noting that river
15 and lake changes, water levels are affecting their
16 access. Increase occurrence in fire events is putting
17 more dead and down into the trails, blocking access
18 roads as well. Winds that stop goat hunters, including
19 in my region, from accessing shorelines. Access is
20 determined to have the largest effect on the harvest
21 rate. It's even more important and detrimental to the
22 harvest success as lack of abundance of the resource.

23

24 There's a Dr. Todd (Brinkman), I don't
25 know if that's his first or last name, Ph.D. wildlife
26 ecologist at UAF. He proclaimed that flexible policies
27 and regulations are increasingly going to be needed to
28 increase harvest opportunities during the new climate
29 changes.

30

31 I propose that if there's a concern
32 over this one buck per Federal amount, I'll concur with
33 that, yeah. If people can't identify any of this deer,
34 perhaps that wording could be modified to antlered deer
35 and that way if there's a buck that's already dropped
36 its horns, it's not fair game and then nobody could
37 argue, hey, I shot that and I thought it was a buck,
38 but it's a doe. If it had antlers, then good. I
39 personally have shot deer that on the 31st of the month
40 dropped its antlers right when the bullet hit and other
41 ones that were totally solid. So I concur that the
42 antler issue might be alleviated by that type of thing.

43

44 One buck can serve as many does, so we
45 already talked about that next proposal kind of in
46 definition going to allow one more take of a female.

47

48 Unit 6D Federally qualified subsistence
49 hunters use their State sport recreation deer harvest
50 tickets to obtain most of their annual meat supply for

1 their families, but due to unusual climate change,
2 weather patterns and these mild winters Federal
3 subsistence hunters harvested very few deer under State
4 sport harvest tickets last year. I don't think any
5 were done Federally. I don't think there were in 2013-
6 2014.

7

8 The deer population is nicely
9 recovering from the decline of two years ago as a
10 result of that previous hard winter. No emergency
11 closures or limits were made in this past winter. The
12 recovery is taking place. The population had two
13 consecutive winters of increase. It's known to
14 historically rebound quickly after a series of mild
15 winters. Many more deer than usual are being seen now.
16 I will concur it's not back up to the average year
17 level, but it's not far from it. The mild winters
18 having this detrimental effect on subsistence hunter
19 success because of that little bit of snow that I
20 mentioned.

21

22 I can say for sure that there's
23 Federally qualified subsistence user families that were
24 in need of the meat and they went without harvest of
25 any deer and any goats last year. I can say for sure
26 multiple families in the village where I live, who have
27 babies and newborns, and needed that meat resource were
28 not able to get it and that's why this came about.

29

30 This regulation change proposal is for
31 an addition to existing regulations that is similar to
32 what already exists in Unit 4, I have it listed right
33 here so I believe it's Unit 4; however, this is not a
34 request for allowance of additional harvest of females.
35 This proposal is for a very limited take minimizing to
36 one antlered deer. I changed it. I wrote buck on the
37 proposal, but antlered deer sounds more appropriate.

38

39 This would be at the end of season and
40 I believe, perhaps with modification, to say they could
41 only use an unused harvest ticket. That way there
42 wouldn't be additive mortality. It would just be
43 compensatory if we're already counting what tags they
44 had. If it wasn't utilized, they could use it then.
45 That's what this is all about, is putting more meat
46 availability to people that need it, okay. So
47 especially if they didn't use their tag in December
48 because the weather was too mild and they couldn't, but
49 then all of a sudden there's a snowstorm in January
50 and, hey, now I can go get that one deer. You know,

1 that's really going to help people.

2

3 So it is viewed that the harvest of one
4 buck per the limited amount of subsistence hunters
5 taken from the population poses no conservation
6 concern, especially considering this harvest would most
7 likely be taking place during winters that have been so
8 mild that the deer population probably got a boost
9 anyhow. One buck can serve as many does and commonly
10 the harvest of some bucks from the population is not
11 considered and added to mortality. A decrease of
12 winter weather-induced stress upon the entire
13 population as a whole results in expanded range
14 opportunity for the deer when there's less snow. The
15 expansion of range makes less deer available to hunters
16 in the area. They typically concentrate during
17 winters.

18

19 At these times of mild winter
20 conditions, an additional month of allowed subsistence
21 hunting would benefit the subsistence hunters by
22 increasing an opportunity for them to try to locate at
23 least one antlered deer each to harvest if they are
24 still in need of the meat at that time and they had not
25 previously been successful in obtaining it.

26

27 I presume the documented trepidation in
28 the report that I read in here occurred due to
29 residents of Cordova potentially shooting too many
30 bucks off of Hawkins Island. I'm not sure about that,
31 but that seems to be where this is kind of coming from.
32 Then perhaps this proposal also could be modified in
33 two ways. One, to only include Federally qualified
34 residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek, thus excluding
35 Cordova and perhaps Whittier. That might eliminate the
36 concern for too many Cordovans taking too many deer.
37 And the previous change in wording to allow harvest of
38 one antlered deer instead of it being written as one
39 buck.

40

41 So, simply, if a buck has already
42 dropped its antlers, then it's not harvestable. You're
43 not allowed to take that one. Even better for the
44 population at that point if it has already dropped its
45 antlers. I mentioned about knowing that the buck
46 antlers dropped. Some still are solid in January.
47 I've seen antlers in February, which was kind of
48 amazing.

49

50 Anyhow, I repeat what I stated

1 previously about what that UAF professor said, flexible
2 policies and regulations are increasingly going to be
3 needed to increase harvest opportunities during the new
4 climate changes.

5
6 That's it. Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Andy. Any
9 questions for Andy. Judy.

10
11 MS. CAMINER: Well, Andy brought up a
12 comment that I was concerned about in that the C&T is
13 for all rural users right now and that just kind of
14 surprised me. I'm surprised we hadn't made that more
15 specific over the years.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hmm. That surprised
18 me too. Gloria.

19
20 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question. When
21 I called Fish and Game about moose in our area, we had
22 a winter moose hunt in January, and he said that you
23 can tell after it's shed its antlers. If you look
24 really carefully, you can see the round area and a
25 little bump there. If you're really careful, you can
26 tell that it's a bull moose. I don't know too much
27 about deer, so I'm wondering if you could tell the same
28 thing with deer if you're really careful, that you
29 could tell a buck in January.

30
31 That would be my question because I
32 don't know.

33
34 I'm just trying to use that as support
35 for this proposal.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Gloria.

38
39 Andy.

40
41 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I would comment I
42 identify empty sockets there regularly. Oh, look at
43 that, that's a buck. You don't have to see his male
44 parts hanging down below. You can just look at their
45 head and there's kind of some ruffling between the
46 ears. That's very similar to moose.

47
48 MR. ADLER: Mr. Chairman

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Lee.

1 MR. ADLER: Just a comment. It seems
2 like the objective here is to extend the season for
3 more opportunities for C&T harvest of deer and the only
4 problem I see is identification, so I would propose a
5 modification maybe later that we just make it any deer
6 for a month because that would solve the problem. You
7 could shoot one deer and you're already allowed to
8 shoot four for three months prior to this of any sex,
9 so what's the big deal. To solve the problem of
10 identification, just have any deer. That's my comment.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I've got a couple
13 comments and questions for Andy. One of the reasons
14 that I'm pretty sure that Andy picked bucks is the fact
15 that the breeding season is already over, the does are
16 already bred and the does are the increase for the next
17 year, where the bucks are basically, I'll say, not
18 needed anymore for increasing the population and the
19 only increase they have is by surviving to the next
20 year when there will be plenty of bucks left for
21 breeding the following year. So I can understand his
22 bucks only.

23
24 I also, like Gloria -- for people who
25 actually live out there and are used to having deer,
26 telling a buck from a doe in the wintertime is no
27 problem, but if this opens it up to all rural residents
28 for the state of Alaska and, if I'm understanding
29 correct, that's what it is since the C&T is for all
30 rural residents, then that does present a problem
31 simply because of the possible increase. Also, at the
32 same time, knowing Prince William Sound in January, I
33 don't see a big increase in traffic out there in
34 January trying to go deer hunting, but that's.....

35
36 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: For only one.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For one deer. If it's
39 a hard winter, to take some bucks out of the population
40 just increases the food supply for the smaller deer
41 that are left. So if it's a hard enough winter to put
42 them on the beach in January, you may be actually
43 having a positive effect on the deer population.

44
45 Andy's suggestion make it an antlered
46 deer would just cut down the -- well, what it would
47 have a tendency to do is it would have a tendency to
48 save the bigger bucks because the littler bucks are the
49 ones that have their antlers longer. The bigger bucks
50 would have dropped their antlers sooner, which I don't

1 think is the intention.

2

3 I don't know if there's any way that we
4 can put a modification on this proposal that limits it
5 to Chenega, Tatitlek or even residents of Prince
6 William Sound. I'm not sure if that can be done and
7 that would have to be checked through our legal
8 department because I think all rural residents have C&T
9 to deer in Prince William Sound.

10

11 Andy.

12

13 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Is it possible to get
14 an 804 analysis just to find out historically or would
15 that be appropriate?

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, but we aren't
18 going to do that in this short of time, you know. And
19 it's not like we have a resource that's so limited that
20 we can justify an 804. What we'd be doing is trying to
21 justify an 804 for an extension in a season, not
22 because the resource is so low.

23

24 Any other discussion from other Council
25 members. This is a hard one. Greg.

26

27 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll just add a few
28 comments. I've been thinking about it here and I think
29 it's self-limiting after listening to the discussion.
30 The January season, not too many people are going to go
31 there. I think it's going to kind of regulate itself.
32 If they're a good subsistence hunter and they can't
33 tell a bull from a cow, they've got a problem. Anyway,
34 that's my comments.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I also like Andy's
39 suggestion that you have to make use of an unused tag.

40

41 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I like that too.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I mean that way you
44 don't have -- you know, you're not taking extra. Judy,
45 you had something. I interrupted you. I'm sorry.

46

47 MS. CAMINER: No, that's okay. I mean
48 this has been a good discussion. I guess I would have
49 one question on the tag. Are we talking about Federal
50 there? Okay. But the C&T is a concern to me and I

1 know process-wise we have a little bit -- can't just
2 decide here or recommend here certain communities. We
3 need to have an analysis done.

4

5 So a suggestion would be, one option
6 could be, I guess, defer this until a C&T analysis is
7 done or maybe even -- I don't know that we're in a
8 shortage situation that it would warrant an 804. And
9 then doing a C&T analysis you still may end up, I
10 assume, of all Prince William Sound, which may not
11 really solve anything.

12

13 So another option is to deal with this
14 proposal, but I guess I would recommend separately that
15 someone put forward a C&T proposal to change that
16 eligibility from all rural users. That just might help
17 in the future, I guess.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have one question.
20 Do we have a Federal tag? No. We use only State tags.
21 I mean it's possible, but that would cause another area
22 -- I mean it could be that you would have to apply for
23 a Federal tag, but then that defeats the purpose out at
24 Chenega and Tatitlek to have to pick up a Federal tag
25 in person. So I just like Andy's idea that you have to
26 have an unused tag in your possession and you're
27 limited to one in that month. And my boys will object
28 to it highly when I get home.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Though I tried to get
33 them to come and testify.

34

35 MS. MILLS: See what they get for not
36 being here.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I guess they'd
39 object to it simply because they don't think an
40 additional season is necessary if somebody actually
41 wants to go get a deer. They're mountain goats, you
42 know. They're not 70-year-olds that want to shoot one
43 out of a boat.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They feel that if you
48 want a deer, there's no shortage of deer if you want to
49 go out and hunt a deer. From that standpoint -- and a
50 lot of their friends in Cordova have exactly the same

1 opinion, is that the deer are available for four
2 months, five months. If you really want a deer, you
3 can go out and get a deer, but you may have to climb a
4 mountain or at least go up a hill.

5
6 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll take the hill.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: My old friend says you
11 hunt uphill, you drag downhill. Anyhow, be that as it
12 may, they weren't here to testify and we can go with
13 what we have here.

14
15 Gloria.

16
17 MS. STICKWAN: I'm just wondering if
18 Andy would consider delegated authority or do we have a
19 delegated authority in this area already?

20
21 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

22
23 MS. STICKWAN: We do?

24
25 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: It's already
26 established.

27
28 MS. STICKWAN: So they could close it.
29 That would be another -- you know, why not have the
30 hunt if they could close it.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy.

33
34 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you.
35 Exactly that. It already exists for moose and deer in
36 6D. Isn't that correct, Milo? Yeah. So it's almost a
37 moot point. He could close it any time if there was a
38 population concern. I don't see one antlered deer
39 being a problem.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It will be interesting
42 to get a report as to how many are actually -- because
43 we'll get a report as to how many are actually taken
44 under this season and we can see what kind of effect
45 this proposal actually has. Like Andy pointed out,
46 there is concern with climate change, the need for
47 flexibility on other seasons. I would think having a
48 fall whaling season would have more effect than a
49 January deer season myself.

50

1 Any other discussion. Judy.

2

3 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. I guess just
4 for clarification then, so for discussion, is the
5 Council agreeable to one buck or one antlered deer?

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The proposal is
8 written as one buck. If we want to change the
9 proposal, we need an amendment. The proposal that's on
10 the table is one buck January 1 through January 31st.
11 If it's felt that there's a need to change it to one
12 antlered deer, then somebody needs to offer an
13 amendment.

14

15 Milo.

16

17 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham, Chugach
18 National Forest. I've written several things down
19 here. The thing I just jotted down is you said you'd
20 like to see how many are taken. We won't know how many
21 are taken without a registration permit, State or
22 Federal. We won't know which are taken under the State
23 permits after December 31st. Without issuing a
24 separate Federal registration permit we won't know what
25 gets taken in January.

26

27 These other things that popped into my
28 mind is this discussion that's taken place -- oh, you
29 made a comment about it being positive for the deer
30 population if they're taken in January. I beg to
31 differ that. It's oftentimes viewed by a lot of
32 Cordova residents or residents of Prince William Sound
33 that you're doing the deer a favor by taking them when
34 they're down on the beaches, but that's pre-determining
35 their fate in my mind. We don't know what's going to
36 happen later in the winter. The snow can all get
37 rained off, so it can present a conservation concern.

38

39 There's already a very long season and
40 bag limit. Five months and a five-deer bag limit.
41 There's already a rural priority. Even though that
42 doesn't take place with a longer season or a bigger bag
43 limit, we just saw how the rural priority works after
44 the big winter. The State closed the season and rural
45 residents got a longer season. The season remained
46 open for bucks and that was a significant, in my mind,
47 rural priority where we differed from what the State
48 did after we had a population concern. So the rural
49 priority can take place in a lot of different ways and
50 we've just seen how we have one and how it gets used.

1 And then just another complication that
2 I've seen. If we modify the proposal with an antlered
3 buck, you know, you even just mentioned that you've
4 seen antlers fall off with deer taken during the
5 existing season. That's going to be a problem because
6 antlers get really fragile. I've seen it happen in
7 November where you shoot a deer and the antlers fall
8 off when you're handling it, so that's going to be an
9 enforcement problem if it has to be an antlered deer.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Milo. I
12 guess I didn't really mean it meant an increase for the
13 population. It just might help some younger one that
14 would have had its food eaten by the big buck. But I
15 agree with you and I've done the same thing. Shot one
16 at the end of the season and went to pick it up and
17 grabbed one horn to turn it over and had one horn in my
18 hand and grabbed the other horn to turn it over and had
19 the other horn in my hand and the deer was still laying
20 there. So I'd prefer to just stay with the one buck.

21

22 You said that we wouldn't know -- now
23 don't the State hunter reports that have to be filed
24 for deer say when you took them?

25

26 MR. BURCHAM: I don't think they do. I
27 think it's the number of deer and where.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay.

30

31 MR. BURCHAM: I could stand corrected
32 on that. I don't have a harvest report.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't have one in my
35 pocket either. Okay. But the one modification that we
36 talked about that isn't in this proposal that would
37 need an amendment would be that the hunter would have
38 to be in possession of an unused tag and that might be
39 a modification that we need to add to this proposal if
40 somebody wants to make an amendment.

41

42 I don't know of any easy way to get
43 that information then other than going through all the
44 problems with the registration hunt. I guess what we
45 could do is just by observation and see what happens,
46 but there would be no way to get any hard data then.
47 Unless you -- well, you can't even do it voluntarily.

48

49 Any suggestions on that, Andy?

50

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: No. I just don't
2 think the take is going to be that significant enough
3 to have to worry about it.
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It would be nice to
6 know what the take is though. Okay. We have a
7 proposal on the table.
8
9 MS. STICKWAN: What was the historical
10 take?
11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.
13
14 MS. STICKWAN: They have historical
15 take data, right?
16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, we would still
18 get the data on an increase in the hunt -- in the
19 increase in the take. Okay. So we have a motion on
20 the table. I made a suggestion for an amendment if
21 somebody wishes to make it. Other than that we can
22 have further discussion on the motion and vote on the
23 motion.
24
25 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chair. I'll make
26 a motion to amend the motion to use an unused tag.
27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The hunter must be in
29 possession of an unused deer tag.
30
31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'll second that.
32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
34 seconded that the motion be amended to say that the
35 hunter must be in possession of an unused deer tag.
36
37 MS. CAMINER: Can I just ask a
38 question, please. So this is an unused State tag.
39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There's only State
41 tags.
42
43 MS. CAMINER: Right. And I don't know
44 how it works exactly. So will that tag have expired at
45 the end of December, but it doesn't matter, you're just
46 saying that the tag would represent how many had been
47 taken by that person during the allowed season.
48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.
50

1 MR. BURCHAM: The proper term is State
2 harvest ticket for one and then it goes through
3 January.
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It goes through
6 January?
7
8 MR. BURCHAM: Yes, that's what it says.
9
10 MS. CAMINER: Okay. Perfect.
11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Perfect. Okay. We
13 have an amendment that's been moved and seconded. All
14 in favor of the amendment signify by saying aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
19 saying nay.
20
21 (No opposing votes)
22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. We
24 have a motion on the table that says deer in Unit 6D
25 one buck between January 1st and January 31st. Hunter
26 must be in possession of an unused harvest ticket. I'm
27 sorry I used tag before, but harvest ticket.
28
29 Any more discussion.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question. Somebody
34 ask it.
35
36 MS. CAMINER: Question.
37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has been
39 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.
40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.
42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
44 saying nay.
45
46 (No opposing votes)
47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. Okay.
49 You know, we're going to take a break to do something
50 that I forgot to do at the start of the season -- start

1 of the season.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Start of the meeting.
6 And I apologize to all the people out in the audience.
7 One of the things we've always done is we all
8 introduced ourselves, but because some of us are new,
9 some of us know most everybody out there, some of us
10 don't know everybody out there, we've always asked for
11 the people in the audience to introduce themselves so
12 that we know who we're dealing with, who we're talking
13 to and things like that. So at this point in time I'm
14 just going to take a short break and we'll start at the
15 back and just work our way around to the front,
16 introduce yourself, say what your position is or
17 whether you're public and give us your name so that
18 maybe we don't have to say, hey, you. Some of us, even
19 if they're our own kids, have to say, hey, you.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But, in general, it
24 might be nice to know people's names. So we'll start
25 right back there.

26

27 MR. SKORKOWSKY: Hi. My name is Robert
28 Skorkowsky. I'm the district ranger in the Cordova
29 Ranger District, Chugach National Forest. My role in
30 the subsistence program, I've got the delegated
31 authority for deer and moose in Unit 6 on Federal
32 lands.

33

34 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham. I'm the
35 subsistence lead for the Chugach National Forest. The
36 reason I stepped up here so that I was next was so that
37 he wouldn't have to introduce himself. David Pearson
38 is just starting with the program. He's a Forest
39 Service fisheries tech at Moose Pass on the Kenai and
40 we've just extended his tour, so he'll be a year-round
41 employee for the future. In the future, he'll be at
42 these meetings as Ruth D'Amico was a few years ago.
43 He's filling her shoes, so he'll be our presence on the
44 Kenai and you'll be seeing him much more in coming
45 months and years. So I just wanted to take the
46 opportunity to introduce him.

47

48 MR. PEARSON: Hello.

49

50 MR. SOMERVILLE: Mark Somerville. I'm

1 the area management biologist for Sport Fish with Fish
2 and Game here in Glennallen.

3

4 MR. TEITZEL: I'm Dennis Teitzel. I'm
5 the field leader here for the BLM here in Glennallen.

6

7 MR. PICHE: My name is Matt Piche. I'm
8 the natural resources coordinator and the Partners fish
9 biologist for the Native Village of Eyak and my
10 position is made possible by the Office of Subsistence
11 Management.

12

13 MR. SUMMERS: Hi. My name is Clarence
14 Summers. I'm the subsistence manager for the National
15 Park Service in the Alaska Regional Office.

16

17 MS. LAVINE: Robbin LaVine,
18 anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence
19 Management.

20

21 MS. GRAMS: Hi. I'm Lynn Grams. I
22 work with National Parks Conservation Association and
23 I'm here to cover this part for NPCA.

24

25 MR. VAN LANEN: I'm James Van Lanen,
26 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence,
27 Anchorage.

28

29 MR. COGSWELL: I'm Stewart Cogswell,
30 the Fisheries Division Chief for the Office of
31 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

32

33 MR. WHITFORD: Good morning. I'm Tom
34 Whitford. I'm the Subsistence Program Leader for the
35 Forest Service for the State.

36

37 MR. VEACH: Eric Veach, the Acting
38 Superintendent for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

39

40 MS. CELLARIUS: Barbara Cellarius,
41 subsistence coordinator and anthropologist for
42 Wrangell-St. Elias and my office is across the complex
43 there.

44

45 MS. PUTERA: Judy Putera, wildlife
46 biologist for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

47

48 MS. NARR: Shelly Narr (ph)
49 representing.....

50

1 AGATHA: I'm Agatha with Kluti-Kaah.
2
3 MR. KRON: Good morning. Tom Kron,
4 OSM.
5
6 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: I'm Ivan
7 Encelewski. I'm from Ninilchik. I'm the executive
8 director for the tribe and also a Federally qualified
9 subsistence user.
10
11 MR. WILLIAMS: Darrel Williams. I work
12 with Ivan.
13
14 MR. SARAFIN: Dave Sarafin, fishery
15 biologist for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.
16
17 MS. MCCORMICK: My name is Molly
18 McCormick and I'm also a fisheries biologist for
19 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.
20
21 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, the
22 BIA subsistence anthropologist out of Anchorage.
23
24 MR. EVANS: I'm Tom Evans. I work as a
25 wildlife biologist with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
26 Office of Subsistence Management. My regions are the
27 North Slope, Southcentral and Kodiak/Aleutians.
28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you all. I'm
30 sorry and I apologize that I didn't think to do this at
31 the start like I usually do, but it was a good break.
32
33 Now we will go on to WP16-12, change
34 harvest limit, Page 48. I think we got a pretty good
35 explanation as to what was going on.
36
37 Donald.
38
39 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I don't know if
40 it's a good time to break for lunch, but I just want to
41 let people know that there's a restaurant down the
42 road, the Copper River Inn, they have a restaurant. I
43 gave them a heads-up to be expecting a big crowd during
44 the lunch hour. Barbara, we're planning a potluck for
45 Ralph tonight. It starts at 5:30 or 6:00.
46
47 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes. People can move
48 over to the Cultural Center or to the Visitor's Center.
49
50 MR. MIKE: And bring your favorite dish

1 to share. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Is the Princess
4 Lodge open too or is it closed? It's closed.

5

6 MS. CELLARIUS: I believe that Donald
7 is talking about what used to be called the Copper
8 Center Lodge, which is about four or five miles south
9 of here. If you turn left as you leave the Visitor's
10 Center and then take the first left, there's an
11 intersection that has a turn lane and a street light
12 and kind of take that to the end and there's a little
13 Loop Road and that's where the -- it has a new name.
14 I'm not used to the new name, but the old Copper Center
15 Lodge.

16

17 There is also the Fireweed Restaurant
18 in Glennallen and the grocery store in Glennallen will
19 have sandwiches, but those places are further away. So
20 those I think would be the main options for lunch.

21

22 MR. MIKE: Can you explain about the
23 Burger Bus also, please. The Burger Bus next to the
24 post office, is that still open?

25

26 MS. CELLARIUS: I don't -- I saw the
27 Burger Bus open one Saturday a couple Saturday's ago.
28 I do not know if the Burger Bus is still open.

29

30 MS. CAMINER: It was last night.

31

32 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. Sometimes it
33 seems to be open, sometimes it isn't. I don't really
34 understand its schedule. So afraid I can't help you
35 there.

36

37 MS. STICKWAN: I think the Freeze in
38 Glennallen is still open.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I think Tok Tai
41 Food is open on the corner there. So that's all places
42 that are within -- what's Glennallen from here, seven
43 miles.

44

45 MS. CELLARIUS: Seven or ten miles,
46 something like that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Somewhere in that
49 neighborhood. Those are all places available within
50 that kind of a distance. And you said something about

1 a potluck.

2

3 MS. CELLARIUS: So we're having a
4 potluck tonight at the Visitor's Center and everybody
5 is welcome. Bring a dish to share. We'll get started
6 someplace between 5:30 and 6:00. We haven't really
7 been more specific about that. Once you wrap up today,
8 if you don't want to take the time to go back to your
9 hotel and just want to hang out here, I'm going to be
10 over there setting up some chairs and stuff. So feel
11 free as soon as this meeting recesses for the day to
12 wander over there unless you have something you need to
13 do between then and when the potluck starts.

14

15 MS. CAMINER: And Ralph needs to attend
16 the potluck.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. ENCELEWSKI: How do you propose we
21 bring a dish? We have to go to the store?

22

23 MS. CAMINER: Yes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. What time is it
26 right now?

27

28 MR. ENCELEWSKI: We've got time to
29 finish this deer.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Let's finish this
32 deer. We're going to finish WP16-12.

33

34 MR. EVANS: Okay. We're hoping this is
35 going to go a little
36 quicker. I think it will. Proposal WP16 12 was
37 submitted by Milo Burcham, wildlife biologist, Cordova
38 Ranger District, requests an increase in the harvest
39 limit for deer in Unit 6 from four to five. This can
40 be found on Page 48 of your RAC books.

41

42 Increasing the harvest limit from four
43 to five deer in Unit 6 will reduce regulatory
44 complexity for Federally qualified subsistence users.
45 The lower harvest limit has not resulted in decreased
46 opportunity because most Federally qualified
47 subsistence users, rural residents for deer in Unit 6,
48 have been able to harvest up to five deer under State
49 regulations.

50

1 Sitka black-tailed deer were introduced
2 in Prince William Sound between 1916 and 1923. So
3 basically the biology that I mentioned before is the
4 same as the biology for here. Unless anyone feels the
5 need for me to repeat all that, I'll just skip that.

6
7 Again the harvest, the high during the
8 year where we had the heavy winter we've had really
9 high harvest because lots of deer were forced down
10 along the coast. There were high harvest by locals and
11 non-locals. During the 2012-13 and 2013-14 seasons the
12 harvest was less, but it is increasing slightly from
13 years before because the deer population is kind of
14 increasing due to the mild winters we're having even
15 though it makes it harder for local users to get their
16 deer because they're more dispersed.

17
18 The effects of the proposal would, as I
19 mentioned before, add hunting opportunity for Federally
20 qualified subsistence users under the Federal regs. It
21 would reduce the regulatory complexity for Federally
22 qualified subsistence users as well as simplifying
23 monitoring and enforcement of the regulations. It's
24 not expected to negatively affect the population
25 because most residents are already allowed five deer
26 under State regulations and if they feel motivated,
27 we'll do that.

28
29 Any questions. Oh, sorry. The
30 important part. OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
31 support Proposal WP16-12.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And basically what
34 this proposal really should read is it requests an
35 increase in the Federal harvest limit for deer in Unit
36 6 four and five because the State harvest limit is
37 already at that level.

38
39 MR. EVANS: Correct.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With that, we'll
42 quickly run through our other agencies and then we'll
43 break for lunch. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
44 Are you there, Drew?

45
46 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. This is Drew
47 Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
48 Federal Subsistence Liaison Program in Anchorage. The
49 Department's preliminary recommendation is to support
50 Proposal WP16-12.

1 Over.
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mr.
4 Crawford. Any other Federal agencies.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Native, village and
9 tribes.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Interagency Staff
14 Committee members.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Other Regional
19 Councils.
20
21 MR. MIKE: None, Mr. Chair.
22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fish and Game Advisory
24 Committees.
25
26 MR. MIKE: None, Mr. Chair.
27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Subsistence Resource
29 Commissions don't apply. Summary of written public
30 comments.
31
32 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There were no
33 written public comments received on this proposal.
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And is there any
36 request for public testimony.
37
38 MR. MIKE: No testimony requested.
39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Regional Council
41 recommendations. A motion to adopt WP16-12 is in order
42 so that we can discuss it.
43
44 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I so move to adopt
45 WP16-12, Mr. Chair.
46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second.
48
49 MS. MILLS: Second.
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
2 seconded to adopt WP16-12, which is to have an increase
3 in the Federal harvest limit for deer from four to
4 five, which means they will be the same as the State.
5 Any discussion. Judy.

6
7 MS. CAMINER: Well, just maybe more of
8 a technical question. How will this be reconciled with
9 what we just passed in that this is a different season
10 in our specifications from what we just passed or will
11 it be merged at some later date?

12
13 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham, Chugach
14 National Forest. I don't think it will have any
15 bearing on what we just did. It will just change the
16 harvest limit to five deer and still people will
17 continue to use State harvest tickets for most of their
18 harvest unless, as we saw a few years ago after a
19 population reduction from the severe winter we just had
20 that we need to Tier II the Federal regulations. So I
21 don't think there will be any change that way. The
22 reasons that I submitted this proposal are really
23 reasons that only I see or users. In the end, it makes
24 it simpler for users.

25
26 When the State closed their season a
27 few years ago and it was open to Federal, I had to
28 develop some very specific language to deal with the
29 first four deer that someone could take that fell under
30 Federal regulation and in the order that people took
31 their animals, the sex of the animals they took
32 depended on the order that they took them. It just
33 made it complicated to try to develop a regulation when
34 the State season closed and it would be much easier if
35 our bag limit was the same and that's why I did what I
36 did.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Milo. But
39 I can understand what Judy was just asking though
40 because part of this proposal, if I read right, says
41 however antlerless deer may be taken only from August
42 1st through December 31st -- I mean from October 1st
43 through December 31st. Do we need to make an amendment
44 and take that out of the proposal so that what we're
45 dealing with is just with the bag limit and not a
46 season?

47
48 MR. BURCHAM: Well, since it's a buck
49 season that's being added I think that still holds,
50 doesn't it? Antlerless deer may only be taken.....

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, we're talking
2 about taking antlerless bucks.
3
4 MR. BURCHAM: Oh, I see what you're
5 saying.
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It would take nothing
8 just making an amendment and take that out of the
9 proposal and then deal with what we were trying to deal
10 with, which is increasing the limit.
11
12 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, it will need to be
13 modified.
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. So if we are
16 going to pass this proposal as written, we need to have
17 an amendment to drop the second part of the proposal,
18 which is the season part.
19
20 MR. BURCHAM: So I would have to modify
21 my proposal and deal with only the four deer. You've
22 already dealt with the language for the rest of the
23 regulation, is that right?
24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Then all we
26 would be doing is changing the limit from four to five.
27
28 MR. BURCHAM: Right, right.
29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The season can be
31 taken care of with.....
32
33 MR. BURCHAM: And leave the rest out of
34 this proposal.
35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. So we need an
37 amendment to drop deer; however antlerless deer may be
38 taken only from October 1 to December 31 and also the
39 August 1 through December 31. We just need to drop
40 that whole part of the proposal. Do I hear a motion to
41 that effect. And the proposal is to increase the bag
42 limit from four to five. The Federal harvest limit
43 from four to five. Andy.
44
45 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I so move to drop
46 that.
47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You so move to drop
49 that. Do I hear a second.
50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg seconded it. All
4 in favor of the amendment signify by saying aye.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Opposed signify by
9 saying nay.
10
11 (No opposing votes)
12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Amendment carries. So
14 the motion on the table at this time is to increase the
15 Federal harvest limit for deer in Unit 6 from four to
16 five.
17
18 MS. CAMINER: And so when we are done
19 and we've increased or I assume we may vote to increase
20 the limit to just say five deer, it will also -- when
21 it comes out in the book, will it then -- let's say
22 below it say and in 6D one buck January to kind of
23 combine these two?
24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Okay. The
26 proposal is to increase the Federal harvest limit for
27 deer in Unit 6 from four to five. All in favor signify
28 by saying aye.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
33 saying nay.
34
35 (No opposing votes)
36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. What
38 time is it?
39
40 MS. CAMINER: Now we're at five to
41 12:00.
42
43 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Nine minutes till.
44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Nine minutes. Oh, we
46 can get another proposal out, can't we?
47
48 MS. CAMINER: Sure.
49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We can look at one

1 more and at least get started on it. Proposal WP16-13,
2 Page 58. Okay.

3

4 MR. EVANS: So I'm assuming by this
5 that you want me to start this one.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

8

9 MR. EVANS: All right. Proposal
10 WP16-13 also submitted by Andy McLaughlin of Chenega
11 Bay requests that Federally qualified rural residents
12 be required to obtain a Federal registration permit to
13 harvest black bears in Unit 6D from September 10th
14 through June 30th.

15

16 The proponent believes that rural
17 residents should not have to utilize State harvest
18 tickets or registration permits to harvest a quota of
19 20 black bears allowed for harvest by qualified rural
20 residents between September 10th to June 10th and would
21 prefer to utilize the Federal registration permit for
22 most of the Federal subsistence season for black bear
23 in Unit 6D.

24

25 There have been a lot of measures taken
26 over the years to reduce black bear harvest in the last
27 15 years and I'm not going to go through all those, but
28 there have been a lot of attempts to try to reduce the
29 black bear harvest in this area.

30

31 In February 2015, the Alaska Board of
32 Game changed the black bear hunt to a registration hunt
33 effective July 1st of this year. The Board of Game
34 concluded that black bears were being overharvested and
35 that a better management tool was needed to assess and
36 control harvest.

37

38 A little bit on the biology. Black
39 bear densities are highest in western Prince William
40 Sound Unit 6D and bear densities in good habitat range
41 between 4.4 and 10 bears per kilometer squared and the
42 western part of Prince William Sound it's basically
43 .59.

44

45 State management goals for black bear
46 in Unit 6D are to maintain a black bear population that
47 will sustain a three-year annual harvest of 200 bears
48 with 75 being male with an average skull size of 17
49 inches and 25 percent female. Harvest monitoring has
50 been the primary method to assess the black bear

1 populations in Unit 6. It is difficult to determine
2 the status of black bear populations in Prince William
3 Sound using harvest data, but the decrease in age of
4 harvested bears from 2005 to 2009 suggests that the
5 harvest may be having population level effects.

6
7 The black bear harvest in Unit 6D
8 tripled between the late 1990s and 2007 and this was
9 followed by declines in 2012-13 and 2013-2014
10 regulatory years. An average of 680 black bears were
11 taken in Unit 6 from 2005 to 2012 and within Unit 6D
12 between 2004 and 2013 was 427. Most of the hunting
13 pressure on black bears occurs in Unit 6D, which makes
14 sense because it has the highest density of black bears
15 and it's also because it's easily accessed by the road
16 system through Whittier.

17
18 The rural residents, however, in 6D
19 take very few black bears. Anywhere between .2 to 1.6
20 percent in the years from 2004 to 2013. The total
21 reported harvest from 2009 to 2013 was 16 bears.

22
23 If Proposal WP16-13 were adopted, it
24 would require Federally qualified subsistence users to
25 obtain a Federal registration permit to hunt black bear
26 in Unit 6D between September 10th and June 30th. This
27 would simplify the reporting requirements for Federal
28 users. This regulation would not change the Federal
29 subsistence hunting season or harvest limit for black
30 bear in Unit 6D.

31
32 OSM preliminary conclusion is to
33 support Proposal WP16-13 with modification to require a
34 Federal registration permit during the entire season.
35 However, the season dates will remain unchanged, which
36 allows subsistence hunters an additional month to
37 harvest black bears under Federal subsistence
38 regulations.

39
40 That's it.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Did I read that right
47 that what we're dealing with when it comes to harvest
48 by rural residents -- under the current system, like
49 you said, we have anywhere from .2, in other words two-
50 tenths of a percent, to 1.6 percent of the total

1 harvest and the larger the harvest it was, the smaller
2 percentage. But is that because possibly we didn't
3 have good reporting under the system that we had right
4 now or if we had Federal registration do you think we
5 would get a better reading on what actually is being
6 taken by rural residents?
7

8 MR. EVANS: Yes. That's a simple
9 answer to that.
10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So it's
12 actually a pretty small amount of bears taken by rural
13 residents.
14

15 MR. EVANS: Yeah, it's a very small
16 percentage. The proponent suggested we shorten the
17 season and our preliminary recommendation was to keep
18 the season the same length but add the registration
19 permit requirement.
20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now could rural
22 residents still hunt under a State permit system and
23 then you wouldn't be able to separate them out?
24

25 MR. EVANS: They could still hunt under
26 the State system, but we would have a record. If we
27 had a Federal registration permit, we would know how
28 many are being harvested under the State and how many
29 are being harvested under the Federal system.
30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So basically
32 this just adds another registration permit that can be
33 obtained from the Federal government rather than from
34 the State.
35

36 MR. EVANS: Correct.
37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy.
39

40 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: It keeps the Federal
41 registration permit, but just extends the season
42 towards the beginning of the season, not just the 11th
43 through the 30th of June. It puts it over into
44 September. The Federal would apply to that previous
45 season, which is what I thought existed. When I looked
46 in the book, I was like, whoa, wait a minute.
47

48 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham, Chugach
49 National Forest. This proposal was timely in the sense
50 that a registration permit wasn't really needed, but

1 the State did submit a special action asking for a few
2 different things and one of the things they said is
3 that when the State season is closed they wouldn't
4 allow the State permit to be used.

5
6 So we wanted to make sure we covered
7 the extended Federal season after the State season
8 closed and that's been in flux here recently with some
9 conservation concerns for black bears in Prince William
10 Sound. This year it closed much earlier, May 27th.
11 Your original proposal was to have the registration
12 permit start September 10th, which I think was an error
13 on your part.

14
15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes, it was.

16
17 MR. BURCHAM: And we talked about it
18 and you realized it would be better for it to be the
19 whole season. So at the same time that you submitted
20 this proposal the State was saying that their permit
21 wouldn't be valid during the extended Federal season,
22 so it just sort of fit the bill to put this into
23 regulation. In fact, we had to do this with a special
24 action this year to make available a Federal permit
25 when the State season was closed. If that makes sense
26 to you guys.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So basically
29 the modification is to make it for the entire season
30 and that way we don't have to have any dates in there.

31
32 MR. BURCHAM: Correct.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Is that
35 acceptable, Andy?

36
37 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: That's exactly right.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions
40 for the presenter. Judy.

41
42 MS. CAMINER: So I guess it sounds like
43 the basis was to make sure subsistence users were
44 covered no matter what the State was doing.

45
46 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Exactly.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No other questions, no
49 other discussion with the presenter. Thank you muchly.
50 I think the only agency we've been having comments from

1 is the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Are you
2 there, Drew.

3

4 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. The
5 preliminary recommendation is to support Proposal WP16-
6 13 and that all black bears harvested in Unit 6 are
7 required to be sealed.

8

9 Over.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mr.
12 Crawford. And I think that applies to our regulations
13 too, doesn't it, Milo?

14

15 MR. BURCHAM: No, it hasn't been in our
16 regulations. For the most part we haven't had to deal
17 with it because so few are taken. Basically all the
18 harvest has taken place under State regulation up to
19 this point. We've extending the baiting season and the
20 State has shortened its season, so there are a few new
21 things in play right now. That's not dealt with in
22 Federal regulation, sealing during the Federal-only
23 season.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Milo. Did
26 you hear that, Drew?

27

28 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, I did. Over.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would a Federal hunter
31 be out of compliance if they didn't seal -- if they had
32 in their possession a black bear that wasn't sealed if
33 they took it under a Federal permit?

34

35 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes. They would have 30
36 days to get their bear sealed after the kill.

37

38 Over.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And they could do that
41 at a State sealing station even with a Federal permit.

42

43 MR. CRAWFORD: That's my understanding.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mr.
46 Crawford. Do you have questions, Andy.

47

48 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, just to make
49 sure. Milo, if you issued these Federal permits that
50 were good from September 1st to the end of the season,

1 end of June, you would be getting a harvest report if a
2 bear was harvested on one of these permits, correct?

3

4 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah. The Federal
5 registration permit would have a report part of it, but
6 not a sealing requirement. Yeah, I would have to
7 reconcile the difference there. So there is a sealing
8 requirement in general provisions of the regulations.
9 We've just never had to use them before.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Milo. And
12 you heard that, Mr. Crawford, didn't you?

13

14 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, sir.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for bringing
17 that up to us. Okay. So we now have in front of us --
18 I don't think we have any other requests for testimony,
19 do we, Donald?

20

21 MR. MIKE: No.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We have no other
24 requests for testimony and no written public comments.

25

26 MR. MIKE: No.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No written public
29 comments. So at this point in time the Regional
30 Council can make a motion to put this WP16-13 on the
31 table. And we can put it on the table with the
32 modification that OSM has recommended if we wish. Do I
33 hear a motion.

34

35 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chair. I move to
36 put Wildlife Proposal 16-13 with modification to
37 require a Federal registration permit during the entire
38 season.

39

40 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I heard a second on
43 that. So we have before us Proposal WP16-13 that
44 requires Federally qualified rural residents to obtain
45 a Federal registration permit to harvest black bears in
46 Unit 6D for the entire season. Any further discussion.

47

48 Judy.

49

50 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. It does seem

1 like this would be beneficial to subsistence users.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy. The
4 question is available to be called.

5

6 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has been
9 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
14 saying nay.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. Okay.
19 At this point in time we're going to recess for lunch.
20 With everybody having to travel and everything, I
21 suppose we should give ourselves a little longer for
22 lunch. What is a good suggestion?

23

24 MR. ENCELEWSKI: 1:30.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We will
27 reconvene at 1:30.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (On record)

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We will call this fall
34 meeting of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional
35 Advisory Committee back into session. We are on our
36 proposals, but I'm going to ask everybody's approval.
37 I'd like to ask -- Darrel has a report he'd like to
38 make on fishing on the Kenai. He'd like to get excused
39 so that he can go home sooner. So if it's okay with
40 the rest of the Council, we'll let Darrel give his
41 report right now in the middle of our deliberations.
42 Do I have any objections.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none. Darrel.

47

48 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman. Members
49 of the board. Thank you very much. My name is Darrel
50 Williams. I'm with Ninilchik Traditional Council.

1 This is Ivan Encelewski. He's the executive director.
2 We want to take the opportunity today to provide a
3 report about the subsistence fishery for Ninilchik to
4 the Regional Advisory Council.

5
6 In this report I want to try to cover
7 as many things as I can. I want to discuss the
8 operational plan because there's a lot of questions and
9 issues that came from that; how it was developed, the
10 approval process, the special use permit and then talk
11 about the fishery operations and the results of the
12 fishery.

13
14 There were four revisions of the
15 operating plan. We started in May assembling the
16 operating plan and it got approved on July 13th.
17 There's copies that I brought with me so everybody can
18 look at them and see what's there.

19
20 MS. CAMINER: Excuse me, Darrel. I
21 just didn't quite hear. Can you say those dates again,
22 please.

23
24 MR. WILLIAMS: We started developing
25 the plan -- we started writing the plan in May and it
26 was approved July 13th, so it took quite a bit of work
27 to get the details worked out and approved.

28
29 So in the development of the plan we
30 did a lot of work on things such as gear
31 considerations. It was really interesting because
32 there's been a lot of discussion about using nets as an
33 indiscriminate gear type. We base our operations plan
34 on research-based stuff. We referenced here some
35 examples for everybody.

36
37 There's a gillnet catch efficiency
38 survey that was done in 1994 specifically targeting
39 sockeye and chum salmon. In that it had very specific
40 information on gear types and the effectiveness of
41 different kinds of gear types. It also had lineal
42 regressions that were done to be able to demonstrate
43 the predicted catch versus the actual catch. As you
44 can see, the methodology was very accurate.

45
46 We also referenced other kind of
47 information that wasn't so local. This was from the
48 University of Washington. It was information published
49 in the Journal of Applied Ecology. It talks about
50 gillnet gear types that was used in capturing fish for

1 tagging and then the mortality rates of those fish in
2 terms of the longevity of the fish. So they tagged the
3 fish, they'd observe to see if they're injured or not
4 and then they'd actually harvest the captured fish to
5 see if there was actually mortality rate associated
6 with the use of the gillnet. As you can see, actually
7 the mortality rates and injury rates were very low
8 using this specific gear type.

9
10 So the scale for the fishery, there was
11 lot of discussion about this and it's something that
12 really wasn't very well -- yes, Mr. Chairman, Greg.

13
14 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair. I
15 just wanted you to make it clear that you're talking
16 the Kasilof, right?

17
18 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. I'm sorry, yes.
19 This is the information of the Kasilof River. There's
20 also information of the Kenai River. This particular
21 picture is on the Kasilof River. There was a lot of
22 discussion on the Kasilof River about we weren't
23 allowed to use a 10-fathom net, which is 60 feet, and
24 block half the river.

25
26 That's a scale photo off of Google
27 Earth just to kind of show everybody the scale that
28 we're talking about. The little yellow line there is
29 60 feet. So to give an idea of the size of the river
30 and the impact that the net may have had.

31
32 This is a photograph approaching the
33 site in a boat and I put a big red arrow there to kind
34 of point out the buoy to give you a representative size
35 of how big the operation was. Here it is a little
36 closer.

37
38 When we put everything together, we
39 were trying to develop the operational plan. We went
40 back to the discussion that was held at the Federal
41 Subsistence Board meeting that specifically talked
42 about gear types. For example, not blocking half the
43 river and things such as that. We followed that
44 directly in developing the operational plan.

45
46 We also developed a plan for the Kenai
47 River. I brought a copy of that plan with me today too
48 and you'll note that the plans are different. The
49 regulatory language that came out of the Federal
50 Subsistence Board for the Kasilof River versus the

1 Kenai River was a different set of parameters for each
2 river. We also had to apply for and received a Kenai
3 National Wildlife Refuge special use permit and we
4 provided an insurance policy, 300,000 for each
5 occurrence, 500,000 per year minimum aggregate
6 liability.

7
8 In the special use permit, there's 38
9 special conditions that come with that permit. I think
10 it's interesting to be able to put that on the record
11 and discuss it or at least put it out for discussion
12 because these 38 conditions are nothing that was ever
13 discussed in the subsistence process or by the users.
14 It's kind of a surprise that you get when you get the
15 permit.

16
17 The site conditions. This is the
18 Kasilof River again. In the upper right-hand corner of
19 the slide, that is a Federally available subsistence
20 use area. The Federal waters that we were allowed to
21 fish in. When we were working on a plan, we went to
22 the regulatory language that came from the Federal
23 Subsistence Board, which is represented by the red
24 circle on the map on the left.

25
26 What we ended up with was a site
27 smaller than that. That's on the map on the left
28 again. I tried to point out there in the map in the
29 lower right for a representative site of where it's at.
30 I figure this is probably about one-sixth of the total
31 fishery. It's a very small piece.

32
33 We also did the same thing to the Kenai
34 River. We defined where the Federal waters were in
35 places where we could fish and we identified different
36 areas we could use for possible fishing sites. This is
37 a representative map of the Federal waters right on the
38 regulations of where you're allowed to fish in Moose
39 Range Meadows and the Kenai River.

40
41 It was also interesting in the plan
42 development there was an awful lot of people included
43 in developing the plan and the names have been omitted
44 to protect the innocent, but a lot of people weren't
45 around. As a matter of record that I need to explain
46 to people because when different people had different
47 kinds of input and we were getting out-of-the-office
48 emails, it's really hard to get a plan approved.

49
50 There was also the issue of

1 administering the fishery. How do you get permits, how
2 do you track permits, how do you regulate harvest to be
3 able to do that. Actually, it took a little bit of
4 effort figuring out how we were going to do it, having
5 a sign-up sheet, putting up flyers for people to be
6 able to see so they knew where to go sign up.

7
8 Through our discussions we also had
9 people who were assigned as designated fishers for the
10 fishery and that was an interesting development too
11 because we actually had to have somebody who could
12 actually obtain a Federal permit as a designated fisher
13 to operate the net. In that process, what would happen
14 is the subsistence user would hand over their permit to
15 us and we'd hold their permit until we were done
16 fishing for them. That way they didn't have a permit
17 in their hand, but, on the other side, they couldn't go
18 fish either. So it solved the allocation problem.

19
20 On the sockeye fishery for Ninilchik
21 it's based on household and different size of
22 households are allocated different numbers of fish. So
23 the only way to be able to figure that out was somebody
24 would go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, they'd
25 obtain their permit and they would tell them how many
26 fish they could harvest on the permit. Then we could
27 look at the permit for any given day and say we can
28 harvest 10 fish or we could harvest 20 fish, for
29 example, and that's how we were able to complete the
30 process.

31
32 A typical day in the fishery was 12
33 hours just to kind of give everybody an idea of what it
34 took. When the fishery first started we had to install
35 and remove our gear every day and that was a
36 substantial amount of effort. After the first three or
37 four days we had a discussion with U.S. Fish and
38 Wildlife Service and they would allow us to keep the
39 anchor in the water if it wasn't going to be there for
40 more than two days.

41
42 We marked our fish. There's removal of
43 the dorsal fin to be able to give to the subsistence
44 users. So the designated fishers would catch the fish,
45 mark the fish by removing the fins and then give them
46 to the permit holders.

47
48 So in terms of how we documented that,
49 there was paperwork that we did, there was field
50 documents, there was documents that were submitted to

1 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We reported every day.
2 Communications on the river was problematic at best.
3 It was very rare if we had any cell phone service at
4 all. It was interesting because in the development of
5 the plan there was a lot of issues such as in case
6 something were to happen how would we contact them and
7 it make it very precarious because if you don't have
8 phone reception, you have to leave the site to go
9 contact somebody and it's just -- the problem is its
10 own problem.

11
12 Here's some examples of field forms.
13 We take our forms and fill them out in the field and
14 then we convert them into an Excel spreadsheet and send
15 in for our reporting.

16
17 After we had developed a game plan, we
18 had a site visit where U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
19 came out and we went to the different sites to look at
20 and discuss what we could or could not do, what the
21 boundaries and site would be and so forth.

22
23 This is an interesting picture here.
24 If you'll just kind of make a note of the gravel bar
25 there, here throughout the slides you'll see how fast
26 the water table changes in a particular part of the
27 river.

28
29 Here's a really good example of that.
30 So the slide on the right is taken early during the
31 site visit and the slide on the left was near the end
32 of the season, so near the end of July, and the water
33 level rose about three feet. So when we're talking
34 about the use of gear types, that gear type can be
35 problematic on what you're using and how you set it up
36 because of the conditions, the morphology of the river.

37
38 Access to the fisheries was something
39 else we had to consider. I wanted to present this
40 because this is a very -- this is the Kasilof River
41 boat launch. This is the boat launch we used to get to
42 the fishery. If you notice, the blue truck that has
43 the big round nets in the back, those are not
44 subsistence fishermen. You'll notice they have a table
45 in the water and they were cleaning fish on the boat
46 launch. This was an everyday occurrence and there was
47 a very lengthy discussion about how subsistence users
48 cannot discard fish into the fishery.

49
50 With that, when they leave, we'd find

1 things like this. I'm not aware of any flounder that
2 exists in the Kasilof River. You know, for a process
3 of the Regional Advisory Council, I'd really like to
4 know how many people were cited for things like that.
5 This happened every day.

6
7 The Kenai River access is a little
8 different. To be able to access the Kenai River it's
9 going to cost you. You're going to pay money. This is
10 the closest boat launch to Moose Range Meadows. It
11 costs \$15 to launch your boat. If you want a season
12 pass, it's \$400. This is what the boat launch looks
13 like.

14
15 Again, it's really interesting. We
16 talk about fish carcasses and the disposal of waste
17 that the subsistence users have apparently caused
18 because we had no opportunity to fish there and there's
19 carcasses everywhere as an example. It's an
20 interesting problem.

21
22 So the site set-up back to the Kasilof
23 River where we did get a fish, we used an anchor and we
24 ended up having to put a sandbag on the anchor to help
25 secure the anchor. The substrate was very loose and
26 the anchor would tend to move with the net, so that's
27 what we used that tended to be successful in holding
28 the gear in place. We would have the running line, the
29 rope that would go from the shore out to the buoy back
30 to the shore again, run through a steel ring, and we
31 had a buoy on top. So as it's put in place it looks
32 like this, but the anchor is dropped on the line going
33 to bottom, of course, and the buoy sticks up to mark it
34 for safety reasons so everybody knows where it's at.

35
36 That's what it would look like when it
37 was in the water. Here's another picture with no
38 running line to it, just the buoy sitting out there by
39 itself.

40
41 So setting up the net. Setting up the
42 net was kind of its own interesting problem. The same
43 thing, it was the very specific gear type, 10 fathoms
44 net, specific filament, specific diameter of the
45 filaments that we had to follow in this process. So we
46 bought the gear and we would stage it -- when we'd get
47 down there, we'd stage it on the bank and then we would
48 tie the gear together so there was nothing weird out
49 there. It was just a knot from the running line to the
50 net. Then we would pull it out and that's what it

1 would look like when the net would be deployed in the
2 water.

3

4 We also were required to use a live
5 box. So when we harvest the fish, we remove them from
6 the net, we would put them in this cage basically that
7 we kept in the water and we had the cages attached to
8 the bottom by putting rocks in the bottom of it simply,
9 so it maintained water flow and it maintained
10 temperature and everything else good for the fish and
11 it would give them an opportunity to recover. It
12 actually worked pretty good.

13

14 At the end of the day, we could
15 actually pick and choose. If we needed to catch so
16 many fish, we would catch so many fish and the rest of
17 them we could turn loose. It actually worked that
18 well. Every now and again one would jump out, so there
19 were a few that got away, but it was really interesting
20 how well it did work.

21

22 Here's another just kind of picture to
23 show. When you pick the basket up, you can see the
24 rocks in the bottom and the fish look pretty good.
25 They recovered well. They didn't like me picking the
26 basket up, but it sure did seem to work well.

27

28 So when the fish would get in the net,
29 it was pretty obvious. There was a lot of discussion,
30 a lot of concerns about fish getting caught in the net
31 and no one would know or we'd overharvest that way.
32 That just simply wasn't the case at all. For anybody
33 that hasn't spent any time doing this kind of fishing,
34 if you watch the net, you can see that the corks will
35 bob, the fish will splash and it's actually really
36 apparent when you've harvested fish. I think there was
37 a lot of confusion about that in the process.

38

39 So we started fishing the net. There
40 were three of us. They asked us to provide three
41 designated fishers for the fishery and we did. So we'd
42 catch fish, we'd pull the net, we'd reduce the fish by
43 taking them out. It was interesting because some of
44 the fish that we caught in the net were previously
45 injured that showed up there. I don't know what
46 happened to that fish there, but it was just
47 interesting that we did see quite a bit of that.

48

49 We caught a variety of different fish
50 and you can tell by the photos that some had been in

1 the river longer than others. We also tried to do what
2 we could to be bank friendly and do work in the water
3 and whatnot. That worked for a while, but when the
4 water level came up, it got much much harder to do. So
5 just working the net with chest waders. Caught a lot
6 of debris. Had to clean out the net regularly because
7 debris comes down the river.

8

9 If you look at -- this is Daniel in the
10 water. You'll notice that there's not a lot of ripples
11 and not a lot of lakes around him. This is the Kasilof
12 River again. If everybody remembers this, this was the
13 fishwheel when we had the fishwheel installed in the
14 Kenai River. This was about a mile away from the site
15 where the net is.

16

17 This was another one of those kind of
18 really good videos where you can get an idea of the
19 depth and speed of the water. It's not that profound.
20 But I will say this, the water downstream is faster
21 than the water where we had the net, which would offer
22 certain advantages in being able to select the site or
23 be able to move the site according to the conditions
24 when the water level changes.

25

26 So a few more fish, just a
27 representative sample of different kinds of fish that
28 we caught. Some were in the river longer than others.
29 Some of them have already been caught. That's, what do
30 they call it, zombie fish. That's a fungal infection
31 from a fish being caught in a net. This is probably a
32 fish that got caught out in the Cook Inlet and made its
33 way up to where we were fishing. So we did see that.

34

35 We did catch one lake trout in the
36 fishery and it did not survive. We put it in the
37 recovery box and the little guy just didn't make it.
38 It was interesting because we caught this trout when
39 the salmon would get tangled up in the net. They'd
40 make baskets of webbing and he was caught up in that.
41 So he wasn't gilled or nothing, he just got tangled.
42 Some of the fish were actually very small too. That's
43 a red salmon. Not a very big one.

44

45 So in terms of the gear and the
46 performance of the gear and selecting the mesh size
47 that we tended to use, it worked pretty good. So we'd
48 pull the net, we'd find our fish and then we'd be able
49 to actually stop and we started taking pictures to look
50 at where the fish actually get caught in the net. If

1 you can see on this, we see the line right by the
2 pectoral fin on the fish, that's where they were
3 getting caught, so it was well past their gills because
4 the mesh was large enough. They'd get hung up like
5 that and like this guy here he got his teeth tangled up
6 in there and whatnot, but that's how we were catching
7 the fish. So we weren't actually gilling the fish,
8 which was good. I think that's why we had a really
9 good survival rate.

10
11 Some of the fish get caught and they
12 spin around and they get tangled up. Sometimes you get
13 a couple fish together and they'd make a mess of the
14 net too. So when we pull the net in, you can see the
15 fish right there, so there's a lot of discussion about
16 how do you get a fish out of the net without injuring
17 it. Well, when you have the fish right there, you can
18 leave them in the water, especially if it's
19 non-targeted fish. If it's a fish you plan on
20 harvesting, it's not such a big deal. There's an
21 example of handling the fish in the water.

22
23 The same thing to be able to make it
24 work. We usually use two people working the net over
25 there, we had a lot of fish, to be able to pull it and
26 get them in the recovery well.

27
28 We had site visits from U.S. Fish and
29 Wildlife Service to keep an eye on us, which is
30 probably worthwhile. A few more fish. This is what
31 the site looked like standing on the bank right there
32 just to give you an idea. So there was a little bit of
33 traffic on the bank. Some of it just could not be
34 avoided, but we made every effort not to destroy the
35 place.

36
37 Here's another example of the guy you
38 saw earlier. He was checking the net standing in the
39 water. It's a little deeper now. This is towards the
40 end of the season. This is what makes things a little
41 more difficult trying to operate it in the water. It's
42 another site picture. Site pictures.

43
44 So the results that we had was put
45 together in a final report. There's a copy of it
46 floating around here, so it's been given to you guys.
47 So we kept track of all of our harvest, all of our days
48 we fished all the hours we fished and we did that in
49 terms of soak time. So the soak time is the time the
50 net was actually fishing in the water.

1 When we added all that up, the average
2 soak time for all of our fishing was 4.1 hours per day.
3 So in a 12-hour day, the net was actually fishing in
4 the water for 4.1 hours by the time we get out there,
5 set the gear up, pull the net every 30 minutes, do the
6 maintenance, all the things that come with it, that's
7 what you get in a 12-hour day. With that, when you add
8 that up, we caught a sockeye salmon every 20 minutes of
9 fishing with the most aggressive gear type we have.

10
11 So the permit administration to be able
12 to track who received fish. That was another issue
13 too. One, we had to get the fish. We had to do
14 everything to track fish to figure out how many we
15 could catch, but then handing the fish out. That was a
16 whole other process by itself. It was interesting
17 because when we did that -- here's a nice graph -- we
18 were able to fill three permits. Actually three people
19 received their allocation. Two more almost received
20 their allocation and there was four permits that
21 received no fish at all. We had 15 people signed up.

22
23 So using this gear type in that
24 timeframe, we could not fill the subsistence permits.
25 Didn't happen. There weren't enough fish.

26
27 So our catch in terms of what we
28 actually did catch, we actually caught 245 fish, we
29 harvested 223, which means those guys went home to
30 somebody's freezer, and we released 22. We also caught
31 10 pink salmon, one Dolly Varden trout and one lake
32 trout. The Dolly Varden trout was kind of funny
33 because we were pulling the net in and he was in there
34 and we pulled it up and he was, bloop, gone. So he
35 wasn't injured or nothing like that. We caught zero
36 steelhead. All the claims of all the steelhead we were
37 going to catch and decimate the fishery, we caught
38 zero.

39
40 On the Kenai River, back to the actual
41 Federally qualified area that we can use there, the
42 Federal waters, we went down and we took a really hard
43 look at that in trying to decide what we could do and
44 where we could put gear and what kind of gear we could
45 use. So there was different options we had for gear.
46 We could do the setnet, we could use a pole, we could
47 fish from the boat and there is also the fishwheel. So
48 we had different options. We went to go take a really
49 good look at it and try to decide what we could do.

50

1 We found one regulatory marker and that
2 is actually on the boundary of Moose Range Meadows.
3 That is the only way that we were able to find the
4 boundary or any idea of where we could possibly be.
5 They didn't have the upper end marked, lower end
6 marked, no signage there. So I took a picture of the
7 GPS and that way I could take it back and put it into
8 GIS to be able to identify exactly where the site is.
9 So this site here is where that green dot is. It's the
10 boundary marker for the Refuge.

11
12 There's some other interesting sites of
13 Federal waters because there's such a conservation
14 concern of the fishery not to have any kind of fishing
15 that may have incidental harvest of salmon. That's
16 what it looks like.

17
18 MS. CAMINER: Not to have any
19 incidental harvest of.....

20
21 MR. WILLIAMS: Early run kings.

22
23 MS. CAMINER: King salmon. Okay. You
24 just said salmon.

25
26 MR. WILLIAMS: Those are people fishing
27 by the way. I'm sorry, if you didn't catch that. I
28 was being a little sarcastic. Pardon me, I didn't
29 really mean to be that way. Yeah, those are people
30 fishing. That's in the Federal waters. I'll show you
31 more on that as we get there.

32
33 So same thing, the same process. Take
34 a picture of the GPS, be able to put it into the map
35 and take photos of the river of what's going on there
36 as we went through the Federal waters and that's what
37 we do. There's an awful lot of catwalks, houses.
38 You'll notice that the river is much faster. It tends
39 to cascade more. As we go along, we kept doing the
40 same thing. Take a picture of GPS so we can find it in
41 the map where we're at, so we're right where the green
42 dot is in this series of pictures. Be able to look at
43 what's there at that site of what we can and can't use
44 and what would be acceptable to be able to use as a
45 site to perform our fishing.

46
47 As we come down around the corner, it's
48 very interesting because you start getting into this
49 snag of people and catwalks and all kinds of stuff
50 there. It was very, very crowded. As a subsistence

1 user who was not given the opportunity to fish this
2 this year, I had to ask why. So I took a picture and I
3 brought it to you.

4
5 Same process. This is the end, so the
6 furthest downstream part of the Federal waters. The
7 same thing. You start getting into much more housing
8 here. The river is a little faster. It would actually
9 be really hard to fish this because it tends to cascade
10 here.

11
12 That's my presentation. I wanted to be
13 able to share that with everybody and let you know how
14 the fishery went, where we ended up. The Kenai River
15 operations plan was never approved, so we were never
16 able to fish it, but we did do our work. I wanted to
17 let you guys know that. The Kasilof River fishery went
18 well. We caught 223 fish and we were able to
19 distribute them.

20
21 I would think that we would like to ask
22 to be able to harvest more fish and an opportunity to
23 be able to fill permits. In any given day, the most
24 fish we caught in one day was 25 fish. If it was one
25 person head of household, that would fill one permit in
26 a 12-hour day.

27
28 Any questions. Oh, no.

29
30 MS. CAMINER: Oh, yes.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Darrel, what's the
33 daily bag limit for the dippers or do they have a daily
34 bag limit?

35
36 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, I don't
37 know. Does anybody else? For personal use fishing?

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. The ones that
40 are dipping. The ones that you see in your picture
41 right there dipping.

42
43 MR. PEARSON: It's 25 per household or
44 per head plus 10 for the general Kenai River dipnet
45 fishery.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And then my next
48 question would be what's the success rate of the folks
49 with the dipnets? Do they dip 25 in a day?

50

1 MR. PEARSON: David Pearson, Chugach
2 National Forest. I live on the Kenai, so I know a
3 little bit about this. Not work related. So the
4 general dipnetting is 25 per head of household plus 10
5 per member. As to success rate, it depends on the day.
6 You might catch none, you might catch 20 in two hours.
7 I've done both. It really just depends if you time it
8 right.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I was just wondering
11 if it was almost as effective as what it sounds like
12 the gillnet was.

13

14 MR. PEARSON: It definitely can be, but
15 you also have to deal with lots of people. It's
16 interesting.

17

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, it is. Thank you.
19 I never fished that fishery. So one of the things
20 that's been our hope in the last 10 years of dealing
21 with this issue was to be able to get a meaningful
22 preference. Yeah, I could go down there and fish the
23 personal use fishery. I could get a rod and reel and
24 go fishing or whatever else, but we're really hoping to
25 be able to get an effective method of harvesting fish.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, that's what I
28 was wondering is whether your gillnet was as effective
29 as a dipnet.

30

31 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Can I answer that?

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

34

35 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'd like to answer
36 that, Mr. Chairman, and I'd like these guys to answer
37 it. How do you know when you don't get to use a
38 gillnet. We did not get to put the gillnet in the
39 water. I guarantee you it would be as effective if not
40 more effective. The truth of the matter, what he's
41 saying here, and I'd reiterate it if that's correct,
42 Darrel, we didn't get to fish in the Kasilof until the
43 13th of July. If we would have fished early, we would
44 have had two, three times that fish probably. So, you
45 know, we had no chance to fish the Kenai, so you can't
46 compare something to nothing.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically what
49 you're saying is we don't really know because we've
50 never had a chance.

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Correct. I just
2 wanted to make sure that was out there.

3
4 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman. Thank
5 you, Mr. Encelewski. That's exactly a very good point
6 because the fishery was scheduled to start July 1st.
7 We did not get approved until July 13th. The approval
8 date was what it was. I imagine that an earlier
9 fishery would be better or imagine the opportunity to
10 be able to see what will work beings that we reported
11 every day. You know, Darrel is up at 11:00 at night
12 writing a report and sending it in. I know there's
13 nobody at that office, but I do it anyway, you know.

14
15 They could call us up and say the
16 impact's too big, shut it down. That day, every day,
17 you know. I think the reporting requirements --
18 personally, I think they're over the top. I think it's
19 way too restrictive. The use of designated fishers.
20 If I have a permit in my hand and I can catch 25 fish,
21 why does everybody think I'm going to catch more than
22 that. It's just not understanding the fishery.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What was the big
25 holdup on the Kenai? Why didn't you get a permit on
26 the Kenai?

27
28 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: For the record,
29 it's Ivan Encelewski with Ninilchik Traditional
30 Council. I can help answer both questions, but just
31 backing up just a second because we're talking about
32 the Moose Range Meadows, which is that area I guess
33 it's referred to.

34
35 Just for the record, if you guys
36 remember, the Ninilchik Traditional Council did submit
37 a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to be able
38 to dip from the bank in the Moose Range Meadows, but we
39 were told by Robin West, was the Refuge Manager at the
40 time, that even one footprint on that bank could cause
41 -- because it was this rearing habitat for fish. As
42 you can see the hypocrisy from the photos. That
43 proposal was voted down. I'm not sure if it was voted
44 down -- I think it was even voted down at this RAC
45 because of the sentiments by the Refuge Manager at the
46 time claiming that this is some sort of area. And
47 that's what we're concerned with.

48
49 So right now the problem was we were
50 only allowed to dip from a boat and we put in a

1 proposal to be able to dip with all these other guys
2 that are fishing, but we were not even allowed to do
3 that. So you can see the plight of our history of
4 trying to get a meaningful preference and how it's in
5 relation to the reality of what exists on that river.
6 That's why it's important to see these kind of things,
7 you know; how it's actually worked, all that goes into
8 it. We didn't catch one king, steelhead or any of
9 these other things. The massive 87-page report, daily
10 reporting. Three families could dip what we took in
11 two hours. It's just ridiculous.

12
13 On the second one, we were not allowed
14 to fish because the in-season manager refused to
15 approve an operational plan on the Kenai. I don't know
16 how much you want to get into that. On the advice of
17 legal counsel, I don't know that we want to get
18 involved too much into that other than for the history.
19 We had submitted the proposal at the same time with the
20 Kasilof operational plan.

21
22 There was an in-season closure by the
23 in-season manager for the early run king that was
24 issued. We opposed that because we knew the numbers
25 would come to fruition and they did. They met their
26 escapement goals by over 800 fish. The in-season
27 manager continued to lead us on that we would be able
28 to get a plan approved in the Kenai and even as late as
29 when the plan was approved in mid July that we would
30 look at the Kenai when the Kasilof plan was done and
31 finalized and then a few days later received final
32 notice that the in-season manager had refused to issue
33 an operational plan.

34
35 Furthermore, later testified -- we
36 submitted two special action requests to rescind the
37 in-season manager's authority and to overturn his
38 decision to close the fishery. The Federal Subsistence
39 Board ended up taking up those special action requests
40 and under a tie vote they did not approve overruling
41 his decision.

42
43 Which then, knowing that they had met
44 their early run escapement and their late run
45 escapement was more than they thought and it was very
46 good, they ended up even liberalizing the sport fishery
47 and allowing bait on the Kenai where we were never
48 allowed to fish.

49
50 Under that testimony, the in-season

1 manager also stated under testimony that he would never
2 allow the fishery to go forward no matter what the
3 escapement goal was. So that's where we're at.
4 Basically the last we know is that this fishery won't
5 happen because it requires a provision that the in-
6 season manager approve the operational plan, but yet
7 under Federal testimony he refuses to issue that permit
8 and wouldn't because of conservation concern.

9
10 So basically you have an in-season
11 manager usurping the Federal subsistence law that was
12 passed and approved. So our understanding at this
13 point right now is that there will never be a plan
14 based on the in-season manager's comments at the
15 Federal Subsistence Board that will ever be approved by
16 Kenai if he's in charge.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

19
20 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
21 I could follow up on that. So the way you'd left it
22 there weren't specific conditions that you had to
23 further demonstrate or there wasn't suggestions for
24 improvement in your plan that you still need to follow
25 up on.

26
27 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Again this is Ivan
28 Encelewski for the record. Yeah, there was no action
29 taken on the in-season manager's part to work with us
30 to develop a plan. We had submitted that plan for the
31 Kenai and, as Darrel mentioned, we had done research to
32 look at areas and stuff like that. I have the emails.
33 For the record, it's part of the special action
34 request.

35
36 When we were notified early that the
37 Federal in-season manager was going to make the
38 decision to close the early run king salmon for
39 subsistence as well, that was done -- we had opposed
40 it, but at that point I had responded several times,
41 are we still able to work through the plan, develop the
42 plan, and there was indication given, yes.

43
44 Actually, in the final email in mid
45 July, I was actually told verbatim in the email from
46 the in-season manager that, yes, that doesn't preclude
47 the development of the plan just because the early run
48 was closed and that we would work on it after we
49 finished the Kasilof plan. Two days later I was given
50 a notice under an official Federal letterhead from the

1 in-season manager that he would not approve a plan.

2

3 So we were led on basically for weeks
4 that we could still develop a plan, but it was
5 obviously the intention and the later testimony from
6 the in-season manager that they had no intention or he
7 had no intention of approving a plan.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

10

11 MS. CAMINER: Thank you. But, Ivan, if
12 I could, at the Federal Board meeting at the end of
13 July, I think I recall, but did the Board direct the
14 Federal in-season manager to work with you to develop a
15 plan and has any follow up occurred since that
16 direction?

17

18 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Yes, that's
19 correct. I believe it was 7-1, with U.S. Fish and
20 Wildlife opposed, to direct -- but it was a direction
21 based on status quo, so there was no -- I guess I don't
22 know what the legal requirement is. Basically it just
23 said, yeah, we direct you to work with -- which is what
24 the regulation already said, so it basically provided
25 absolutely no decision.

26

27 I did receive an email from the in-
28 season manager well after the season in late August, a
29 single email, basically stating the Board had voted 7-
30 1. But, again, there was no active efforts on the U.S.
31 Fish and Wildlife's part to say, oh, we don't like this
32 or that or part of the plan that we had submitted.
33 They just simply -- the in-season manager refused to
34 provide any comments or feedback to our plan
35 development for the Kenai.

36

37 MS. DEMENTI: Because of this refusal
38 to approve, how many families were left without
39 Ninilchik fish?

40

41 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: I guess I don't
42 know the actual tangible number. Obviously several as
43 you can see through the permits just that we had for
44 the Kasilof. Darrel testified there were several fish
45 and lots of permits that went unfilled. So this was a
46 new fishery and it wasn't just like there was only 11
47 or 15, whatever the number. There would have been more
48 people signing up. It's just a matter of getting the
49 word out and whatnot.

50

1 So I can't put a number on it, but
2 obviously, you know, many, many, many families did not
3 get the opportunity to receive fish even just in the
4 permits that we had for the Kasilof. So, yeah, it's a
5 big loss and it's unfortunate.

6
7 When you look at all the safety
8 provisions for conservation and the way that this was
9 run in the Kasilof, that it certainly could have been
10 done for even one day and that's the arguments that we
11 had made. Why not even allow the net fishery in the
12 Kenai for one or two days, you know. It's got the 72-
13 hour reporting. It's unfathomable. It's really sad
14 that it's gotten to this position, but I can't express
15 how many actually didn't receive fish.

16
17 MR. WILLIAMS: Just to add a little bit
18 to that. One of the things to understand too is that
19 we've been doing this -- we've been working on this
20 particularly fishery for 10 years. Ten years on this
21 and this is as close as we've got. It's interesting
22 because they told us no, they told us no, then they
23 give us a fishwheel in the Kasilof, which really was
24 the wrong kind of river for a fishwheel, but we were
25 being good sports. We were trying to work the system,
26 so we did that.

27
28 In the meantime, the community is
29 sitting back watching all this and they're saying,
30 well, it's not going very well, guys. It's summertime,
31 the fish are here, I need to catch fish and I can't
32 rely on a maybe, kind of, sort of, if it happens to
33 work out this year. It's really withdrawn a lot of
34 people from the community to be able to engage in that.

35
36 So the 15 people that we did have
37 sign up, three people got their permit filled. So in
38 terms of the whole community, just to give you an idea,
39 there's 800 people that live in Ninilchik and we filled
40 three permits.

41
42 MS. DEMENTI: Are you saying there are
43 800 tribal members or 800 general population?

44
45 MR. WILLIAMS: Eight hundred people in
46 the general rural population, including tribal members.

47
48 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I think she asked a
49 two-part question. The membership of the tribe also
50 and that membership is in our geographic area. From

1 Kasilof to Homer is about 800 people. It's more than
2 that I think.

3

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. So the geographic
5 boundaries of the tribe is actually different than the
6 community of Ninilchik in terms of subsistence. So,
7 yeah.

8

9 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mary
10 Ann Mills. I'm surprised and I think this is one of
11 the problems that this Council had with in-season
12 managers or rather the question we had at one time is
13 how much power they can exercise, for how long and what
14 rules they have that they have to follow. I think it
15 would be good to maybe review these parameters again.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

18

19 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I just wanted to make
20 another comment. Thank you, Darrel. I think it was a
21 good report. I know all that you guys went through
22 because I was involved with that. It was a tremendous
23 effort. To put it just in layman's terms, what I'm
24 trying to stress, if you look at the mountain of
25 paperwork that the subsistence user was put through to
26 get these plans, the hoops we had to jump through.

27

28 We're not here -- and all these 10
29 years that they had fought for a preference and a
30 meaningful way to fish. To get their fish, get out and
31 distribute them. We thought we had an opportunity. It
32 was passed by -- this RAC has always been supportive of
33 us, you know. From when I've been on here, and I've
34 been on here since 2003, I shouldn't date myself, but,
35 anyway, it's a long time. Not like Ralph, but close.

36

37 Anyway, it's sad to see that the
38 Federal process was usurped in my opinion and I just
39 want that to be clear in the report. It wasn't
40 anything we did. It was stopped because of their
41 decision. And the Federal Board passed this. It's in
42 regulation. We have the fishwheel. We couldn't fish
43 it because of the snag.

44

45 So I think you did a good job and I
46 thank you for that.

47

48 Thank you, Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Greg. I

1 have one questions, Darrel. You had a slide up there
2 with a whole bunch of people on the bank. Was that in
3 Moose Meadows where you weren't supposed to be on the
4 bank?

5
6 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that
7 is Moose Range Meadows.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That was the Moose
10 Range Meadows where you couldn't have a dipnet fishery
11 because you'd be stepping on the bank.

12
13 MR. WILLIAMS: That is correct, Mr.
14 Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But all those people
17 were right there.

18
19 MR. WILLIAMS: That is correct, Mr.
20 Chairman. That's why this year we decided we'd
21 actually go there and we would take pictures and we'd
22 bring it to the process. Because it's so easy to come
23 to the process and say, oh, no, you can't do that
24 there. If you haven't been there and if you haven't
25 seen this, people don't know.

26
27 That's really the game has been played
28 in this whole thing. You guys all know. We've been
29 doing this a long time. This is a decade on this
30 fishery. A decade and we haven't been able to really
31 effectively fish it yet. People can't get the fish
32 they need. It's the whole purpose of subsistence.
33 Congress's intent was clear when this was done.
34 There's no gray area. This has turned into a game.

35
36 So I guess the best I can do anymore is
37 just go ahead and take the picture and show it to
38 everybody. Submit it to the record and say here it is
39 and, you know, everybody can explain that now. The
40 Refuge Manager should be able to come in and tell them
41 why they've changed their position on that from the
42 last time they testified saying that you couldn't even
43 step on the bank. And there's catwalks there and
44 there's houses there and there's people there by the
45 groves. Actually, if you look at the GPS coordinate,
46 that's right next to the Federal property, Refuge
47 property, so in terms of who owns it. So it's really
48 interesting from that perspective.

49
50 I'm hoping that OSM staff will take a

1 very hard look at this when they do their analysis for
2 the next meeting and really put these pieces together
3 because I'm not going to do it for them. I'm done.
4 We've been doing it for them for 10 years. I'm done.
5 This is the way I think they need to do it. They need
6 to take a hard look at this stuff. Here it is. Why
7 wasn't somebody down there before taking these
8 pictures. Where are these in-season managers? How
9 come they weren't able to bring this to the table?

10

That's a really good question.

12

13 Sorry, Mr. Chair. I didn't mean to go
14 on.

15

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

17

18 MS. CAMINER: First of all, thank you
19 for that really good presentation. Because I know I've
20 talked to Greg, oh, I'd love to come see it. Until you
21 see it, your photos are just really helpful for us to
22 all understand exactly how you went about doing it.
23 The whole presentation was very helpful.

24

25 I do have several questions for you.
26 What was the mesh size?

27

28 MR. WILLIAMS: I believe it's 5 and a
29 quarter off the top of my head. It's in the report.

30

31 MS. CAMINER: Okay. So mesh size was 5
32 and a quarter. Then how far was the site from where
33 you would start out every morning.

34

35 MR. WILLIAMS: From the boat launch or
36 from Ninilchik?

37

38 MS. CAMINER: I guess from Ninilchik.

39

40 MR. WILLIAMS: From Ninilchik it is
41 about 22 miles one way to drive from Ninilchik to the
42 boat launch and then it was about a mile in the boat
43 from the boat launch.

44

45 MS. CAMINER: If I may, Mr. Chair. You
46 mentioned an insurance policy. And this isn't so much
47 a question for you, but maybe as we talk later, I mean
48 I'd ask members of OSM or some of the Federal agencies,
49 are there other nets in Federal waters where insurance
50 policy is required?

1 MR. WILLIAMS: One of the interesting
2 parts in that is that when we get the special
3 conditions that come with the special use permit from
4 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, that's when we're
5 required to submit an insurance policy.

6
7 It's interesting because it references
8 50 CFR something right there in the provisions, but
9 when you look up 50 CFR, those insurance policies are
10 for commercial endeavors, which the Refuge doesn't do.
11 It's really taken out of context and it's really out of
12 application. In fact, in 50 CFR it also says that a
13 person should be able to go to the Refuge and ask for a
14 permit verbally.

15
16 Happening to have a background in
17 stream morphology, geology, biology, project
18 management, all this stuff is fluff. This is the game.
19 You shouldn't have to do that. It says in the CFRs all
20 we have to do is ask and that's what they reference in
21 these special conditions. It doesn't even mention the
22 insurance policy because I read it. You know, I mean I
23 was a little perturbed by the whole thing, so I
24 actually broke it out and read it and I couldn't find
25 anywhere where it required an insurance policy.

26
27 So it's a really good question as a
28 matter of policy and process in the Federal subsistence
29 system. You know, let's put this in terms of
30 meaningful preference. If it's meaningful preference,
31 shouldn't everybody have to provide an insurance
32 policy? Shouldn't the State have to provide an
33 insurance policy? Shouldn't every sport fisherman have
34 to be able to write a final annual report and submit it
35 after they're done fishing for the year whether they're
36 from Alaska or Wisconsin? To me, that's meaningful
37 preference, having the advantage to be able to make
38 something happen.

39
40 MS. CAMINER: One last question. So
41 assume you were trying to pick for the most part from
42 within the water rather than pull it up into the boat
43 to make sure the fish stayed alive and were not injured
44 or traumatized.

45
46 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, we did. Actually
47 for the Kasilof fishery having the net in the water it
48 wasn't a problem. One of the things that we were
49 looking at on the Kenai River is a faster river and it
50 may be a little more difficult to work a net in that

1 river or the size of the net or actually may want to
2 fish that from a boat or a pole or even consider using
3 the fishwheel, but until we have an opportunity to
4 really plug it in and put it to application to see what
5 the results are -- this has actually really, in my
6 opinion, been a total disaster because everybody was
7 sure we were going to catch thousands of fish overnight
8 and we were going to be way full of fish because we
9 would catch too many and that simply did not happen
10 because the real representation of the fishery was
11 never presented in the system.

12

13 It's interesting because, you know,
14 we've been doing this for 10 years. We come and we
15 keep telling people it's not going to happen, it's not
16 going to happen. Everybody is like, oh, no. And time
17 and time again, take the moose hunting, take the
18 fisheries, take everything we've done, Ninilchik has
19 done in the Federal subsistence process, we've never
20 over-allocated, we've never created a conservation
21 concern. Usually we don't even reach the limits of
22 what's been allocated to us, so we've always been
23 conscientious.

24

25 The other thing I think people have to
26 understand, if we really thought we were doing harm,
27 we'd pull the net out of the water and say, hey, we're
28 not doing this. We're responsible people.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: One more.

33

34 MS. CAMINER: One more follow up is
35 that, as you mentioned, you didn't even come close to
36 your allocation, which was 4,000 sockeye, is that
37 correct?

38

39 MR. WILLIAMS: That's correct.

40

41 MS. CAMINER: Thanks.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ivan.

44

45 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: I just want to make
46 a couple quick comments for the record. This might
47 help explain and I know we've taken a lot of time and
48 we certainly thank you for the opportunity. To help
49 clarify on the issue of why there's no operational plan
50 on the Kasilof and I kind of put together a timeline.

this plan approved here today or tomorrow. 47 look at getting that plan moving forward on the Kenai 46 originally for the Kasilof in order that we can get a

48 as well. Also maybe we can just use the final proof 14 came up with was why not even a few days. You know, 12 about what mitigating things could we do to help

16 even allowed to try. He says why didn't you put that

26 operational plan. You mentioned in this email below 13 alleviate some of those things. One of the things we

19 17 in as a proposal. So there was some discussion about 15 why not even let it try. You can't fail if you're not

21 because these are the emails between Jeff and I and 20
I just want to read for the record 18 even limiting factors.

22 they were included in the special action request and

25 you regarding the Kenai gillnet fishery proposed 24 emailed Jeff directly and said I wanted to confirm with 23 I'll try and be very brief. In the July 6th email, I 10 Jeff in the office to talk about these plans and
11 although he had reservations about the Kenai we talked

30 Kenai, as noted below. Is this still correct? As the
31 closure beginning 18th 2015 was implemented and we

39 but does not preclude development of an operational 32 assume
that this coupled your email indicated no plan

44 Jeff. Can you provide comments on the Kenai 37 Special Action
10KS15-01 prohibits subsistence fishing
38 for chinook salmon using a gillnet in the Kenai River, 35 33
would be approved for the Kenai this year. And there's

36 His response on July 6th was, hi, Ivan. 34
another sentence or two.

42 41 language.

43 So on July 7th I responded, thanks, 40 plan for
a community gillnet. And he included the 28 close the Federal
subsistence fishery for chinook, that

agillnet fishery for the 000111

1 Thanks.

2

3 His response on July 8th, hi, Ivan. I
4 suggest waiting until we finalize the Kasilof plan
5 first. Okay. July 16th we receive a letter from Jeff
6 saying that there will be absolutely no plan approved.
7

8 So I don't know how his version of the
9 events correlates with the facts, which were that we
10 were led to believe that he was still working on the
11 Kenai plan. He told us in writing that we could still
12 work on the Kenai plan but there was absolutely no
13 effort made there. So, for the record, we were not
14 told by the in-season manager from the beginning that
15 there would be no plan. We were led to believe that we
16 were still working on a plan as late as when we
17 received the letter in the middle of July. So it was
18 very unfortunate.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Darrel,
21 Ivan. Judy has one more.

22

23 MS. CAMINER: Well, just a general
24 question for us. Are we getting a briefing at some
25 point on the fishery besides the net fishery that
26 didn't occur on the Kenai this summer? Will that be as
27 part of the agency reports?
28

29

30 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: My understanding is
31 that Jeff is on the agenda for his report on the Kenai
32 and Kasilof fishery under U.S. Fish and Wildlife and
33 you'll hear his version in the events, I guess.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Personally, I'm glad
36 you at least got a chance to try it on the Kasilof.
37 The bycatch was exactly what I figured it could be.
38 I'd have a question or two. Did you release some of
39 those red salmon that I saw caught in the net or did
40 you keep all those red salmon.

41

42 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman. You know,
43 it was interesting because some of those fish, come the
44 end of the day and we were trying to figure out what to
45 take home or not take home. Some of the lively guys
46 who were getting out of the recovery box we let them
47 go. There were some that didn't survive, so we had to
48 take them with us. So any mortality we had to take.
49 We tried not to pick and choose. We tried to be able
50 to give the subsistence users the fish that we caught

000112

1 hear about that, but it's a start. I think most people
2 understood.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So there was a few
5 fish released, but they were released on their
6 liveliness, not on their color quality or anything like
7 that.

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: That's correct, Mr.
10 Chairman. When we fished, our best day was 25 fish.
11 So it got to the point where we were a little more
12 worried about making sure that we brought fish home for
13 people because we'd call them and tell them we'd be
14 fishing their permit that day and they kind of were
15 expecting to see a fish or two, so we wanted to make
16 sure we brought fish home, but at the same time we
17 didn't want to be bad guys either.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

20

21 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: One final thing for
22 the record in case you guys missed the February 18,
23 2015, Wednesday, edition of the Peninsula Clarion, it
24 shows a nice picture of the Kenai River State of
25 Alaska's net that they do every day in the Kenai River.
26 So this is operated all June and July and there are
27 nets in the Kenai. The State of Alaska operates them
28 just fine, but we can't. And they harvested -- I don't
29 have the exact number, but I believe in their test
30 fishery -- this is part of their test fishery, but they
31 harvested upwards of 100 kings in the early run from
32 this test fishery.

33

34 MS. STICKWAN: One question.

35

38 MS. STICKWAN: The fish that had cuts
39 in them, is that from -- you know, what do you think
40 causes that?

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sharks, sea lions,
43 seals.

44
45 MS. MILLS: Props.

46
47 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I can tell you. I
48 fish commercially there. I get a fair amount of those.
49 A lot of times they're seals. Different things,
50 sharks. Different things get them.

000113

1 MS. STICKWAN: Do the cuts come from
2 seals?

3
4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, the predators tend
5 to get them. It's interesting, like in the females,
6 like in that one picture that we had, they always bite
7 them right there in the belly. We saw quite a few fish
8 looked like that this year.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Well, thank
11 you, guys.

12
13 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, members of
14 the board, everybody in the audience, thank you for
15 rearranging your schedule and letting me get this done.
16 I certainly appreciate it.

17
18 Ralph, I understand this is your last
19 meeting. Good luck and godspeed.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You want a short
26 break. Short break. Long enough to go to the other
27 building and back.

28
29 (Off record)

30
31 (On record)

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We are back in
34 session. I have a request from one of the Council
35 members that she would like to put a motion on the
36 table. Gloria, would you like to tell us what that
37 motion is.

38
39 MS. STICKWAN: I move that the SRC
40 moves to be on record as continuing to support
41 Ninilchik's gillnet fisheries on the Kenai and Kasilof
42 Rivers and that the RAC supports the approval of
43 operational plans for both rivers, especially in light
44 of the denial of an operational plan for the Kenai this
45 year.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second.

48
49 MR. SHOWALTER: Second.
50

000114

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
2 seconded. Gloria, I'll have to have you give that to
3 Donald so that we can get a copy of it exactly.
4 Discussion. Would anybody like to start the
5 discussion.

6
7 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll just make a
8 comment to the discussion. I think the RAC has been in
9 support of that and I think they continue to support

we still

12 support it and we also support the operation plan
13 approval. I mean you guys just all heard how lengthy
14 it is and arduous and some of the absolutely ludicrous
15 and ridiculous hoops that you have to go through to get
16 it. So we need to support everything we can to support
17 the preference for the subsistence users. So I
18 certainly would support that motion.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy.

23

24 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 I was really impressed with all the hoops that they
26 jumped through, all that data gathering, everything
27 they were doing to cross the T's, dot the I's a fully
28 support. I can imagine they would be entirely
29 frustrated coming to a stalemate like this. It doesn't
30 make sense to me actually.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

33

34 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. I'll

35 reinforce that I thought it was just an excellent
36 presentation and made us aware of the full extent of
37 the efforts that have gone into it on the part of the
38 community of Ninilchik and that we would really
39 encourage that the in-season manager work with the
40 subsistence users to enact the regulation that has been
41 passed and hopefully it's done well before next fishing
42 season.

43

44 MS. MILLS: Yes, Mr. Chair, I also

45 agree. I believe Ninilchik, you know, has gone above
46 and beyond which most tribes would have probably given
47 up. I'm in full support of Ninilchik and their fishery
48 as well. Your report was excellent.

49

50 Thank you.

can support something like this
3 because we're just stating what we've stated before.
4 We're not asking for new regulation, we're not making
5 any new proposals. We're just saying that we are still
6 in support of the fisheries that we voted on and
7 approved before and we would like to see progress in
8 that area.

9
10 I hesitated to let something like this
11 go on the table without public discussion, but in this
12 case all we're saying is that we're still in support of
13 what we've already done. If that's how everybody reads
14 this and for the rest of the Council, then I think
15 we're in a position to have a motion on the table of
16 support and to vote on it since we're not changing any
17 regulations, we're not making anything different than
18 what's already been done.

19
20 Do I find concurrence with the rest of
21 the Council on that?

22
23 (Council nods affirmatively)

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Then the
26 question is in order.

27
28 MS. MILLS: Call for the question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has been
31 called. All in favor of the motion of support that
32 Gloria put on the table signify by saying aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
37 saying nay.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. Now
42 back to where we were, which is on WP16-14. Are we
43 ready for our introduction.

44
45 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 Again, my name is Tom Evans and I work as a wildlife
47 biologist for the Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of
48 Subsistence Management.

49
50 Proposal WP16-14 was submitted by Andy

1 McLaughlin, requests extending the Federal mountain
2 goat season in Unit 6D from August 20th to January 31st
3 and changing it to August 20th to February 28th. This
4 can be found on Page 66 of your RAC manual. The
5 proponent mentioned that the combination of mild
6 winters where the goats remain more dispersed at higher
7 elevations and rough seas have reduced the hunter
8 success.

9
10 Biological background. Although many
11 of the areas have not been surveyed for a decade, the
12 population is estimated at between 3,800 and 4,200.

13
14 Harvest history. Approximately 50
15 goats a year are harvested in Unit 6D with the greatest
16 number being harvested in Unit 6D. Based on the
17 population estimates from 2005 to 2010, this represents
18 approximately 70 percent of the total annual harvest in
19 Unit 6. Even though the State sets harvest rates
20 for specific hunts at 3 to 5 percent, some areas
21 receive little hunting pressure. Local residents
22 harvest approximately 3 percent per year, non-local
23 residents 43 percent per year and non-resident 54
24 percent per year.

25
26 Effects of the proposal. Increasing
27 the harvest by 28 days would increase the hunting
28 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users.
29 Since the historic harvest by local residents has been
30 small, the effect on mountain goats by local residents
31 is likely to be minimal. However, when the small
32 Federal quotas and the State quota that is fully
33 utilized in most areas, there is the potential of
34 exceeding the harvest quota especially if nannies are
35 taken, which count as two under the current system.
36 The harvest season is currently five months long, which
37 should provide ample opportunity for Federally
38 qualified subsistence users to harvest mountain goats.

39
40 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
41 support Proposal WP16-14. The justification on this
42 could have gone flip-flop both ways. We worked on it.
43 Basically with a quota in effect we feel that the
44 harvest will not exceed the Federal harvest quota
45 levels and we don't think that many goats will be
46 harvested during February.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions,
49 comments.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A question. At this
4 point in time, what is the percentage of the quota
5 that's been taken by year? Are we taking the quota or
6 are we staying pretty far underneath it?

7

8 MR. EVANS: It's pretty close to the
9 quota. Well, the State is pretty close to the quota.

10

11 MR. BURCHAM: Can I add to that, Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, you may, Milo.
14 In fact, I was going to call you up because I know you
15 go out and look at them.

16

17 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham, Chugach
18 Forest. I work with the State and help with the survey
19 efforts. Some of these don't get done very often, but
20 efforts are under way to try to be more systematic
21 about which units are surveyed. In general, the
22 populations are doing well and the quotas are staying
23 the same.

24

25 The point that I wanted to make is that
26 the State often closes the seasons by their quotas, but
27 we have a quota of 17 goats distributed throughout
28 Prince William Sound in seven, I think, hunt units
29 reserved for Federal subsistence. One or two might get
30 taken out of that quota each year, so it's highly
31 underutilized.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So this would end up
34 extending the Federal season only, so the goats that
35 would be taken would be taken out of that 17 that are
36 there for a quota.

37

38 MR. BURCHAM: Right.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is there things in
41 place to shut it down if the quota is close to being
42 taken?

43

44 MR. BURCHAM: Yes. We just looked this
45 up. In regulation, the Cordova District Ranger can
46 close the season when the quota is met.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So these are
49 Federally-allocated goats then, the 17.

50

1 MR. BURCHAM: Right.
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And they are in excess
4 of the State ones.
5
6 MR. BURCHAM: In addition to the State
7 quota.
8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They're in addition to
10 the State quota. Okay.
11
12 MR. BURCHAM: Correct.
13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the effect of this
15 proposal would allow 28 more days to take those 17
16 goats and they currently have five months.
17
18 MR. BURCHAM: They have five and a half
19 months already to do it, but this would make it six and
20 a half months. It's probably at a time of year that
21 most people can't get out anyway. I could go either
22 way on it myself.
23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now under the Federal
25 system does a nanny account for two goats?
26
27 MR. BURCHAM: Yes. We use the same
28 system.
29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you use the same
31 system for denying hunting permits if somebody takes a
32 nanny?
33
34 MR. BURCHAM: No, that's not in Federal
35 regulation.
36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's not in Federal
38 regulations. What is it currently under State
39 regulations, four years?
40
41 MR. BURCHAM: It just changed. It
42 might be five even. I'd have to check on that.
43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So if you take a
45 nanny, it's five years before you can take another
46 goat. Okay.
47
48 Questions. Any comments.
49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Milo, for
2 the information and thank you for your introduction.
3 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, have you got
4 anything to say at this point.

5
6 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. The
7 Department's preliminary recommendation is to oppose
8 Wildlife Proposal 16-14. Existing State and Federal
9 sheep hunts are very minimally utilized even in years
10 with normal winters. So increased regulatory
11 complexity may be more of a burden to hunters and law
12 enforcement.

13
14 Over.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. And you
17 did mean goats, didn't you?

18
19 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Are you still there?

22
23 MR. ENCELEWSKI: The goat ate his
24 phone.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, I did mean goats.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I was pretty sure you
31 did. Okay, thank you. I didn't mean anything
32 sarcastic by that. I just wanted to clarify that.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 Federal agencies. Do we have any
37 comments by any other Federal agencies other than Milo
38 having stepped forward and giving us some information.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any Native, village or
43 tribal organizations. Donald.

44
45 MR. MIKE: None, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any Interagency Staff
48 Committee.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other Regional
2 Councils.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fish and Game Advisory
7 Committees.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And summary of written
12 public comments. Do we have any written public
13 comments.
14
15 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There are no
16 written comments received on this proposal. Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we have any
19 requests for public testimony.
20
21 MR. MIKE: None, Mr. Chair.
22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald. So
24 Regional Council recommendations. We need a motion to
25 put WP16-14 on the table for discussion.
26
27 Do I hear that motion.
28
29 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I so move.
30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy moves. Do we
32 have a second.
33
34 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll second it.
35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
37 seconded to put WP16-14, extending the Federal mountain
38 goat season in Unit 6D from August 20th to January 31st
39 to August 20th to February 28th. Discussion, Council
40 members.
41
42 Andy, do you want to speak to it.
43
44 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes. Through the
45 Chair. I'll try to make this fast. It's pretty
46 straightforward, extending the season through the month
47 of February. My justification for why this regulation
48 change should be made. The climate change has had an
49 unusual effect on the typical access to the goat range
50 resulting in inability for hunters to gain proximity to

1 the resource. Highly unusual snow-less, mild winter
2 conditions have not been concentrating the goats in a
3 range where they've been traditionally harvested.
4 Later in the season when snow does accumulate, the
5 goats move down from higher elevations.

6
7 Multiple attempts by Federally
8 qualified subsistence hunters were made throughout the
9 season last year and the previous year, but no goats
10 were readily available and none were harvested. This
11 leans to the lack of Federal harvest tickets turned in
12 that say we got goats. Conditions enabled the goats to
13 be unusually higher in the slopes and in untouchable
14 terrain, which prohibit the access that typically has
15 been available to hunters during an average year.
16 Weather patterns are also increasingly unpredictable
17 and windy.

18
19 In more recent years, goats have proven
20 to be in accessible terrain, but too dangerous to
21 obtain from the high winds making the seas too rough
22 for the boats to be able to access the shore. Lack of
23 snow and/or rough seas both make goats unobtainable to
24 subsistence hunters. Extension of the season may
25 alleviate some of these issues.

26
27 I might add that it's just utilizing
28 the same tags that go unfilled. Kind of like the deer
29 thing that we were talking about. The goat resources
30 are typically relied more upon for subsistence uses
31 when deer meat is unobtainable. In the past few years,
32 this has been the case. The previous harsh winter two
33 years ago caused a 70 percent decrease in the deer
34 population and local rural residents of Chenega Bay and
35 Tatitlek rely heavily upon deer meat.

36
37 When the weather conditions limited
38 hunter's access to that, all hunters had big plans to
39 then go use the goat resources to get their meat. It's
40 kind of the alternate meat source basically. Several
41 scheduled attempts to hunt goats were halted due to bad
42 weather, often unpredictable weather.

43
44 On an average year, rough seas are the
45 largest detrimental factor for affecting the filling of
46 the subsistence goat tag. This past year, when these
47 conditions were absent, it was a lack of snow as well.
48 Off and on the seas are too rough for beach access and
49 hunters are endangered. When hunters could finally
50 access the shore, goats were not available.

1 Extension of the season dates would
2 provide additional opportunity when previous hunt
3 attempts were aborted due to bad weather or if the
4 winter was too mild and the goats were unavailable.
5 This again proved a hardship for the goat hunters in
6 this past season of 2015. During the last week of
7 January and the first two weeks of February, this is
8 what has happened two times now, goat season just
9 closed and now people can't go and we get that snow
10 that we wanted. It's like wow and everyone is like
11 chomping at the bit and we can't go now but we could
12 have five days ago type thing and they're sitting there
13 with an empty harvest ticket that they wish they could
14 have filled.

15
16 So, cutting to the chase, that's the
17 gist of it. So then, more recently, the winter snow
18 increased in February, like I said. Subsistence on the
19 6D goat resource occurs optimally when harvest rates
20 increase in direct proportion to the hunter effort
21 expenditure. New weather patterns are preventing that
22 from happening and increased hunter effort are still
23 coming up empty-handed. Goat hunting is a time-honored
24 practice and a tradition in Unit 6D. The methods
25 outlined are in the manner customary to the Unit 6D
26 rural residents.

27
28 The Federal season has repeatedly
29 proven to already be closed in February when a long
30 awaited opportunity finally presents itself. A longer
31 lasting season would have alleviated this issue and
32 possibly provided meat for people to utilize. The take
33 is very limited. To my knowledge, it's four or five
34 tags come to Chenega Bay and that's a pretty small
35 amount in this overall picture of the population. Milo
36 shows up at the villages and delivers these and
37 Federally qualified users get the permits that way.

38
39 This extension of a Federal subsistence
40 goat season the dates would no longer be detrimentally
41 affected if they had the possibility of filling that
42 tag in an extended period of time. Anyhow, just trying
43 to alleviate the unfavorable conditions that are
44 happening in some unusual seasons that have been going
45 on lately. So that's where this came from.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Andy. Any
50 questions for Andy, any other comments on this

1 proposal.

2

3

Judy.

4

5 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It
6 does sound like this would be very beneficial to
7 subsistence users and not a conservation concern for
8 the goat allocation to the subsistence users.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg, did you have
11 something.

12

13 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Just a brief comment.
14 I was wondering why they needed the other month, but
15 Andy did a great job in explaining that. That was
16 good.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to ask Milo a
21 couple more questions if I may with the Council's
22 approval. Milo, I was just looking at the RG242 is two
23 goats, RG245 is two goats, RG252 is one goat. If a
24 nanny counts for two goats, what happens if -- well,
25 let's say somebody comes in from RG252 with one goat
26 but it's a nanny, do we then take that goat off of next
27 year's quota?

28

29 I mean basically you've harvested two
30 goats on a one-goat quota or somebody comes in with two
31 goats and they both turn out to be nannies, you could
32 actually double your -- I guess my only thing is by
33 this time of the year the baby goats are pretty big
34 inside there. I know. We don't have any penalties for
35 taking a nanny and it would be pretty easy to exceed
36 the quota with nannies. At the same time, at that time
37 of the year, if you take a nanny, you're taking two
38 goats even if everything goes right. What's your
39 thoughts on it?

40

41 MR. BURCHAM: Mr. Chair. Milo Burcham,
42 Chugach National Forest. First of all, the harvest
43 under the Federal system has been very light. One or
44 two or three goats a year out of the 17. So, frankly,
45 it hasn't been an issue. To my knowledge none or maybe
46 one has been a nanny in that time, so we haven't had to
47 deal with it. It hasn't been an issue. In theory, we
48 would count it as two. We could close it the following
49 season if it was in a unit that just had a quota of
50 one, but it frankly just hasn't been an issue.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hasn't been an issue.
2 And if it hasn't been an issue as a five-month season,
3 a six-month season is not going to make much
4 difference.

5
6 MR. BURCHAM: It would be the same.
7 Just like the State system, we encourage -- you know, I
8 make the plea for hunters to try to shoot billies. It
9 just makes more sense ecologically if people do and it
10 keeps the resource more sustainable. They've largely
11 done that. There could be a greater need for rural
12 residents to use goats strictly as food and maybe more
13 of an excuse or a reason for them to take either sex,
14 but still it's a good thing to take billies and that's
15 mostly what's been done by the few that have taken
16 advantage of this opportunity.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Milo. You
19 answered a lot of the questions I had. Any questions
20 of Milo from anybody else.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any
25 further discussion, any comments from any Council
26 members, any questions from any Council members,
27 anybody that would like to ask somebody else any
28 questions.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, the
33 question is in order. We have a motion on the table to
34 accept WP16-14, extending extending the Federal
35 mountain goat season in Unit 6D from August 20 to
36 January 31 to August 20 to February 28.

37
38 MS. CAMINER: Question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has been
41 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
46 saying nay.

47
48 MR. ADLER: Nay.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries with

1 one nay vote. Would you like to put on the table why
2 you would vote nay.

3

4 MR. ADLER: Well, a very small quota
5 and I just think if you can't get a goat in that time,
6 just wait until next year. Because, you know, we can't
7 control the weather and we can't juggle the season just
8 because of snow one year. I just think there's plenty
9 of time and very limited resource and a small quota.
10 So that's why I opposed it.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Okay.
13 WP16-15. We're looking at caribou in Unit 7.

14

15 Tom, go ahead.

16

17 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Members of the
18 Council. My name is Tom Kron with OSM. I'll be
19 presenting the OSM staff analysis for WP16-15. The
20 analysis for this proposal begins on Page 73 in your
21 Council books.

22

23 This proposal was submitted by the Hope
24 Village Council and requests that the harvest quota for
25 caribou in a portion of Unit 7 be increased from five
26 caribou to ten caribou with five animals for the
27 community of Hope and five animals for the community of
28 Cooper Landing by Federal registration permit.

29

30 The proponent states that a group of
31 Federally qualified subsistence users from Cooper
32 Landing harvested the entire Federal subsistence quota
33 of caribou on the first day of the 2014 season,
34 eliminating any opportunity for Federally qualified
35 subsistence users from Hope to harvest caribou. The
36 proponent believes the regulation should be changed to
37 assure that Federally qualified subsistence users in
38 both Hope and Cooper Landing have an equal opportunity
39 to harvest caribou.

40

41 Caribou were harvested by Kenai
42 Peninsula rural residents over 100 years ago. Caribou
43 were extirpated or became extinct on the Kenai
44 Peninsula by about 1912. Caribou transplants were later
45 conducted on the Kenai Peninsula by ADF&G with funds
46 provided by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
47 Act. A State permit hunt for Kenai Mountains Caribou
48 has occurred since 1972.

49

50 In 2010, the Federal Subsistence Board

1 established a customary and traditional use
2 determination for caribou in Unit 7 for the communities
3 of Hope and Sunrise. A Federal subsistence hunting
4 season of August 10 through the end of December was
5 established with a harvest quota of five caribou. In
6 2014, the Board added the community of Cooper Landing
7 to the customary and traditional use determination for
8 caribou in Unit 7. These caribou regulatory changes
9 were consistent with recommendations of this Council.

10

11 ADF&G issued about 250 permits per year
12 for one Kenai Mountains Caribou of either sex between
13 1996 and 2013, for example. In addition, the Safari
14 Club International auctioned off a Kenai Mountains
15 caribou permit in 2013 for the State of Alaska
16 Governor s Permit for Wildlife Conservation. In 2014,
17 the State reduced the number of Kenai Mountains Caribou
18 permits by 80 percent, from 250 down to 50, with only
19 three animals harvested in fall 2014 by these hunters.
20 In 2015, the State further reduced the number of
21 permits to 25. Both Alaska residents and non-residents
22 may apply for these State drawing permits.

23

24 Under Federal subsistence regulations,
25 rural residents from Hope harvested two caribou in
26 regulatory year 2010, two caribou in 2012. There was no
27 reported Federal harvest in either 2011 or 2013. In
28 2014, four animals were harvested under Federal
29 subsistence regulations. I contacted the Seward
30 District Ranger's Office and understand that one animal
31 has been harvested under Federal subsistence
32 regulations this year.

33

34 ADF&G's management objective for the
35 Kenai Mountains Caribou Herd is to maintain a post-hunt
36 population of 300-400 animals. The population
37 estimates have been below this management objective
38 since 2011. This herd has declined dramatically over
39 the past decade. The most recent population estimate
40 in winter of 2014 was only 120-130 animals. At the
41 current population level, there are severe conservation
42 concerns.

43

44 Adopting the proposal as submitted
45 would increase Federal harvest while allowing State
46 harvest to continue. Given the most recent caribou
47 population estimates, proposal WP16-15 would adversely
48 impact conservation of the Kenai Mountains Caribou
49 Herd.

50

1 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
2 support WP16-15 with modification to close all caribou
3 hunting on Federal lands to allow the Kenai Mountains
4 Caribou Herd to rebuild. A closure would be rescinded
5 when this caribou population rebuilds.

6
7 I guess maybe at this point I would ask
8 -- I notified the proponent, Mr. Skogstad from Hope,
9 about this meeting, gave him your telephone number.
10 I'm curious if he is online or not. Mr. Skogstad, if
11 you're there, please indicate as such.

12
13 (No response)

14
15 MR. KRON: Maybe he'll join us, I don't
16 know, but I wanted to make sure he was aware. I've
17 been working with him on the proposal. Thank you, Mr.
18 Chair. I'd be happy to answer any questions you have
19 concerning this proposal.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any Council members
22 have any questions.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I just have one
27 question. How do we support something and then close
28 it at the same time? How do we support an increase in
29 harvest quota and then close it? I mean I could see
30 where we can take this proposal and basically rescind
31 the harvest quota to zero and close Federal lands to
32 Kenai Mountain Caribou Herd to allow it to rebuild, but
33 I can't see how we can increase the quota and then
34 close the season.

35
36 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Again, it's
37 semantics. We're required to basically provide
38 something like this in a support with modification.
39 Again, the modification is to recommend closure.
40 That's just the way we're required to handle things,
41 but I agree it seems silly.

42
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So basically if
46 we supported WP16-15 as modified by OSM, what we would
47 be doing is we would be ignoring the first part up
48 here.....

49
50 MR. KRON: Right.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:and we would
2 support the closure of Federal lands to the harvest of
3 caribou to allow the Kenai Mountain Caribou Herd to
4 rebuild. Can we do that without setting some kind of
5 goal as to what we want it to rebuild to before we
6 allow a season?

7
8 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chair, I believe
9 that you can. Again, we wanted to evaluate this based
10 on the closure policy that was established by the
11 Federal Subsistence Board and we've gone through and
12 done that. The Department set a goal. Again,
13 currently, the population estimate from a year ago was
14 only 120-130 animals, so very small. You were talking
15 about the Mentasta Caribou Herd earlier and it's much,
16 much larger than this.

17
18 Again, the Department had originally
19 set an objective as noted of having 300 to 400 animals
20 after the hunt and it's been below that since 2011.
21 It's continued to decline very precipitously and we're
22 really concerned about trying to maintain the
23 population at this point.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the management goal
26 is a herd size of 300 to 400 animals. So there is a
27 management goal.

28
29 MR. KRON: Yes.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. That's what
32 counts to me. Judy.

33
34 MS. CAMINER: Thank you. But is the
35 state season going to
36 continue to be open?

37
38 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Ms. Caminer.
39 Almost all of the hunt occurs on Federal lands. So if
40 you and the Federal Board close it, it's going to be
41 closed. All the hunting area is going to be closed.
42 Virtually all of the hunting area.

43
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we're not saying to
47 close the Federal season, we're saying to close the
48 Federal lands. Andy.

49
50 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So there's 125 animals

1 right now partially because that avalanche happened and
2 whatnot. Is that part of what's going on?

3

4 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Andy. Again,
5 I'm not aware of any avalanche situations related to
6 the Kenai Mountains Caribou Herd. They've had avalanche
7 situations with some of the other herds on the Kenai
8 Peninsula that have taken animals out, but I'm not
9 aware of that as it relates to this herd. I talked to
10 the ADF&G manager down on the Peninsula and he
11 indicated that -- again, based on the surveys, he
12 didn't know for sure what was going on either. He's
13 concerned if it's habitat or wolves. He didn't know.

14

15 As you can see from the one graph in
16 the analysis, there's been a really precipitous
17 decline. The last survey to our knowledge that he
18 completed was in 2014. So, again, I don't know what
19 the status is right now, but I'm really concerned about
20 how low the population has gotten.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Andy.

25

26 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Through the Chair. So
27 125 now approximately, 25 are allowed to be harvested
28 in a drawing hunt by the State and then if this
29 proposal passes, that's an extra 10, so that's 35 out
30 of 125 animals will be allowed to be taken, is this
31 true?

32

33 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Again, if this
34 proposal -- if the Council and the Board follow through
35 and close Federal lands -- again, the hunt occurs on
36 Federal lands, so basically there wouldn't be a
37 harvest. The population objective set by the State was
38 300 to 400 and it's been below that since 2011. I
39 think again the recommendation is to close Federal
40 lands, let the population rebuild. That's going to
41 take a number of years even in really good conditions.
42 We're not sure why it declined, but we don't want to
43 lose it.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

46

47 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
48 you know, Tom, I'm not the regulation specialist, but
49 when I read no Federal open season, which is what we
50 have at the top of Page 83, is the suggestion. I mean

1 it just needs to say something like closed to all
2 hunters or something along those lines so there's no
3 misunderstanding.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy. I
8 was just reading some of the background that they had
9 in here. The fact that you've got calf weights
10 decreasing, calf survival decreasing, the caribou herd
11 is obviously in trouble one way or the other. Whether
12 it's going to rebound from it or not is questionable,
13 but the caribou herd is in enough trouble that it
14 probably should have no hunting on it. I mean 10
15 animals would be 10 percent.

16

17 Yes.

18

19 MR. KRON: Just to follow up, Mr.
20 Chair, and thank Milo. On page 83, the suggested
21 wording for regulations and we ran this through our
22 regulations specialist there as well, but again it's no
23 Federal open season and then at the bottom Federal
24 lands are closed to the harvest of caribou. So again
25 we were trying to address I think the concern that you
26 had.

27

28 I would like to follow up as well on
29 Andy's comments. Historically, ADF&G was allowing
30 about 250 permits, but of those permits only about 10
31 percent of them would get a caribou or less. Access is
32 really difficult. Again, I don't know what the State
33 harvest was this past fall, but with 25 permits my
34 guess is that probably only one or two animals were
35 harvested. There aren't as many caribou to begin with,
36 plus it's a really difficult place to hunt. Most
37 people that go in there backpack in. I've gone in
38 there with State permits a number of times over the
39 past four years and it's really hard to get in there to
40 get where the caribou are.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Milo.

45

46 MR. BURCHAM: I was just going to
47 clarify that point. Just because they give out 25 tags
48 doesn't mean they expect or even could get a harvest
49 that high. They would expect two or three if the math
50 stayed the same.

1 Thanks, Tom.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yet, when you look at
4 the history, you can see what could happen because,
5 like it said, this herd grew to 339 animals in 1975,
6 but hunters reduced the population to 193 animals by
7 1977, so basically they took 160 animals out of the
8 herd in two years. If the herd is big enough to
9 attract the hunters, the hunters are capable of taking
10 the animals. I think the justification that you have
11 with it being in the kind of shape that it is, to close
12 Federal lands to the taking of caribou and no Federal
13 season is a good idea.

14

15 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. I'll just follow
16 up and again ask if Mr. Skogstad has joined us. I did
17 talk to him on the phone about the situation when we
18 learned what the status of the herd was and it's in the
19 analysis, at that point he agreed that the thing to do
20 was to close it. We want to maintain these populations
21 for our kids and grandkids. There's real concern at
22 this point that we will lose this herd and we don't
23 want to do that.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any further discussion
28 from Council members.

29

30 MR. ADLER: I have a question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Lee.

33

34 MR. ADLER: Just a simple question.
35 How far are the caribou from the nearest road if, say,
36 you're going to walk in?

37

38 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Again, I talked
39 to this same Council when you looked at the original
40 proposal from Hope. I've hunted in there four times
41 with a State permit over the years and I think the most
42 I've walked one way is 16 miles. The least I've walked
43 is about 12 miles. It is a long haul with a backpack
44 and lots of work. Most people don't do that. That's
45 why the harvest rates are so low. I've gone in and
46 taken my kids in, I've taken three people from Fish and
47 Wildlife Service, one person from Fish and Game in.
48 We've been successful every time, but you have to work
49 hard.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And there is no
2 motorized access.

3
4 MR. KRON: Exactly. Basically it's
5 Forest Service trail and they have motorized access
6 closed during the snow-free period. My understanding
7 is they open it up in the winter, but in the winter the
8 caribou are in a place where you can't really get to
9 them, so very few if any animals are taken from a
10 snowmachine. Some people go in by horse. I've seen
11 horse hunters in there. Anyway, very difficult access.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. And thank
16 you for the personal information on it. That's very
17 helpful. Council members, further discussion -- oh, we
18 don't even have a motion on the table. My fault.
19 Sorry. We're ahead of ourselves. We just had the
20 introduction to the thing.

21
22 Now we need Alaska Department of Fish
23 and Game comments.

24
25 MR. CRAWFORD: This is Drew Crawford,
26 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage.
27 The Department's preliminary recommendation is to
28 oppose increasing the harvest quota as proposed in
29 Wildlife Proposal 16-15.

30
31 The Department is also opposed to OSM's
32 preliminary WP16-15 recommendation to close caribou
33 hunting on Federal lands in Unit 7. The 2014-15 State
34 and Federal combined harvest of seven caribou was not
35 detrimental to the Kenai Mountain Caribou Herd. All
36 hunters should be allowed to harvest when it does not
37 have a negative impact on the herd. As Tom said, the
38 State currently has a drawing permit, which allows 25
39 permits. Of those 25 permits that are issued, we are
40 currently getting a harvest of 1 or 2 animals.

41
42 Over.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Drew. To
45 your knowledge, there's no proposal to decrease the
46 number of permits given, is there?

47
48 MR. CRAWFORD: Not to my knowledge.

49
50 Over.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom.

2

3 MR. KRON: Maybe to just provide some
4 more information. I talked about this earlier, but the
5 State has already reduced permits. Two years ago they
6 reduced the number of permits from 250 down to 50. For
7 the current season this year, it's been reduced from 50
8 down to 25. So they made a significant reduction, but
9 we've got a harvest occurring when the population
10 levels are below the 300-400,000, which was set as the
11 minimum threshold.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Tom.

16

17 Judy.

18

19 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
20 Drew. Looking at the table that's on Page 81, which is
21 Table 1 that says caribou harvest in the drawing permit
22 hunt. I'm reading from the two columns of males and
23 females harvested, 13 and 6.

24

25 So can you clarify that for us, please.

26

27 MR. CRAWFORD: The numbers I gave you
28 of seven combined harvest for the Federal and State
29 harvest for 2014-2015, which is the next dataset on
30 that table.

31

32 MS. CAMINER: I'm sorry, could you
33 repeat that. It broke up a little bit, please.

34

35 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes. The number seven,
36 caribou harvest of seven, was a combined harvest for
37 2014-2015 for the State and the Federal.

38

39 Over.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Drew, maybe I'm not
42 hearing right. I'm looking at the Kenai Mountain
43 Caribou harvest in the State drawing permit 1993-2014.
44 In 2013-2014 the reported harvest says 13 males and 6
45 females from the State harvest.

46

47 Am I reading something wrong?

48

49 MR. CRAWFORD: You're reading the table
50 correctly. The number I gave you would be the next

1 data.

2

3

Over.

4

5

MR. KRON: The next year.

6

7

8

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, the next year,
okay. The 2014-2015. My fault.

9

10

11

MR. CRAWFORD: Yes. And the number of
drawing permits is 25.

12

13

Over.

14

15

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Got it.

16

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MR. CRAWFORD: That's a good question,
Mr. Chair. I will ask the folks who deal with that and
get back to you.

Over.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's a good answer.
2 And we know things like that happen. Sometimes they
3 happen just because they get missed. Do we have any
4 other Federal agencies that wish to speak to this one.
5
6 Tom.
7
8 MR. KRON: Yeah, I will just add and
9 it's in the analysis, but I talked to the proponent and
10 he said with the population this low we should just
11 close it. He was operating just based on the
12 information he had.
13
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Do we have
17 any Native, village or tribal comments.
18
19 MR. MIKE: No.
20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How about Interagency
22 Staff Committee comments.
23
24 MR. MIKE: No, none.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No other Regional
27 Councils.
28
29 MR. MIKE: None, Mr. Chair.
30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And none of the Fish
32 and Game Advisory Committees from the area.
33
34 MR. MIKE: No, there's none.
35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we have any written
37 public comments.
38
39 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There are no
40 written public comments on this proposal. Thank you.
41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And do we have anybody
43 signed up for public testimony.
44
45 MR. MIKE: No, Mr. Chair.
46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Council, it's
48 up to you. A motion to put this on the table so that
49 we can deal with this in order. A motion to accept
50 Proposal WP16-15.

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chairman. I'll
2 make a motion to put 16-15 on the table to support with
3 modifications to close the Federal lands to harvest for
4 caribou in the Kenai Mountains until it rebuilds.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And no Federal open
7 season.

8
9 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That's correct.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second.

12
13 MR. SHOWALTER: Second.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
16 seconded to accept WP16-15 with the OSM modifications.
17 Discussion.

18
19 Greg.

20
21 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I just want the record
22 and the public to notice that I put something -- I
23 supported OSM's decisions.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I wanted to be
28 facetious, but I did support it. I really do feel that
29 this herd is kind of in peril. And I'm also kind of
30 concerned about Hope Village Council. I don't know who
31 they are or what they are, but I would like them to be
32 here and defend or support it. And then hearing in
33 light of the proponent not even being in favor of it.
34 I think it definitely needs to be closed until we can
35 take a look at it and see what's going on.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other comments.

40
41 Judy.

42
43 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
44 think we did hear substantial evidence that there is a
45 conservation concern here and I think this Council
46 always goes with caution when we feel the population
47 has been declining and support closing the hunt.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy.
50 Although I think there's times that Alaska Department

1 of Fish and Game would disagree with you on that
2 comment. And that's not a slam on Alaska Department of
3 Fish and Game, but we do see things different. There
4 is a subsistence priority, but in a case like this, for
5 subsistence you still have to have a herd.

6
7 Okay. If there's no further
8 discussion, somebody can all the question on WP16-15 as
9 modified by OSM.

10
11 MS. MILLS: Call for the question.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has been
14 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
19 saying nay.

20
21 MR. ADLER: Nay.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries, but
24 not unanimously. We have one nay. Would you like to
25 state the reason why.

26
27 MR. ADLER: Well, we have already
28 discussed it. The population is in danger of going way
29 down. There's just no point in hunting them when they
30 get that low. If your goal is to have 300 and you're
31 down to 125, then you better close the season for a
32 while. That's my comment.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Lee, I think somewhere
35 along the line I didn't make myself clear. What we
36 just voted on was to close the season and close the
37 area.

38
39 MR. ADLER: Oh, I thought you were
40 voting for it.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No. We were voting
43 for it as changed. So would you like to.....

44
45 MR. ADLER: I'll change my vote to a
46 yes.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You'll change your
49 vote to a yes. So it's unanimous. Okay.

50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I introduced it as
2 closing.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Okay. WP16-16.
5

6 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 This is Tom Evans again presenting this Proposal WP16-
8 16. It can be found on Page 86 of your Council book.
9 It was submitted by the Paxson Fish and Game Advisory
10 Committee, requests that Federal public lands within
11 the Paxson Closed Area in Unit 13 be closed to hunting
12 big game by Federally qualified subsistence users. Big
13 game in this area includes brown and black bears,
14 bison, caribou, mountain goat, Dall sheep, moose, wolf,
15 and wolverine.

16
17 The proponent said the closure should
18 be implemented because of biological and esthetic
19 reasons. Viewing areas for moose, caribou, and brown
20 bears that regularly access the small section of the
21 Gulkana River in search of salmon would be compromised.

22
23 A little bit of the regulatory history.
24 The Paxson Closed Area was established by the State in
25 1958 to provide a viewing area adjacent to the junction
26 of the Richardson and Denali Highways. In 1992, the
27 Federal public lands were closed to the hunting of big
28 game in the Paxson Closed Area in Unit 13B, which is
29 approximately 1,500 acres, under a special provision
30 section for Unit 13 in the Federal subsistence
31 regulations. The hunting of small game was still
32 allowed. In 1993, BLM lands in Unit 13 were selected
33 by the State, which was allowed to
34 over-select by 25 percent lands it wanted conveyed from
35 the Federal government.

36
37 In 2014, BLM became aware of the
38 unencumbered Federal public lands within the Paxson
39 Closed Area and thus removed from State selection. As
40 a result, were opened for hunting for both Federally
41 qualified and non-Federally qualified users under both
42 the current Federal and State regulations.

43
44 I'm going to give a brief biological
45 background by species since there's so many species in
46 this one. Mountain goats and Dall sheep do not occur
47 in the Paxson Closed Area, so that will end the
48 discussion on that one. Wolverines occur in the area,
49 but there's only a limited density information for the
50 high elevation areas in Unit 13A and 13D. Harvest

1 information for wolverines is only available unit-wide,
2 thus the available data for wolverines may not be
3 applicable to the forested habitats at lower elevations
4 in Unit 13B. From 2009 to 2013, an average of 12
5 wolverine were taken annually in Unit 13B, thus the
6 focus of the rest of the biology section will be on
7 caribou, moose, brown and black bears and wolves.

8
9 Caribou. The population has been
10 fairly stable at 30,000 to 40,000 animals from 2001 to
11 2011. In 2012, the population estimate was
12 approximately 50,000. The bull:cow ratio was 38 bulls
13 to 100 cows from 2008-2010, which is above the State
14 management objective of 32 bulls per 100 cows. The
15 cow:calf ratio in 2010 was 55, which is above the State
16 management objective of 40 calves per 100 cows. From
17 2010-2014, an average of 2,968 caribou were taken
18 annually in Unit 13. So basically the caribou
19 population is fairly stable and is able to sustain the
20 current harvest.

21
22 Moose. Since 2001 the number of moose
23 observed during the fall composition counts in Unit 13B
24 ranged from approximately 1,800 to 2,600. In 2011, the
25 number observed was 2,677. The bull moose and
26 yearling:cow ratios in 2011 from the Unit 13 fall
27 composition surveys met the State management goals of
28 25 bulls and 10 yearling, whereas the cow:calf ratio
29 was below the State management objective of 25 calves
30 per 100 cows. You can see some of this on Table 3 on
31 Page 94. From 2009-2013, an average of 243 moose were
32 taken annually in 13B. So the moose population seems
33 to be fairly stable and able to sustain the current
34 harvest.

35
36 Brown and black bears. It's 2015 and
37 some of this data is a little bit dated in terms of
38 population data since we're looking at 2013. Well,
39 that's not too far off for that one. Information on
40 brown and black bears in Unit 13B is sparse. Most of
41 the information on brown bears comes from studies
42 conducted from 1980-1988. The most recent population
43 estimate of brown bears was 1,456 in 1997. 120 brown
44 bears per year are harvested in Unit 13B from 2005-
45 2009. Unit wide is 140 bears per year in all of Unit
46 13. The majority of the brown bears harvested in Unit
47 13 come from 13B.

48
49 From 2009-2013, an average of 21 bears
50 were taken annually. During the same time period from

1 2005-2009, 17 black bears per year were taken in Unit
2 13B versus 145 bears unit wide. So very few black bears
3 are taken in Unit 13B relative to the Unit 13 as a
4 whole. From 2009-2013, an average of five black bears
5 were taken annually in Unit 13B.

6
7 Wolf. All the information on the wolf
8 is for all of Unit 13. There's no way to separate out
9 13B statistics on this right now. The State management
10 objectives for Unit 13 for wolves is to achieve a post-
11 hunting and trapping season population of 135-165
12 wolves, which comes to roughly 3.2-3.9 wolves per 1,000
13 kilometer squared. From 2006-2013, the average wolf
14 population was 272, which is above the State management
15 objectives. From 2009-2013 an average of 17 wolves
16 were taken in Unit 13B. So the wolves seem to be doing
17 fairly well in that unit.

18
19 The effects of the proposal. If the
20 Paxson Closed Area remains open to Federally qualified
21 subsistence users, there is the potential of increased
22 conflict with others that use the area for recreational
23 or viewing purposes. Increased hunting could disrupt
24 the caribou herd migration or eliminate a critical
25 wintering sanctuary for moose.

26
27 The Southcentral RAC at their winter
28 2015 meeting supported keeping the public lands within
29 the Paxson Closed Area open to hunting of big game by
30 Federally qualified subsistence users as this would
31 have additional hunting opportunities for those that
32 live in that area. There are no conservation concerns
33 the big game species that occur in the Federal public
34 lands within the Paxson Closed Area.

35
36 The current harvest levels have not had
37 a negative impact on the big game species within Unit
38 13B specifically. The area open to the Federally
39 qualified users is a very small portion, only 1,500
40 acres, of the total Paxson Closed Area, which is about
41 29,000 acres. Federally qualified subsistence users
42 should be allowed the opportunity to harvest big game
43 species on Federal public lands within Paxson Closed
44 Area in Unit 13B.

45
46 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
47 oppose Proposal WP16 16, which is to close the area to
48 Federally qualified subsistence users.

49
50 We're open to any questions.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none. The
6 only one I have is I was looking at justification and
7 the closure doesn't meet any of the standards for
8 reasons why we can take that authority to close land.

9

10 MR. EVANS: That's correct.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I mean there is no
13 negative impact on the game and things like that. Any
14 other questions.

15

16 Gloria.

17

18 MS. STICKWAN: This kind of has
19 something to do with this proposal. This was opened as
20 a viewing area in 1958. I don't know if BLM is here or
21 not, but would they consider -- what are their thoughts
22 -- I'd like to see it -- you know, why is it open for
23 viewing? Why can't they close it for viewing?

24

25 MR. EVANS: So currently viewing can
26 occur. What we're looking at here is opening up the
27 area to allow for the.....

28

29 MS. STICKWAN: I understand that. I'm
30 just saying why can't they close it to viewing. Why is
31 the State -- what is BLM's view on that? What do they
32 think about that?

33

34 MR. TEITZEL: Dennis Teitzel, field
35 manager, BLM Glennallen Field Office. Our position on
36 use of the lands and resources are multiple use when at
37 all practical and possible. So we would view this as
38 an area where we would allow both viewing and hunting
39 to occur. They may or may not occur simultaneously.
40 That would be up to the individual resource users and
41 what they wanted to do and how they wanted to do that
42 as long as -- until a hard conflict arose. Most
43 viewing would occur from the road, which you cannot by
44 State law shoot from or shoot across, so that should
45 preclude the conflict there.

46

47 MS. STICKWAN: I just think it should
48 be closed to viewing. That's all. That's what I
49 think. It just seems like -- that's just my thought.

50

1 MR. TEITZEL: Right. The viewing
2 though, that's not a BLM designation as a viewing area.
3 That's from the State of Alaska, I believe.

4
5 MS. STICKWAN: There's nothing you can
6 do then because it's a State law that was enacted in
7 1958, right? I don't understand the law, I guess, as
8 well. My understanding it came about in 1958 as a
9 place for viewing, is that right?

10
11 MR. TEITZEL: That's what the research
12 shows, correct. In our use of Federal public lands, we
13 don't -- unless there is a hard conflict that precludes
14 one use from occurring, we would not restrict that use
15 at any given time with other users. I understand your
16 question. I'm just struggling on how to break the
17 semantics of it apart. They would occur simultaneously
18 and it would be up to the users to decide whether or
19 not to do that use in that area as opposed to
20 designating or putting a specific designation.

21
22 MS. STICKWAN: Well, did you guys go on
23 record saying you oppose and you want to close that to
24 viewing or it's under Federal -- is that possible to
25 write something like that? It's a State law, I know,
26 but.....

27
28 MR. TEITZEL: Through the Chair. As I
29 stated below, our position is multiple use if at all
30 possible and that is our position and we would -- that
31 the area is open for multiple use, whatever those uses
32 may be as allowed through the current management plan
33 that's in effect. As I said, if users chose to stop
34 there and view, that would be their choice to do so.
35 During hunting season if it is left open for hunting,
36 that hunters would be allowed to use the area also. We
37 would not take a position on one use over the other
38 without a review of our land use plan or management of
39 it or without some other type of review to require
40 that.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Gloria,
43 are you thinking mostly of like commercial viewing
44 where they put up a viewing platform and everything
45 to.....

46
47 MS. STICKWAN: I'm just thinking -- the
48 way I understand the law is this opened up in 1958 by
49 this date so they could view wild caribou and moose
50 and, you know, that was their area to view. That was

1 the law and that was what was done in 1958. I was just
2 hoping the Federal BLM could do something to -- but
3 they're not going to.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: To take that away.

6
7 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But you couldn't take
10 viewing away, otherwise we can't stop with our
11 binoculars to look and see if there's a caribou there
12 to shoot either. We have to be able to view to hunt.
13 I think that's what he's saying. You're not putting a
14 priority on one or the other. If an individual chooses
15 to view, that does not mean somebody else can't choose
16 to hunt at the same time, so there would be no -- even
17 if the State had it as a viewing area, if it goes under
18 BLM law, there is no priority for the viewing. The
19 viewing takes the same level of priority as the hunting
20 or the fishing or the berry picking or whatever other
21 use you do.

22
23 MS. STICKWAN: Unless there's a
24 conflict is what I heard and that's why I asked that
25 question.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I know it could
28 be a conflict, but -- I'm going to tell a story from
29 Cordova that illustrates how those kind of conflicts
30 get settled. There were a bunch of tourists out the
31 road with their binoculars and their cameras taking
32 pictures of this nice big bull moose standing 50 yards
33 away from the road and one of the Cordovans come
34 screeching to a halt behind them and jumps out and says
35 does anybody here have a permit and the answer was no,
36 so boom.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So they got to view
41 subsistence taking of the moose and butchering it and
42 bringing it to the road and everything else. And that
43 was legitimate. I mean neither one of them was doing
44 anything -- I mean that was within the scope of the
45 thing. I'm not sure that that was very polite on the
46 part of the hunter, but it's very realistic as to what
47 would happen. If this area remains open, the person
48 can be viewing a caribou and somebody else can stop and
49 shoot it. That's basically what the law would allow.
50

1 MS. STICKWAN: I'm just worried about
2 the future and conflict is what I'm trying to get at
3 that point. That's my point I'm trying to make. I
4 guess there's no possible.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The best thing we can
7 have as subsistence users is multiple use that's equal.
8 As soon as you start trying to preclude it to just one
9 use, you've set it up so somebody else can now go to
10 and preclude it to one use too, but if it's multiple
11 use, that means you can cut firewood, that means you
12 can pick berries, that means you can go out and get
13 mushrooms, you can shoot a grouse, you can shoot a
14 caribou or you can sit there like my son-in-law would
15 probably do with his camera and get a picture of a rare
16 bird. To him, that's how he hunts. He'd have as much
17 opportunity to do it as I would to take a caribou.

18
19 Personally, I hope that the BLM
20 continues to manage under multiple use. There's a lot
21 of pressure not to sometimes from all sides.

22
23 Judy.

24
25 MS. CAMINER: But maybe to follow up
26 what Gloria's saying, if these are no longer State of
27 Alaska lands, then they're not designated as a viewing
28 area by the State of Alaska, but, of course, one can
29 still stop on BLM lands and look at wildlife.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But they're not State
32 viewing areas. Any other questions or comments. But I
33 can see what you were concerned about, Gloria, but I
34 think that under BLM management State designations go
35 away, don't they or do they?

36
37 MR. TEITZEL: That's a very case-by-
38 case thing we have to look at depending upon the
39 particular item and what is trying to be designated.
40 Where this comes into play is under State hunting
41 regulations because they manage State hunting on
42 Federal lands through their permit system that their
43 restrictions apply.

44
45 Where this makes this unique is we have
46 a separate Federal hunting system and that restriction
47 of hunting in that area as of right now does not apply
48 on those particular Federal lands because it's not
49 recognized by the Board. Whereas in other State
50 restrictions, as in motorized use for the -- non-

1 motorized for the Sourdough non-motorized use area and
2 some of the other State restrictions for hunting are
3 recognized by the Federal Subsistence Board and,
4 therefore, do apply.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Then I have a question
7 for you. If the State continues to designate it as a
8 viewing area and the BLM opens it to hunting for
9 Federal -- and the BLM has opened it to hunting by
10 Federally qualified users, is then our State users
11 precluded from using it by State law? Can State
12 hunters currently hunt on the area that's opened to
13 Federal users?

14
15 MR. TEITZEL: Not on a State permit.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Not on a State permit.
18 Okay. Because the State designates it as a viewing
19 area even if the Federals designate it as a hunting
20 area.

21
22 MR. TEITZEL: That is correct, yes.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Lee.

25
26 MR. ADLER: I'm fairly familiar with
27 that area from Paxson down to where you can see the
28 lake. There's really only one turnout where you can
29 stop and not get run over by a truck. In fact, I'm
30 eating a moose that came out of there three weeks ago
31 and I helped pack it up the hill. Anyway, only one
32 turnout. We had to all park in that one turnout
33 otherwise the big tanker trucks come down the hill and
34 this one fellow parked in the middle of the highway. I
35 said you better get your truck out of there right now
36 and he did. So I'm all for it.

37
38 MR. TEITZEL: If I may just add one
39 more thing. One thing we did look at and consider from
40 the safety aspect is the State does allow other hunting
41 to go in there. It is not restricted for shooting or
42 other types of uses by the State, so we did look at
43 other aspects.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other
46 questions for them.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With that, we'll go to

1 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Drew.

2

3 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Are you
4 ready for a different perspective?

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. CRAWFORD: The Department's
9 preliminary recommendation is to support Proposal WP16-
10 16. The Paxson Closed Area was set aside in 1958
11 before Statehood. In subsequent years, this closed
12 area was adopted into regulation by the State Board of
13 Game. The Paxson closed area is set aside to provide
14 protection for moose as well as viewing areas adjacent
15 to the junction of the Richardson and Denali Highways.

16

17

18 Either moose or waterfowl are commonly
19 seen in nearby aquatic areas. A large run of sockeye
20 salmon in the Gulkana River also offers easy viewing
21 opportunities. Moose are most common in winter because
22 of the elevation and vegetation and the Nelchina
23 Caribou Herd also migrates through the Paxson Closed
24 Area.

25

26 In 2013, the household harvest survey
27 by the Division of Subsistence residents stated that
28 the Paxson Controlled Use Area was created to protect
29 caribou from overharvest by hunters as the caribou
30 traveled in the narrow corridor.

31

32 Another of our concerns is that the
33 opening of -- if you look at the map in your book on
34 Page 90, it shows the Paxson Closed Area and this new
35 open area is only a portion of the closed area. By
36 opening only a portion it may also present a public
37 safety concern. After 60 years of being a protected
38 area where locals and visitors can go to view wildlife
39 safely, people may now accidentally enter into an area
40 opened to hunting.

41

42 Over.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for Mr.
45 Crawford. Gloria.

46

47 MS. STICKWAN: If BLM decides to do
48 something different in the future, this would go
49 through an 810 section analysis, is that right? I'm
50 just trying to think about the future.

1 MR. TEITZEL: Through the Chair. Yes.
2 If we were to make any planning decisions or any other
3 decisions, an 810 analysis would be required.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions
6 that could apply to the State. Judy.

7
8 MS. CAMINER: Actually I just thought
9 of another question for BLM.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, for BLM?

12
13 MS. CAMINER: If that's okay.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. It wasn't for
16 you, Drew.

17
18 MS. CAMINER: So the existing Federal
19 regulation, I forgot, went into effect two years ago or
20 less than a year ago?

21
22 MR. TEITZEL: Through the Chair.
23 Actually it was a -- this land was originally
24 unencumbered back in the '90s and through an
25 administrative error was not discovered until just
26 about a year and a half ago in 2014.

27
28 MS. CAMINER: Do you have experience
29 with a hunting season there and did it present
30 problems?

31
32 MR. TEITZEL: Through the Chair. The
33 take has been reported so far. Of course, we haven't
34 gathered all the data for this year. It's been very
35 minimal in that area. The herd did move through there
36 at the end of the season this year, which prevented a
37 larger hunting opportunity for the subsistence users.
38 But we haven't gotten any data on if we had an increase
39 in issues or problems related to that.

40
41 MS. CAMINER: Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy. Any
44 other questions before we go on.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Do we have any
49 other Federal agencies that wish to speak on this.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Native, tribal,
4 village councils.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Interagency Staff
9 Committees.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Other Regional
14 Councils.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fish and Game Advisory
19 Committees. I think I have two of them here. Paxson
20 Fish and Game Advisory Committee. John, would you care
21 to come speak to it.
22
23 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: I can speak plainly
24 or I need to be diplomatic here.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Speak plainly.
27
28 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: All right. I don't
29 know who wrote this report. It's crap. Simple. I
30 can't say it any other way. It was written by people
31 who are never there during hunting season or maybe one
32 time, you know, but has no background. I'm the chair
33 of the Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee. I've
34 lived in Paxson since 1970. Our advisory committee is
35 composed of five members. We have 140 years combined
36 experience living in Paxson. Not living elsewhere and
37 coming up here. We live in the area very close to the
38 Paxson Closed Area.
39
40 I've been on the Paxson Advisory
41 Committee I don't even remember when, '80s. I've been
42 the chair for 20 years. I'm pretty aware of what's
43 going on up there. I'm just going to address the
44 justification portion of this because it says ANILCA
45 provides that an area may be closed for reasons of
46 public safety, administration, or to assure the
47 continued viability of a particular fish or wildlife
48 population. It says none of the three reasons for
49 enacted a closure are present. I would say that all
50 three of those reasons are present in a huge way.

1 This year, the last week of the Federal
2 subsistence season, you couldn't drive through there
3 safely because people stop in the road. As Lee
4 mentioned, there's one pullout. People stopped in the
5 road. People will stop you that are hunting so you
6 don't go by so you don't get shot. There's now a Fish
7 and Game facility within the closed area. Housing for
8 Fish and Game people. That's within the closed area.
9 There was a number of caribou shot within less than a
10 quarter mile of their facility. Nobody really knows
11 it's there though there's people living there. So I
12 would say that would be a public safety reason.

13

14 Administration, the second reason, is a
15 nightmare because it's a teeny little section along the
16 road that only extends out from the road in some spots
17 like 150 yards. It's not a straight shot either. It
18 has a little zig-zag in it. Unless you take your GPS
19 out and go stand next to the caribou, you're not going
20 to know if he's in the closed area or if he's not if
21 you're a Federal subsistence user. It leaves a lot of
22 enforcement problems. Creates a two-tier system of
23 hunters. State hunters can't hunt there. The guy
24 standing next to you can shoot a caribou there.

25

26 It doesn't take anybody out of hunting
27 because the other side of the highway is open. When
28 the caribou crosses the highway, he's in an open
29 Federal area. It doesn't cause any problems over
30 there. You can drive up on the pipeline and shoot by
31 the pipeline. You can drive a car up there. So it
32 doesn't take anybody out of hunting. If you look at
33 the big area that's open for subsistence, it's open all
34 the way from Sourdough to Paxson with one small
35 exception.

36

37 So we're not closing very much here for
38 a safety concern and administration. The other thing,
39 we're told there's no biological reason. We looked at
40 statistics unit wide. Biological is not how many
41 animals you kill. That's not the only thing. What
42 about disrupting a migration pattern because the
43 caribou come through there. Not every year, but many
44 years they come through there. That area, the highway
45 is up here, the caribou come out of the west and
46 they're moving to the east. They've got to cross.

47

48 Many years they can't cross Paxson Lake
49 because in October it's starting to ice over. The ice
50 is either on the lake and not safe or it's very cold

1 and they would rather cross on the north end of the
2 lake. So if you're standing there with a rifle or
3 there's 50 people lined up on that two-mile section of
4 road with rifles, are there caribou coming through?
5 Three years ago, 2013 or 2012, we saw most of those
6 caribou turn back and go back over the top of Paxson
7 Mountain because there was a line of hunters down there
8 waiting for them to come across the road.

9

10 If they're shot down in the reserve,
11 that would be worse because then they'd turn back
12 immediately. There's illegal hunting going on there
13 now, you know, and of course with this particular
14 regulation open -- I mean I think, personally, I've
15 been dealing with this issue since they decided it was
16 open last year and I think it shows, for lack of any
17 other way to put it, arrogant disregard for State
18 wishes and local wishes and something that was
19 established 60 years ago.

20

21 This is not just a viewing area. This
22 is a migration pattern for caribou and I think the
23 Nelchina Caribou is the most important item we're
24 looking at here. There's a few moose taken out of
25 there and I noticed this year after looking at last
26 season there are very few moose in that area. There's
27 a few local resident moose there that tourists can look
28 at, local people can look at. When those moose are
29 gone, they're gone.

30

31 We don't care about the winter moose
32 because they're coming in there anyway and there's no
33 hunting season unless you start shooting caribou in
34 there all winter. Then all of a sudden you have the
35 moose run out of there too. I've seen as many as 60
36 moose in that area in the wintertime and, believe me,
37 if the caribou are in there in the wintertime and
38 people are shooting them from the road, those moose are
39 gone.

40

41 So how important wintering area is that
42 for moose? It doesn't have anything to do with the
43 biological take. It has to do with whether they're
44 going to have a survival area or not. Some of the best
45 feed in the country is right there and that's where
46 they come down to. The snow is not bad. There's a
47 nice overflow on the Gulkana River where it runs
48 through there. They can walk through there without
49 being in deep snow. A comfortable place if you're a
50 moose. That river overflows in the bottom. There's

1 tons of overflow on there that's constantly growing new
2 willows. It's a good feeding area for caribou too and
3 they're in there and they're in there almost every
4 winter.

5
6 So when we start opening it up and
7 running them out of there, how important is it? It's
8 important. There's small game hunting in there. We
9 mentioned that there was already hunting in there.
10 I've shot a few ducks out of there, but I've never seen
11 another duck hunter in there except on the river, which
12 is not on Federal lands. So I don't think that's a
13 factor.

14
15 I think the disruption of the Nelchina
16 Caribou Herd is number one and the potential disruption
17 of the moose's wintering area is number two. So I
18 think all three of these reasons are right there and I
19 don't see how anyone that's ever been there could look
20 at that and say none of these three reasons apply. If
21 you say that, you've never been there. That's just the
22 way it is.

23
24 I mean you could say, oh, yeah, I was
25 there once. Okay, you were, but you didn't look at it.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Questions.

30
31 MR. KUNIK: I agree with John
32 wholeheartedly.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You'll get your
35 chance.

36
37 MR. KUNIK: Okay.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You did put a card in,
40 didn't you?

41
42 MR. KUNIK: Pardon me? No, I didn't.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You didn't put a card
45 in? Go ahead and put a card in. Okay. Questions for
46 John.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: John, I only had one

1 comment on that. I know there's a lot of overflow down
2 there because you've got lots of water and anyplace you
3 have that you have overflow. I just can't understand
4 what caribou would be doing eating where there's
5 overflow because caribou only eat plants that are on
6 the ground and stuff that's under the overflow is out
7 of caribou reach.

8

9 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: Well, you know
10 what, I train dogs through there.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I realize that.

13

14 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: I'm through there
15 every day in the wintertime and sometimes four or five
16 times a day. Caribou are our biggest concern. They're
17 on the overflow and they're getting water and that's
18 what they're in there for.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They're just there to
21 get water.

22

23 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: And there's places
24 in there -- there's black spruce in there, feeding in
25 the black spruce in between those overflows. But
26 they're on the overflows drinking water. Where we run
27 onto them is on the overflows.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So they're not
30 in there feeding though, they're just in there.....

31

32 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: No, they're in
33 there feeding also. There's groups of caribou that
34 winter and they're all winter. It's not all overflow.
35 There's enough feeding areas in that black spruce where
36 there's pretty good lichen in there. They also -- you
37 know, caribou eat a lot of dwarf birch, so they're in
38 there working on dwarf birch. They're not on the
39 willows, but they're on dwarf birch. And then
40 occasionally willow. A truck turned over in there
41 hauling a load of barley into the Mat-Su, so they're in
42 there on the barley.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, we can't count
47 on that though.

48

49 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: I know we can't.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's interesting that
2 you said there was that many hunters there on the last
3 days of the subsistence season because I happened to be
4 driving the road the last days of the subsistence
5 season and there were not very many people out there,
6 but the last days of the State hunting season you
7 couldn't hardly turn around.

8
9 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: I think one of our
10 other advisory committee members can address that. He
11 was there on the 21st. When I say the last part, I
12 meant the last 10 days.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other
15 questions for John.

16
17 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I've got a
18 couple questions for you, John. Greg here from
19 Ninilchik. First of all, this is what I like to hear.
20 People with local knowledge, we call it local
21 knowledge, come testify. But I have a couple questions
22 I just want clarified in my mind.

23
24 Paxson, I drive through there
25 occasionally, but I don't know the area real well.
26 Anyway, what I'm getting on, I'm also on a local AC and
27 I'm kind of wondering are most of those people on the
28 local AC are they Federally qualified hunters also
29 then?

30
31 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: A hundred percent.
32 And they're all carrying Federal tags, including me.

33
34 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. And your AC is
35 open to election like all ACs.....

36
37 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: Absolutely.

38
39 MR. ENCELEWSKI:and it's a
40 representative of the majority and this is the outcome
41 you're speaking at.

42
43 Okay. Very good. Thank you.

44
45 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: We discussed this
46 at our last two meetings. We called the area manager
47 and the Anchorage district manager and I was at the
48 last Federal Council meeting in Anchorage to present
49 this proposal and was told to bring it here.

50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very good.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: So we've been quite
6 active on this. We've gone further than the district
7 manager also. We've called Washington, D.C.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, John. Any
10 other questions for John.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The next one I have is
15 Greg Swope. Is that how I pronounce it?

16

17 MR. SWOPE: Yes. So I'm Greg Swope.
18 I'm a resident of Paxson. On the Paxson Advisory
19 Committee. I wanted to specifically talk to the safety
20 issues. I think the best example was just to describe
21 what the 21st of October looked like the first day of
22 Federal subsistence without State hunting. Along the
23 highway along the closed area there was probably 30 to
24 40 cars parked in the roadway. There was probably 50
25 people with guns standing in the road. There was dead
26 caribou in the drainage ditch, part of the fixed part
27 of the highway. There was shell casings in the highway
28 and people were just basically shooting across the
29 road.

30

31 It was a tremendous safety issue for
32 anybody driving through the area, anybody trying to do
33 any other activity such as float the river, live in the
34 area or what have you. There was no enforcement.
35 There was nothing there to stop people from breaking
36 laws. There was such a turkey shoot going on that
37 people just lost their minds as to what to do. There's
38 a natural funnel that comes down and it comes right
39 through there. It doesn't happen every year. By far
40 and away that's the largest area that I see for caribou
41 coming across the road.

42

43 I think people should be allowed to
44 hunt. I like the Federal subsistence tags myself. The
45 fact is there's Federal hunting area on both sides of
46 the highway and I think the safe and sane thing is to
47 continue to allow it the way it has been for a number
48 of years where people can hunt on the east side of the
49 highway. Keep the west side done. There's lots of
50 access from the pipeline and places to park from

1 parking areas, trails. There's multiple opportunities
2 for people that don't have four-wheelers or boats or
3 whatever to be able to do Federal subsistence and I
4 think that's the safer way to go.

5
6 So that's my strong recommendation is
7 we keep the closed area closed for all. This affects
8 me personally. Makes hunting harder for me, but it's
9 the right thing to do.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Greg.

12
13 Questions.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: When it's open on the
18 east side only, do you think most of the shooting then
19 is done towards the east?

20
21 MR. SWOPE: In all the years I've been
22 there, it's a much saner -- I mean will there still be
23 violations, yes, but I think it definitely will make
24 for a saner environment for people that are just trying
25 to drive down the highway.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Michael.

28
29 MR. OPHEIM: Hi. This might be for
30 both of you. Is there any documentation, like photos?

31
32 MR. SWOPE: Greg Swope. Again, no, I
33 did not take pictures when I saw the carnage going on.
34 To be honest with you, I thought about it. I did not
35 feel safe for my wife and myself in that area and I
36 wanted to get out of there, so I did not stop to take
37 pictures.

38
39 MR. OPHEIM: That's great. Thank you.

40
41 MR. KUNIK: I could document -- I mean
42 I was up there the 21st of September also and I agree
43 with what he says.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Go get one of these
46 blue cards and come up here and speak so we have you on
47 record. Thank you, Greg.

48
49 Any other questions for Greg here for
50 right now.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I've seen that in
4 other places, but I've never seen it right up there
5 because I've never been up there at that time of the
6 year. Like I said, when I was up there at the end, it
7 wasn't that way at all. There was I figure 12 cars on
8 the whole road.

9

10 MR. SWOPE: People were standing on the
11 roofs of their cars on the roadway.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So what we need is
14 some good enforcement there.

15

16 MR. SWOPE: If that was possible, that
17 might be one possible way to address it, but I don't
18 think, from what I've seen from enforcement in that
19 part of the state, that that's very likely.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. No other
24 questions by any Council members.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Greg.
29 Okay, John. John, we want you at a microphone so that
30 we've got it on record. State your name and where
31 you're from.

32

33 MR. KUNIK: My name is John Kunik.
34 I've lived here in Glennallen for about 30 years. I
35 don't want to belabor the point, but I agree with these
36 gentlemen completely because I saw the same thing. It
37 was closed for a long time. I liked it like that.
38 It's unsafe because I had guns pointed at me and he
39 swung off to the right across the road shooting. I had
40 two other fellows with me. I said this is not good and
41 we left the area.

42

43 Anyway, I just wanted to ask a question
44 here. Customary and traditional use determinations.
45 It said residents of the area from Units 6, 9, 10, 11,
46 12, 13 allowed to hunt sheep, moose, wolf. Now, let's
47 say you live in Unit 11. I have a lot of friends
48 there. I have a homestead over there.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Wait a second, John.

1 MR. KUNIK: Sure.
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So what you're talking
4 about, other than agreeing with them, that's all you're
5 talking about on this proposal.
6
7 MR. KUNIK: Oh, all right. Okay.
8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So would you be
10 willing to come back and talk on the rest of it after
11 we finish this proposal right here?
12
13 MR. KUNIK: Yeah, yeah. Sure, sure.
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I wanted your comments
16 to go.....
17
18 MR. KUNIK: Yeah, I just concur with
19 them completely.
20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And then we'll bring
22 you back.
23
24 MR. KUNIK: All right. Very good.
25 Thank you.
26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'll bring you back
28 on the other one. Do we have any other -- I've got
29 Mark. Is that you? Mark on the Paxson Closed Area.
30
31 MR. HEINZ: Do I still got to identify
32 myself?
33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It would be nice to
35 say where you're from.
36
37 MR. HEINZ: My name is Mark Heinz.
38 I've lived in Gakona since '65, which is about 50 miles
39 north of Glennallen. I've hunted up there -- I never
40 hunted outside of Unit 13 in my life for caribou and
41 moose. The Paxson Closed Area on the west side of the
42 highway is very dangerous now the way it is. I was up
43 there. I didn't get any numbers, what this gentleman
44 said about that.
45
46 I was up there the 21st of September,
47 one mile trail, east side of the highway just before
48 Paxson Lodge there, and it was getting out of control.
49 There was caribou coming up there trying to cross the
50 highway in the Paxson closed area. People were

1 shooting at them, stampeding them back clear into the
2 water, up toward the mountain. They come back out and
3 it was definitely messing up their ability or their
4 attempt to cross the highway. People were shooting
5 them on the west side. If they'd just let them cross
6 over to the east side, it would have been open for
7 everybody and it would be a lot less danger for
8 traffic, for hunters, for caribou.

9
10 The main concern I have too is the
11 State and Federal should try to work together. There
12 is a State gravel pit in that closed area where DOT is
13 in and out of there. There's the Fish and Game
14 facility back toward the Paxson River or where it runs
15 into the lake, I guess part of Gulkana River. There's
16 housing back there. If there's bullets zinging back
17 and forth there, a lot of the hunters don't even know
18 them buildings are back there. It's very unsafe. I
19 don't think the State wants any of their employees
20 getting shot at when they're out there trying to patch
21 the road or working with the fish. I don't want to get
22 shot at by anybody whether I'm State or Federal or
23 civilian no matter where I'm at.

24
25 There's plenty of areas between
26 Sourdough -- I've shot caribou all the way from
27 Sourdough to up past Isabel during subsistence hunting
28 season. They're always migrating in the fall, like
29 John Schandelmeier said. They're going from the west
30 and they're heading east. There's about 50 miles you
31 can hunt on the east side of the highway unobstructed
32 by traffic, unobstructed by the Paxson Closed Area,
33 anything else, and I think it would be the smartest
34 thing for that little bit of area for the Federal to
35 consider.

36
37 It's not having people shooting in the
38 road, like Lee Adler mentioned. It's very narrow and
39 there's very few places to stop. It's dangerous for
40 traffic. It's dangerous for anybody driving through,
41 like for viewing or whatever they talked about. If you
42 want to stop and look, there's no good places to stop.
43 You sure don't want to stop when people are out there
44 walking up and down the road with a gun shooting both
45 directions.

46
47 So I think the best thing the Board
48 could do is take an advisory. Not only these guys that
49 live up there, but people that hunt up there. It's not
50 a smart thing to keep that little bit of area open

1 because it's a very small sliver. It's not a very big
2 area you're talking about. And having people shoot
3 back and forth is just -- it doesn't make any sense.
4 There's plenty of other areas to hunt for Federal
5 subsistence caribou hunting and I think it should be
6 closed.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mark. Any
11 questions for Mark.

12

13 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Mark, I've got a
14 question. I'm trying to get everything in perspective.
15 Narrow area, caribou coming through. I think it was
16 testified here that you got about 150 yards or
17 something in that open area on the road where they come
18 through or something like that.

19

20 MR. HEINZ: Well, it's 4/10ths of a
21 mile from the Denali Highway down to the Richardson
22 Highway according to the map, but what Mr.
23 Schandelmeier said, that narrow area, some of it from
24 the road area to the water area, there is some areas
25 there where it's very narrow, let's say 150-200 yards.
26 They get up there and they get pooled-up, they get
27 shoved back and people shoot at them on that side. I
28 witnessed it myself. I was up there more times than I
29 should have been. I finally got disgusted because it
30 was just unsafe for me to be there, just like this
31 gentleman mentioned. He didn't want to be there.

32

33 Like I say, they come off -- I don't
34 know if you're familiar. I guess it's called Paxson
35 Mountain. They come out of Hungry Hollow, Denali
36 Highway, they circle, they follow right down. Either
37 come down to the north end of Paxson Lake or they veer
38 down and go clear south and come out down there between
39 Meiers and Haggard Creek, which is about 20 miles
40 south.

41

42 That narrow area, in the last probably
43 three years, they've been predominantly coming off the
44 side of Paxson Mountain and funneling right down there
45 by one-mile trail about a mile south of Denali Highway
46 and a crossing at a very narrow area and it's just --
47 it's a free-for-all and if they'd let them get on the
48 east side of the highway, it would be safer and better
49 for everybody involved that goes up there hunting and
50 for law enforcement, both, I think.

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I've got one
2 other, of course, while I've got you, through the
3 Chair, is how about the area in. If you went a half
4 mile in on the west side and you went in and hunted
5 them, you get up toward the mountain there.

6
7 MR. HEINZ: You can't.

8
9 MR. ENCELEWSKI: You can't go in there.
10

11 MR. HEINZ: You can't get to it, plus
12 it's closed. It's only 4/10ths of a mile wide and it
13 goes back to State land. You've got to cross the
14 Gulkana River. The only way you can get subsistence
15 access is you've got to go with a boat across Paxson
16 Lake and up the west side of the lake. That's the only
17 way you can get there.

18
19 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Last question I
20 got. How do I get a permit to hunt on the east side?
21

22 MR. HEINZ: How do you get a permit to
23 hunt on the east side for caribou? You'd have to ask
24 the State/Federal regulators about that. I don't know
25 myself. I have a hard time getting my own.
26

27 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I know that.
28 Subsistence hunter.

29
30 MR. HEINZ: Am I dismissed?
31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No. He goofed me up
33 by asking that last question because I wanted to give
34 him a smart-aleck answer and then I had something I was
35 going to say. First of all, I was going to say thanks
36 for coming up and testifying. This is what we want.
37 This is what we ask for. As you see, we just went
38 through a bunch of proposals and there was nobody here
39 to say anything on them. No locals, no anything. In
40 the case of most of them, you know, I thought we might
41 have a few locals on a couple of them, but we didn't.
42 This is what we need to hear.

43
44 The reason they actually have us up
45 here is we're supposed to have -- we live the same kind
46 of life, most of us, and we're supposed to have some
47 kind of knowledge of what goes on, at least some
48 smattering of it anyhow. Like I said, I've seen it
49 once down by Sourdough where I would have been afraid
50 to get out of the car because the caribou were coming.

1 But I've been up and down there and hunted there off
2 and on for, I don't know, 14 years or so and I've never
3 witnessed what you're talking about witnessing. So
4 it's worthwhile hearing that.

5
6 Now does that mean that we'll do what
7 you say? I have no idea. That's up to the Council.
8 What the Council does is -- something else you have to
9 realize. We don't make laws and we don't make rules.
10 We make recommendations to the Board, which is made up
11 of the heads of all of the different Federal
12 departments and they make the regulations. So all that
13 we're capable of doing is making -- just like an
14 advisory committee. We're capable of making a
15 recommendation. So, by listening to you guys we get
16 some input as to what to make that recommendation on.
17 But if we don't get people like you coming on these
18 different proposals or making the comments that you
19 have, we have no way of knowing what the rest of the
20 people think.

21
22 Okay. I'm from the Copper Basin. Lee
23 Adler is from the Copper Basin and Gloria. There's
24 three of us. The rest of them probably have had no
25 exposure to what you're talking about. So that's why
26 it's so necessary -- just like when we were talking on
27 the Kasilof, on the Kenai, it's necessary to have
28 somebody from there come and tell us what they're
29 seeing because I don't do anything on the Kenai and I
30 don't think Lee Adler does either. So it's necessary
31 for us to have people like you guys come and give
32 testimony.

33
34 That's why I insisted you fill out a
35 blue card so that you have to come up here and say
36 something. So thank you muchly.

37
38 MR. HEINZ: My last comment. I'd like
39 to overemphasize there's a lot more areas to hunt
40 Federal caribou than just that little Paxson Closed
41 Area. For the safety of it, for the civilians driving
42 through that's never known there's caribou there or
43 somebody that's out there hunting or address what
44 Gloria had to say about that if you're just stopping
45 and looking and taking pictures.

46
47 You should still be able to stop and
48 shoot if you're hunting, but I don't think you should
49 be able to in that area because the safety part of it,
50 messing up the migration when they're funneling through

1 there, you're shoving them back across the water. Plus
2 the State land in there with that gravel pit and the
3 Fish and Game facility in there, I think it's just a
4 foolish idea to keep that area open.

5
6 Am I done?

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Okay. I
9 have one more for this one. Lynn Grams.

10
11 MS. GRAMS: My name is Lynn Grams.
12 I've lived here since 1980. I have never shot a
13 caribou or a moose, but my husband is such a great shot
14 and we have two boys. That's what we live on is Unit
15 13 caribou and moose. I would just like to say that I
16 concur with John and Mark. I don't think John said it
17 any better. This is just a very small area. There's
18 lots of other opportunities and I think that this
19 should remain closed. Somebody had the forethought in
20 1958 to do this and I don't think that's worth
21 dismissing.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Lynn.
26 Anybody have questions for Lynn.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Donald, do we
31 have anybody else that's put a card in for speaking on
32 this proposal.

33
34 MR. MIKE: No, that was the last one.
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: John.

38
39 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: I'd like to make
40 one more comment if I may, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. You want to
43 make one more comment, is that what you said?

44
45 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: A safety issue.
46 One of the things I overlooked. There's a tour
47 operator that runs out of Paxson who runs float trips
48 down the Gulkana from the Gulkana bridge to Paxson
49 Lake, which runs through the Paxson Closed Area.
50 Obviously during caribou season the river is open and

1 he does potentially run float trips through there, runs
2 a raft through there. That is not within the Federal
3 area, but if you're shooting a caribou from the road,
4 the river is right there, so you're shooting a caribou
5 with the river on the other side. You've got no way of
6 knowing if there's a raft going down the river because
7 there's trees along the river. You can see it
8 sometimes, sometimes you can't. So that's an
9 additional safety concern.

10

11 One of the other issues that was
12 brought up is like the east side of the road. The east
13 side of the road is open to subsistence, but as far as
14 the safety issue it's not such a big deal because it's
15 a very steep hill going up there. So if a caribou runs
16 across the road and climbs up that hill, you're not
17 shooting in the open, you're shooting into a bank if
18 you even get a shot. Of course, you're still going to
19 have to stop in the middle of the road to shoot him,
20 but at least you're not going to shoot somebody.

21

22 Anyway, just another additional
23 comment.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have one question
26 for you, John, and I'm not disagreeing with you, it's
27 just a question. In all the years -- you've been there
28 for a long time. Have you heard or witnessed anybody
29 getting shot in this crazy caribou season?

30

31 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: You know, no, I
32 haven't. Matter of fact, I live under Denali most of
33 the summer or all summer and I've never heard of
34 anybody getting shot anywhere in Unit 13 for any reason
35 unless it was on purpose.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: I'm not precluding
40 that from a possibility in the Paxson area given the
41 two very diverse groups of hunters, one that can hunt
42 there and one that can't, you know, and they're
43 standing next to each other. So people are getting a
44 little more -- I mean we're hearing more about road
45 rage. I haven't heard much about hunting rage lately,
46 but everybody's got guns, so who knows. So I wouldn't
47 rule it out, no.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, I wouldn't rule it
50 out either, but it's interesting.....

1 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: No, I've never
2 heard.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's interesting to me
5 that with all the safety issues and with what does go
6 on that we evidently -- we evidently have people being
7 careful enough that despite being uncareful nobody has
8 gotten shot.

9
10 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: You have to
11 understand this is the first year. Last year hardly
12 anyone knew the area was open because the BLM maps were
13 incorrect and the caribou did not come through there at
14 the end of hunting season. They came through there
15 between the hunting seasons, between September 21st and
16 October 21st, so there was not an issue there.

17
18 This year is the first year that area
19 has been open. So, no, nobody got shot this year. I
20 don't know how many close calls there were, but if
21 there's shell casings on the road and the game warden
22 there doesn't even know where the closed area is
23 because he can't define it, which was the case, yeah, I
24 don't know.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Like I said, I
27 wasn't disagreeing with you, but it's just amazing to
28 me.....

29
30 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: Yeah, right, I
31 understand. So, like I say, when you have.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:because that's
34 not the only.....

35
36 MR. SCHANDELMEIER:only one year
37 of experience, we didn't have anybody shot.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:that's not the
40 only crazy area along the road.

41
42 MR. SCHANDELMEIER: It's the craziest
43 one though because it's like a barrel. It's like
44 shooting fish in a barrel and there's only one place to
45 shoot right there.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other
48 questions for John since he got himself up there one
49 more time.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, John.
4 Okay. At this point in time we need to put a motion on
5 the table for discussion.
6
7 MR. ENCELEWSKI: There's lot of written
8 comments.
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We have written
11 comments?
12
13 MR. MIKE: Yes, we do.
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay. Written
16 comments.
17
18 MR. MIKE: Written comments, you can
19 find those in your materials starting on Page 103 and
20 105. Pages 103 and 104 is written petitions signed by
21 many individuals stating that the Paxson Closed Area
22 they're not in favor of closing or there's no reason to
23 close it or there's no biological reason to close the
24 area. That's the summary of the petition.
25
26 Page 105 from the AHTNA Subsistence
27 Committee comments is they oppose WP16-16, which
28 proposes closure of the Paxson area, which is
29 unencumbered Federal lands. Closure of this
30 significant customary and traditional use area for
31 hunting, gathering and fishing will disenfranchise
32 Federally qualified subsistence users. Hunting areas
33 on Federal public lands in Unit 13 is minimal. The
34 Paxson Lake closure, as described above, is the AHTNA
35 people's customary and traditional use areas for
36 hunting, gathering and other subsistence purposes.
37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. So you see
41 it is a controversial issue. Okay. A motion to put
42 WP16-16 on the table submitted by the Paxson Fish and
43 Game Advisory Committee, requests that Federal public
44 lands within the Paxson Closed Area in Unit 13 be
45 closed to hunting big game by Federally qualified
46 subsistence users.
47
48 Do I hear a motion.
49
50 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll make a motion to

1 put it on the table.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second.

4

5 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
8 seconded to put Proposal WP16-16 on the table.
9 Discussion, Council members. Gloria.

10

11 MS. STICKWAN: About the three things,
12 safety. You know, if we're going to say safety is an
13 issue, we might as well close down Unit 13 period. This
14 is not the only place there's an impact and an unsafe
15 area. I mean they're trying to close a little area.
16 They're trying to say there's an impact. There's an
17 impact in Unit 13 everywhere.

18

19 This gives an opportunity for people to
20 hunt, to harvest a caribou. Caribou migration over the
21 years have moved to different -- they migrate in
22 different times, different areas. To say that it's
23 going to be in this one area continuously, is it going
24 to be like that, no. They migrate different times,
25 different years, different places because of different
26 reasons. Because of feed, whatever.

27

28 So it's not always going to be in an
29 unsafe area. I mean the caribou may not even migrate
30 there next year or the year after, so this argument
31 that it's going to be continually unsafe, I don't buy
32 that. It's an opportunity where people have a good
33 amount of caribou to feed their families. It's a good
34 place for them to hunt. It's AHTNA's customary and
35 traditional use area. Ben Neely stated on record that
36 this is where he went to hunt. It's where our people
37 went to hunt. We've always hunted in that area. To
38 take it away from us, I hope you don't.

39

40 BLM land, it's only 15 percent in Unit
41 13, it's so minimal. The land for BLM is so small for
42 Federal lands for us to hunt on. To access Unit 11 you
43 have to fly over there or else drive hundreds and
44 hundreds of miles to go there and hunt. So this
45 creates a hardship for people that don't have money for
46 gas to hunt. This is a close area, easy access for us
47 to hunt and it's a good place to hunt for people. It
48 may not be that way next year. We don't know.

49

50 Trying to say something is going to

1 happen year after year after year, we don't know the
2 future. We don't know what's going to happen. So I
3 don't see any biological reason to close it. Plus the
4 State allows hunting in there too. So even the State
5 allows hunting. So I don't know what they mean by --
6 you know, is it going to stay that way as a safety
7 reason. I don't see an administration problem with
8 that.

9

10 I want to make clear that I was not
11 going on record and saying I want this to be viewing
12 record. That was not my intent at all. My intent was
13 to get information from BLM because I was concerned
14 about what if they change the land because -- you know
15 what I'm saying? I don't know how to say it. You know
16 what I'm saying?

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think I know what
19 you're saying, Gloria. That you were more worried that
20 they would end up buying the language and making it a
21 Federal viewing area. Is that what you were worried
22 about?

23

24 MS. STICKWAN: Well, I'm worried they
25 might change their land plan management use and that's
26 the point I was trying to get at. I was not saying I'm
27 in favor of viewing and that's incorrect. So I would
28 like to see this stay open. It gives local people a
29 chance to harvest a caribou. And nobody got shot. How
30 many years has this hunting occurred. Have you heard
31 reports of people being killed or shot. No. So, you
32 know, people are out there hunting, but they're being
33 careful.

34

35 The problem is with enforcement. Maybe
36 there needs to be more enforcement out there. Cross-
37 deputization with somewhere to help -- you know, to
38 enforce this area if that's what needs to be done. I'm
39 not saying I want that to be done, but that's something
40 to look at. So I really hope you don't close this area.
41 It's our traditional area to hunt.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Gloria.

44

45 Judy.

46

47 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 And thank you, Gloria. I wonder if we could ask BLM to
49 address perhaps some of these safety concerns that were
50 brought up and make plans maybe for future to avoid

1 problems with the housing or to avoid problems on the
2 road.

3

4 MR. TEITZEL: Dennis Teitzel, BLM field
5 manager, Glennallen. Through the Chair. If I
6 understand, you would like me to address how we plan on
7 addressing safety concerns and issues in the future in
8 this particular area. I can tell you what we did this
9 year and what we do generally everywhere.

10

11 We have one law enforcement ranger for
12 the Glennallen Field Office, which is a right around 5
13 million acres and stretches from Cantwell to Ketchikan
14 in lateral distance. But we do work closely with the
15 local wildlife troopers and the Alaska State Troopers
16 ensuring that there are people available for patrolling
17 areas and in high-use areas when possible.

18

19 As people do call in and report
20 incidents, we go out and investigate them to the best
21 of our abilities to determine if an infraction did
22 happen and what that infraction was and then issue the
23 appropriate citations and taking the appropriate
24 action. That's just generally how we operate
25 everywhere in the field office area.

26

27 We did bring in an extra law
28 enforcement ranger for a weekend at the end of the
29 hunting season to help with the patrolling. So those
30 are the things that we do and just generally do. To
31 have a specific plan for that area would be very
32 dependent upon is the migration occurring, where is it
33 occurring. So to say like next year I will put law
34 enforcement there, that may not be appropriate and it
35 may not be necessary.

36

37 Like this year though, once we did have
38 the hunters there, we knew that the caribou were
39 crossing and we did increase our patrols in that area
40 and worked with the State to get increased patrolling.
41 I do know they brought down a wildlife trooper out of
42 Delta for a time down there to help out in addition to
43 ours and the local ones up there in the area. As it
44 is, there are only so many and they can't be everywhere
45 all the time. So just make a presence and try to get
46 people to do the right thing.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

49

50 MS. CAMINER: And then just also follow

1 up about the concern about the Fish and Game housing
2 that's out there.

3

4 MR. TEITZEL: Fish and Game has a
5 facility there. There's also the gravel pit. The
6 gravel pit is off limits to hunting because it is an
7 attractant because of the mineral there. It's
8 basically a big salt lick, so that is off limits to
9 hunting that specific spot and area.

10

11 As for the housing, the road is there
12 and it is marked that it is there. All hunters have a
13 responsibility to know what is in an area you're
14 hunting, know what you're aiming at, know what you're
15 shooting at. That's true in any area, either on State
16 land, Federal land. You know, you take those
17 responsibilities when you do go hunting with you.

18

19 We do, when all people come in and get
20 their tags, they all are issued in person. We don't
21 issue any online. They all have to physically come in
22 and get a tag. They talk to somebody. They do receive
23 information on the area, specifically on this area.
24 Everybody received basically an enlarged map of the one
25 that's in your book. We describe the area and give the
26 restrictions that go on verbally. So we do an
27 intensive education for each hunter when they come in
28 and receive their tags to outline those hazards that
29 are going out there and to advise them of them.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann.

32

33 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
34 looking at the discussion and justifications. One of
35 them, is there a conservation concern, which I don't
36 believe there is with this caribou herd. Is the
37 recommendation supported by substantial evidence such
38 as biological and traditional ecological knowledge.
39 Safety really isn't covered in that as well.

40

41 And will the recommendation be
42 beneficial or detrimental to subsistence needs and
43 users. After hearing from Gloria Stickwan and the
44 people from her area that have used that area for
45 subsistence, I think it is very critical and for people
46 who are true subsistence users to use land that is
47 meant for subsistence is important.

48

49 And will the recommendations
50 unnecessarily restrict other uses. I don't think it

1 will, but the problem is the safety. You know, it's
2 the responsibility of the Federal and State governments
3 to offer these -- you know, have maybe more safety
4 officers. We see not only in this area but throughout
5 Alaska there isn't enough officers to really do a good
6 job. Because of that, a lot of times subsistence users
7 are kind of penalized for that.

8
9 So I don't think there is the
10 justification, but I think the safety issues are huge
11 and I don't think it's just in this one area that it's
12 huge. I think it's across the state. I would hope
13 that maybe some of the recommendations that would come
14 from the Federal and State would be to address these
15 issues and to get more funding for officers.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

20
21 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'm going to need to
22 make a couple comments because this is a tough one to
23 ponder. I'm going to state for the record, you know,
24 one thing that I -- I think Mary Ann did a very good
25 job here and she listed our duties. Is there a
26 conservation concern, no. We've addressed that. Is
27 the recommendation supported by substantial evidence
28 such as traditional ecological knowledge, yes. Will
29 the recommendation be beneficial or detrimental to
30 subsistence needs and users.

31
32 Any time we take away a subsistence
33 opportunity, I'm real nervous and I'm real concerned
34 about safety issues. They told us the same thing on
35 the Kenai. We can't fish because it's a sports world
36 and they have the right in their safety and they've got
37 boats and they got stuff. Well, B.S., you know. I
38 believe that the safety is the State and the Federal
39 enforcement. I realize there's a problem here.

40
41 I'm not sure how we solve this, but I
42 can't in good conscience vote against an opportunity
43 for more subsistence usage. So that's the comment I
44 want to make. It's a tough area, it's a tough
45 decision, and I -- you know, a customary and
46 traditional area that was an oversight of the
47 government or whoever in the paperwork for some reason
48 being taken out, that's not our fault. It's rightfully
49 where it needs to be now and it should be treated
50 accordingly.

1 I think we need to allow that hunt and
2 then provide for a safer way to do it. It's a tough
3 one, but I have to make that statement.

4
5 So that's where I'm at right now.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Greg.

8
9 Lee.

10
11 MR. ADLER: I've lived here since 1969
12 and I see all sides. It's a very complex issue and I
13 agree with you on the safety. It's a real issue. But
14 going back a little, during the '70s and '80s, me and
15 my two boys did all our caribou hunting in the
16 Wrangells. I'd fly them over in my airplane and land
17 on a half a dozen different places over there. We had
18 it made because there was nobody around but us.

19
20 Of course, the Park Service came in and
21 the caribou hunting went away. We're getting squeezed
22 down into a smaller area all the time. No matter where
23 the caribou cross in concentrations, there's going to
24 be a safety issue. I've been at Haggard Creek and I
25 was packing a caribou. I had red-flagging all over my
26 caribou and I was worried. I didn't get shot, but this
27 safety issue can be anywhere.

28
29 What aggravates the problem above
30 Paxson Lake there between the lake and the lodge is the
31 lack of parking space. Even if you closed the area on
32 the west, there's still no place to park. Very little.
33 One turnout and up near the housing. I agree, they
34 shouldn't be shooting near the housing at all. They
35 might put up signs housing area along that stretch, no
36 shooting, you know.

37
38 But to close it entirely I just have a
39 hard time with that because I've seen the opportunities
40 to hunt caribou keep getting smaller and smaller. So
41 that's my view of it.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy, comments.

44
45 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: This is a tough one.
46 I kind of have compelling arguments on both sides.
47 It's so tough for me that I'm going to abstain. I see
48 both sides and that's where I'm at with it.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mike.

1 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, it is tough. Being
2 a tribal member, I see where Gloria is coming from, you
3 know, not wanting to take away a traditional use area.
4 I think there definitely needs to be enforcement or
5 safety issues looked at and fixed. Whether it's
6 bringing somebody on specifically for that week to come
7 down and help. I wouldn't be able to say close it
8 because of that. Losing enough things from tribes,
9 it's tough and I feel for you guys. I hope it does get
10 resolved though.

11
12 Thanks.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mike.

15
16 Judy.

17
18 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Part of our dilemma is we have two different issues
20 here in a way. The closure issue and you listed the
21 three criteria is one set of criteria for us to look
22 at, but the RAC's responsibilities are based on the
23 criteria as Gloria and Greg went through it too. So I
24 think that's kind of a big part of why it's a little
25 difficult to reconcile those two major issues. I don't
26 think issues is exactly the right word, but that's what
27 makes it difficult.

28
29 I agree with your idea of better
30 signage or -- you know, I don't know if BLM has within
31 your lands regulatory authority to close around
32 administrative offices. I know the Park Service has
33 done that in some cases. That should be looked at.
34 Hopefully a migration is being monitored or the number
35 of caribou are being monitored through your permit
36 system so you'll be able to tell if there are
37 biological consequences to this too.

38
39 So that's part of how we're doing our
40 decision making, is based on what the RAC is
41 responsible for.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy.

46
47 James. Gloria.

48
49 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to clarify
50 my statement. I'm just making a point. I'm not

1 advocating close Unit 13, I'm just saying that.....

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. STICKWAN:it's an impacted
6 area is what I was trying to get at and I don't want
7 anybody misinterpreting my words saying might as well
8 close it. So I make that on record. Just like I've got
9 to say again I wasn't trying to say this should be a
10 viewing area. My question was to try and get
11 information from him in case this does come to a point
12 where we have to -- if it comes to a Section 801, I
13 wanted that information so I could -- that's all I was
14 getting at is information.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Gloria.
17 Anybody else.

18

19 MR. SOMERVILLE: Mr. Chair. Can I make
20 one clarification?

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mark, would you come
23 on up.

24

25 MR. SOMERVILLE: Mark Somerville,
26 Department of Fish and Game. This won't change the
27 discussion, but I just wanted to clarify the facility
28 in question. The Fish and Game facility is not a Fish
29 and Game facility. It's technically owned by the
30 Department, but it's staffed by Prince William Sound
31 Aquaculture. It's the Gulkana Hatchery II location.
32 Their bunkhouse and hatchery office are located at that
33 location. So I wanted to make that clarification
34 there.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that north of the
37 Denali Highway or south of the Denali Highway?

38

39 MR. SOMERVILLE: South of the Denali
40 Highway behind.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Down by the gravel
43 pit.

44

45 MR. SOMERVILLE: Yeah, behind the
46 gravel pit.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: By the airport down
49 there.

50

1 MR. SOMERVILLE: No, not by the airport
2 anymore. Down by the gravel pit along the Richardson
3 Highway.
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. That's the one.
6
7 MR. SOMERVILLE: Not off the Denali
8 Highway, but off the Richardson Highway.
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. That's the one
11 they're using.
12
13 MR. SOMERVILLE: Yeah. It's back by
14 the river there, right by the hatchery location.
15
16 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I've got a question.
17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Go ahead, Greg.
19
20 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair.
21 Mark, I've got a question for you. You said
22 aquaculture people. That's the fish people, right?
23
24 MR. SOMERVILLE: Correct.
25
26 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Are they bunking there
27 when this hunt is going on?
28
29 MR. SOMERVILLE: Yes, they are.
30
31 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.
32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mark.
34
35 MR. HEINZ: Mr. Chair. Can I testify
36 again?
37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mark, if you have
39 something to say, come up and say it, then I'm going to
40 -- since he said it, I'll let you -- technically
41 speaking, we're supposed to be in Council.
42
43 MR. HEINZ: This is something you guys
44 can hear, I think. This BLM employee back here
45 testified that the gravel pit in that closed area is
46 closed, is that correct?
47
48 MR. TEITZEL: That is correct. It's an
49 attractant. It's considered.....
50

1 MR. HEINZ: It's not in any of the
2 regulation books. I was up there September 21st.
3 There was six gut piles within that gravel pit. There
4 was a State employee named Cummins out of Delta that
5 drove in there and I called BLM's office in Glennallen,
6 is this an open area or is this a closed area. I was
7 told twice by BLM Glennallen office it was closed to
8 motorized vehicles.

9
10 The State employee shows up named
11 Cummins out of Delta. I asked him and he says what's
12 the book say. We got out our book. I had to show him
13 a book, my book, and he's reading what's the
14 regulations. So he said, oh, it's open. So there was
15 six gut piles back there. He drove off and I'm sitting
16 there scratching my head, looking at the book, reading
17 my State book, reading my Federal book, thinking I
18 think I need to go home.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. HEINZ: I says we got six gut piles
23 back here. The Glennallen office says it's closed, the
24 State guy shows up and says it's open and now this guy
25 just says the gravel pit itself is closed according to
26 Federal regulations. So I think when your book --
27 whether you close that area or keep it open, next
28 year's book better show whether that gravel pit is
29 closed or you're going to have more gut piles back
30 there and more problems, I think. That's nothing to do
31 with the State. That's the Federal Board. The book --
32 that's what the State guy asked me. He says what's the
33 book say. I said, well, you read it to me. My eyes
34 are blurry, I got a new pair of glasses and I'm going
35 to go home and have a cold adult beverage and forget
36 about hunting.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. HEINZ: So anyway, if the
41 regulations say one thing, it should be in the book.
42 You shouldn't have to call one office and say you can
43 hunt, another guy shows up and says you can't and
44 another guy shows up. It's very confusing whether it's
45 State or Federal, but if that's a closed gravel pit in
46 that Paxson Closed Area, it should be in your Federal
47 regulation book come next hunting season.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Good. That's
50 something we'll put down as a note, Mark. Thank you.

1 Okay. With that, we've heard from all the Council
2 members. I guess I should say something too. I agree
3 with everybody. It's a hard one. I personally would
4 think the whole thing would be solved if the regulation
5 that you can't park on the road right away and you
6 can't shoot off the road or the edge of the road was
7 enforced, especially in that area right there since
8 there is no parking space, I think that would solve
9 most of the problems. If most of the hunters had to go
10 park their car in a parking spot someplace and walk to
11 where they wanted to go hunting, you wouldn't have the
12 congestion.

13

14 It's kind of interesting because I deal
15 with a man who helps me with my bees who is from
16 Switzerland and in Switzerland to go hunting you have
17 to park at the nearest post office and walk to where
18 you want to go hunting. I don't think we should go
19 quite that far.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But, technically
24 speaking, I think it's illegal to stop on the road
25 right away. It's definitely illegal to stop and get
26 out of your car and leave your car there. As you both
27 pointed out, it's illegal to shoot off the road, on the
28 road, across the road or from the edge of the road.
29 You're supposed to get off the road right-a-way. If
30 that was enforced, that probably would solve your
31 problem because there's not very many people going to
32 go down in that swamp on the edge of the road to hunt
33 the caribou that are coming in that direction. Not if
34 they have to park someplace else and walk there.

35

36 So I don't know. I have a difficulty
37 closing down Federal subsistence areas and I'm like a
38 lot of other people, I really think the safety issue
39 needs stronger enforcement from the State of Alaska on
40 parking and shooting off the road. I'm not sure
41 shooting on the east side of the road is going to be
42 any safer because people will pull off on the west side
43 of the road and shoot across the road to the east, you
44 know. I mean I've seen it. That's why I don't have
45 that much confidence.

46

47 Anyhow, do we have anymore discussion.

48

49 Eleanor.

50

1 MS. DEMENTI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 I'd like to go on record as being against closing any
3 more customary and traditional hunting grounds for the
4 AHTNA people.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. James, did
7 you have anything you wanted to say.

8
9 MR. SHOWALTER: Basically the same way.
10 It's more and more they're trying to close down
11 subsistence for the Native people of Alaska and they're
12 succeeding slowly.

13
14 As she said, I don't like to see any
15 more closed down.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, James.

18
19 With that, Judy, one more comment.

20
21 MS. CAMINER: Well, to follow up on
22 your comment, I wonder if we could either in our annual
23 report or as a result of this meeting write a letter to
24 the Board saying we've learned about this situation.
25 We really would like the Board to write to State
26 troopers or Department of Transportation and try to
27 alleviate the hunting situation through management of
28 the road or something along those ideas.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We definitely can put
31 it in our annual report. I'm like John, knowing the
32 budget of the State and how much money they're spending
33 on enforcement because we've asked for enforcement on
34 other things too. This isn't the only problem in the
35 state. You can't tell the State to do it. You can ask
36 it, you can bring it to their attention and I really
37 think that that's a good thing to put in our annual
38 report depending on how or what we vote.

39
40 At this point in time, if no other
41 Council member has anything they wish to say, I'm going
42 to call for a vote. We have the motion on the table,
43 which is WP16-16, which basically requests that Federal
44 public lands within the Paxson Closed Area in Unit 13
45 be closed to hunting big game by Federally qualified
46 subsistence users.

47
48 A yes vote is in favor of that.

49
50 A nay vote is against that.

1 So all in favor signify by saying yes.
2
3 (No yes votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
6 saying nay.
7
8 IN UNISON: Nay.
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion fails. There
11 were no yeses, unanimously.
12
13 MS. CAMINER: One abstention.
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, and one
16 abstention. Okay. And I'm sorry, but that's -- okay.
17 We are now on Proposal WP16-17.
18
19 MS. CAMINER: Do you want to break for
20 the potluck or do you want to take up another proposal?
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What time is it?
23
24 MS. CAMINER: It's about 5:30 now.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's about 5:30?
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 MS. CAMINER: We're just whizzing
31 through these.
32
33 MR. ENCELEWSKI: We really got into
34 those.
35
36 MS. MILLS: Everyone is leaving now.
37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Everyone is sleeping.
39
40 MS. MILLS: Leaving.
41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I would like to recess
43 this meeting until 8:30 tomorrow morning. Is that good
44 for everybody or should we try to open at 8:00? 8:30
45 is fine?
46
47 (Council nods affirmatively)
48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Promptly at 8:30
50 tomorrow morning.

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3

(Off record)

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 180 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING taken electronically on the 21st day of October 2015;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 6th day of November 2015.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires:09/16/18